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# 20 Illegal Structures Demolished

Twenty illegally constructed structures were removed during a multi-agency enforcement exercise carried out on Crown land at PS:38 Silverado the Wells, Providenciales, on Thursday, January 15, 2026.

The operation was coordinated by the Informal Settlements Unit (ISU) in collaboration with key government agencies and was led by the Crown Land Unit, acting under its statutory authority in accordance with the Crown Land Ordinance to prevent squatting and encroachment on Crown land.

The enforcement action followed a series of inspections conducted by the Crown Land Unit, which identified multiple illegally constructed and unoccupied timber structures and concrete platforms across several parcels of Crown land. In keeping with the Crown



Land Ordinance, Notices of Illegal Occupation were reportedly issued and posted on the offending structures. After the responsible parties allegedly failed to comply within the prescribed timeframe,

enforcement action was authorised. Support for the exercise was provided by Immigration and Border Services, while the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force

maintained security throughout the operation.

During the exercise, a total of 11 incomplete and unoccupied timber structures and nine concrete platforms or foundations were removed. Although the affected parcels were partially reclaimed, the authorities said other occupied structures remain on site and will be addressed through ongoing enforcement processes. The Informal Settlements Unit reaffirmed that coordinated enforcement exercises form part of the Government's continued efforts to uphold the law, protect Crown land, and manage informal settlements in a structured and lawful manner. Members of the public are reminded that unauthorised occupation or development on Crown land is unlawful and subject to enforcement action.

**DENTONS**

## DENTONS TCI : CHARITY PARTNER SOUGHT

Dentons TCI (formerly Griffiths & Partners) has enjoyed a successful charity partnership with the Diabetic Association since 2023, during which time we raised over \$45K for the charity.

We are now looking to review our preferred charity partner, and wish to invite expressions of interest from charities in the Turks and Caicos Islands who would like to work with Dentons as our preferred charity partner. Our target is to raise more than \$100K over a three-year partnership period.

If you are an established (more than 3 years in operation, with a Board, and registered as a charitable entity) charity operating in the Turks and Caicos Islands, please send us a short proposal as to how you would partner with us to make the most of this partnership opportunity, and what you would do differently if you had an extra \$100K to spend over the next three years.

**Please send your proposals to  
ayanna.ferdinandcatlyn@dentons.com  
with a copy to gertrude.forbes@dentons.com  
no later than March 31st .**

# Police Warn Against Using Unlicensed Boats and Watercraft for Excursions

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF) is urging residents and visitors to avoid using unlicensed boats and watercraft when participating in excursion activities, including boat tours and jet ski rentals.

The public is advised to ensure that all operators are properly licensed and legitimate before engaging in any marine activity. To reduce risks and enhance personal safety while on the water, the RT&CIPF advises members of the public to use only licensed and registered operators and to avoid unverified or informal tour arrangements. Individuals are encouraged to inform a trusted person of their destination, who they will be with, and their expected

return time, and to share their location whenever possible. The police also recommend recording the names and contact information of operators and taking photographs of vessels and equipment.

In addition, the public is urged to remain alert to any unusual or inappropriate behavior, to refrain from accepting alcohol or other substances from strangers, and to never leave drinks unattended. Persons are reminded to trust their instincts and to leave immediately if they feel unsafe at any time.

Anyone who observes suspicious activity or encounters an emergency is urged to call 911 immediately.





### **\*Training & Quality Assurance Manager**

**Job Overview:** Candidates with a passion for excellence, great analytical skills and proven leadership experience are invited to apply. The Training & Quality Assurance Manager, works across the different disciplines and is in charge of the quality assurance processes and training programs. You will manage the effective implementation of training events and special projects throughout both properties. You will assist with designing, developing, coordinating, and running of both large- and small-scale training programs

### **Essential Functions:**

- Assist with designing and developing comprehensive programs for training, including departmental specific training, guest satisfaction training, behavioral training, company culture training, HR training, and policy and procedural training.
- Manages an effective standards training program and ensures Standards Training Manuals are updated regularly and training checklists are turned in for new hires Maintains an effective Designated Trainer (or Learning Coach) program
- Daily production of the Grace Gazette, an internal training newsletter with a strong focus on company culture, guest satisfaction training and disbursement of pertinent staff related information.
- Assist with selecting the ideal training methods or activities for a particular purpose and audience (online, role playing, mentoring, on the job training, professional development classes, etc.).
- Market and promote training opportunities to employees in a compelling way that provides all necessary information.
- Assist with the planning and conducting New Employee Orientation in accordance with the department's monthly schedule.
- Assist with the company's Rewards and Recognition programs including Employee and Leader of the Quarter & Year Ceremonies, Respect Cards Drawings and any other activities related to rewards and recognition.
- Utilize LHW, Forbes, Medallia and Guest Comments to design and implement training to address any issues in service delivery.
- Assist with conducting regular, whole-organization needs assessments, identifying skills or knowledge gaps that need addressing.
- Utilize training best practices and education principles.
- Analyze and incorporate new training methods and techniques.
- Assist with developing and preparing educational/training aids and materials, as needed.
- Assist with evaluating effectiveness of training courses and provide summary reports to management, determining impact of training on employee skills and corporate goals.
- Collaborate with and connect internal stakeholders and liaise with various experts regarding instruction and training planning.
- Maintain a database of curriculum, materials, and personnel training records.
- Organize and conduct train-the-trainer sessions for in-house experts/trainers.
- Oversee and maintain in-house training facilities and necessary training equipment.
- Manage both local and international internship programs
- Produce Annual Training Calendar for presentation to and approval of Senior Leadership.
- Collaborate with Director of Human Resources on preparing, issuing and follow-through of Performance Improvement Plans.
- Assist with succession planning for all team members of both properties
- Any other duties as assigned by the Director of Training & Quality Assurance

### **Requirements and Qualifications**

- Previous work experience as a, hospitality trainer, coach, or training facilitator, preferably in a large group resort environment.
- Knowledge and successful implementation of instructional design theory.
- Experience working with and implementing a Learning Management System (LMS)
- Familiar with both traditional and modern job training methods, trends and techniques.
- Strong computer skills, including Microsoft Office proficiency; familiarity with web delivery tools.
- Outstanding communication skills, both written and verbal.
- Exceptional organizational skills, including the ability to handle multiple assignments and prioritize work.
- B.A. or B.S. Degree in Hospitality, Learning & Development or Business preferred
- Professional Learning & Development Certification or Designation from an accredited institution
- Minimum 3 years' experience as a Learning & Development Professional or Instructional Designer preferably in a luxury hotel environment
- Forbes and Leading Quality Assurance certified training or previous experience training in a Forbes hospitality environment preferred
- Ability to multi-task, prioritize and deliver results in a fast-paced environment
- Highly adaptable and flexible
- Must have a valid driver's license





**Competencies**

- Business Acumen.
- Great organization & planning skills.
- Effective Communication & Confidentiality
- Consultation
- Strong Connection & Collaboration skills
- Critical Evaluation
- Ethical Practice
- Values Diversity
- Global & Cultural Awareness
- Learning & Development Expertise
- Leadership & Navigation
- Relationship Management

**Salary Range: \$US 70,000.00 - \$US 72,000.00 per annum**

**Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labor & Work Permit Board Zone 2**

**Qualified candidates should submit their Resumes to our Human Resources Department via Email:**  
**humanresources@rockhouseressort.com** or hand deliver applications at our office on #1 International Drive, Providenciales.  
**Positions marked with an \* are currently being held by a work permit holder.**  
**Deadline for submission: February 5, 2026**



*Zhvargo Jolly, Minister responsible for Tourism*

# Government to Establish Tourism Authority To Govern Experience Turks and Caicos

expectations of global travellers. As with any organisation of this scale and ambition, the transition from establishment to full operational maturity has presented early-stage challenges. These are neither unexpected nor unusual in the lifecycle of major public institutions. Importantly, the Government notes that the core objectives of the DMMO have continued to advance, including improved collaboration across Government and industry stakeholders, strengthened tourism planning, and a clearer strategic focus on sustainability, destination stewardship, and the overall visitor experience. The organisation was intentionally designed to learn, adapt, and mature over time, guided by data, stakeholder engagement, and global best practice. The Government affirms that Experience TCI must operate in full compliance with the Public Finance Management Ordinance, ensuring strong financial governance, transparency, and accountability at all times. However, the current corporate structure does not automatically align

with the requirements of the Ordinance, creating operational and governance inefficiencies in the management of the destination. To address this, the Government is taking steps to ensure full structural alignment and regulatory compliance. This will require the establishment of a new entity that is fully compliant with the Public Finance Management Ordinance. Accordingly, the Government is moving to establish a Tourism Authority with a modern governance and operational framework that is fundamentally different from the former Tourist Board. As the organisation transitions to a Tourism Authority, the necessary administrative and legal processes will be completed carefully to ensure a smooth and well-managed transition. The Government remains confident that, with strong leadership, sound governance, and a continued emphasis on innovation and quality, Experience TCI will continue to deliver enduring value for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Citing that the current operational structure of Experience Turks and Caicos does not automatically align with the requirements of the Public Finance Management Ordinance, Government is moving to establish what it calls a Tourism Authority. The Turks and Caicos Islands Government reaffirms its full commitment to comprehensive destination marketing and man-

agement as a central pillar of the country’s long-term tourism development strategy. The establishment of the Destination Marketing and Management Organisation (DMMO) represented a deliberate shift away from traditional tourism models toward a modern, evidence-based, and sustainability-focused approach to destination management, aligned with international best practice and the evolving



# Government to roll out islandwide e-payments in weeks; broad e-government roadmap detailed

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The government will roll out a complete e-payment system within weeks that should make standing in line at Treasury largely a thing of the past and mark a major step toward full e-government.

