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INEVITABLE

**PREMIER SAYS INTERHEALTH CANADA CONTRACT
TERMINATION WAS UNAVOIDABLE
SAYS CERTAIN FACILITY MANAGEMENT AND
UPKEEP WAS LACKING**

>>> STORY ON PG5

Male Dies of Gunshot Wounds After Alleged Police Confrontation with Armed Robbers

Newsline TCI understands that a male was shot and killed in an alleged confrontation with members of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force on Wednesday night, July 22, after the police were summoned to investigate a carjacking in Five Cays and a subsequent series of robberies in the Blue Hills area. The police have confirmed the incident but released sketchy information on the matter.

The police information stated: “The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force can confirm that an officer-involved shooting occurred on 22 July 2026. “The incident is currently under active investigation, and the circumstances surrounding the event are being examined. As is standard procedure, an independent investigation has been initiated to establish all the facts.

“At this stage, our priority is the welfare of all persons involved and ensuring a thorough, impartial, and transparent investigation.” A police source with knowledge of the incident but was not authorised to speak on the matter, stated that minutes after 8p.m., a motorist was robbed of his car and an empty wallet by a group of armed men. The stolen car, the source said, was used to commit a series of robberies in the Blue

Hills area. The police were summoned, and during search of area the men were reportedly accosted. Shots were fired and one of the men was injured as a result. His alleged accomplices managed to escape. escaped. The injured man was reportedly rushed to the Cheshire Hall Medical Centre where he was admitted. However, he reportedly succumbed to his injuries Thursday morning, July 23.

Government Assures Public Healthcare Will Continue Uninterrupted During InterHealth Canada Transition

Premier Hon. Charles Washington Misick and Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Kyle Knowles have sought to reassure residents that healthcare services across the Turks and Caicos Islands will continue without interruption despite the reported termination of the Government’s contract with InterHealth Canada. Appearing during a national discussion hosted by Director of Communications Kimo Tynes on Tuesday, July 31, both leaders stressed that patients should continue to access healthcare services as normal and that healthcare workers can expect stability throughout the transition period. “This is not a crisis,” Premier Misick declared at the outset of the discussion. “What is happening has absolutely no immediate impact on the delivery of healthcare in these beautiful Turks and Caicos Islands. Everything remains the same.” The Premier said residents should continue attending scheduled appointments, visiting clinics and hospitals, and seeking emergency medical care without hesitation. He revealed that he had personally visited hospital staff to reassure them that their employment and salaries would not be affected by the contractual developments. “I’ve spoken to the hospital workers to

assure them that their services will not be interrupted,” he said. “Their payroll will continue.” Misick explained that because the contractual disagreement centres on facilities management rather than clinical healthcare services, patient care remains fully protected under the existing arrangements. Minister Knowles echoed the Premier’s assurances, emphasizing that continuity of care remains the Government’s foremost priority. “The clinical components will not be impacted by the current purported termination,” Knowles said. He acknowledged that many residents naturally have concerns whenever questions arise regarding healthcare but said the Government understands its responsibility to maintain confidence in the system. “As a responsible Government, as a Government that understands the impact that medical services have on the country, we will do everything in our power to make sure there is continuity as we go through this period.” Knowles specifically assured the public that emergency care, surgeries, specialist clinics, outpatient appointments and other healthcare services will continue uninterrupted while negotiations and transition arrangements proceed. He also addressed healthcare workers



Premier Hon. Washington Misick



Minister of Health Hon. Kyle Knowles

directly, thanking them for their professionalism and encouraging them to remain focused on patient care. “It is important that those administering the healthcare system are reassured that the Government is being responsible, being fair and mitigating all risks,” he said. “We are working feverishly to bring closure to the matter while ensuring that the services provided to patients and our countrymen continue without any negative impact.” The Minister said the Government recognizes that additional questions may arise as the transition progresses but pledged to maintain open and transparent communication with both healthcare workers and the wider public. He also emphasized that the Ministry is monitoring healthcare delivery across the entire country, including Grand Turk, to ensure no island experiences disruptions. “We’re taking a very comprehensive approach to make sure that we communicate effectively and efficiently, but we’re also fair and transparent in our day-to-day communication.” Beyond the immediate transition, both leaders highlighted broader reforms aimed at strengthening healthcare

throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands. Premier Misick spoke of expanding hospital capacity, investing in ICU facilities, strengthening contract management and reducing dependence on overseas treatment through increased local services. Minister Knowles highlighted the Government’s parallel efforts to strengthen primary healthcare through the introduction of a new polyclinic model, which will offer expanded diagnostic and specialist services while easing pressure on hospitals. “We are setting out on a very vigorous roadmap for healthcare delivery in the Turks and Caicos Islands,” Knowles said. “This recent occurrence has simply forced us to become more aligned in that roadmap.” He concluded by assuring residents that the Government remains firmly committed to safeguarding healthcare services during every stage of the transition. “We are properly poised in the driver’s seat to take on the challenges of the day,” Knowles said. “People have to allow us to do our job. We are here to govern, we are here to manage healthcare for our people, and we will do just that.”

Local Real Estate Marking Showing Momentum

Turks & Caicos Real Estate Market Shows Strong Signs of Recovery in Q2 2026

Surge in Conditional Sales Signals Growing Buyer Confidence Across the Luxury Property Market

Turks & Caicos Sotheby’s International Realty has released its Q2 2026 Year-to-Date Market Report, revealing encouraging signs that the local real estate market is gaining momentum, led by a significant increase in conditional sales and renewed activity in the luxury sector. In the first half of 2026, the report identifies 107 conditional sales valued at approximately US\$195 million, compared with 37 pending contracts totaling US\$58.2 million, highlighting growing buyer confidence and a strong pipeline of transactions expected to close in the coming months. “Conditional sales are one of the strongest indicators of where



Villas at Blue Mountain by Hartling Group

the market is headed,” said Joe Zahm, President of Turks & Caicos Sotheby’s International Realty. “We are seeing a noticeable increase in buyer inquiries, property showings and overall activity compared to the first quarter. While we remain cautiously optimistic, these trends suggest the market is beginning to build meaningful forward momentum.” The report also points to renewed strength in the luxury segment, with activity returning in the US\$20 million-plus price category alongside high-value pending and completed transactions. The condominium market is showing similar promise, with more than 25 condominiums priced above US\$1 million currently under offer, particularly in Grace Bay. Overall, the Turks & Caicos market recorded nearly US\$160 million in year-to-date sales volume, while approximately US\$713 million in pending and conditional transactions-including US\$548 million in new development sales - reflects continued investor confidence and a healthy pipeline for the remainder of 2026.



Joe Zahm, President of Turks & Caicos Sotheby’s International Realty.

The report concludes that while the market is not yet in full recovery, the first half of 2026 provides compelling evidence that the Turks & Caicos real estate market is moving beyond stabilization and into its next phase of growth. To explore the complete Q2 2026 Turks & Caicos Real Estate Market Report, including comprehensive market analysis, emerging trends and new development opportunities across the Turks & Caicos Islands, visit www.turksandcaicossir.com.

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Karen Bernabe | mikegcltd@gmail.com

Six Unauthorised Structures Demolished

The Planning Department, with support from the Informal Settlements Unit (ISU), and the Crown Land Unit conducted a coordinated enforcement operation on Thursday, 2 July 2026, resulting in the demolition of six unauthorised structures on private property at Block and Parcel 60502/48. Security for the operation was provided by the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force.

The enforcement action followed the issuance of an Enforcement Notice by the Planning Department on 29 January 2026, advising the persons responsible for the structures that they had been erected without the necessary planning approval and were required to be removed. Following the expiration of the compliance period, a multi-agency operation was organised to carry out the demolition.

Before demolition activities commenced, personnel conducted a comprehensive inspection of the site to confirm that all structures were unoccupied and free of gas cylinders or other hazardous materials. These precautionary measures were undertaken to safeguard the welfare of both the enforcement teams and the public while ensuring the operation was carried out safely and efficiently.

Upon completion of the exercise, participating agencies returned to Police Tactical Headquarters for a debrief, marking the successful conclusion of another coordinated enforcement effort.

The Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands reminds members of the public that all construction activities must receive the appropriate planning approvals before work begins. The Planning Department will continue to work alongside its partner agencies to enforce the Planning Ordinance, promote orderly development and ensure that construction throughout the Islands complies with the applicable laws and regulations.

Members of the public are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the planning approval process and to seek guidance from the Planning Department before undertaking any development to avoid enforcement action and loss of money invested.

Contributed



Photos show before and after the exercise was done



Contract Termination with InterHealth Canada Was Inevitable, Says Premier Misick

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Premier Hon. Charles Washington Misick says the reported termination of the Turks and Caicos Islands Government's contract with InterHealth Canada was an unavoidable outcome following years of disagreements between the two parties, insisting that the development should not be viewed as a healthcare crisis but as an opportunity to reshape the country's healthcare system for the future. The Premier made the remarks during a national conversation hosted by Director of Communications Kimo Tynes on Tuesday, July 31, alongside Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Kyle Knowles. The discussion sought to address public concerns following news that InterHealth Canada had issued notice regarding the contract governing the country's hospital arrangements.

"It is no secret that the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands and InterHealth Canada have been in negotiations for well over a year now as to how we exit the current contract," Premier Misick said.

According to the Premier, the relationship between the Government and the healthcare provider had deteriorated over a long period, making the contract's termination inevitable regardless of which party initiated the process.

"The arrangement, the agreement, or the relationship, in my view, had become irretrievably broken down, and so this moment, whether it was initiated by the Turks and Caicos Islands Government or by InterHealth Canada, was bound to come," he stated.

He noted that contract terminations between governments and investors are not uncommon and stressed that the current situation should be viewed within that context rather than as an extraordinary event.

"Contracts are terminated on a regular basis, particularly those between investors and governments, and so this one is no different."

The Premier was keen to reas-



Premier Hon. Washington Misick (centre) and Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Kyle Knowles (left) at the sit-down.

sure the public that the dispute does not concern the delivery of healthcare itself but centres on contractual obligations related to the management and maintenance of hospital infrastructure. He explained that the 2008 Project Agreement establishing the Cheshire Hall Medical Centre in Providenciales and Cockburn Town Medical Centre in Grand Turk contains two distinct components, one governing clinical healthcare services and another governing the operation and maintenance of the hospital facilities.

"There have been contractual questions or issues around whether InterHealth Canada is living up to its obligations as it relates to facilities management," he said. "That has resulted in the holding back of certain payments in order to ensure those obligations were met."

"The healthcare aspect of the business is not the issue," the Premier emphasized.

Misick also explained that the Project Agreement contains detailed provisions for managing the transition from the current contractual arrangement to a new one. A transition committee comprising representatives from both the Government and InterHealth

Canada is already provided for under the agreement.

"So, this actually, in some ways, is an opportune moment to manage this transition very carefully," he said. "I believe what you will see here is a very professionally managed transition."

Looking beyond the immediate contractual issues, the Premier outlined his Government's broader vision for strengthening the country's healthcare system.

He said future investments will focus on expanding hospital services, including the addition of Intensive Care Units (ICUs), allowing more patients to receive advanced treatment locally before being referred overseas.

"The Government will be investing significantly in healthcare," he said. "It will save us money because it means our medical personnel can better monitor patients before they are sent abroad."

The Premier noted that one of the original objectives of the InterHealth Canada agreement was to improve healthcare quality while reducing the country's treatment abroad costs. While acknowledging improvements in healthcare quality over the years, he said controlling costs and expanding locally available services remain priorities.

He also reflected on lessons learned since the hospitals opened in 2010, noting shortcomings in contract management under previous administrations. His Government, he said, has already begun strengthening systems to better oversee major public-private agreements.

"We've been building a better contract management system," Misick explained. "These are complicated arrangements, and they require effective oversight."

Ultimately, the Premier said the Government's goal is to emerge from the transition with a healthcare system that is more efficient, sustainable and capable of delivering dependable care to residents.

"The outcome has to be better than it has been," he said. "The focus has to be on ensuring dependable, affordable, consistent healthcare for the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands."

While acknowledging that healthcare remains a challenge worldwide, Misick reaffirmed his administration's commitment to delivering one of the strongest healthcare systems in the Caribbean.

"My wish," he concluded, "is that the best healthcare in the region is delivered to our people in the Turks and Caicos Islands."

The Medical Village Vision

What If We Built the Future of Healthcare Right Here at Home?

By Paladin

Every country has a moment when it must choose whether to keep patching an old system... or build a new one. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, that moment has arrived for healthcare.

In my previous Op Ed, I spoke about the long standing pressures on our health system — pressures we have lived with for more than a decade. But identifying a problem is only half the work. The real question is: **What do we build next?** Because the truth is this: We cannot keep sending our people overseas for care forever; We cannot keep absorbing rising costs forever; We cannot keep relying on a system designed for a smaller, younger, simpler country.

We need a new model — one built for the TCI of 2030 and beyond. And that is where the idea of a Medical Village comes in.

What Is a Medical Village?

A Medical Village is not a single building. It is not a hospital with a new name. It is not a “clinic upgrade.”

A Medical Village is a **health ecosystem** — a cluster of services, facilities, professionals, and technologies working together in one integrated space. Think of it as a small, modern health city.

A place where:

- primary care
- diagnostics
- specialist clinics
- rehabilitation
- chronic disease management
- mental health services
- urgent care
- telemedicine
- and wellness programs

...all operate side by side, sharing information, sharing resources, and reducing the need for overseas treatment. It is the opposite of fragmentation. It is the opposite of crisis management. It is the opposite of “wait until it gets worse.”

It is **prevention, coordination, and continuity** — all in one place.