Minister of Innovation, Technology and Energy Hon. E. Jay Saunders announced the intending implementation of the system on the That's What Up 3.0 show.

Saunders said the web-based QuickPay app, which testers have already used to process more than \$300,000 in payments during a beta period, will allow residents to pay virtually any government receipt from a smartphone, tablet or computer. The service is to be hosted on the government website as a web app, meaning it will be accessible from any device without a separate download.

"This is part of e-government," Saunders said. "When it's all done, each department will be able to provide services, particularly payment services, electronically. You wouldn't have to stand in line to pay government."

The minister said the technical build is complete and a marketing campaign will begin within days. If all goes to plan, the public will see the live service in about three weeks. Saunders acknowledged the rollout was deliberately cautious after past cybersecurity incidents; officials kept the system in beta longer than they might otherwise have but are confident it is ready for public use. Card payments made through the app will remove the need to visit Treasury. For cash users, an important consideration for those without cards or in outer islands, the government plans to deploy kiosks where users can punch in receipt details, deposit cash, and receive a stamped printed receipt. Saunders estimated kiosk installations

could begin by mid-summer, enabling greater 24/7 access and easing pressure on Treasury counters across the family islands.

The QuickPay rollout is one element of a broader digital transformation agenda Saunders outlined. Planned and in-progress initiatives described during the interview include:

**Driver and vehicle licensing reform:** The ministry is digitizing the process for renewing driver's licences and vehicle licences. Motorists will be able to upload vehicle and ownership information, insurance details and book inspection slots through a portal. Saunders said the goal is to allow customers to select an appointment time, so inspections are no longer a hit-or-miss affair. He expects vehicle licensing automation to be rolled out within 18 months and driver's licence renewals to become largely automatic during the current term.

**Automated inspections and future automation:** Saunders envisages government using drones and AI to automate vehicle inspections. Drones could direct motorists to demonstrate lights and brakes, gather images from multiple angles, and feed data to automated decision systems, potentially eliminating the need for a human inspector for many routine checks.

**Faster police records and e-signatures:** The government has already shortened turnaround times for police records, a process that once took months can now be completed within hours in many cases. Saunders said introducing e-signatures and e-stamps could make immediate printing at kiosks or airports possible for travellers needing documents on short notice.

**Business licensing and tax infrastructure:** The business licensing portal will be reviewed and improved this year, and the government will assist with upgrading CI-



*"I like to under-promise and over-deliver,"*

TAS tax software to facilitate online and bulk payments for companies, enabling system-to-system transfers rather than manual trips to pay.

**National ID:** A tamper-resistant National ID card is in development and intended to consolidate multiple ID functions, immigration status, health, national insurance and other records, into a single secure credential. Saunders said the ministry is on track to deliver necessary legislation this year and, depending on milestones, could start issuing cards by the end of 2026 with wider rollout in early 2027 in a worst-case scenario.

The card, according to Saunders, will be able to store basic identity data and link to backend systems that keep medical, educational and benefits records separate and accessible only by authorized individual services.

**Subsea cable and payments clearing:** Saunders told the show that the ministry is finalizing a business case for a five-optic submarine cable to improve national connectivity; cost estimates range from \$15

million to \$25 million. Saunders said he expects government funding or a mixed financing approach and wants the project to be structured so the state holds ownership through a special purpose company. He said Cabinet has also approved a plan to join a bank consortium to create an automated clearing house (ACH) to speed interbank transfers and support instant payments. Saunders emphasized that the government's approach has been measured and deliberate.

"One of the things I don't do is announce things before we get there. I like to under-promise and over-deliver," he said, adding that the ministry needed to ensure security and reliability before full public launch. If the rollout proceeds as planned, Saunders predicted a substantial reduction in in-person queues.

"By this time next year, there shouldn't be any lines in terms of Treasury," he said, calling the e-payments system the start of a larger effort to modernize citizen interaction with government and bring many services online.

# The Caribbean labour market paradox: What the 2026 ILO report reveals

The International Labour Organization's (ILO) 2026 Employment and Social Trends report highlights shifting patterns of employment and social development worldwide, including distinctive trends emerging in the Caribbean and Latin America.

At first glance, labour market trends in the hemisphere offer reasons for cautious optimism. Unemployment is projected to continue declining across the region, including in the Caribbean. Yet beneath this "positive" headline lies a more troubling reality: the quality of work is stagnating, productivity is falling, and structural weaknesses are becoming more entrenched.

For the Caribbean, this paradox should set off alarm bells. Fewer people may be unemployed, but many remain trapped in low-productivity, informal and insecure jobs- conditions that undermine long-term growth and social cohesion. Simply put, it means workers struggle to find decent work; enterprises struggle to scale and innovate; and governments struggle to build fiscal space to expand opportunity and prosperity.

Informality remains the region's most persistent challenge. Across Latin America and the Caribbean, more than 51 per cent of workers have been in informal employment since 2015, with virtually no progress over the past decade. In the Caribbean, there are some striking disparities: in Haiti, over 91.0 per cent of workers operate outside the formal economy, followed by Barbados at 62.0 per cent and Jamaica at 54.6 per cent.

What is particularly concerning is that this stagnation cuts across sectors. Unlike earlier periods, when targeted interventions within sectors contributed meaningfully to

reducing informality, recent years have seen little real improvement. Between 2005 and 2015, within-sector formalization accounted for a mere 2.5 percentage point decline in overall informality. Although these limited gains were hard-won before the pandemic, reversing the backsliding in the post-pandemic recovery has proved equally difficult.

Young people are paying a particularly high price. After years of gradual improvement, the share of youth not in employment, education, or training (NEET) reversed its downward trend in 2024 and is expected to rise further in the near future. The consequences are doubly damaging. For young people, prolonged detachment from work or education harms future employment prospects and lifetime earnings.

For economies, it weakens the productive fabric by slowing human capital accumulation, reducing innovation potential and perpetuating cycles of informality as young workers struggle to access higher-value-added employment.

In the Caribbean, these challenges are compounded by labour shortages in critical sectors. Health, education and agriculture in many countries face acute gaps, even as unemployment persists elsewhere.

One key driver is outward migration. Many highly educated and skilled Caribbean workers leave the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) region in search of better wages and working conditions in more developed economies, like those countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Migration brings undeniable benefits through remittances and skills circulation, but unmanaged labour outflows can leave essential services under-

staffed and weaken domestic productive capacity. These shortages point to the urgent need for stronger regional labour migration governance - mechanisms that balance mobility with retention, improve working conditions at home and facilitate skills recognition and targeted mobility within the region. The promising development is that the CARICOM Secretariat, together with member states and social partners, is actively developing a regional labour migration policy and action plan.

Taken together, these trends point to a deeper, systematic problem that goes beyond short-term labour market dynamics. This reflects a broader slowdown in structural transformation. Economies are no longer shifting workers at scale from low-productivity activities into higher-productivity sectors.

As a result, employment growth has been concentrated in low-productivity activities, often informal, offering limited pathways for skills development or wage increases over time. Between 2015 and 2025, labour productivity in Latin America and the Caribbean fell by an average of 0.4 per cent per year, and by 0.6 per cent in the Caribbean alone.

Over the same period, the world economy recorded average annual productivity growth of 1.7 per cent, and high-income countries 1.1 per cent. The gap is widening, not narrowing. Slow productivity growth is not only about slower structural change. It also reflects a general lack of productivity growth within sectors, driven by weak investment, insufficient capital accumulation, and slow technological upgrading.

In many Caribbean economies, firms- especially small and medium-sized ones- struggle to in-

vest in new technologies, training, and innovation. The result is a labour market that absorbs workers but fails to generate more productive, better-paid jobs.

The Caribbean's labour market challenge, then, is not simply about creating more jobs. It is about transforming the kinds of jobs being created. Lower unemployment is indeed welcome, but without progress on informality, productivity, youth inclusion, and skills retention, it risks becoming a hollow victory.