Why TCI Needs This Now

We are a growing country. We are a modern country. We are a country with a rising burden of chronic disease — diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease, heart disease. These conditions cannot be managed by emergency rooms alone. They require long term, coordinated care.

A Medical Village does three things immediately:

1. It reduces overseas referrals

When you have:

- dialysis
 - oncology support
 - cardiology
 - endocrinology
 - imaging
 - rehabilitation
 - wound care
 - and chronic disease clinics
- ...all in one integrated space, fewer people need to fly abroad. That alone saves millions.
- 2. It strengthens primary care**
- Primary care is the front door of any health system. When it is strong, everything else becomes cheaper and more effective. A Medical Village gives primary care the tools, staff, and support it needs to keep people healthier — and out of the hospital.
- 3. It keeps money circulating in the local economy**
- Every dollar spent overseas is a dollar that leaves the country. A Medical Village keeps those dollars here:
- employing our people
 - training our youth
 - supporting local businesses
 - building local expertise
- This is not just healthcare. This is economic development.
- What It Looks Like in Practice**
- Imagine a place where:
- A diabetic can see a nutritionist, get lab work, attend a foot care clinic, and meet with a specialist — all in one visit.
 - A stroke patient can receive physiotherapy, speech therapy, and follow up care without leaving the island.
 - A cancer patient can receive chemotherapy support, counseling, and monitoring without boarding a plane.
 - A child with asthma can get testing, medication, and education in one coordinated program.
 - A senior can access chronic disease management, pharmacy services, and wellness programs in a single location.
- This is not fantasy. This is what many small jurisdictions around the world already do. And we can do it too.
- Why This Is Not “Too Big” for TCI**
- Some may say, “This sounds expensive.”
- But the truth is the opposite. We are already spending millions — every year — on overseas care, emergency interventions, and late stage treatment. A Medical Village **redirects** that spending into:
- prevention
 - early detection
 - coordinated care
 - local capacity
 - and long term savings
- It is not new money. It is smarter money.

And because the Village is modular, it can grow in phases:

- Phase 1: Primary care + diagnostics
- Phase 2: Chronic disease clinics
- Phase 3: Rehabilitation + wellness
- Phase 4: Specialist services
- Phase 5: Research + training partnerships

We do not need to build everything at once. We need to start.

The TAP Connection: Why This Matters Even More Now

The Treatment Abroad Programme (TAP) exists because we lack certain services locally. But every time we remove someone from TAP, we are not removing their illness — we are removing their access.

A Medical Village reduces the need for TAP in the first place. It keeps care local. It keeps families together. It keeps costs predictable. It keeps the insured pool stable. It keeps the system sustainable.

This is how you fix the long term problem, not just the short term budget.

A Vision the Public Can Believe In

People do not rally around spreadsheets. They rally around ideas they can see, touch, and imagine.

A Medical Village is something the public can picture:

- buildings
- clinics
- walkways
- green spaces
- community programs
- local professionals
- modern equipment
- accessible services

It is a place where healthcare feels human again.

A place where the system works for the people — not the other way around.

This Is Not About Politics. It Is About Possibility.

This is not a criticism of any government. This is not a judgment of the past. This is not a partisan proposal. This is a **national opportunity**.

A chance to:

- modernize our system
- reduce long term costs
- improve quality of life
- build local capacity
- and give our people the care they deserve

We have the land. We have the need. We have the vision. What we require now is the will.

A Call to Build What We Should Have Built Long Ago

The Turks and Caicos Islands is ready for a new chapter in healthcare — one

built on dignity, access, and modern design.

A Medical Village is not a dream. It is a plan. It is a path. It is a promise we can make to ourselves and to the generations that follow. We have spent years talking about what is wrong. It is time to talk about what is possible. And it is time to build it.

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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

PDM SAYS PREMIER MISICK MUST FACE THE PRESS AND ANSWER TO THE PEOPLE

The People's Democratic Movement (PDM) is calling on Premier Washington Misick to immediately convene a live national press conference and answer the growing number of serious questions confronting his Government.

The people of the Turks and Caicos Islands deserve transparency, accountability, and honest leadership. Instead, they continue to receive carefully managed statements while critical national issues remain unanswered.

The ongoing dispute involving InterHealth Canada has only heightened public concern and underscored the urgent need for the Premier to address the nation directly. Among the questions demanding immediate answers are:

- The future of the InterHealth Canada contract and the continuity of healthcare services.
- The Government's reported borrowing and the proposed acquisition of the hospital system.
- The status of the Government's cost-of-living relief programme, including concerns surrounding its intrusive application process.
- The rationale for limiting the application period to only seven days.
- The continued escalation in the cost of

electricity and what measures are being taken to provide meaningful relief.

- Outstanding constitutional matters that remain unresolved.
- The Government's decision to use public funds to provide financial assistance to work permit holders and individuals who are not eligible to vote.
- The PDM's call for the recall of the Governor to London.

These are not partisan questions. They are matters of national importance that deserve direct answers.

Leadership demands more than prepared statements and controlled messaging. It requires a willingness to face independent scrutiny, respond to legitimate public concerns, and be held accountable for the decisions of Government.

The Premier must explain what his Government knew about the InterHealth Canada dispute, when it became aware of the issues, how much public money is at stake, whether patient care or staffing levels are at risk, and what contingency measures are in place to protect the country's healthcare system.

He must also provide clear answers on the wider issues affecting the daily lives of the people of these Islands.

The PDM therefore calls upon the Premier



PD Leader Doug Parnell

to stop avoiding public scrutiny and immediately hold a live press conference where members of the media are free to ask questions on behalf of the people they serve. The people of the Turks and Caicos Islands deserve openness, accountability, and

leadership that is prepared to answer difficult questions.

The PDM will continue to stand with the people, raise the issues that matter, and demand the transparency and accountability that good governance requires.

Digicel Celebrates 20 Years of Service in Turks and Caicos

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Digicel marked its 20th anniversary in the Turks and Caicos Islands with a celebratory event held on Friday, July 17, at the company's Corporate Office along Leeward Highway in Providenciales.

The anniversary celebration brought together customers, staff, and community members to commemorate two decades of providing telecommunications services while highlighting the company's vision for the future.

Speaking at the event, Country Operations Manager Kern Gardiner said the milestone represents 20 years of serving residents, businesses, schools, government agencies, and the wider Turks and Caicos diaspora.

"We are celebrating the monumental moment of serving the TCI nation, businesses, schools, governments, and the diaspora at large," Gardiner said.

The family-friendly celebration featured a variety of activities, including a bouncy castle for children, live music from a band, entertainment by a DJ throughout the day, and an array of food and beverages representing the diverse cultures that make up the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Gardiner said the event was designed to showcase the country's multicultural community, describing it as a celebration of the "melting pot" that is the Turks and Caicos



Country Operations Manager Kern Gardiner

Addresses customers and members of the business community at the event.

Islands.

Reflecting on Digicel's two-decade journey, Gardiner said the company has spent the past 20 years building a strong foundation through investments in its telecommunications network and workforce.

"From a 20-year perspective, looking back, it has been a foundational building perspective, laying the foundation in terms of network and laying the foundation in terms of people," he said.

Looking to the future, Gardiner said Digicel

intends to continue expanding its services to meet the growing needs of the Turks and Caicos Islands as the population grows and new businesses establish themselves in the territory. He also emphasized the company's commitment to supporting the government's digital transformation initiatives by helping move services from paper-based systems to digital platforms.

"We want to expand in terms of what the demand is for TCI at large," Gardiner said. "We want to ensure we are staying ahead of demand."

Gardiner also highlighted Digicel's continued investment in broadband services, noting that the company is shifting toward a more strategic, data-driven approach to network development. By analyzing population density and customer data usage, Digicel is working to optimize the placement of network sites and technologies to improve coverage and service across the islands.

"The approach is now more about effectiveness versus infrastructure," he said.

As Digicel celebrates two decades in the Turks and Caicos Islands, the company says it remains focused on strengthening connectivity and supporting the country's continued digital growth.

See additional photos on pages 16-17



Kenisha Bacchus, Acting Director of the Financial Services Commission

The Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission (FSC) warns the public of ongoing fraudulent telephone calls in which perpetrators falsely claim

to represent the Commission and use spoofed caller ID displaying the official Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) logo or the Turks and Ca-

FSC URGES TCI TO REMAIN VIGILANT AGAINST SCAM CALLS

icos Islands crest. These callers attempt to obtain personal or banking information and request transfers or payments. The FSC will never call individuals or businesses to ask for passwords, PINs, one time passcodes (OTPs), full account numbers, or internet banking credentials. Any call requesting such information and claiming to be from the FSC is fraudulent. Do not provide information, comply with money transfer requests, or follow caller instructions.

The Commission is assisting the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force as they investigate these incidents and identify the perpetrators.

If you receive a suspicious call:

- o Hang up immediately; do not engage or call numbers provided by the caller.
- o Contact your bank or financial insti-

tution using official published numbers to report the call and request account monitoring, freezes, or credential changes if necessary.

- o Record details: date/time, number shown, and conversation content, and take screenshots if possible.

- o Report the incident to the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force at +1 649 941 8067 or +1 649 941 5891, and to the FSC at +1 649 946 5314 or fsc@tcifsc.tc.

Protect yourself by never disclosing passwords, PINs, OTPs, or full account numbers to unsolicited callers and by verifying any approach using official contact details before acting.

The Commission urges all residents and businesses to remain vigilant and report suspicious contact promptly.

CARPHA Strengthens Medicine Safety in the Turks and Caicos Islands

The Pharmacy Unit within the Ministry of Health and Human Services (MoHHS) in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) began a transformative journey in 2019 with the establishment of the national pharmacovigilance programme.

The programme known as the Turks and Caicos Islands Pharmacovigilance Programme (TPP) was developed with a view to strengthen the country's medicines regulatory framework and by virtue improve the effective monitoring of drug/patient safety.

Importantly, the TPP emanated from the National Pharmaceutical Policy (NPP) that includes a commitment to establish a policy strategy and robust mechanisms to ensure that only safe, effective and quality-assured medicines are utilised in the TCI. Notably, this resulted from a need to:

- Implement procedures to register medicines and suppliers of medicines
- Combat the importation and use of substandard and counterfeit medicines
- Analyse and test medicines imported and used in the TCI
- Monitor and report adverse drug

reactions

In support of the above commitment, the MoHHS welcomed and accepted the opportunity to partner with the Caribbean Public Health Agency Medicines Quality Control and Surveillance Department's (CARPHA MQCSD) risk-based post-market surveillance of medicines programme in 2021 (testing and analysis of medicines to provide data on their quality and efficacy) to strengthen both the competencies of regulatory personnel and the medicines regulatory system, which had evident weaknesses. Consequently, when the MoHHS submitted its first medicine sample for analysis and testing on July 29, 2021, and subsequently received its first ever certificate of analysis on November 11, 2021, through the MQCSD programme, it marked a significant milestone in the history of the TCI. This initial step created and cemented a critical pathway to provide and guarantee improved medicines surveillance and hence enhance medicines safety for current and future generations residing in the TCI. Since joining the MQCSD programme, the MoHHS has submitted 21 samples



of various medicines. These medicines are known antihypertensives, an antidiabetic, an analgesic (pain-relieving) and a corticosteroid. Notably, the growth of the programme is reflected in the marked increase in the number of samples, from 2 in 2021 to 15 in 2025. 20 of the 21 samples, 95% met the required standards. This high compliance rate reflects the overall quality of medicines entering the TCI market, while validating the importance of market surveillance programmes for medicines supported by laboratory testing.

The MoHHS has circulated several media releases to improve the public's knowledge and awareness of both the TPP and the MQCSD programme, and how it is impacting medicines' safety in the TCI, including when certificates of analysis are issued by CARPHA. An increase in the number of adverse drug reaction

(ADR) reports provides an indicator of the way in which the programme appears to be gaining traction in the TCI.

The MoHHS, as a quality measure, is utilising an ADR Reporting Form as a data gathering tool, not only for suspected adverse drug reactions, but also for the reporting of substandard and falsified medicines. As such, the tool is being actively used to survey medicines that warrant analysis and testing, and by virtue improve medicines and patient safety.

In light of the above, the MoHHS has observed gradual and steady success in the CARPHA MQCSD and TPP programmes, and remains steadfast in its commitment to develop and strengthen the necessary legislative framework to ensure that analysis and testing of medicines is a fixture in the lives of TCI residents for the foreseeable future.

AI Will Not Replace Teachers, Says Education Minister

An OpEd by Donavon Eugene

Artificial intelligence (AI) should be used to empower teachers rather than replace them, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Social Services Hon. Rachel Taylor declared as the Turks and Caicos Islands celebrated its historic victory at the Wisdom CRM National Awards Ceremony.

Addressing students, educators, government officials and regional partners virtually, Taylor emphasized that while AI is transforming education and the global workforce, the role of teachers remains irreplaceable.

"Artificial intelligence must support the teacher, not replace the teacher," she said. "Technology can personalize learning, provide immediate feedback and expand access to information, but it is our teachers who inspire curiosity, build character, nurture values, encourage resilience and develop human relationships that no machine can ever replace."

Her remarks came as the Turks and Caicos Islands celebrated an unprecedented



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

achievement in the Wisdom CRM Sustainable Stock Market AI competition, defeating regional powerhouses including Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Suriname to become the Caribbean's

regional champions.

Students from the Turks and Caicos secured the top six positions in the Caribbean rankings and claimed 14 of the region's top 20 spots, demonstrating excellence in financial literacy, strategic thinking and the responsible use of AI-powered learning tools.

Taylor said the success reflects the government's commitment to preparing students for a rapidly changing digital economy.