The policy implications are clear. Revitalizing investment, accelerating technological adoption, supporting formalization within sectors and expanding access to quality education and training- especially for young women- must move to the centre of the development agenda. At the same time, regional cooperation on labour mobility and skills development is no longer optional; it is essential.

The world of work in the Caribbean stands at a crossroads. The question is not whether people are working, but whether work itself is becoming a stronger engine for prosperity, inclusion, and resilience.

**Source: The International Labour Organisation (ILO).**

**NEWSLINE TCI**  
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[viviantyson@newsline.tci.com](mailto:viviantyson@newsline.tci.com)

Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department





### **Maintenance Laborer**

**Job Overview:** Perform tasks involving physical labor at work sites operating under the Maintenance Department to ensure that the property is kept to the standards of the hotel guests and management. May operate hand and power tools of all types and a variety of other equipment and instruments. Will be responsible for upkeeping the daily wear and tear that occurs on a property with a high flow of guests.

### **Essential Functions:**

- May clean and prepare sites
- Dig trenches
- Clean up rubble, debris and other waste materials
- Assist other craft workers
- Operate hand and power tools of all types

### **Requirements and Qualifications**

- Work experience in the Construction/Maintenance field preferred
- Experience working at luxury hotel standards
- Good organizational and time management skills with the ability to work under pressure and to multiple deadlines.
- Ability to work independently as well as on a team
- Ability to read and write English proficiently

**Full time. Weekend and holiday work may be required.**

**Salary \$8.00 - \$11.00 per hour**

### **Housekeeper**

**Job Overview:** The Housekeeper provides for the comfort of guests by ensuring that guests rooms and public areas are clean, maintained and properly presented in accordance with hotel policies and quality standards. The housekeeper must promote a positive image of the property to the guests and must be pleasant, friendly and able to attend to our facilities with integrity and attention to detail.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Perform a variety of cleaning activities such as sweeping, mopping, dusting and polishing
- Ensure all guest rooms and villas are cared for and inspected according to Resort standards
- Responsible for the safe and efficient use of equipment, preventing any abuse and ensuring that they are cleaned and properly stored at the end of the work shift.
- Responsible for inventory of supplies for day to day use and replace when appropriate
- Perform housekeeping duties which includes but not limited to; delivering guest requests, stocking of supplies, maintaining cleanliness of rooms or public areas of the Resort.

### **Requirements:**

- Must possess and demonstrate excellent time management skills.
- Ability to manage cleaning resources, organize work efficiently and effectively.
- Must be passionate about cleanliness and have a keen eye for details
- Must be an extremely honest with high levels of integrity
- Demonstrate a high-level flexibility and adaptability
- Ability to communicate effectively with guests and co-workers in English
- Ability to lift a minimum of 30 lbs and push/pull in excess of 50 lbs

**Salary:** The starting salary for this position is \$8.00 per hour.

**Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2**

**Qualified candidates should submit their Resumes** to our Human Resources Department via **Email:**

**humanresources@rockhouseressort.com** or hand deliver applications at our office on #1 International Drive, Providenciales.

**Positions marked with an \* are currently being held by a work permit holder. Deadline for submission: February 5, 2026**



# DMMO Experiment Has Failed – Astwood

By Vivian Tyson Editor-In-Chief

Leader of the Opposition Hon. Edwin A. Astwood has sharply criticised the Government’s handling of Experience Turks and Caicos (Experience TCI), the country’s Destination Management Organization (DMO), arguing that its announced restructuring is an admission of failure after years of unmet targets, rising costs, and weakened tourism governance.

In a detailed statement issued this week, Astwood said the Government’s decision to restructure Experience TCI comes after three years of tourism key performance indicators not being achieved, alongside funding challenges and what he described as “missteps and half-measures.” He noted that he has warned since 2022 against dismantling the former Tourist Board (TB) in favour of an unproven DMO model.

“The Government is now at an embarrassing point of having no other choice but to restructure Experience TCI,” Astwood said, adding that public trust is at risk as “words have again outpaced results.”

**Promises Versus Outcomes**

Astwood said the DMO was promoted as a modern, streamlined approach that would unlock new markets and strengthen tourism product development. Instead, he argued, millions of dollars were redirected away from the Tourist Board into an entity with

unclear mandates and no verifiable outcomes.

He also raised concerns about transparency, stating that key decisions were made with limited stakeholder consultation, minimal independent review, and no clear contingency plans for employees affected by the closure of the Tourist Board.

**Longstanding Warnings**

The Opposition Leader reiterated that he had consistently advocated for strengthening the Tourist Board rather than dismantling it. He recalled publicly warning in February 2023 that closing the TB would negatively impact staff and the country’s tourism reputation, and earlier cautions in May 2022 that funding earmarked for a new DMO would be better invested in product enhancement, staffing, and targeted marketing within the existing structure.

Astwood also referenced a Live Press Conference held on 13 July 2023, during which he described the transfer of tourism marketing responsibilities to the DMO as “reckless and irresponsible,” arguing that it reduced direct control over how the Turks and Caicos Islands are marketed internationally.

**Funding Concerns Raised in Budget Debates**

In his 2024 Budget Address, Astwood pointed to a sharp increase in funding allocated to Experience TCI, citing Budget Volume II, page 3.88, item #35829. According to his

figures, the DMO received \$2.3 million the previous year, rising to \$6.5 million in the current budget cycle, despite what he said was an absence of measurable results.

He said the current restructuring, emerging as the country approaches 2026, mirrors earlier warnings that the shift away from the Tourist Board would ultimately require reversal.

**Calls for Independent Review**

Astwood is now calling on the Government to ensure that any restructuring of Experience TCI is guided by transparency and evidence. He urged the publication of an independent business case, a clear cost-benefit analysis comparing the Tourist Board and DMO models, and a transition plan that protects staff, preserves institutional knowledge, and ensures continuity of tourism programmes.

He also called for sustained dialogue with

tourism stakeholders across all islands, including industry associations, operators, and workers.

**Livelihoods at Stake**

Highlighting tourism’s role as the backbone of the Turks and Caicos economy, Astwood warned that poorly managed reform could disrupt product development, reduce market access, and threaten the livelihoods of thousands of residents employed across the sector.

“If reality continues to diverge from rhetoric, we risk stalled investment, declining visitor satisfaction, higher unemployment, and reduced living standards,” he said.

Astwood concluded by reaffirming his commitment to advocating for a tourism strategy that prioritises product enhancement, market access, and long-term stability for workers and businesses dependent on the industry.

## TCHTA Members Maintain Global Focus on Turks and Caicos’ Luxury Market

The Turks & Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA) continues to advance a coordinated strategy aligned with market demand as part of its ongoing commitment to reinforcing the Turks and Caicos Islands’ position as a leading luxury tourism destination.

Globally, travel conditions continue to evolve, influenced by geopolitical dynamics and shifting consumer behaviour. Across key source markets, travellers are increasingly making decisions closer to arrival, resulting in more compressed booking windows. In this environment, sustained destination visibility, precision marketing, and consistent brand reinforcement remain essential.

Through its broad industry membership, the Association continues to make significant, sustained investments in international destination marketing, directing efforts towards the platforms, markets, and relationships that influence high-value travel decisions.

Looking ahead for 2026, that strategy is already firmly in play.

This year, TCHTA members are engaging across a carefully curated calendar of high-impact luxury and trade platforms, including PURE Marrakech, Virtuoso Week, Luxury Bloc, ILTM Cannes, targeted engagements with Internova Travel Group in New York, collaborations with XO Private, and participation in international luxury yacht showcases. These platforms ensure that Turks and Caicos remains visible, competitive, and well positioned within the global luxury travel marketplace.

“Our presence in these spaces is deliberate,” said Karen Whitt, Marketing Committee Chair of the TCHTA and VP of Marketing and Brand Development at The Hartling Group. “They allow us to engage directly with the luxury traveller and the advisors who influence their decisions, ensuring the destination remains consistently positioned at the top end of the market.”

The Association also recognises that destination brand integrity is shaped by the full visitor journey, extending beyond accommodation and experiences. Protecting that positioning requires alignment between destination marketing, product quality, and infrastructure that supports expectations from the first touchpoint through the complete visitor experience.

As the destination continues to see significant investment in new resort developments and expanded tourism offerings, disciplined marketing and strategic alignment remain critical to ensuring that growth strengthens, rather than dilutes, the Turks and Caicos brand.

“The private sector has long played a central role in sustaining the standards and consistency required of a luxury destination,” said James McAnally, President of the TCHTA. “That commitment remains unchanged. Through sustained investment and strategic discipline, we will continue supporting the destination’s long-term success.”

The Association remains focused on sustaining momentum for Turks and Caicos within an increasingly competitive global landscape.



# UTOPIA MANAGEMENT

HAS AN IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR A

# LABOURER

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THIS POSITION INCLUDE:**  
Heavy lifting, assist employees with lifting goods and cleaning supplies and maintain safe and clean work environment.

**EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS:**  
Minimum 2 years’ experience as a Labourer with the ability to communicate effectively.  
SALARY: \$2,000.00 per month.

# Call 649-345-7285





OPEN JOB POSITIONS

POSITION: Houseman PROPERTY: Grace Bay Club

**Job Overview:** Member of the Grace Bay Resorts Housekeeping team. Responsibilities include assisting with the cleaning of the hotel rooms and common areas. The role also supports the team by ensuring the appropriate areas are properly stocked and maintained. This position reports to the Housekeeping Supervisor, the Executive Assistant Housekeeper and the Executive Housekeeper.

- Main Responsibilities:**
- Cleaning and maintaining guest rooms, bathrooms, work areas, furnishings, carpets, patios, guest elevators, elevator landings, building staircases, and pathways.
  - Replenishing guest supplies in rooms and public areas.
  - Cleaning common areas that are traffic areas for guests and other visitors to the hotel.
  - Collecting items from the general store when requested.
  - Ensuring that the housekeeping vehicle is maintained, clean and tidy any damage reported to your manager.
  - Cleaning and maintaining outdoor spaces, glass and windows, patios, poolside areas and in the rooms.
  - Stripping soiled Linens from all rooms.
  - Cleaning the patio and outdoor furniture in the rooms.
  - Cleaning Fans and high dust areas (Vents, ceiling, etc.)
  - Ensuring that the Housekeepers have sufficient linens when servicing a room.
  - Ensuring that dirty linens are returned to the Laundry in a timely manner allowing the Laundry to wash the linens.
  - Ensuring that the linen closets are adequately stocked with sufficient supplies for everyday service.
  - Ensuring that rollaway beds, baby cribs and any other guest item for the rooms are stored, cleaned and placed in the correct location (any damaged item is reported to your supervisor).
  - Ensuring all storage garages are clean, maintained and items packed correctly.
  - Ensuring that linen trolleys are in good working order and clean at all times.
  - Ensuring that Vacuum is emptied and clean and cords are coiled to prevent damage.
  - Upkeep of the building closets and removal of all trash.
  - Report maintenance issues or damages promptly.
  - Handle heavy-duty cleaning tasks such as Lifting beds, removing and replacing rugs, vacuuming large areas, window washing, and floor care.
  - Move and arrange furniture as needed for cleaning or special events.

- Skills and Competencies Required**
- High School graduate.
  - Previous experience in hospitality is preferred.
  - Is detail-oriented.
  - Can maintain composure while working under pressure.
  - Punctual and disciplined.
  - Able to work well as a team and independently.
  - Has a good command of English, both written and verbal.
  - Able to work morning, afternoon, and overnight shifts.
  - Flexible to work in other areas of the housekeeping operation if required.
  - Knowledge of fine furnishings, high-end finishes, and proper care techniques.
  - Physically fit and capable of handling manual tasks.
  - Valid driver’s license.

Interested persons should contact our Human Resources Department no later than February 12th 2025  
Email: [humanresources@gracebayclub.com](mailto:humanresources@gracebayclub.com)  
(649) 946-5050 Ext. 1020  
#38 Grace Bay Circle, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies



OPEN JOB POSITIONS

POSITION: Kitchen and Laundry Technician PROPERTY: Grace Bay Club

**Job Overview:** The Air-Conditioning and Cooler Technician (A/C Technician) is responsible for carrying out preventive maintenance, inspections, repairs, and installations of air-conditioning, heating, and cooling systems. The role supports the efficient operation of engineering and facilities equipment, ensuring compliance with operational, safety, and hospitality standards. This position reports to the Assistant Director of Engineering and the Director of Engineering.

- Main Responsibilities:**
- Conduct routine and preventive maintenance checks on air-conditioning units, heaters, and coolers
  - Install, service, and repair air-conditioning and heating systems
  - Diagnose and repair damaged or malfunctioning air-conditioning, heating, and cooling equipment
  - Inspect systems to ensure proper functionality and performance
  - Detect and repair leaks
  - Replace defective or worn spare parts
  - Inspect major system components and equipment
  - Perform daily routine inspections of assigned equipment
  - Document reported damages, inspections, and repairs completed
  - Support preventive maintenance of guest suites and operational equipment
  - Assist with basic kitchen equipment maintenance and troubleshooting, as required
  - Follow Operational Health and Safety Standards at all times

- Skills and Competencies Required**
- Engineering course graduate (undergraduate) or vocational/technical school graduate
  - Minimum 5 years’ experience as an A/C Technician
  - Minimum 8 years’ experience in engineering or facilities equipment operations and maintenance, preferably in hospitality or related industries
  - Strong working knowledge of:
  - Electrical and mechanical equipment troubleshooting
  - Plumbing systems
  - Swimming pool operations and water chemistry
  - Sewage treatment plant operations and maintenance
  - Basic kitchen equipment maintenance
  - Familiarity with electrical and mechanical components and spare part
  - Knowledge of industry storekeeping procedure
  - Computer literate and technology-savvy, particularly for ordering and follow-up processes
  - Basic knowledge of computers and peripheral
  - Good verbal and written communication skills
  - Ability to plan and execute preventive maintenance programs efficiently

Shift Varies. Full time. Weekend and holiday work may be required.  
Salary Range: \$10.00 – \$13.00 per hour

Interested persons should contact our Human Resources Department no later than February 12th 2025  
Email: [humanresources@gracebayclub.com](mailto:humanresources@gracebayclub.com)  
(649) 946-5050 Ext. 1020  
#38 Grace Bay Circle, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies



# Police Jitney Crackdown Trigger Comment Restorm

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

A firestorm of comments has been ignited over the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force’s decision to step-up its crackdown on Jitney drivers across Providenciales. Since there is no official public transportation system, Jitneys, for more than 20 years, have been filling that gap, as they have been patronised by persons off all levels of society, including police officers. However, in a social media posting, earlier this week, the police said it has heightened its crackdown on jitneys, reiterating that those vehicles are operating illegally according to the law. “Operating an unlicensed public service vehicle commonly referred to as a “jitney” is a criminal offence under the Road Traffic Act (Chapter 13:01) of the Turks and Caicos Islands,” the posting said. The posting continued: “Section 13 of the Road Traffic Act states: (4): No public service vehicle other than a licensed taxi-cab shall stand or ply for casual hire. Any person who uses or offers a public service vehicle (not being a taxi-cab) for casual hire commits an offence. “(5): A person convicted of an offence under this section is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of \$1,000 or imprisonment for up to six months, or both.

“Persons found operating a public service vehicle without the required taxi license or valid public service operator’s license may face a \$1,000 fine for each offence, upon conviction, possible disqualification from driving under the Insurance Act, (and) impoundment of the vehicle used in the commission of the offence.” The posting also pointed out that businesses, including hotels, restaurants, villas, and other establishments that promote, refer, facilitate, or knowingly enable the use of unlicensed public service vehicles, are also committing an offence and may be subject to a fine of \$1,000, upon conviction. “The use of licensed taxi operators is not only a legal requirement but also a public safety measure. Licensed taxis are regulated, insured, and subject to background checks and vehicle inspections,” the posting continued. The police strongly encouraged the public and businesses to verify that transportation providers are properly licensed before engaging their services. The comments triggered a great deal of supporting and dissenting comments by members of the public. One person wrote: “No public transportation but we trying to stop jitneys from operating... this is backwards.” Another wrote: “If you are going to disrupt what you have allowed to be the

norm, then you need to sort that out beforehand. This is the dumbest move to date.” Another person wrote: “The jitney system appears to be functioning effectively; it might be best to maintain the current approach until the government can implement appropriate legislation for the public taxi service, including designated roadside pick-up zones.” Another stated: “Difficult time for work permit holders, they can’t own vehicles or take jitney, only options now are to walk or get a bicycle.” Another person wrote: “Before time, Provo had decent “jitney” buses. Bring them back! A lot of these jitneys aren’t road worthy now.” One writer noted: “To be fair, the quality of driving by ‘all’ Jitney drivers is appalling, so each one that is taken off the road is better.” Another wrote: “It does beg the question, who owns the car? I don’t believe the driver is the owner, that should guide you in the right direction. Great work.” Another wrote: “When illegal jitneys “skim” the passengers during peak hours, they take the profit without carrying any of the regulatory costs. This creates an unlevel playing field, making it financially impossible for the legal system to expand or even maintain its fleet.”

Another writer commented: “Can I call 911 when I need a ride? Because I can’t afford a \$20 Taxi? This is entrapment. The people taking Jitney don’t want to break the law, they don’t have a viable option.” Another person wrote: “Why is it now illegal? Jitneys been in operation since the early 90s so why is it now illegal, y’all just making up any type of laws without thinking about the outcome of it” This person wrote: (Moving to rid the roads of jitneys) That’s like locking the gate after all the cattle done out the pasture.” While Jitneys provide an essential service by transporting hotel workers, other private sector workers and many public sector workers and students, there are rotten eggs among the lot, as drivers have been arrested and sentenced for rape of their passengers. Jitney drivers are also referred to menaces on the road, suddenly stopping to pick up passengers, and also pulling out into the roadway ahead of onrushing traffic causing those drivers to take evasive actions. For some of the responders to the police social media post, removing the jitneys is not the primary real issue, but the question of what public service will be offered before ridding the street of those illegal public passenger vehicles.