"The world of work is changing faster than ever before, and artificial intelligence is transforming every profession, from medicine and engineering to finance, tourism, education and public service," she said. "Preparing students for yesterday's jobs is no longer enough. We must prepare them for tomorrow's opportunities."

She highlighted the Ministry of Education's partnership with Wisdom CRM, describing AI as a powerful educational resource that can enhance teaching and learning while helping students develop critical skills for the future.

The minister noted that students are gaining far more than investment knowledge

through the programme. They are learning to assess risk, interpret data, solve problems, think strategically and make informed decisions, skills that will serve them throughout their careers.

Taylor also praised principals, teachers, parents and education officials for supporting students throughout the competition, saying their commitment helped make the country's regional success possible.

Congratulating the award recipients, she encouraged all participants to continue embracing innovation and lifelong learning. "The future does not belong to those who wait for change," Taylor said. "It belongs to those who embrace it, lead it and use it to create opportunities for themselves, their families and their country."

The Wisdom CRM programme combines artificial intelligence, financial literacy and stock market simulation to equip Caribbean students with practical skills for the modern economy. Organizers say the Turks and Caicos Islands' regional victory marks a significant milestone in the territory's ongoing efforts to integrate digital innovation into education.

Turks and Caicos Strengthens Emergency Preparedness with PAHO Mass Casualty Training

The Ministry of Health and Human Services through the Health Emergency Management Unit, in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), proudly announces the successful completion of the PAHO Mass Casualty Management (MCM) Course, an intensive five-day programme that took place in Grand Turk from the 22nd to 27th June 2026.

Approximately 40 multi-sector emergency responders successfully completed the course and committed to strengthening the Turks and Caicos Islands' capacity to respond effectively to major emergencies and disasters.

The graduating cohort represented a diverse cross-section of agencies that play a critical role in national emergency response, including the Primary Health Care Department, Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital, Fire and Rescue Service, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, His Majesty's Prison, the Environmental Health Department, and the Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment. Their participation reflects the country's continued commitment to a co-ordinated, whole-of-government approach to emergency preparedness and disaster response.

Building National Resilience Through International Best Practice

The PAHO Mass Casualty Management Course is an internationally recognized programme developed to strengthen the competencies of emergency responders responsible for managing incidents involving multiple casualties. The comprehensive curriculum combines classroom instruction with realistic field exercises and focuses on: Incident Command and on-scene coordination

Triage and rapid casualty assessment

Field medical care and stabilization



Safe extrication and patient transport
Communication and resource management

Multi-agency coordination through realistic disaster simulations

The programme emphasizes the importance of integrated emergency response, ensuring that all participating agencies share a common operational framework and can work seamlessly together during hurricanes, transportation accidents, industrial incidents, active violence events, and other large-scale emergencies.

Ms. Charlene Higgs, Director of the Health Emergency Management Unit (HEMU), Ministry of Health, praised the participants for their outstanding performance throughout the programme.

"This year's participants demonstrated exceptional discipline, teamwork, and multi-sector coordination. Their ability to grasp complex concepts and apply them effectively during field exercises reflects the growing strength of our national emergency response system. It is inspiring to witness so many agencies working together with one shared purpose, protecting the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Every participant leaves this course better prepared to save lives when our communities need them most."

Recognizing Outstanding Leadership and Commitment

The Ministry extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Peter Burgess, PAHO Consultant and Lead Instructor, whose exceptional leadership, practical expertise, and hands-on facilitation greatly enhanced the quality of this year's training. His extensive regional experience and contribution as one of the principal authors of the PAHO Mass Casualty Management System Course Manual, provided participants with invaluable insight into internationally recognized best practices.

The Ministry also recognizes the longstanding commitment of Director Health Emergency Management Unit Ms. Charlene Higgs, and Dr. Denise Braithwaite-Tennant, Chief Executive Officer of the Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital who have jointly delivered Mass Casualty Management training in the Turks and Caicos Islands for more than a decade. Through their dedication and leadership, hundreds of emergency responders across multiple sectors have received specialized training that has strengthened national preparedness and enhanced operational readiness throughout the country.

Excellence in Multi-Agency Collaboration
Participants demonstrated exceptional

commitment throughout the programme, particularly during practical simulations that tested their ability to respond collaboratively under realistic disaster conditions. Highlights of the course included:

Outstanding professionalism and discipline
Strong teamwork and effective communication

Excellent multi-agency coordination
Rapid mastery of Mass Casualty Management principles

High-quality performance during realistic field simulation exercises

Their achievements demonstrate the professionalism, commitment, and operational readiness of the Turks and Caicos Islands' emergency response community.

Investing in a Safer Future

Commenting on the successful completion of the training, Honourable Kyle Knowles, Minister of Health and Human Services, stated that "As the Turks and Caicos Islands continues to grow and evolve, strengthening national emergency preparedness remains a strategic priority. Programmes such as the PAHO Mass Casualty Management Course ensure that emergency responders possess the knowledge, skills, and coordinated response capabilities necessary to protect lives and communities during major incidents and disasters."

The Ministry of Health and Human Services and the Pan American Health Organization reaffirm their shared commitment to continuing collaboration through training, capacity building, and emergency preparedness initiatives that contribute to a safer, more resilient Turks and Caicos Islands.

For more information from the Ministry of Health, please follow the Ministry of Health's social media pages:

Facebook: facebook.com/tciministryofhealth

Instagram: @tciministryofhealth

Rock House Earns Green Key Certification, Highlighting Sustainable Luxury in the Turks and Caicos Islands

Rock House, Grace Bay Resorts’ luxury cliff-side resort on Providenciales, has earned the internationally recognized Green Key Certification, reinforcing both the resort’s commitment to environmental stewardship and the Turks and Caicos Islands’ growing reputation as a destination for sustainable luxury tourism.

Awarded following an independent third-party audit, Green Key Certification recognizes hotels and resorts that meet rigorous international standards for environmental responsibility while delivering exceptional guest experiences. The achievement reflects Rock House’s ongoing efforts to protect the natural beauty of the Turks and Caicos Islands through responsible operations, resource conservation, and sustainable guest initiatives.

“Receiving Green Key Certification is an important milestone for Rock House and a testament to our team’s dedication to responsible luxury hospitality,” said Nikheel Advani, COO and Co-Founder of Grace Bay Resorts. “From the earliest stages of the resort’s development, sustainability was integrated into the property’s design and construction. This recognition reinforces our commitment to preserving the extraordinary envi-

ronment that makes the Turks and Caicos Islands such a remarkable place to live and visit, while continuing to deliver the elevated service and thoughtful design our guests expect.”

Rock House has introduced a number of sustainability initiatives that support the long-term protection of the islands’ natural resources, including:

- Grey water harvesting systems that help conserve one of the country’s most valuable resources—fresh water.
- A “Refill, No Landfill” program featuring complimentary reusable water bottles and filtered water stations throughout the resort, significantly reducing single-use plastics.
- PVC-free materials across the property, including sustainable bamboo guest key cards.
- Ongoing operational practices focused on reducing environmental impact while enhancing the guest experience.

Thoughtfully designed to blend with the dramatic limestone coastline of Providenciales, Rock House demonstrates how luxury development can complement and protect the surrounding environment. From its architecture and landscaping to its day-to-day operations, sustainability remains central to



The Rock House Resort

the resort’s vision. Green Key, coordinated by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), is one of the world’s leading eco-certification programs for the hospitality industry. The certification recognizes properties that excel in environmental management, energy effi-

ciency, water conservation, waste reduction, staff engagement, and guest education. As travelers increasingly seek environmentally responsible destinations, Rock House’s certification further strengthens the Turks and Caicos Islands’ position as a leader in sustainable, high-end tourism.

Ports of Call Resort Joins Hilton Family

Mahakali Hospitality Management Ltd., announced today that Ports of Call Resort has joined Hilton’s Tapestry Collection by Hilton, a portfolio of independent hotels, marking an exciting milestone for the 103-room resort.

Over the next year, the property will undergo a thoughtful renovation designed to enhance the guest experience while continuing to deliver the service, comfort and hospitality that make Ports of Call Resort a favorite place to stay in Turks and Caicos. Renovations will include enhancing the lobby, fitness centre and other public spaces while preserving the hotel’s unique character and island charm. The hotel will be managed by Mahakali Hospitality Management Ltd. with construction led by Leela Construction and Eugene Engineering Designs Ltd.

“We’re thrilled to begin this exciting new chapter for Ports of Call Resort,” said Tai-wayne, General Manager of Mahakali Hospitality Management Ltd. “Joining the Hilton family marks an exciting milestone, allowing us to introduce our welcoming island retreat and the beauty of Turks and Caicos to an even broader global audience. While our brand evolves, our commitment remains the same: delivering the warm, personalized service, relaxed atmosphere, and authentic island experiences that have made Ports of Call Resort a favorite among guests for years. We look forward to welcoming Hilton Honors members, our loyal returning guests and everyone visiting the Ports of Call Resort for their very first experience, to discover everything that makes our resort—and Turks and Caicos—so special.”

The hotel’s prime location in Providenciales provides convenient access to the island’s renowned beaches, vibrant local attractions and unforgettable experiences, making it an ideal destination for both leisure and busi-



ness travelers.

As part of Tapestry Collection by Hilton, the hotel will offer guests an upscale boutique experience that reflects the character of its destination while delivering the trusted quality and service associated with Hilton. Guests can enjoy thoughtfully designed accommodations, genuine hospitality, and signature brand amenities, including business centre, and fitness centre. Each guest room features modern comforts designed for today’s traveler, including a 50-inch television, walk-in glass shower, mini refrigerator or full-size refrigerator, and a coffeemaker.

Ports of Call Resort is part of Hilton Honors®, the award-winning guest loyalty program for Hilton’s 24 world-class brands. Hilton Honors members who book directly through preferred Hilton channels have access to instant benefits, including a flexible payment slider that allows members to choose near-

ly any combination of Points and money to book a stay, an exclusive member discount that can’t be found anywhere else and free standard WiFi. Members also have access to contactless technology exclusively through the industry-leading Hilton Honors mobile app, where Hilton Honors members can check-in and choose their room.

For more information about Hilton and Tapestry Collection by Hilton, please visit stories.hilton.com.

About Hilton

Hilton (NYSE: HLT) is a leading global hospitality company with a portfolio of 27 world-class brands comprising more than 9,200 properties and over 1.3 million rooms, in 144 countries and territories. Dedicated to fulfilling its founding vision to fill the earth with the light and warmth of hospitality, Hilton has welcomed over 4 billion guests in its more than 100-year history. Named as

the No. 1 World’s Best Workplace by Great Place to Work and Fortune, Hilton aims to create the best culture for its 500,000 team members around the world. Hilton has introduced industry-leading technology enhancements to improve the guest experience, including Digital Key Share, automated complimentary room upgrades and the ability to book confirmed connecting rooms. Through the award-winning guest loyalty program Hilton Honors, the more than 250 million Hilton Honors members who book directly with Hilton can earn Points for hotel stays and experiences money can’t buy. With the free Hilton Honors app, guests can book their stay, select their room, check in, unlock their door with a Digital Key and check out, all from their smartphone. Visit stories.hilton.com for more information, and connect with Hilton on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube.

About Tapestry Collection by Hilton

Tapestry Collection by Hilton is a portfolio of nearly 200 independent hotels each with an original, vibrant personality, encouraging guests to enjoy off-the-beaten-path experiences in destinations worth exploring. While each property has a unique story to share that comes to life through uplifting design and unique food & beverage, every Tapestry Collection property is united by the reliability that comes with the Hilton name, in addition to the benefits of the award-winning Hilton Honors program. Experience Tapestry Collection by Hilton by booking at tapestrycollectionbyhilton.com or through the industry-leading Hilton Honors app. Hilton Honors members who book directly through preferred Hilton channels have access to instant benefits. Learn more about Tapestry Collection by Hilton at stories.hilton.com/tapestry, and follow the brand on Facebook, Instagram and X.

Rock House Second Quarter Employee Awards

Recently, the Rock House Resort Staged its Employee, Supervisor and Leader of the quarter for the second quarter; where a number of outstanding staff members were awarded for their work. Shane Whyte was voted leader of the quarter, Nuris Vargas was voted supervisor of the quarter, Orlando Walters was voted front of house employee of the quarter; while Edwin Lugtu was voted back of house employee of the quarter.



Attendees were also treated to some entertainment by members of staff



Edwin Lugtu (centre) of the Housekeeping Department accepts his awards from Rakesh Bahadur, Executive Chef



Orlando Walters accepts his Front of the House Employee of the Quarter Awards from Theo Rock, Director of engineering



A section of the room cheering on their colleagues



Shane Whyte, who was voted leader of the quarter, accepts his awards from Theo Rock, Director of Engineering

THANK YOU, THANK YOU! AND NOW, FOR MY NEXT SONG...

THIS NUMBER IS ABOUT HOW MY BEEMER IS ALWAYS IN THE SHOP!

PROTEST SONGS AREN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE!

THE FILM INDUSTRY IS INCREDIBLY WASTEFUL.

WE AREN'T - WE HAVE NO ACTORS OR CREW TO FEED, NO LIGHTING, NO SETS...

THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?

IT'S A GREAT PLACE TO HAVE THAT.

AI DATA CENTER

ARCTIC MOVIES

LUTE, I'M FEELING SAD TONIGHT!

TELL ME WHAT I CAN DO TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER!

THANK YOU FOR CANCELING OUR PLANS!

IT WANTS TO SHAKE HANDS, OLIVE!

THUNG!

HOWDY DO, FRIEN'!

THUNG!

SLAM!

GRRRR!

DON'T TELL ME YOU LOST AGAIN!

HOW MANY 'LUCKY' GOALS DID THE OPPOSITION SCORE THIS WEEK?

TWELVE!

DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD SNEAK IN THIS LATE AND NOT GET CAUGHT?

NOT AT ALL, DAD!

I WAS JUST TESTING THE EVER-WATCHFUL VIGILANCE OF A DAD WHO TRULY CARES...SO, THANKS, DAD!

YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES IT'S REALLY HARD TO STAY MAD AT THAT KID

NEWSLINE COMICS

THE WALL IS NEAR

Wayno & 3 Piro. 7-24-26

Eric Scott

"I found your long lost sweater. Your long lost twin was wearing it."

THESE DAYS, MY IDEA OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY IS GOING GROCERY SHOPPING WITHOUT A LIST.

"AND TO THINK I WAS ONCE THEIR BUNDLE OF JOY!"



NEWSLINE
Heritage

PINK Flamingo

NEWSLINE
Heritage

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The Pink Flamingo is one of the most striking bird species found in the Turks and Caicos Islands. With its bright pink feathers, long legs, and distinctive curved bill, the flamingo is closely associated with the islands’ wetlands, salt ponds, and shallow coastal lagoons. Historically, flamingos were found in large numbers across the Turks and Caicos Islands, particularly on North Caicos, Middle Caicos, and Grand Turk. These birds depend on quiet, shallow waters where they feed on small crustaceans, algae, and microscopic organisms that give their feathers their well-known pink colour.

During the early twentieth century, flamingo populations across the region declined due to hunting and disturbance of nesting grounds. As awareness of wildlife conservation grew, protective measures were introduced to safeguard flamingos and their habitats. Wetlands and coastal lagoons in parts of the Turks and Caicos Islands were later included within national parks and protected areas, helping to preserve important feeding and resting sites for the birds.

Today, flamingos remain an important part of the natural environment of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Their presence in salt ponds and wetlands reflects the ecological richness of the islands and highlights the importance of protecting fragile coastal habitats for future generations.

TCIFSC DELEGATION ATTENDS CGBS XLIII CONFERENCE IN CURAÇAO

Representatives from the Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission attended the CGBS XLIII Annual Conference in Curaçao from 28 to 30 May, 2026. The delegation was led by Kenisha Bacchus, Managing Director (Ag.), and Prudence Edwards, Director of Banking. The conference brought together regional banking supervisors, regulators, and financial-sector experts to examine how Caribbean supervisory authorities can enhance resilience and promote innovation in the face

of risks posed by artificial intelligence, data-protection challenges, and broader systemic uncertainty. Discussions covered risk-based and forward-looking supervision, cyber and operational resilience, data protection, AI governance, climate-related financial risks, correspondent banking and de-risking, financial inclusion, Basel implementation, crisis management, and regional supervisory cooperation. “We left Curaçao with clear, practical steps to strengthen our supervision: embrace data-driven tools, deepen

regional cooperation, and build cyber and operational resilience, all while keeping supervision proportionate so innovation can thrive safely for the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands,” said Mrs Bacchus. For the Commission, participation reinforced the FSC’s commitment to modern, proportionate, and risk-based supervision; bolstered regional collaboration; and yielded practical insights to advance supervisory technology, data-driven oversight, cyber risk management, and resilience planning.



Kenisha Bacchus, Managing Director (Ag.), and Prudence Edwards, Director of Banking.

Sixteen Years Later, TCI still doesn’t have the Hospital/ Healthcare We Paid For — But We Can Build the One We Deserve

By Paladin

Something is not quite right with the Turks and Caicos Islands National Hospital. Sixteen years after its grand opening, rooms built in 2010 still sit empty. Equipment purchased with public money still sits in plastic. Services we were promised have never materialized. And while the public waits for answers, we are treated to glowing anniversary articles celebrating “advances” that somehow never reach the patient experience. The question is no longer whether something is wrong. The question is why, and more importantly, what we can do about it. To understand the “why,” we must start with a truth most people still do not know: The people of Turks and Caicos paid to build the hospital — but the people do not own it.

A Hospital built with Public Money, But Not Publicly Owned

When the hospital was constructed, the public financed it through long term payments. But instead of becoming a public asset, ownership was placed into private companies created solely to hold the building and collect rent from the Government. The result is astonishing:

- TCIG owns only the land.
- A private company owns the building.
- Another owns the equipment.
- Another provides the services.

And the Government pays rent every month on a building the public already paid to build. This structure explains almost everything that frustrates the public today. But now, sixteen years later, we are seeing the consequences of this structure in the most dramatic way possible: InterHealth Canada has terminated its contract, stating the Government failed to pay its bills for more than 18 months.

Eighteen months of unpaid obligations

A year and a half in which the operator claims it continued running the hospitals without receiving full payment. This raises a question that no one in Government has answered: Where did the money go? How does a government fail to pay the operator of its national hospital for 18 months while overseas treatment costs explode to nearly \$64 million? This is not just a financial lapse. This is a governance failure — one that demands a full investigation.

Why Rooms Sit Empty and Equipment Sits Unused

The hospital was designed with “shelled” rooms — empty spaces meant to be opened as the population grew. Sixteen

years later, many remain untouched. Why? Because the operator is paid a fixed amount per person per year — a system called capitation. Whether they treat one patient or one hundred, they receive the same payment. So every new service line, every new specialist, every new diagnostic machine is a cost, not a benefit. This is why:

- rooms remain unopened
- equipment remains wrapped
- services remain limited
- patients continue to be sent abroad

The hospital is not failing. The incentives are. And now, with the contract dissolved, we see the final proof: A system built on misaligned incentives collapses the moment the Government fails to meet its obligations.

But Pointing Out the Problem Is Not Enough

Turks and Caicos does not need more outrage. It needs a plan. And the good news is this:

- Small Caribbean nations have already solved the exact problem we are facing.
- We do not need to reinvent the wheel.
- We simply need to choose a better model.

But before we choose that model, we must confront another governance issue that emerged this year; The Government spent \$12 million to purchase the former Family Care facility to convert it into a polyclinic. A polyclinic is needed — desperately. But the timing and the price raise serious questions.

Why did it take twenty years for the Ministry of Health to realize it needed this facility? And more importantly, how is the valuation justified? Healthcare facilities are valued using standard formulas: annual revenue, patient volume, equipment value, and operating profit. If Family Care was worth **\$12 million**, then by standard valuation formulas it would have needed to generate **millions per year in profit**.

Is that realistic? Is that possible? Has anyone seen the financials? And if the Government is now purchasing private clinics, then the next question becomes unavoidable, what happens to all the other Government clinics scattered across the islands? Do they fall under the same management umbrella? Do they remain fragmented? Do they integrate into a unified primary care network? No answers have been provided. Even when the Government gets it right, it is too little, too late. Staffing, supplies, and equipment will take

months before the polyclinic opens. And the same registration and payment bottlenecks that plague the hospital will simply transfer to this building unless the underlying system changes.

Here Are Three Solutions — Proven, Practical, and Entirely Within Our Reach

1. Build a Teaching Hospital Model — The Caribbean’s Most Successful Strategy

Across the region, teaching hospitals have transformed small nations with limited populations into medical hubs:

- Grenada (St. George’s University)
- St. Kitts (Ross University)
- Barbados (American University of Barbados)
- Saba (Saba University School of Medicine)
- St. Maarten (AUC School of Medicine)

These institutions bring:

- specialists
- research funding
- faculty
- modern diagnostics
- international partnerships
- and most importantly, a pipeline of local doctors and nurses

A teaching hospital is not a cost center. It is a revenue engine. Students pay tuition. Faculty bring grants. Research brings investment. Specialists relocate permanently. And the standard of care rises for everyone. TCI can do the same — and do it better.

2. Build a 50–100 Acre Medical Village — Not a Small Building with a Big Sign

In 2008, a former Chief Minister envisioned exactly this: a Medical School, Nursing College, Dental School, and full Academic Village. He understood that a Medical School is not just classrooms — it is an ecosystem:

- housing
- supermarkets
- restaurants
- laundromats
- entertainment
- transportation
- student services
- research centers
- specialized clinics

This is not fantasy. This is how every successful Caribbean medical university operates. A 50–100-acre medical village in Turks and Caicos would:

- create hundreds of jobs
- generate new entrepreneurial opportunities
- attract international students

- anchor research partnerships
- support specialist clinics
- and permanently reduce the need for overseas care

It would also create something priceless: A Domestic Healthcare Workforce trained at home, loyal to home, and invested in home.

3. Use the Medical Village to Deliver Free or Near Free Healthcare for Citizens

This is the part most people do not realize: A properly structured Medical University subsidizes the National Healthcare system. How? Because:

- tuition revenue
- research grants
- specialist clinics
- private care wings
- international partnerships

...all generate income that can be reinvested into public healthcare. In several Caribbean islands, citizens receive:

- free primary care
- free diagnostics
- free specialist clinics
- free emergency care

Because the teaching hospital model pays for itself. TCI can do the same — and do it sustainably.

The Choice Before Us

We can continue with the current model:

- empty rooms
- unused equipment
- limited services
- rising overseas referrals
- unpaid hospital bills
- unexplained Government spending
- and a system that costs more every year but delivers the same

Or we can choose a new model:

- a teaching hospital
- a medical village
- a 50–100-acre academic campus
- a pipeline of local doctors and nurses
- expanded services
- modern diagnostics
- and free or near free healthcare for citizens

This is not a dream. It is a decision. Sixteen years is long enough to diagnose the problem. The next sixteen must be about the cure. Turks and Caicos deserves a hospital that grows with the nation — not one that celebrates anniversaries while standing still. The future of healthcare in this country depends on whether we finally choose to build the hospital we were promised, the hospital we need, and the hospital our people deserve.

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

St. Thomas Parish Church: The Oldest Church in the TCI

The St. Thomas Parish Church in Grand Turk is the oldest house of worship in the Turks and Caicos Islands, having been established in 1823. The St. Built by the Bermudan settlers, the Thomas Anglican Church was the first church to be constructed on that island and the second to be built in the Bahamas archipelago. At first the church was thought to have been built from stone transported from Bermuda. However, since the church was is located near the old quarry, it is also speculated that the materials may have been obtained from that location. It is also speculated that the rocks were obtained from the nearby quarry also and the wood imported from Bermuda. The St. Thomas Church is listed as very sturdy, cut-stone building with some walls as thing as two feet. The hard stones that were hand hewn were set to in a primitive mortar of lime mixed with turtle oil.



Life line Church Directory

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

Firm Foundation Ministries International Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581 Christ is the Answer Ministry, George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030 One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com. Touch of Love Ministries International Center Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731 Abundant Life Ministries International P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755 Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk, Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289 Bethany Baptist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118 Church of God of Prophecy, Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854 Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk Tel:946-1866 Calvary Baptist Church, South Caicos. Tel:946-3212 Harvest Bible Chapel TCI, Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales. Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com. https://www.harvesttci.tci. Rock of Jesus Ministry, 15 Five Cays, Safe Haven. Tel: 649-3317628 of 649-2410087	Firm Foundation Ministries International 19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240 Church of God of Prophecy, Providenciales Tel:941-3438 Roman Catholic Church, Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136 Faith Tabernacle Church of God, Providenciales, Tel:946-4073 New Testament Church of God, Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175 New Testament Church of God, South Caicos Tel:946-3631 Methodist Church, Grand Turk Tel:946-2352 Healing Waters Ministries, Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867 House of Prayer Church of God, Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309 Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727 Mount Mariah Baptist Church, Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205 New Beginning Harvest Ministry, Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759 New Testament Church of God Orea Alley P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-1255 Airport Road, South Caicos Tel:231-2402	Firm Foundation Ministries International Waterloo Road, Grand Turk. Telephone: 649-332-624 Paradise Baptist Church, Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349 Revival Faith Center, North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349 Salem Baptist Church, Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565 Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181 St. Monica’s Anglican Church P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499 Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh Day Adventists, P.O. Box 803, Providenciales United Pentecostal Church, Brown’s Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852 Wesleyan Methodist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596 <i>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@newslnetci.com</i>
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DIGICEL CELEBRATES 20 YEARS IN TCI

Digicel Turks and Caicos, on Friday, July 17, celebrated its 20-years of operation in the territory by hosting a festivity dubbed ‘Parade of Nations’, which included cultural representations from several nations living in the here. The event also featured a live band and local cultural music. There were also many give-a-ways to members of the public. This event also presented an excellent opportunity to meet and network with our newly appointed Country Operations Manager, Kern Gardiner, who has recently joined the market. The following are photo highlights of the event.





50th Anniversary of Ministerial Government (1976–2026) Series...

The Election That Changed Everything

PART EIGHT

Some elections change governments. Some elections change policies. And some elections change the course of history. The General Election of 29 September 1976 was one of those moments.

For the first time, the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands would elect representatives under a constitutional system that introduced Ministerial Government and fundamentally altered the relationship between elected leaders and political power. The movement that had found its voice during the early 1970s and demonstrated its strength through public action was now approaching its greatest test. Could public support be transformed into political leadership? The answer would come through the ballot box.

A New Constitutional Era

The 1976 Constitution represented one of the most significant developments in the constitutional history of the Turks and Caicos Islands. For the first time, elected representatives would exercise ministerial responsibility over important areas of government.

Although the new arrangements did not grant independence, they provided greater responsibility for local leadership and increased participation by elected Islanders in the administration of their own affairs.

For many people, the new Constitution represented progress. It represented confidence. And it represented the belief that the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands were ready for greater responsibility within government.

History was entering a new chapter.

Competing Visions

The election campaign brought together different visions for the country's future. The People's Democratic Party (PDP), which later adopted the name People's Democratic Movement (PDM), entered the election under the leadership of JAGS McCartney.

The party attracted considerable support from Islanders who believed the country was ready for constitutional advancement and a new political direction.