This photo taken from a Royal Turk and Caicos Islands Police Force Video, show a police officer booking a jitney driver; whose vehicle was seized.



# The Family Islands: No Risk, No Reward

## *Why Local Investment Matters Now More Than Ever*

*An Op-Ed By Salik Garland-Invest Turks and Caicos*

For decades, Providenciales has been the main driver of economic growth in the Turks and Caicos Islands. What was once a quiet island has grown into one of the Caribbean's leading tourism and investment destinations. Foreign investment has played a major role in this transformation.

International developers have built luxury resorts, modern marinas, high-end villas, commercial complexes, and world-class infrastructure.

These projects have created thousands of jobs, improved services, and helped put Turks and Caicos on the global map as a luxury tourism destination. Today, Providenciales is seen as one of the most attractive places in the region for tourism, real estate, and business investment.

Today, foreign investment in Providenciales is not limited to large resorts or luxury villas. Over time, it has spread into almost every part of the local economy. Many watersports' companies, construction firms, restaurants, car rental businesses, property

management services, and retail stores are now either foreign-owned or foreign-controlled.

Even behind the scenes, foreign companies play a role in supplying building materials, equipment, food products, and other essential goods and services that support daily life in the islands.

This level of investment has helped improve standards, expand services, and drive economic growth. At the same time, it has made Providenciales a highly competitive and expensive place to do business. For many locals, entering these industries now require large amounts of capital that are simply out of reach and therefore foreign investors continue to dominate not only the major projects, but also many of the smaller, supporting businesses that keep the tourism economy running.

As a result, Turks and Caicos Islanders now feel increasingly disconnected from the wealth being created around them. While the economy has grown, much of the most valuable land, property, and businesses are owned by foreign investors who entered the

market early.

Rising land prices and soaring real estate costs have made it difficult for locals to buy property or start businesses of their own. For many, participation in the economy is limited to employment rather than ownership. This has led to frustration, a sense of exclusion, and growing skepticism toward foreign investment - not because development is unwanted, but because too many people feel they are watching success from the sidelines instead of sharing in it.

### **How Did Providenciales Get Here?**

There are many explanations, and each likely holds some truth. But one thing is clear: foreign investors were willing to take the risk when others were not. They made a bold bet that Providenciales could one day become a leading luxury destination in the Caribbean. At the time, the future was far from certain. Infrastructure was limited, international flights were few, and the Turks and Caicos Islands were largely unknown to the world.

Many other Caribbean destinations were already more established, yet these investors chose Providenciales. They invested early, when conditions were challenging and the potential was not yet obvious. In doing so, they helped shape what the island has become today.

### **The Sun Rises in the East**

The Family Islands now stand at a similar point in their development journey. Like Providenciales in its early days, infrastructure and accessibility remain limited in some areas. Yet, even when Provo looked uncertain, there was always something about it that stood out: its beaches, its location, its natural beauty, and its potential. Investors saw that spark and believed in what the island could become.

That same spark exists in the Family Islands today. Each island has its own character, history, and charm. They offer untouched natural environments, strong cultural identity, and real potential for eco-tourism, housing, and small-scale mixed-use development.

Despite this, many local investors remain cautious. Some prefer to wait for visible development and major improvements in infrastructure before committing so that the opportunities feel "safer." For others, even a modest investment can feel uncertain when the future is not yet fully clear.

At the same time, international investors are increasingly willing to commit significant funding to projects in the Family Islands. Their interest reflects a long-term view of the islands' potential and an understanding that entering a market early often brings the greatest rewards. Recent developments in South Caicos make this increasingly clear, with the island recording approximately \$120 million in foreign investment over the past five years.

Are We About to Repeat the Providenciales Pattern?

### **The Cost of Waiting**

It is natural to seek reassurance before investing. Many people prefer to wait for visible development, strong demand, and improved infrastructure before committing



capital.

However, experience shows that once large-scale development takes place, land values rise, competition increases, and entry costs become much higher. By the time an opportunity feels "safe," it is often far less affordable and far less accessible. Providenciales offers a clear example of how early hesitation can lead to later barriers to participation.

### **Building Local Ownership**

While employment in tourism and related industries remains important, long-term economic strength is built through ownership and investment.

The Family Islands still offer opportunities with strong potential that are becoming increasingly limited elsewhere. Land remains relatively accessible, and there is room for locally driven development that reflects the character and needs of each island.

Opportunities extend beyond traditional resort development. They include eco-tourism ventures, boutique accommodations, marine and watersports services, heritage and cultural tourism, small residential developments, and community-based businesses. These types of projects are well suited to the scale of the Family Islands and create space for local ownership, local employment, and long-term economic growth. Local participation does not need to begin with large resorts. It can start with smaller, practical investments that grow over time and allow Turks and Caicos Islanders to build a lasting presence in their own communities.

### **A Forward-Looking Approach**

Every investment involves risk, particularly in developing markets. However, history shows that those who engage early, with careful planning and a clear strategy are often best positioned to benefit from long-term growth.

The Family Islands represent the next chapter in the country's development, and perhaps the last major opportunity for Turks and Caicos Islanders to position themselves early.

Rather than waiting for foreign investors to arrive, this is the moment for Turks and Caicos Islanders to take the lead. Whether through land ownership, property development, small-scale business ventures or community driven projects, even small steps taken today can create long-term value for families, communities and future generations.

The Family Islands are not simply waiting to be discovered. They are ready to be developed - thoughtfully, sustainably, and inclusively.

Through the Encouragement of Development Ordinance, the MSME Programme, and the Heritage Islander Investment Policy (HTCIP), Invest Turks and Caicos remains committed to supporting local entrepreneurs in identifying opportunities and establishing themselves in the Family Islands.

## **BUTTERFIELD GOLD GROUP OF COMPANIES POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

### **NEW POSITIONS**

## **GOLD BROKERAGE & DHL COURIER SERVICES**

# **TWO (2) BROKER**

SEEKING AN EXPERIENCED BROKER WITH AT LEAST THREE (3) YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

APPLICANT MUST HAVE COMPLETED THE "CUSTOMS BROKER CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME."

THE APPLICANTS MUST BE TEAM PLAYERS WITH EXCELLENT PEOPLE SKILLS.

MUST BE ABLE TO MULTITASK IN A HECTIC OFFICE

SALARY: COMMENSURATE WITH QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

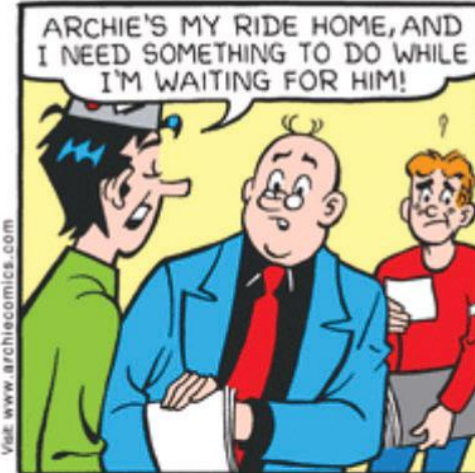
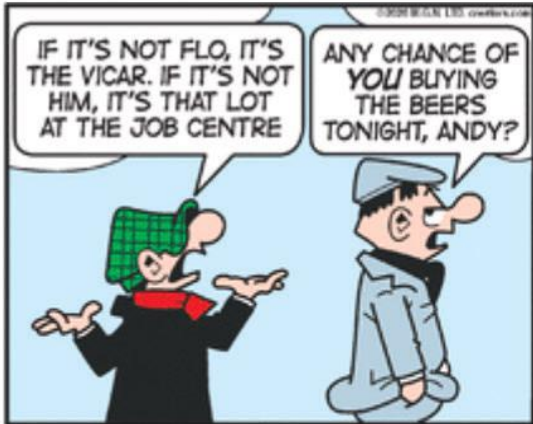
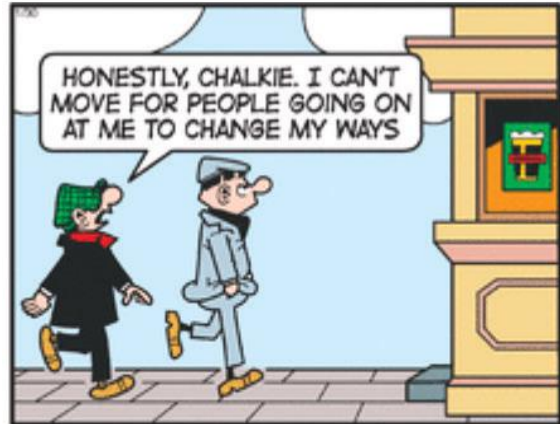
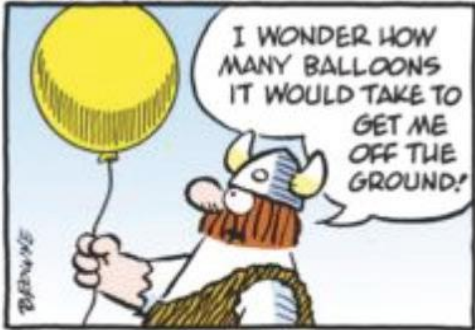
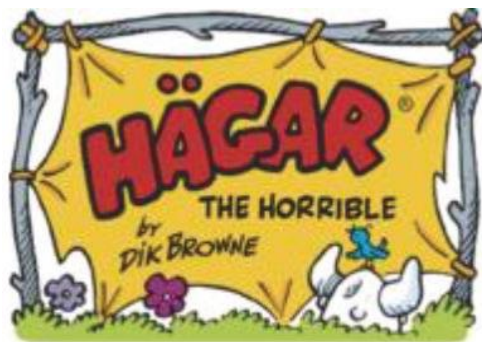
**WE URGENTLY NEED TO FILL THE ABOVE POSITION; PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESUME TO LGREEN@BUTTERFIELDGOLD.TC**