At the same time, the People's National Organisation (PNO), later associated with the Progressive National Party (PNP), remained an important political force with support throughout the Islands.

Independent candidates also entered the contest. Communities debated issues passionately. Families discussed politics around dinner tables. Campaign meetings attracted strong interest.

For perhaps the first time on such a scale, politics had become part of everyday life across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Election Day

When election day arrived on 29 September 1976, anticipation filled the country. The campaign had been intense. The stakes were high. Communities waited anxiously for results. Families gathered around radios. Candidates watched the counting process with anticipation.

Supporters celebrated victories and worried over close contests. As the results emerged, it became clear that the country

VOICES OF THE PEOPLE
EST. 1976
The Story. The Struggle. The Legacy.

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE EDITION TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS SEPTEMBER 1976

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MINISTERIAL GOVERNMENT (1976–2026) SERIES

ROAD TO 1976 SERIES
PART EIGHT

THE ELECTION THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

The 1976 General Election and the Birth of Ministerial Government

HISTORY WAS MADE
On 29 September 1976, the people voted.
On 1 October 1976, with the support of two independent members, the first Ministerial Government came into existence.
A new era had begun.

A NEW ERA
The 1976 Constitution opened the door to greater responsibility and local leadership.

THE CAMPAIGN
Communities debated. Voices were raised. The future was everyone's concern.

ELECTION DAY
Anticipation filled the Islands as citizens went to the polls.

THE PEOPLE SPOKE
The results reflected hope, unity and the desire for a better tomorrow.

THE BEGINNING OF LEADERSHIP
The movement had become a government. Now came the greater challenge... leadership.

“ The movement had become a government. Now came the greater challenge... leadership.”
1976 • THE FIRST MINISTERIAL GOVERNMENT

had entered a new political era. The People's Democratic Party secured five seats. However, the Ministerial Government was not formed immediately.

It was only on 1 October 1976, with the support of the two independent members, that the first Ministerial Government under the new constitutional arrangements came into existence. History had been made.

More Complex Than the Headlines

Although the People's Democratic Party ultimately formed the first Ministerial Government, the election revealed a politically engaged country with differing opinions and competing visions.

Support for various parties and candidates existed throughout the Islands. The election demonstrated not only support for change but also the growing maturity of democratic participation. The Turks and Caicos Islands were not speaking with one voice.

They were engaged in a national conversation about their future. That political diversity remains an important part of understanding the significance of the 1976 election.

The First Ministerial Government

On 1 October 1976, following the General Election and with the support of two Independent members, the Turks and Caicos Islands entered a new constitutional era. For the first time, a Ministerial Government, led by elected Islanders, assumed responsibility for key areas of national administration. It was a defining moment in the country's political history.

The new government would forever occupy a special place in the constitutional history of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

At its head stood JAGS McCartney, who became the country's first Chief Minister under Ministerial Government.

Alongside him served:

Hon. Lewis “Louie” Edwin Astwood

Hon. Oswald O’Neil Skippings

Hon. Walter Cox

Hon. Daniel Alexander Williams

Hon. Henry Leon Wilson

Hon. Charles William “Liam” McGuire

Together, these seven men became the architects of the first Ministerial Government, each bringing different experiences and responsibilities as they embarked on the challenge of governing a country entering a new constitutional chapter.

The country still faced economic uncertainty, infrastructure challenges, limited employment opportunities, and continuing development pressures.

Yet for the first time, greater responsibility for addressing those challenges rested with elected Islanders themselves. For many citizens, the distance between the government and the people had narrowed. The new administration represented more than a political victory. It represented trust. It represented responsibility. And it represented hope.

Why 1976 Matters

Looking back fifty years later, the significance of the 1976 election extends far beyond who won and who lost. The election marked the successful transition from political awakening to constitutional reality.

For the first time, many Islanders could see leaders drawn from their own communities exercising responsibility over important areas of national life. Ministerial Government changed expectations. It changed possibilities. And it changed the relationship between the people and their government. Its impact continues to influence every election and every constitutional discussion that has followed.

The Beginning of Leadership

Achieving power was only the beginning. The hopes of the people were high. Expectations were enormous. The movement had become a government. Now came the far more difficult challenge. Leadership. The story of the first years of Ministerial Government had only just begun.

Joan Astwood-Sutton, LLB (Hons.), Master's in Publishing, and Certificate in Youth & Community Studies, is an author, publisher, cultural heritage researcher, museum founder, storyteller, and historical preservation advocate in the Turks and Caicos Islands. She is the Founder and Director of the Hon. Lewis Edwin Astwood Research Library, Museum and Learning Facility, dedicated to preserving the political, cultural, and historical legacy of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

She is the daughter of the late Hon. Lewis Edwin Astwood, who served in the first Ministerial Government established under the 1976 Constitution, and the late Mildred Garland Astwood, both of whom were closely connected to the political and community movements of the 1970s. Through decades of archival preservation, oral history documentation, and historical research, she has worked to preserve the memory and identity of the Turks and Caicos Islands for future generations.

The Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill 2025

While piloting the Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill 2025, on Thursday, December 18th, 2025, the mover of the Bill disclosed that a holiday Constitution Day would come into effect. This was said to be in recognition of the first constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) which was ushered in in 1976.

The idea of Constitution Day was around since 1976 when it was declared as a holiday to be celebrated on August 30th. However, these celebrations like many things in the TCI, seemed to have vanished. I was particularly pleased when this Bill was passed recognizing this holiday. However, what I would like to be clarified was that, our first constitution was not in 1976. Let me take you back on a brief historical and political journey.

Up to 1955, the lower Caicos Islands had no form of representation on the Legislative Board. Only the Salt Islands did. These included Grand Turk (two members) Salt Cay (one member) and South Caicos (one member). Inclusive were the Official members and the Unofficial Members.

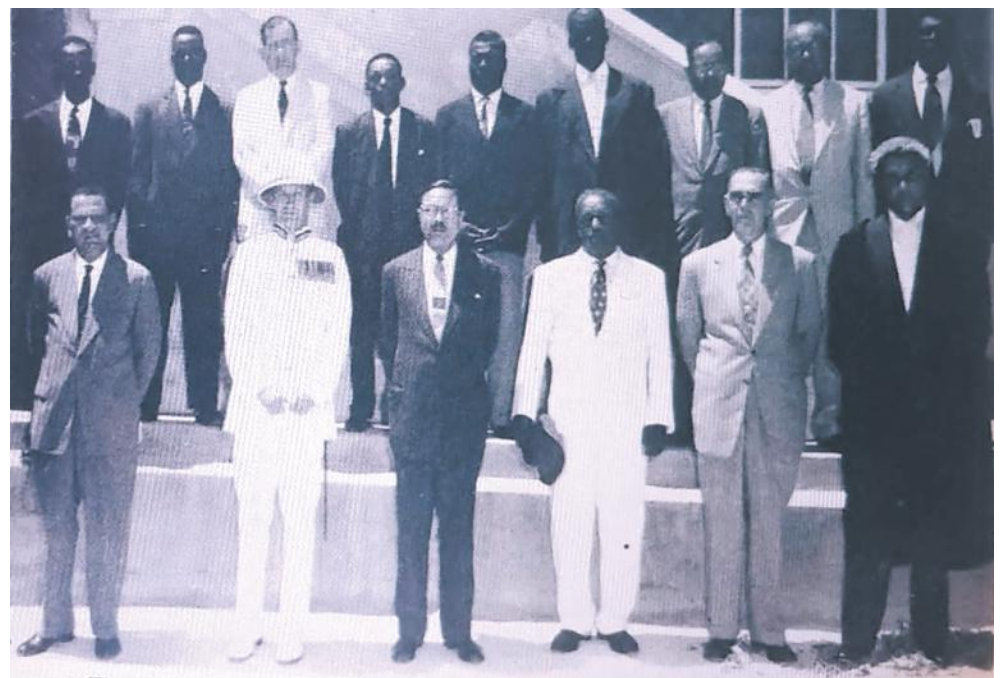
This changed in 1955 when unofficial elections were held to fill four new seats to ensure that the lower Caicos Islands (Middle Caicos, North Caicos and Blue Hills (Providenciales) were involved in the electoral process.

The Turks and Caicos Islands (Constitution) Order in Council was made on 13

May 1959 and was brought into effect on 4 July 1959. The TCI was therefore granted its first constitution. There was a major development taking place in the English-speaking Caribbean at the time. During this time, it must also be remembered that the TCI was being administered by Jamaica (1874 – 1962). In 1958, the British Government made an attempt to federate its colonies through what is describes as the Federation of the West Indies (1958 – 1962). It was an attempt to get rid of the colonies (put simply). The TCI by virtue of its position as being administered by Jamaica, found itself in this boat.

Our local leaders of the day were actively engaged during the time, in discussions with top level officials in Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and the UK concerning the TCI becoming a member of the Federal Government through an association with Jamaica as the islands at this stage were still being administered by Jamaica.

It was evident that as matters related to the Federation of the West Indies progressed, that insularity, size, popularity and economics seemed to be taking over the thinking of leaders in some of the larger territories. It also seemed evident that some of these leaders wanted to lead and not be led. Others saw the smaller territories with less resources as possibly being a burden going forward. Hence



The members of Legislative Assembly under the new Constitution introduced on 4th July, 1959.

in August 1962, Jamaica break away from the group deciding to opt for independence instead (August 6th, 1962) and Trinidad and Tobago like wise in the same month and year. The famous words of the late Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago still rings in our ears “one from ten leave nought”. Thus, the demise of the Federation of the West Indies.

With Jamaica moving away, the TCI was at the crossroads. Should they remain with Jamaica as a colony when she becomes independent or remain as a colony of “Mother Britain”?

After the dust was settled, our leaders decided that the best course of action was to stay with Britain. Hence, following an extensive and high-level debate on Friday, April 13th, 1962, a resolution was passed by the Government, expressing gratitude to the Government of Jamaica for all the help that the TCI had received over the years, but the decision arising out of this meeting, was to remain with Britain. This also meant that the Constitution of 1959 which was drafted to facilitate entry into Federation, and also reduce the constitutional links with Jamaica to the person of the Governor, had to be redrafted urgently. The new constitution also saw the change in title from Commissioner to Administrator. In this new position, the Administrator also

assumed the powers previously held by the Governor with the exception of certain reserved powers. This was a significant change as the Government could now make several decisions independently of external oversight. As far back as the period 1848 – 1874 during the Presidency, the TCI virtually had internal oversight of their affairs (see my article on the Presidency).

The movers and shakers of the first constitution in 1959 and the redraft version in 1962 must be celebrated and credited with such brilliance and foresight. Their names should be blazing in the halls of our Parliament especially those men (Paul Higgs Bottle Creek), Gustarvus Lightbourne (Blue Hill-Providenciales), Emmanuel Hall (Middle Caicos) and J.A. Hall (Kew) who worked for over three years without being compensated to ensure that people in the lower Caicos Islands get political representation.

The year 1976 was a critical time. It was a time when several individuals and groups stood to bring about more political autonomy for Turks and Caicos Islanders. This stance led to the ushering in of Ministerial Government with the introduction of the 1976 Constitution. Sadly, despite its significance, it cannot be celebrated as the first constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

LOBSTER SEASON TO COMMENCE ON 1 AUGUST 2026

Fishing interests, restaurants and the general public are reminded of the opening of Lobster Season on Saturday, 1st August 2026. The season will run through to 31 March 2027.

Restrictions relating to crawfish, as per Section 15 of the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Ordinance 5 of 1941), as amended, are listed below:

Crawfish size restrictions are as follows: When whole, a length of 3.25 inches measured from the front of the groove between the horns directly above the

eyes, along the middle of the back to the rear edge of the back shell; or When the tail has been separated, a tail weight of 5 ounces whether processed or not;

Fishers are not to be in the possession of any egg-bearing crawfish;

Fishers are not to remove eggs from egg-bearing crawfish;

Fishers are not to take or be in possession of moulting / soft-shelled crawfish or crawfish in early stages of spawning (described as appearing ‘tar-spotted’);

and

Fishers are to ensure that the crawfish are landed unharmed and whole after being taken and landed at processing plants or at home.

The FMRM appeals to citizens, residents and visitors in the Turks and Caicos Islands, to familiarise themselves with and to uphold the Fisheries Regulations, and urges all responsible citizens to call the FMRM at 338 4177 or email fisheries@gov.tc to report any violations.





Women in Law Hosts Gender Based Adjudication

Women in Law, in partnership with the Judicial Education Institute of the Turks and Caicos Islands, successfully hosted a professional development session on Gender Based Adjudication on Thursday, 16 July 2026, at The Atrium. The session brought together members of the Judiciary and the Turks and Caicos Islands Bar Association for an engaging discussion on gender-responsive adjudication and the importance of fostering fairness and equity within the justice system. The event was sponsored by the Turks and Caicos Islands Bar Association, Dentons, and Stanbrook Pratt.





Pregnancy changes can reveal heart valve disease

Valve disease affects how blood moves through the heart, and pregnancy is often a time when symptoms first appear or become more noticeable. According to Katie Young, M.D., a cardio-obstetrics specialist at Mayo Clinic, learning about a heart valve condition during pregnancy can be unexpected and overwhelming. Understanding why this happens and exploring treatment options can bring clarity and calm fears. Pregnancy is often described as the body’s ultimate cardiovascular stress test. The heart works significantly harder to support both the mother and the developing baby. Blood volume expands, vascular resistance drops and heart rate increases. These normal physiological changes begin early in pregnancy and peak in the late second to early third trimester. These changes can unmask symptoms of previously silent valve disease or intensify those of known valve conditions because the heart is being asked to move more blood through a valve that isn’t functioning normally. Known valve conditions include:

- Narrowed valves (stenosis)
- Leaky valves (regurgitation)
- Congenital valve abnormalities

Other valve conditions may result from infections, such as rheumatic fever, or changes in the valve’s structure over time.