**ONLY BELONGERS APPLY FOR THIS POSITION. APPLICANTS SELECTED FOR AN INTERVIEW WILL BE NOTIFIED.**

**Human Resource Department  
Butterfield Gold Ltd., 23 Parade Ave, Downtown Providenciales.  
Tel: 649-946-4211**

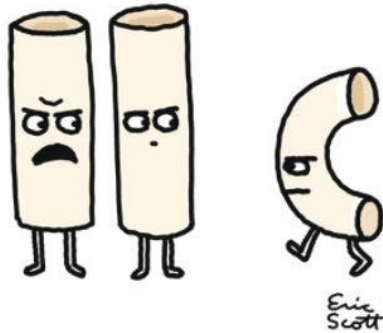
**Labour Commissioner Employment Services  
Samuel Been Building, Airport Road, Providenciales**



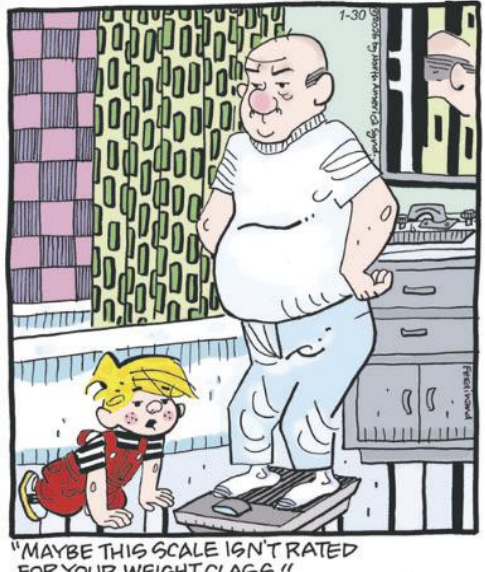
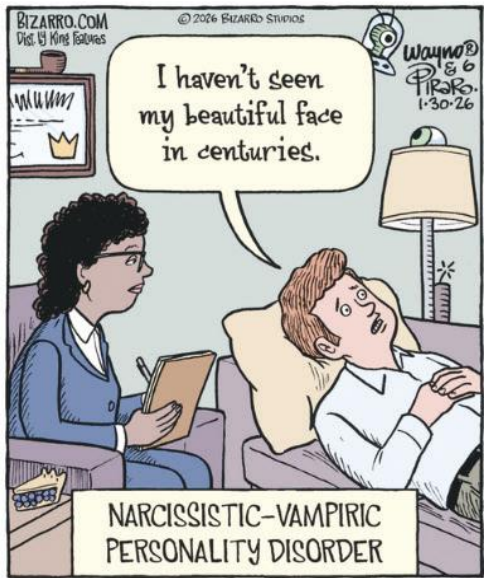


# NEWSLINE<sup>TCI</sup> COMICS

I DON'T GO TO TARGET BECAUSE I NEED SOMETHING. I LET TARGET TELL ME WHAT I NEED ONCE I GET THERE.



"Here comes Mr. Give Me Some Elbow Room."





# QUEEN CONCH

Photo: Alex Mustard/Naturepl.com



The queen conch is one of the most culturally and economically significant marine species in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Found throughout the shallow banks and seagrass beds surrounding the archipelago, the conch has long been central to local livelihoods, cuisine, and cultural identity, forming an enduring link between the islands' people and the sea.

For generations, conch has been harvested by local fishers using free-diving techniques that reflect deep knowledge of the marine environment. Historically, conch provided a reliable source of food for island communities and continues to support small-scale fisheries and household consumption across the islands.

Culinarily, the queen conch is inseparable from Turks and Caicos identity. Dishes such as cracked conch, conch salad, conch fritters, and conch stew are widely regarded as national favourites and are commonly served at family gatherings, cultural events, roadside stalls, and restaurants throughout the territory. These dishes are a defining feature of local cuisine and an important part of everyday life.

Due to declining conch populations across the wider Caribbean, the Turks and Caicos Islands have implemented strict conservation measures to protect local stocks. These include closed seasons, size limits, gear restrictions, and active enforcement. The focus of management is on sustainability, food security, and the long-term health of the marine environment, ensuring that conch remains available for future generations.

Beyond its practical value, the queen conch holds deep cultural meaning in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Conch shells are used as instruments, decorative objects, and cultural symbols, and feature prominently in art and heritage displays. As both a food source and cultural emblem, the queen conch represents resilience, stewardship, and the enduring relationship between the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands and their surrounding seas.

#### References

- Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), Turks and Caicos Islands. Queen conch fisheries management.
- FAO. (2019). Queen conch fisheries of the Caribbean. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
- National Trust of the Turks and Caicos Islands. (2018). Cultural Heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands.
- Turks and Caicos Islands Government. (2022). Environment, fisheries and marine resources of the TCI.
- Visit Turks and Caicos. Local cuisine and cultural traditions.



# NATION WIDE SEARCH!

TCI

Cycle 7

TOPMODEL

Shakem Charles  
TCI Top Model, Cycle 6

**ELIGIBILITY**

- Open to males and females
- Aged 18 years and older
- No **Height or Size** restrictions
- Reside full-time in the TCI

**SEARCH LOCATIONS**

**PROVIDENCIALES:**  
Saturday, 31st January, 2026  
Edward C. Gartland Youth Centre  
Downtown, Provo  
Time: 3:30PM - 5:00PM

**GRANDTURK**  
Saturday, 7th February, 2026  
Anglican Church Dillon Hall  
Front Street, Grand Turk  
Time: 3:30PM - 5:00PM

**NORTH CAICOS**  
Saturday, 14th February, 2026  
Ocean Breeze Hotel  
Whitby, North Caicos  
Time: 10:30PM - 12:00noon

Powered by

**GOOD STREET**  
MANAGEMENT

**FIND US**  
Ph: 649.232.6796  
E: TCI Top Model Contest@Gmail.com  
FB: tcitopmodel  
X: @tcitopmodel  
TikTok: tcitopmodel  
IG: tcitopmodel  
YT: tcitopmodel  
Snap: tcitopmodel

**important information for applicants**

- Applicants must present government-issued ID
- Recent photographs
- There will be no online submissions; applicants must attend one of the Search locations and register in person.
- Dress code for the model search: fitted clothing (T-shirts, tank tops, leggings, jeans or shorts). Female participants should bring heels (minimum 3 inches) and wear minimal makeup.

The TCI Top Model Organising Committee has announced what it referred to as a bold new direction for Cycle 7: a nationwide Search that removes former height and size restrictions and opens the flagship platform to talent of every shape and background.

The initiative follows strong public interest and a clear call to broaden who can be named, TCI Top Model. For the first time, TCI Top Model will operate as a Search rather than a traditional contest. Anyone who reg-

isters in person at one of the Search locations — including former contestants and models — will be eligible to participate and considered for the title, provided they complete the programme’s education, training and professional photoshoot components.

“This year we are making a promise to reflect the true breadth of our islands,” said Courtney Robinson, founder and executive producer. “TCI Top Model has always been about opportunity and development. Cy-

# TCI Top Model Shelves Height, Size Restrictions

cle 7 removes arbitrary barriers so we can spotlight talent from every community. Our priority remains the same: to provide high-quality training, mentorship and real career pathways in fashion, media and the creative industries.”