Symptoms

Even women who felt well before pregnancy may begin to notice symptoms around 28 to 30 weeks, when the cardiovascular system reaches its peak workload. Many common pregnancy symptoms overlap with those of valve disease. Fatigue, shortness of breath, swelling and a faster heart rate can all occur in a healthy pregnancy. It’s especially important to evaluate symptoms that begin suddenly or noticeably worsen. Shortness of breath with activity or when lying flat, unusual fatigue that affects daily



routines, swelling in the legs or feet, racing heartbeat, reduced exercise tolerance, or chest pressure should prompt a conversation with a clinician. Because pregnancy symptoms can mask underlying cardiac issues, clear communication between patients and their care teams is essential. Many patients assume new symptoms are simply part of pregnancy, especially if previous pregnancies were uncomplicated. But when something feels off, listening to that instinct is important. An assessment of symptoms may include:

- Physical exam.
- Echocardiogram to look at the heart’s structure and function.
- Electrocardiogram (ECG) to check the heart’s rhythm.
- Additional imaging or testing.

These evaluations help determine whether symptoms are pregnancy-related or caused by cardiac disease.

Treatment

Once valve disease is identified, coordinated

care becomes especially important. Many patients benefit from a pregnancy heart team approach that includes specialists in cardiology and maternal-fetal medicine, with support from cardiac surgery or structural heart experts, if needed. Local obstetric teams may remain involved, particularly if delivery is expected to happen closer to home. The pregnancy heart team approach helps align medical needs with a patient’s goals for pregnancy and family planning. Shared decision-making plays a central role. Every situation is different, and treatment choices are shaped by personal values, risk considerations and long-term planning. Treatment depends on the severity of the condition and how well a patient tolerates the physiologic demands of pregnancy. Many women with mild or moderate valve disease can continue pregnancy safely with close monitoring. Medications may be used to help manage fluid retention, control heart rate or reduce symptoms.

When valve disease is more severe or symptoms significantly affect daily life, procedures may be done before or during pregnancy. These include:

- Catheter-based procedures to widen a narrow valve or improve function.
- Valve repair to preserve a person’s own valve when possible.
- Valve replacement when the disease is advanced or symptoms can’t be controlled.

For those who need valve replacement, care teams will discuss the choice between a mechanical or tissue valve, especially for women planning future pregnancies.

- Mechanical valves are durable but require lifelong anticoagulation, which can add complexity during pregnancy.
- Tissue valves typically avoid long-term blood thinners but have a shorter lifespan.

Treatment choices can shape both personal health and a family’s future. Clear, collaborative discussions about risks and benefits support confident decision-making. Expert teams across cardiology, maternal-fetal medicine, imaging and surgery help form a comprehensive plan tailored to each patient’s needs. Any expectant mother should reach out to a clinician if symptoms such as shortness of breath, difficulty breathing when lying flat, chest discomfort, palpitations, swelling that increases rapidly or new fatigue begin to interfere with daily life. When something doesn’t feel right, speaking up is one of the most important steps a patient can take. A strong care team is ready to help navigate each stage of pregnancy to safely support the health of both the patient and the baby.

Mayo Clinic is a nonprofit organization committed to innovation in clinical practice, education and research, and providing compassion, expertise and answers to everyone who needs healing. Visit the Mayo Clinic News Network for additional Mayo Clinic news.

The brain-body connection key to reducing the risk of cognitive decline, Alzheimer’s disease

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona: The same lifestyle choices that reduce your risk of heart disease, diabetes and cancer also can reduce your risk of cognitive decline. Bryan Woodruff, MD, a cognitive neurologist at Mayo Clinic in Arizona, explains the brain-body connection, lifestyle changes to foster brain health and why work to make earlier detection of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias is important. “What’s good for your overall health is good for your brain too,” Dr Woodruff says. You may have heard that Alzheimer’s disease is caused in part by the buildup of beta-amyloid plaques and twisted tau proteins in the brain. While true, other brain changes also are likely involved, Dr Woodruff says. “When scientists look at the brains of people with Alzheimer’s disease after they’ve died, they find more than just plaques and tangles,” he adds. They often find a buildup of fats, cholesterol and other substances in the vessels that supply blood to the brain. They also discover evidence of microscopic strokes – also called microinfarctions. Unlike major strokes with noticeable symptoms such as facial drooping, physical numbness, a severe headache and trouble speaking, microscopic strokes are silent. As more occur, they can starve brain tissue of oxygen and nutrition. If enough microvascular changes occur, there may be symptoms like slowed thinking and trouble concentrating.

“Your brain, as with every other organ in your body, depends on your cardiovascular system,” Dr Woodruff says: This is why it’s so important to care for your heart and blood vessels. Lifestyle choices help reduce risk. Thanks to this connection, what benefits your heart also protects your brain. To get these benefits:

- . Manage heart disease risk factors: Treat elevated blood sugar, high blood pressure and undesirable cholesterol levels. Don’t use tobacco products. Keep your weight in the healthy range. “The earlier you address these, the better the benefit is for your brain,” Dr Woodruff says.
- . Follow a heart-healthy diet: The Mediterranean diet’s emphasis on minimally processed whole foods and fruits and vegetables may improve brain health by helping to keep body fat and chronic inflammation in check. The Mayo Clinic Diet takes a similar approach to establishing a healthy-eating lifestyle.
- . Get enough sleep: Research has linked insomnia to cognitive decline. And poor sleep can also increase your risk of other diseases that can impact cognition, such as high blood pressure and diabetes.
- . Maintain social connections: Social connections are thought to benefit the brain in many ways. Research suggests that social engagement triggers the release of chemicals such as serotonin and dopamine, which improve mood and outlook. Social connections may help to spur the

growth of new connections between nerve cells.

- . Treat hearing and vision loss: If you can’t see and hear what’s going on around you, you’ll find it more difficult to communicate and remain social. “Those sensory functions are integral to how we think and interact with the world,” Dr Woodruff says. “If you don’t see or hear it, then you can’t encode and remember it.”
- . Avoid chronic use of sedating medications: Some medicines used to treat pain, insomnia and other conditions can dull thinking, slow reaction time and make you feel sleepy. If you’re not sure of the side effects of the medications you take regularly, talk with your healthcare professional, who can look at what is on your medication list and suggest alternatives, Dr Woodruff advises.
- Exercise: Physical and mental exercise can benefit brain health. A large study found rates of cognitive decline were twice as common in sedentary people. Keeping your mind active through activities you find enjoyable, particularly trying new things, can also exercise your brain. When you have difficulty learning something new, your brain builds new connections between nerve cells. If you continually learn new skills and information over time, experts believe that these networks of nerve cell connections create a cognitive reserve, sort of like savings in a bank account. “Cognitive reserve doesn’t mean you’re immune,” Dr Woodruff says. “But it buys you some cushion against a neurodegenerative problem.”

The importance of early detection Dr Woodruff is among Mayo Clinic researchers working to make earlier diagnosis of dementia and its precursor mild cognitive impairment possible, to allow for earlier treatment. This will be essential if therapeutic advances eventually make it possible to slow or even halt progression, he says. It is never too late to make lifestyle changes to protect and improve brain health, he adds: “I tell all my patients, regardless of the severity of their cognitive decline, to take care of their overall health.”





Brihana Merilien (Winner of Cocktail Competition)



Cathy Diola - Winner of the Culinary Competition



Dereka Hepburn (Winner of Pastry Competition & Property Wide Champion)

Ritz-Carlton Turks & Caicos Joins Masters of the Craft

The Ritz-Carlton, Turks & Caicos proudly celebrates the exceptional achievements of its Ladies and Gentlemen following the resort's first ever participation in Masters of the Craft, Marriott International's premier food and beverage competition recognizing excellence in culinary arts, pastry, and beverage craftsmanship.

Driven by the vision, encouragement, and leadership of Executive Chef Andres Davila, The Ritz Carlton, Turks & Caicos introduced Masters of the Craft to the resort for the very first time, creating a platform for its talented culinary and beverage professionals to showcase their creativity, passion, and technical expertise.

Through the collaboration and support of multiple departments and the unwavering commitment of the resort's Ladies and Gentlemen, the inaugural competition

was successfully brought to life, highlighting the remarkable talent that exists within the property.

Masters of the Craft challenges participants to transform surprise ingredients into elevated culinary and beverage creations that reflect creativity, storytelling, and technical mastery.

This year's mystery ingredients celebrated both sustainability and the flavors of the destination, with broccoli stem selected for the culinary category to showcase sustainable culinary practices and the thoughtful utilization of ingredients, while locally sourced basil for Pastry and soursop juice for Beverage highlighted the natural flavors and resources of Turks & Caicos.

Entries were evaluated by a panel of judges on creativity, technical execution, presentation, flavor, and storytelling, showcasing

each participant's ability to elevate unexpected ingredients into refined and innovative creations. A standout achievement came from Dereka Hepburn, who was selected to represent The Ritz Carlton, Turks & Caicos at the Masters of the Craft Virtual Semi-Finals. Out of more than 650 associates who competed across the Caribbean and Latin America (CALA) region, only 10 competitors per discipline advanced, making Dereka's selection a remarkable accomplishment for both the resort and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

"Our first Masters of the Craft competition showcased the extraordinary talent and passion of our Ladies and Gentlemen," said Executive Chef Andres Davila. "I am incredibly proud of Cathy, Dereka, and Brihana for embracing this challenge, and especially of Dereka for advancing to the

Virtual Semi-Finals. We look forward to supporting her as she represents our resort on the international stage."

Following an impressive display of skill and imagination, this year's property champions were:

- Culinary Champion: Cathy Diola
- Pastry Champion: Dereka Hepburn
- Beverage Champion: Brihana Merilien

The Ritz-Carlton, Turks & Caicos congratulates all three champions for their outstanding achievements and wishes Dereka continued success as she competes among Marriott International's top pastry professionals.

Located in Grace Bay, The Ritz-Carlton, Turk & Caicos provides guests with luxurious accommodations, sophisticated dining experiences, and endless amenities and activations.



Amani Youth Foundation Hosts Largest Teen Girls Summit with CIBC as Leading Sponsor

National Summit Champions Equality, Equity and Opportunity for Approximately 250 Girls

The Amani Youth Foundation successfully hosted its 4th Annual Teen Girls Community Awareness Empowerment Summit on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at The Ritz-Carlton, Turks and Caicos.

Held under the theme “**Empowered Girls, Limitless Futures,**” the summit brought together approximately 250 girls from schools and communities throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands for a day of mentorship, education, leadership development and personal growth.

The event was the largest gathering of teen girls of its kind in the country and focused on promoting equality, equity and opportunity. Participants received access to positive role models, practical guidance and empowering messages designed to strengthen their confidence and encourage them to pursue their goals.

For the fourth consecutive year, CIBC Caribbean served as the summit’s leading sponsor, demonstrating its continued commitment to youth development and the advancement of girls and young women.

Terrance Gibson, Country Head for The Bahamas and former Country Head for the Turks and Caicos Islands at CIBC Caribbean, officially declared the summit open. During his remarks, he reaffirmed the bank’s commitment to ini-



Terrance Gibson, Country Head for The Bahamas and former Country Head for the Turks and Caicos Islands at CIBC Caribbean.

tiatives that promote confidence, leadership, equality and empowerment.

Founder and President of the Amani Youth Foundation, Dr. Cutella Talbot, said the summit was created to ensure that girls from every background have access to encouragement, information, mentorship and opportunity.

“This summit was about equality, equity and



Dr. Cutella Talbot, organiser of the Teen Girls Summit

opportunity,” Dr. Talbot said. “Every girl deserves the chance to succeed, but we also recognize that some girls may require additional support, resources and mentorship to access those opportunities.”

She added that the summit has developed into a growing national movement focused on helping girls understand their worth, strengthen their voices and prepare for leadership.

Girl Up Leadership Programme Launched

A major milestone of the 2026 summit was the official launch of the **Girl Up Leadership Programme**, an Amani Youth Foundation initiative designed to extend the impact of the summit throughout the year.

The programme will provide mentorship, leadership training, confidence-building, personal development and community involvement opportunities for girls.

“The summit inspires our girls, but the Girl Up Leadership Programme will allow us to continue walking alongside them,” Dr. Talbot said. “It will provide a structured platform where girls can develop their leadership potential and become agents of positive change.”

Powerful Voices Inspire Participants

The summit featured local, regional and international speakers who shared personal experiences, professional guidance and messages of encouragement.

Keynote speakers included Hon. Akierra Missick, former Deputy Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands and Minister of Home Affairs; Dr. Ruth Plummer, Chief Executive Officer of the Covenant Daughters Television Network; and entrepreneur Cyrianna Jalesa Jackson.

A major highlight was the participation of Suzan Snaggs Wilson, Managing Director of Scotiabank Turks and Caicos, who led one of the summit’s panel discussions.

Panelists included Farrah Grant, Miss International TCI; Ashley Adams, Director of the Department of Children and Family Services; Selena Grant, Miss Supranational TCI; Elisann Delancy, Deputy Director of Education; Valerie Williams of LoveSmart Inc.; Courtney Lucas of Nurturing Excellence; CIBC banker Janae Rolle; Aaliyah Elliott, founder of Courage of the Conch; entrepreneur Angelica Pierre; and Easher Parker, Creative Director and Digital Communications Strategist.

The programme was moderated by Lavenia Bishop, with an additional contribution from performing artist Aleta Astwood.

Discussions addressed confidence, education, healthy decision-making, entrepreneurship, resilience, self-worth, leadership and over-

coming adversity.