- ELIGIBILITY**
- Open to males and females
  - Aged 18 years and older
  - Reside full-time in the Turks and Caicos Islands (proof required)

**SEARCH DATES AND LOCATIONS**

On Providenciales, the event will be held at the Edward C. Gartland Youth Centre, Downtown on Saturday, January 31, 2026 between 3:30PM and 5:00PM. On Grand Turk, the event will be held at the Anglican Dillon Hall, Front Street on Saturday, 7 February 2026, between 3:00PM and 5:00PM. On North Caicos (for North & Middle Caicos), the search is slated for Ocean Breeze Hotel, Whitby on Saturday, 14 February 2026, between 10:30AM and 12:00noon.

- Important information for applicants**
- Applicants must present government-issued identification (passport, driver’s licence or status card) and recent photographs
  - There will be no online submissions; applicants must attend one of the Search locations in person to be considered.
  - Dress code for the model search: fitted clothing (T-shirts, tank tops, leggings, jeans or shorts). Female participants should bring heels

(minimum 3 inches) and wear minimal makeup.

“Each year we aim to deliver an unparalleled experience for our participants and audience,” said Courtney Robinson. “Beyond the Extravaganza that is TCI Top Model, our mission is to equip models and creatives with the skills, confidence and industry networks that turn local talent into professional careers. We want participants to leave better prepared to succeed — on the islands and beyond.”

The countdown to Cycle 7 has begun. The grand finale will take place on Saturday 2 May 2026 at Brayton Hall, Providenciales — join us as passion, talent and opportunity come together to shape the future of fashion in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

## Caicos Cleaning Services

Providenciales,  
Turks and Caicos islands is seeking a

# DOMESTIC WORKER

Duties:  
Responsible for cleaning, dusting, vacuuming, sweeping, cleaning ceiling vents, etc.  
Salary: \$8 per hour

**Please contact**  
**649 345 4552**

# TCICC Launches Talent Search to Spotlight Local Creatives

The Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC) has launched a Talent Search initiative aimed at identifying and showcasing local creatives across the islands for major promotional and media opportunities.

According to promotional material released by the college, successful participants will be featured in

TCICC brochures, billboards, social media content, commercials, and other promotional materials, as well as integrated marketing campaigns. The initiative also opens doors for podcast hosting and media reporting opportunities, signaling a strong push to highlight homegrown talent in both traditional and digital media spaces.

The Talent Search is now open for sign-ups, with TCICC encouraging photographers, media personalities, presenters, and other creative individuals to register. A QR code has been provided on the promotional flyer for easy online sign-up, making the process accessible to interested participants.

TCICC officials say the initiative forms

part of the institution’s broader effort to promote creativity, media skills, and professional visibility for residents, while strengthening the college’s public-facing communications.

For more information, prospective participants are advised to contact TCICC at 649-339-3900, extension 2015.



Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

House of Prayer Ministries

This week on Lifeline Featured Church we showcase House of Prayer Ministries, located at 180 Long Bay Road, Providenciales. House of Prayer Ministries is pastored by Senior Pastor, Bishop Edwin Lightbourne and Prophetess Rev. Sandra Lightbourne. Sunday School begins at 10:20am; Sunday Worship Service begins at 11am; Wednesday at 7pm is Midweek Service; Friday 6:30pm is the Bi-weekly Youth Meeting, and on Saturday at 6:30am is prayer meeting. If you desire more information how to share in the worship experience, contact 649-231-4132 pr 649-941-8309. You can also follow House of Prayer Ministries on Facebook: @House of Prayer Ministries Inc or @Bishop James Lightbourne Jr.



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.

<div>Firm Foundation Ministries International Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581</div> <div>Christ is the Answer Ministry, George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030</div> <div>One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com.</div> <div>Touch of Love Ministries International Center Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731</div> <div>Abundant Life Ministries International P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755</div> <div>Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk, Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289</div> <div>Bethany Baptist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118</div> <div>Church of God of Prophecy, Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854</div> <div>Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk Tel:946-1866</div> <div>Calvary Baptist Church, South Caicos. Tel:946-3212</div> <div>Harvest Bible Chapel TCI, Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales. Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com. https://www.harvesttci.tc.</div>	<div>Firm Foundation Ministries International 19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240</div> <div>Church of God of Prophecy, Providenciales Tel:941-3438</div> <div>Roman Catholic Church, Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136</div> <div>Faith Tabernacle Church of God, Providenciales, Tel:946-4073</div> <div>New Testament Church of God, Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175</div> <div>New Testament Church of God, South Caicos Tel:946-3631</div> <div>Methodist Church, Grand Turk Tel:946-2352</div> <div>Healing Waters Ministries, Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867</div> <div>House of Prayer Church of God, Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309</div> <div>Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727</div> <div>Mount Mariah Baptist Church, Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205</div> <div>New Beginning Harvest Ministry, Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759</div> <div>New Testament Church of God Orea Alley P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-1255 Airport Road, South Caicos Tel:231-2402</div>	<div>Firm Foundation Ministries International Waterloo Road, Grand Turk. Telephone: 649-332-624</div> <div>Paradise Baptist Church, Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349</div> <div>Revival Faith Center, North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349</div> <div>Salem Baptist Church, Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565</div> <div>Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181</div> <div>St. Monica’s Anglican Church P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499</div> <div>Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh Day Adventists, P.O. Box 803, Providenciales</div> <div>United Pentecostal Church, Brown’s Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852</div> <div>Wesleyan Methodist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596</div> <div>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: <a href="mailto:contact@newslnetci.com">contact@newslnetci.com</a></div>
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# ALMI 25TH Anniversary Celebration

Abundant Life Ministries International Church, located along the Leeward Highway in Providenciales, celebrated its 25th anniversary in the latter part of January. The celebration opened with three nights of services from Wednesday, January 21 to January 23. On Saturday, January 24, the church staged a banquet, which honored longstanding members and corporate Turks and Caicos who supported the church over the years. On Sunday, January 25, the church held its anniversary service and ground-breaking for its multipurpose commercial and sports centre. Among the attendees were Premier Hon. Washington Misick, Minister of Religion Hon. Shaun Malcolm, Minister Hon. Otis Morris, and Minister Hon. Rachel Taylor. The following are highlights of the various events.









# WHAT YOUR CRASHES MEAN

## *Understanding mid afternoon exhaustion*

By Monica Uttamchandani  
Holistic Health Coach, Turks and Caicos

If your energy dips hard in the afternoon, you are not alone. These crashes often reflect blood sugar swings, poor meal composition, or mineral imbalance. The good news is that they are highly fixable with gentle adjustments. A light breakfast or skipping meals leads to a mid day drop. High carb lunches without protein cause similar effects. Dehydration is another common factor. When your minerals are low, energy production becomes harder for the body. A balanced breakfast helps stabilise glucose from the start.

Including protein at each meal prevents steep rises and dips. Hydration throughout the day supports steadier energy. Afternoon snacks can be helpful rather than harmful when they are nutrient rich. These crashes are messages. Not failures. Practical Tips to Prevent Mid-Afternoon Slumps:

- Eat a balanced breakfast rich in protein and complex carbs to stabilise glucose early in the day.
- Include protein and healthy fats at lunch to avoid steep blood sugar swings.
- Keep hydrated throughout the day, aiming for consistent water intake rather than wait-

ing until you feel thirsty.

- Include nutrient-rich snacks if energy dips are common, such as nuts, seeds, yogurt, or fruit with nut butter.
- Consider gentle movement breaks or stretching in the afternoon to support circulation and alertness.
- Monitor caffeine intake, as late morning coffee may exacerbate energy crashes later in the day.

**Steady Energy Comes From Steady Support**

Your afternoon energy and mood are reflections of what your body needed earlier in the day. By offering consistent nourishment, hydration, and gentle self-care, you can trans-

form mid-day crashes into sustained energy and focus. Small, mindful adjustments to your routine often lead to the most significant and lasting improvements in vitality. For more gentle tools on energy balance, blood sugar support, and nutrient strategies, follow @balancedbymonica on Instagram.

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



### OPEN JOB POSITIONS

**POSITION:** Housekeeper

**PROPERTY:** Grace Bay Club

**Job Overview:** Member of the Grace Bay Resorts Housekeeping team. Responsibilities include assisting and providing support in all areas of Housekeeping. The goal is to create a clean and orderly environment for our guests that will become a critical factor in maintaining and strengthening our reputation. This position reports to the Housekeeping Supervisor, Assistant Executive Housekeeper and the Executive Housekeeper.

**Job Responsibilities:**

- Collecting your work sheet at the begging of your shift
- Handing your updated worksheet at the end of your shift (must be authorized by your supervisor before you go off duty) handing your authorized worksheet to the coordinator.
- Ensuring that all rooms assigned to you during your shift are completed in accordance with t Grace Bay Resort room cleaning standards, before you go off duty.
- Placing a Do Not Disturb note under the guest room door that has the Relaxing signage hanging on the handle – (make a note on your room assignment sheet – stating the time you slipped the card under the door and what time you followed up to see if the guest had removed the Relaxing signage) Advise your supervisor also.
- Greeting guests and responding to queries in a friendly and timely manner.
- Always wares their name badge (must be neat and tidy) your name must be clear.
- Clean rooms assigned to you according to the Grace Bay Resort rooms standard.
- Advise your Supervisor of Manager regarding any defects in the room or public Areas.