Summit Reaches International Audiences

The summit was professionally recorded in partnership with the Covenant Daughters Television Network and aired internationally on July 25, 2026.

The broadcast extended the summit’s message beyond the Turks and Caicos Islands and highlighted the voices, talents and potential of girls and women from the country.

“This was more than a one-day event,” Dr. Talbot said. “The broadcast showed international audiences that the Turks and Caicos Islands are intentionally investing in their girls.”

A Community United Behind Its Girls

The success of the summit was made possible through the collective support of corporate sponsors, government departments, professional organizations, media partners, community groups and individuals.

In addition to CIBC Caribbean, the summit’s leading sponsor for the fourth consecutive year, support was provided by:

Scotiabank; British Caribbean Bank; Royal Bank of Canada; Turks and Caicos Banking Company; Global Capital; AIB; Cairsea Services Ltd.; HLB TCI Ltd.; InterHealth Canada; Grace Bay Medical Centre; Carolina Medical; KB Home; Norstar Group Ltd.; Projotech; PTS Equipment; Island Drilling Ltd.; Provo Stevedoring; Tropical Shipping; Tropical Tires; Provo Water Company; King Ocean Services; Reliable Electrical Solutions; Island Bargains; Graceway IGA; Ports of Call Resort; Wymara Resort and Villas; Pine Cay Turks and Caicos; Hotel Indigo Turks and Caicos; Beaches Turks and Caicos; Ocean Club Resorts; Island Escapes; Provo Travel Ltd.; interCaribbean Airways; Turks and Caicos Sotheby’s International Realty; Bain Car Rentals and Sales; Goldsmith; Ironshore Security; Kenard Cruises; Casablanca Casino; Chinson’s Grill Shack; Sunshine Nursery; Elite Sports; MAYAA; Femme Apparel; On Trends Design Studio; SBC Events; Star Productions; Race for the Conch Eco-SeaSwim; Grace Bay Resorts Foundation; Grace Bay Car Rentals; and Tides Grace Bay.

Valuable government and institutional support was also received from the Turks and Caicos Islands Attorney General’s Chambers, Department of Education, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Youth Affairs and the Turks and Caicos Islands Ports Authority.

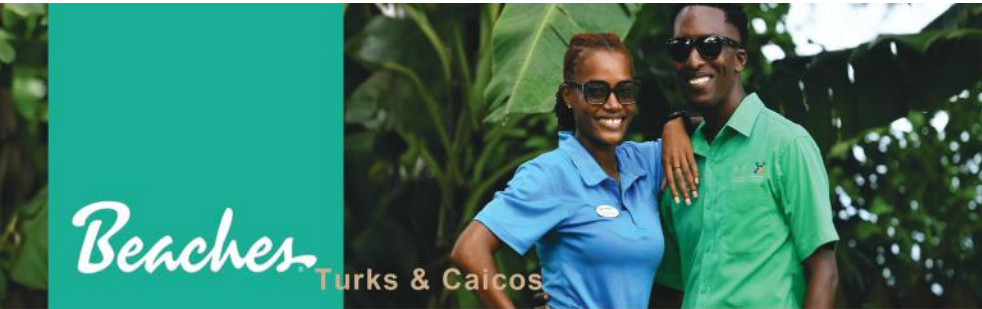
Professional, media and community partners included TWA Law, Maroof Law, Misick & Stanbrook, Conservative Architects, Parkway Pest Solutions, 88.5FM The Beat, Inspire Radio Show, Miss International TCI, Toussaint Capron and the Turks and Caicos Taxi Association.

The Amani Youth Foundation also acknowledged the personal support of Hon. Rufus Ewing and Hon. Willin Belliard.

The Foundation expressed sincere appreciation to every sponsor and partner that contributed financial assistance, accommodation, transportation, professional services, security, media coverage, event production, resources, prizes and other forms of support.

“Every sponsor became part of a movement that is building confidence, developing leadership and creating opportunities for the next generation of women,” Dr. Talbot said.

The Foundation also expressed special appreciation to CIBC Caribbean for leading the summit for four consecutive years and helping it grow into one of the country’s most significant youth empowerment initiatives.



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Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 8:00am

Build a Career in Hospitality

Come and be a part of the World's Best Team! The Caribbean's Leading Luxury-Included Brand® offers an opportunity for highly motivated, flexible and enthusiastic persons with exceptional skills to join our team.

- | | | |
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| • Boat Captains * | • Stove Technician | • Junior Concierge |
| • Cook 1&2 | • Finish Carpenter | • Public Relations Coordinator* |
| • Pastry Sous Chef | • Butler Coordinator | • Housekeeping Supervisor |
| • Executive Sous Chef* | • Room Attendants | • Laundry Attendants |
| • Loyalty & Travel Manager* | • Houseman | • Stewards |
| • L&D Assistant Manager* | • Restaurant Servers | • Bar Supervisor |
| • Sales Executive* | • Bartender | • Landscapers |
| • Room Technicians | • Bar Porter | • Photo Shop Sales Agent |
| | • Cocktail Server | |
| | • Water Sports Attendant | |

REQUIRMENTS: • 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#]

Trump imposes double-digit tariffs on dozens of countries

President Donald Trump is going ahead with new double-digit tariffs on dozens of United States trading partners just as the clock runs out Friday on stopgap levies he imposed after a stinging defeat at the Supreme Court. The United States will slap taxes of 10% to 12.5% on imports from 60 trading partners accounting for 99% of US imports, charging that they have inadequately enforced bans on goods produced by forced labour. “The United States has had a forced labor import ban for nearly a century, and rigorously enforces it; it’s well past time for our trading partners to do the same,” said US Trade Representative

Jamieson Greer. The new tariffs will take effect just as temporary 10% worldwide tariffs expire at 12:01 a.m. Friday. Trump had turned to those temporary levies after the Supreme Court struck down his biggest and boldest tariffs in February. Now he’s tapping more durable tariffs under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, which permits the president to impose import taxes and other sanctions against countries found to engage in “unjustifiable,” “unreasonable” or “discriminatory” trade practices. Trump used Section 301 to impose big

tariffs on China in his first term, and they survived court challenges. More Section 301 tariffs are likely coming: The US Trade Representative’s office has launched a probe into whether 16 countries — accounting for 70% of US imports — have overproduced goods, pushing down prices and putting US companies at a disadvantage in global markets. The administration has yet to complete that investigation. Trump, who argues that high tariffs will revive American manufacturing, last year overturned decades of US policy that favored lower tariffs and ever-freer trade. Invoking the 1977 International Emer-

gency Economic Powers Act, or IEEPA, he imposed double-digit tariffs on imports from almost every country on Earth, saying America’s longstanding trade deficit amounted to a national emergency. But the Supreme Court ruled that IEEPA did not authorize tariffs. The decision forced the administration to pay refunds to importers that had paid the tariffs. In response, Trump announced 10% worldwide tariffs under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974. But he can only use Section 122 levies for 150 days; the time runs out on them Friday.

EU hits Google with US\$1 billion fine over its Play app store and search

The European Union on Thursday hit Google with a fine of 890 million euros (US\$1 billion) after it said the technology behemoth broke digital anti-trust regulations by setting up Google Play and its ubiquitous search engine to corral consumers towards its own services and apps to the detriment of competitors. It was the latest major crackdown on Big Tech by Brussels, which has led the world in reining in some of the world’s largest companies from Silicon Valley to Beijing. It has done so despite the risk of incurring the wrath of President Donald Trump, who has lashed out at the 27-nation bloc’s digital regulations amid a broader campaign against Europe: imposing high tariffs, making threats to seize Greenland from Denmark by force, and rattling trust within the NATO military alliance. In the past, Trump has threatened retaliation if American tech companies are penalized. Google had recently lost its appeal of a US\$4.5 billion antitrust fine im-

posed by the EU for throttling competition and reducing consumer choice through the dominance of its mobile Android operating system. The European Commission, the bloc’s executive branch and highest anti-trust enforcer, said it was acting in the interest of consumers after an investigation of Google. “The best products should succeed because they’re better, not because they’re owned by the company running the search engine. And European consumers have a right to be told by app developers where to sign up to the best offers, even when the app store owner does not get a cut,” said Teresa Ribera, the commission’s Executive Vice President for Clean, Just and Competitive Transition. Google’s President of Global Affairs Kent Walker blasted the fine as “product degradation driven by a small group of self-serving complainants” that will have a negative impact on European businesses and consumers. He said that the EU’s Digital Markets Act forces Google “to strip away re-



al-time search features Europeans love — like instant pricing and direct availability for hotels, flights, and restaurants — and dismantle safety protections on Google Play.” The EU describes the world’s seven tech giants — Amazon, Apple, Google parent Alphabet, Meta, Microsoft and TikTok owner ByteDance — as “gatekeepers” that control access for con-

sumers. “In the EU, businesses have the right to compete fairly. Gatekeepers have the obligation to ensure a level playing field and consumers the right to choose for cheaper alternative offers,” European Commission spokesperson Thomas Regnier said. Alphabet reported US\$403 billion in revenue in 2025.

Land ownership issues continue to slow distribution of modular homes for Melissa victims — Reports

JAMAICA- Permanent secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister Ambassador Rocky Meade says unresolved land titling issues continue to delay the distribution of modular homes to Hurricane Melissa victims.

Speaking during Wednesday's meeting of Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Meade said verifying ownership or legal authority to build on land remains one of the biggest obstacles to rolling out the housing programme, even as the Government seeks to accelerate recovery efforts.

The issue emerged as committee members pressed officials for an update on the delivery of 2,500 modular homes intended for families who suffered total or near-total loss during Hurricane Melissa.

Meade disclosed that about 1,200 units are now in Jamaica, with work underway to prepare foundations and instal utilities before they are handed over to beneficiaries.

He, however, acknowledged that land ownership has complicated the process.

"It is a consideration, that is a part of what has delayed us. It is an important consideration because, of course, the Government can't facilitate construction on property that we are not sure that the recipient is authorised to benefit from, so it is actually one of the things that has delayed us," said Meade.

The admission prompted concern from PAC Chairman Julian Robinson who questioned how the Government intends to assist people living in infor-



A section of a Westmoreland property after Hurricane Melissa's rampage last October. Officials say unresolved land titling issues continue to delay the distribution of modular homes to Melissa victims.

mal settlements who may have lost everything but cannot readily prove ownership of the land they occupy.

Meade said those residents are not being excluded from assistance, explaining that Government-controlled lands are being used to accommodate some beneficiaries while broader efforts continue to tackle Jamaica's long-standing land titling challenges.

"We've actually done some construction on land under the control of the NLA [National Land Agency], so where persons are in need and they can't show that they have authority to construct on land, we've been using government lands to provide some solution. So...if they can't show that they own or have authority to construct on a piece of land, then there are Gov-

ernment-controlled lands that we are putting some of these solutions on so people can have shelter in the interim," he explained.

The discussion also turned to whether families should be allowed to rebuild in communities repeatedly affected by flooding.

Responding to questions from Member of Parliament for St James Central Heroy Clarke, director general in the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), Commander Alvin Gayle, said the Government had no intention of placing modular homes in areas considered highly vulnerable to future disasters.

"There is a programme underway to really have us look at the matter concerning no-build zones...so, we will

not be putting any modular units in locations that we think are particularly vulnerable — [and] the idea is not to rebuild in spaces that would have had significant impact," he said.

However Robinson, while supporting the policy, cautioned that relocating families from flood-prone communities could become one of the most politically and socially sensitive aspects of the recovery programme if residents and their elected representatives are not adequately consulted.

"That's probably one of the most sensitive issues for any elected representative in terms of relocation — and I think everybody appreciates you don't want to spend resources putting people back in a flood-prone area — but the need for consultation is important, both for the representatives and for the communities that are going to be affected by that," he said.

In response, Meade noted that relocation forms part of a broader Government strategy aimed not only at rebuilding homes but also at shifting public infrastructure away from disaster-prone locations where necessary.

"There is a policy intent to relocate, not just housing solutions but townships, if it's necessary... the Government will choose a location where it will set up its services, and the hope and intention is that businesses, et cetera, will cluster around that space. So that is where it's being pushed from the higher level, that Government service centres will not be re-established in vulnerable spaces, and we hope that the townships will then grow around the new spaces," he said.

Barbados Fisherman fined \$30K for cannabis trafficking

A Christ Church fisherman has been fined \$30 000 after admitting to trafficking more than 70 kilogrammes of cannabis within Barbados' territorial waters.

Troy Decourcey Best, of Inch Marlow, Christ Church, had previously appeared before Justice Anthony Blackman in Supreme Court No. 3A and admitted that on January 18, 2019, he possessed, trafficked and imported 71.6 kilogrammes of cannabis.

The court heard that the Coast Guard received information about a fishing vessel and, whilst on patrol, saw the boat with two persons on board heading in their direction. But the boat immediately turned away when the Coast



Guard turned on its strobe lights, heading back in the direction it had come,

with the occupants throwing packages into the sea. The Coast Guard brought their vessel alongside the boat and instructed the captain of the Moses-type boat to stop, and he complied.

The men were arrested and four polythene bags and one empty bag were recovered from the water.

When asked to give an account, Best told officers: "Them is mine. I receive them from another boat that come and pass them off to me. I went 11 miles or so out and collect them."

Best, who attorney Kristin Vanderpool represented, was reprimanded and discharged on the possession charge, and convicted, reprimanded and discharged on the importation charge.

A TRUE AMBASSADOR

TCIFA President Sonia Fulford
Showcases TCI on World Cup Stage



SEE PG32

Reggae Boyz drawn in Group B of Concacaf Nations League

Jamaica's Reggae Boyz have been drawn in Group B in League A of the 2026/2027 edition of the CONCACAF Nations League alongside Honduras, Guatemala, Suriname, Martinique and El Salvador, at Thursday's virtual draw. The Nations League, which is in its fifth edition, will qualify teams

for the Gold Cup to be played in Summer 2027.

Nations League games will be played during the FIFA windows in September, October and November with the final set for March 2027.

Based on the Swiss-Style Format, Jamaica would play back-to-back



home games against Guatemala and Honduras before facing El Salvador and Honduras away. The top two teams from the two groups will qualify for the finals where they will be drawn alongside the ranked teams, two-time

defending champions Mexico, the USA, Canada and Panama in the quarterfinals.

The four quarter-final winners will book their ticket to the 2027 edition of the CONCACAF Gold Cup.



West Indies Head Coach Daren Sammy

Following their 3-2 One-Day International series loss to New Zealand, West Indies Head Coach Daren Sammy has accepted that the regional side will have to go through the qualifiers to book their spot at the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

The Windies men began the series 10 points behind Bangladesh for the final automatic qualifying spot, and needing to win all five of their matches to have a realistic chance of overtaking them.

But after a winning start, they were let down by their batters, which resulted in them losing the next three matches before winning the fifth and final match at Kensington

Oval on Tuesday.

With just two more remaining ODIs against India in September, it is all but guaranteed that the Windies will have to go through the World Cup Qualifiers, which will see the top four finishers assured a spot at the World Cup.

The Windies last played at the 2019 World Cup, having missed out on the 2023 event after they failed to advance out of the Qualifiers.

While no dates or venues have yet been announced by the ICC for those qualifiers, speaking in a post-match press conference on Tuesday Sammy said he would love for them to be played in the Carib-

Disappointed Sammy resigned to qualifiers route

bean.

"We have no information on where and when it's going to be. We do understand though, the qualifying method, but as to when and where [we don't know]. I did ask the director a question on that earlier this week and he's going to get back to me on that.

"If we have a choice, home is where the heart is. I'm pretty sure all the guys would love to play at home in Barbados, Saint Lucia or even Antigua where we do quite well, but it's out of our hands. Actually, myself and the analyst we were checking during the game to see if there was a possibility, but it looks like we really have to go through the qualifiers and then book our place," Sammy said.

Speaking on the series against New Zealand, the head coach said he was not satisfied with the result.

He said the home side's batting had let the team down for the majority of the five matches.

"No, 3-2 is not a fair result at all... before that Sri Lanka series we tried to make home our fortress, and we were on the cusp of doing that. We won the last four series in a row before Sri Lanka, and we wanted to continue winning games.

"Guyana was a challenge, but yet we started off the series quite well. I think if we reflect and look back, too many opportunities we had to win, the batting really did let us down — especially batting first. It doesn't matter the score at home, when we're chasing it's just a boost of confidence for the guys and I think we really need to change that mindset...but I think 3-2, we were not looking for that result," Sammy said.



Several Tour de France teams, including that of Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel, confirmed on Tuesday they had faced anti-doping controls during the race's final rest day.

However, unlike those on Sunday targeting Tour leader Tadej Pogacar and former champion Jonas Vingegaard, these did not happen in the middle of the night.

Pogacar and Evenepoel had been amongst a number of riders to blast the night-time controls carried out by the International Testing Agency (ITA) as "inhumane" or disrespectful.

Evenepoel's Red Bull-Bora Hansgrohe, the Decathlon CMA CGM team of French teenage sensa-

tion Paul Seixas and French outfit Groupama-FDJ United, were amongst the teams targeted on Monday evening, although in some cases, the riders tested had already gone to bed.

"We were also visited last night, some riders were already asleep," Red Bull Manager Ralph Denk told German television channel ZDF.

Their eight riders were tested at 10:00 pm, a spokesperson said. Decathlon's seven remaining riders in the race were tested at around 8:30 pm.

Picnic-PostNL, Jayco-AlUla, and Bahrain Victorious also faced tests. The ITA is an independent organisation which has been designated by the International Cycling Union

Tour de France hit by new wave of anti-doping tests

(UCI) since 2021 to carry out doping controls.

These tests have become a hot topic at the Tour after Vingegaard and Pogacar were visited by the ITA at 2:00 am and 5:00 am, respectively, on Sunday, just hours before a major mountain stage.

Vingegaard crashed on that stage after coming down on a bend and broke his collarbone, leading to him quitting the race.

Pogacar speculated afterwards his arch rival's disturbed sleep could have contributed to a lack of concentration, which resulted in his fall.

Doping tests are generally done between 5:00 am and 11:00 pm, but the ITA had petitioned a Paris judge to get permission to carry out a night-time test.

On Monday, the CPA union, which represents professional cyclists

blasted the process as counterproductive.

But Jonathan Vaughters, the manager of the EF Education team, who in 2012 admitted to having doped during his cycling career, a part of which was spent in the US Postal team of Lance Armstrong, applauded the controls.

"2am testing is one of the very effective ways to prevent peptide (EPO, hGH) and testosterone micro dosing," he posted on social media. "If UCI had tested us in 2001 at 2am? We'd all have been suspended and saved the sport 25 years of drama."

Cycling went through a particularly dark and murky period in the 1990s and 2000s when numerous Tour winners either tested positive for doping or later admitted to having done so, amongst them Armstrong.

Bezos holds talks with group interested in buying Liverpool stake — reports

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has held talks about joining the Amit Bhatia-fronted consortium that has expressed interest in buying a minority stake in Liverpool, according to reports on Wednesday.

Bezos, one of the world's richest men, could become part of the group led by British-Indian businessman Bhatia, the son-in-law of billionaire steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal.

Sky News reported Bezos's interest but said it is not certain he will proceed with the potential plan.

The 62-year-old American is estimated by Forbes magazine to be worth

around £192 billion.

Liverpool's owners, Fenway Sports Group (FSG), confirmed on Tuesday Bhatia's consortium had approached them to discuss buying a minority stake in the 20-time English champions.

Bezos has reportedly explored previous bids for the National Football League's (NFL) Seattle Seahawks and Washington Commanders, but decided against pursuing either deal.

Bhatia's interest in the Premier League club came on the same day the 46-year-old stepped down from the board at Queens Park Rangers (QPR).

He ended an 18-year association with the English Championship team by transferring his stake to majority owner Ruben Gnaniangam.

In 2023 FSG sold a minority stake in Liverpool to investment firm Dynasty, and any deal with Bhatia — should it proceed — is expected to be along similar lines.

According to the Financial Times, a deal with the consortium led by Bhatia would value Liverpool at more than US\$6 billion.

FSG, which also owns the Boston Red Sox baseball team, bought Liverpool in 2010 for £300 million.



Billionaire American Businessmn Jeff Bezos

MINISTER EXTENDS BEST WISHES TO COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CAC ATHLETES

The Honourable Rachel Marshall Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, has extended heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Team Turks and Caicos Islands as the nation prepares to participate in two major international sporting events this summer – the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, from 23 July to 2 August 2026, and the 2026 Central American and Caribbean Games in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 24 July to 8 August 2026.

The Turks and Caicos Islands will be represented by athletes competing in swimming and athletics at the Commonwealth Games, while Team TCI's participation at the CAC Games will include athletes in swimming, athletics, sailing and waterskiing.

Minister Marshall Taylor noted that the simultaneous participation in both multi-sport events reflects the continued growth and development of sport within the Turks and Caicos Islands and demonstrates the increasing ability of local athletes to compete at the highest international levels.

"Representing the Turks and Caicos Islands on the international stage is both an honour and a tremendous responsibility. On behalf of the Gov-



Officials and athletes share in a photo op before departing for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland.

ernment and people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, I extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes to every athlete, coach, manager, official and volunteer who forms part of Team TCI.

These athletes have dedicated countless hours to training and preparation and now have the opportunity to proudly carry our flag before the world. Their participation is a testament to their resilience, discipline, and commitment to excellence."

The Minister further emphasised the Government's continued commitment to supporting the ad-

vancement of sport, athlete development, and opportunities for young people throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"Sport remains a powerful vehicle for youth development, national pride, health promotion and international engagement. We remain committed to creating pathways that allow our athletes to pursue excellence and inspire future generations of Turks and Caicos Islanders." The Minister and officials from the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture will attend official engagements associated with the Commonwealth Games, including

the Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting, where ministers from across the Commonwealth will discuss opportunities for collaboration and the role of sport in advancing healthier, fairer and more equitable societies.

Minister Marshall Taylor also expressed appreciation to the Commonwealth Games Association Turks and Caicos Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission, national sport governing bodies, coaches, sponsors, parents and supporters whose dedication and partnership continue to make these opportunities possible.

"As a nation, we stand united behind Team TCI. I encourage all residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands, both at home and abroad, to rally behind our athletes and support them as they compete with determination, integrity and national pride.

Regardless of the results, each member of Team TCI already serves as an outstanding ambassador for our country."

The Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands wishes every member of Team TCI safe travels and every success throughout both competitions and looks forward to celebrating their achievements upon their return.

TCI Fields Multi-Force Teams at 2026 CAC Games

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands will field athletes in four sporting disciplines at the 2026 Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Games, which run from July 24 to August 8 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

The Games officially began with the Opening Ceremony on Friday, July 24, where the Turks and Caicos Islands was proudly represented by waterskiing standouts Wendal Ewing and Yhazavin Forbes, who carried the national flag during the parade of nations. Joining them in the march-past were waterskiing coach Mark De Fraine, Chef de Mission Courtney Missick, team manager Wendy Gomez, and physiotherapist Angelo Garland.

The first TCI contingent to depart was the waterskiing team, which left Providenciales on July 22 aboard InterCaribbean Airways. The team is scheduled to compete from July 25-28 before returning home on July 29.

The country's swimming team departed on July 25 and will compete from July 28 through August 1, with its return to the Turks and Caicos Islands set for August 2.

The sailing team will depart on July 29 and is scheduled to contest its events from August 1-7, while the athletics (track and field) team leaves on July 30 to compete from August 2-7. Both teams are expected to return home on August 9.

Each delegation is being led by an experienced coach, with Mark De

Fraine overseeing waterskiing, Lincoln Martin leading the swimming team, Duncan Sanders coaching the sailors, and Linda Grant heading the athletics squad.

The Central American and Caribbean Games are regarded as one of the region's premier multi-sport events, bringing together thousands of athletes from across the Caribbean, Central America and parts of South America. For Team TCI, the Games present an opportunity to test themselves against some of the region's finest competitors while continuing to gain valuable international experience. The CACGs are the oldest continuing regional games in the world, and only the Olympics have run longer. Mexico, Cuba and Guatemala were the three countries

present at the first games, which were then called the Central American Games. In 1935 their name was changed to Central American and Caribbean Games to reflect expanding participation.

The 1942 edition was suspended after the impact of the World War II.

A "Central American Games" does exist today, Juegos Centroamericanos, involving just Central American countries.

Today, a total of 37 nations and territories (31 countries and 6 associate members) participate in the Central American and Caribbean Games. These delegations represent countries across Central America, the Caribbean, Mexico, and select northern South American nations.



Sonia Fulford takes part in the presentation of medals to England



Sonia Fulford presents England Striker Harry Kane with his World Cup Bronze Medal after England defeated France 6-4

TCIFA President Sonia Fulford Makes History on FIFA World Cup 2026 Stage

The Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) proudly celebrates President Sonia Fulford as she continues to raise the profile of the Turks and Caicos Islands on the global football stage through her distinguished service as a FIFA Council Member during the FIFA World Cup 2026™.

Throughout the tournament, President Fulford participated in a number of official FIFA engagements, representing the international football community at the highest level.

A defining highlight came on July 18, 2026, when she took part in the medal presentation ceremony following the FIFA World Cup 2026™ Bronze Final between France and England at Miami Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida.

Her role in one of the tournament’s most prestigious ceremonies reflected not only her respected leadership within FIFA but also the growing influence of Caribbean football administration in shaping the global game. For the Turks and Caicos Islands, President Fulford’s presence on football’s biggest stage is far more than a personal milestone. It is a moment of national pride that showcases the country’s commitment to excellence and



Sonia Fulford shar a light moment with with FIFA President Gianni Infantino

demonstrates that leaders from small island nations can make a lasting impact on the world’s most influential sporting organizations.

A highly respected football administrator, President Fulford has long championed the development of football throughout the Caribbean, advocating for greater opportunities, inclusion, and investment across the region. As a member of the FIFA Council, she continues to ensure that the voices and interests of smaller football associations are represented in decisions that shape the future of the sport

worldwide.

The message “Small Island. Big Dreams.” has become synonymous with President Fulford’s journey and serves as a powerful reminder that ambition, perseverance, and visionary leadership can transcend borders. Her accomplishments continue to inspire young athletes, administrators, and future leaders across the Turks and Caicos Islands and the wider Caribbean to pursue their aspirations without limits.

Reflecting on the significance of the occasion, President Fulford said:

“Over the years, I have been privileged to represent FIFA on many global stages, but presenting medals at the FIFA Men’s World Cup felt especially significant. Standing there, I thought about the little girl from Grand Turk/Middle Caicos who came from humble beginnings, always dreamed big, but never imagined that life would take her to moments like this.

Dreams are not defined by where you started or the size of the country you come from, but by your willingness to work hard, remain faithful, and embrace opportunities with humility. I hope every little girl in the Turks and Caicos Islands and beyond sees this as a reminder to never give up on her dreams.”

The Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association congratulates President Sonia Fulford on this historic achievement and commends her unwavering commitment to serving football with excellence while proudly representing the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Caribbean on the international stage. Her continued leadership serves as an inspiration to future generations and reinforces the growing influence of Caribbean football within the global game.

Photo Credit: FIFA