**Skills and Competencies Required**

- High school diploma required; training certificate is preferred.
- 3-5- years housekeeping experience working in a luxury/fine hotel preferred.
- Must be able to work under pressure in a fast-paced environment.
- Must be comfortable to speak to guests and diffusing a situation should they become upset.
- Must be well groomed, clean and polite.
- Must have clear, concise English written and verbal communication skills.
- Must be able to work morning shifts, afternoon shifts, holidays, weekends when required.
- Must be flexible to cover Public Areas and Laundry shifts if required.

**Shift Varies. Full time. Weekend and holiday work may be required.**  
**Salary Range: \$8.00 – \$9.00 per hour**

Interested persons should contact our Human Resources Department no later than February 12th 2025  
Email: [humanresources@gracebayclub.com](mailto:humanresources@gracebayclub.com)  
(649) 946-5050 Ext. 1020  
#38 Grace Bay Circle, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies



# A Missing Will is an Open Door to Abuse

*An Op-Ed by Audley Astwood*

One thing I've learned in life, is that death always doesn't arrive quietly. Sometimes it comes with paperwork missing, intentions unstated, and a family suddenly split into camps. When someone dies without a will, grief is quickly joined by something harder and uglier...Power. I've spent enough time around politics and people to know this pattern. When rules are unclear, the strongest personalities rush in to fill the void. In TCI, dying intestate creates a vacuum that is almost designed to be exploited. The law steps in, yes, but law without clarity invites discretion. And discretion, in the wrong hands, becomes domination. Here's how it usually unfolds

A loved one dies without a will. Everyone agrees in the first few days, that things should be fair. There's talk of family meetings, respect, tradition, God. Then administrators are appointed. Often they're close relatives, sometimes the very ones who already had access to bank accounts, documents, or property keys. From that moment, the balance shifts.

Administrators are supposed to be fiduciaries. That's the polite legal term. It means they're meant to serve the estate, not themselves. But in real life, especially in small societies where oversight is thin and accountability slower than it should be, the administrator becomes gatekeeper, narrator, and sometimes executioner

of the truth.

Information starts to drip, not flow. Bank balances become vague. Assets are suddenly disputed. Property that everyone knew existed is now conveniently unclear. Meanwhile, legal costs quietly grow, paid out of the estate itself. Delay becomes a tactic. Silence becomes a weapon. And the rest of the family waits. They wait because they're grieving. They wait because they don't want conflict. They wait because they assume decency will prevail. That assumption is usually the mistake.

What makes this especially corrosive in Turks and Caicos is the intimacy of the place. Everyone knows everyone. Lawyers are neighbours. Court clerks are cousins. Administrators move through the system with social confidence. This happens while beneficiaries often don't know where to start or what questions to ask. If I challenge an administrator, am I challenging the family itself? Even worse, am I airing dirty laundry in public? So, people endure. They tell themselves it'll work out. Months pass. Sometimes years.

Meanwhile, what happens when reality sets in? Relationships are broken, and whatever the deceased worked a lifetime to build has been reduced to resentment and receipts.

This is about so much more than money. It's about dignity. A will is the final act of authorship over your life. Without it, others get to edit the ending. And not every-

one edits in good faith.

I've watched families fracture over modest plots of land and modest savings. Not because the assets were enormous, but because the sense of betrayal was. The quiet cruelty isn't always theft. Often it's control. Who gets paid first. Who gets answers. Who gets ignored. Power expressed in delays, half truths, and selective memory.

There's a myth in Caribbean societies that family will do right by family. Sometimes that's true. Often it isn't. Blood doesn't immunise against temptation. In fact, proximity can sharpen it. When oversight is weak and expectations are emotional rather than contractual, the incentives are all wrong.

The law in TCI doesn't force people to behave badly. But it does too little to prevent it. Intestacy laws are blunt instruments. They divide on paper but don't manage behaviour in practice. They assume administrators will act honourably. They assume that beneficiaries will have the means, stamina, and knowledge to push back if they don't. Those are dangerous assumptions.

Writing a will is insurance. It's merciful. It's an act of care for the people you'll leave behind. Yes, even the ones you love but don't fully trust. Especially those. A clear will limits discretion. It shortens timelines. It reduces legal gamesmanship. Most importantly, it removes the temptation to confuse authority with entitlement.

If you live in Turks and Caicos and you own anything, land, savings, a business, even a modest home, failing to write a will is effectively outsourcing your legacy to the most aggressive person in the room. That's not tradition. That's negligence.

We don't like to talk about death. But death talks back, whether we prepare or not. When we stay silent, others speak for us. And they don't always say what we would've wanted.

In a small society, the damage lingers. Families stop speaking. Communities take sides. Trust erodes quietly. All because a pen was never lifted when it mattered most.

The truth is plain. If you don't write a will in Turks and Caicos, you're not choosing peace. You're choosing a fight you won't be around to referee.



## TCI REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATE IN LANDMARK REGIONAL CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP

Dr. Holly Hamilton, Director of the Turks and Caicos Islands Weather Service, and Mr. Damian Wilson, Deputy Director of Radio Turks and Caicos, recently represented these islands at a landmark regional crisis communications workshop held from 20th-21st January, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

The two-day workshop brought together more than 60 professionals from across the Caribbean, including representatives from national meteorological and hydrometeorological services, disaster management agencies, government information services, and media organizations. The initiative aimed to strengthen collaboration, enhance knowledge-sharing, and promote mutual understanding to improve crisis communication during extreme weather and disaster events.

Participants examined existing gaps in regional crisis communication systems and explored strategies to ensure timely, accurate, and effective public information dissemination before, during, and after emergencies. Reflecting on the experience, Dr. Hamilton described the workshop as highly productive, highlighting discussions on effective messaging, early warning systems, and the importance of engaging the media as strategic partners.

"Media partnership is critical to successful early warning and disaster response," Dr. Hamilton stated. "From meteorological ser-

vices to disaster management agencies and the media, we all share responsibility for protecting lives and property. There is significant opportunity for improvement in standardizing communication templates, clearly communicating potential impacts, and ensuring our messages prompt responsible public action. Hosting a similar workshop in the Turks and Caicos would further strengthen our national preparedness and resilience."

Mr. Wilson also emphasized the value of the regional exchange, noting the importance of evidence-based communication strategies. "This workshop provided me with an excellent opportunity to learn from regional best practices and to advocate for greater integration of social science research into communication planning," he said. "Such research provides the empirical foundation needed to develop measurable and effective communication outcomes. I am encouraged by the strong support from our regional colleagues for this approach."

This workshop marked the first time that weather services, disaster management, government information, and media services from across the region convened in a single forum to address crisis communications collectively. The initiative forms part of a broader regional effort to enhance disaster resilience through coordinated, accurate, and impactful public messaging. The workshop was hosted by the Caribbe-



*Damian Wilson, Dr. Holly Hamilton*

an Meteorological Organization (CMO) in partnership with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), the Caribbean Disaster

Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the CREWS Initiative, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).



# Adam Stewart named CNW's Businessman/ Philanthropist for 2025

Executive Chairman of Sandals Resorts, Adam Stewart, has been named Businessman/Philanthropist of the Year for 2025 by the regional news publication, Caribbean National Weekly (CNW). The publication recognised Stewart for his leadership in hospitality, his ongoing investments in regional tourism, his steady crisis response and his philanthropic work throughout what it described as a year filled with both remarkable achievements and significant challenges. CNW highlighted how 2025 saw industry recognition for Stewart, major announcements of multimillion-dollar developments across his all-inclusive luxury resort brands and an invitation to join the prestigious Wall Street Journal CEO Council. But the publication said his impact extended well beyond business milestones.

"In 2025, the Executive Chairman of

Sandals Resorts didn't just guide his iconic hospitality empire through crisis – he used its scale and influence to help shape Jamaica's rebound and lay groundwork for future regional growth," CNW wrote. The defining moment, it said, came in late October when Hurricane Melissa caused severe damage to parts of Jamaica's tourism infrastructure. Stewart responded by leading transparent communication with global travel advisors, partners and team members, and made a landmark pledge, that 100 per cent of Sandals and Beaches employees would remain on payroll and receive Christmas bonuses, even at resorts temporarily closed for extensive restoration and upgrades. The company also committed more than US\$3 million in staff recovery aid, providing direct support to families affected by the storm. CNW further highlighted the work of



STEWART...This award reflects far more than any one individual.

the Sandals Foundation under Stewart's guidance, noting record levels of community engagement and targeted disaster recovery support in healthcare, livelihoods and the environment. In response to the honour, Stewart said he was "deeply humbled" to receive the Businessman/Philanthropist of the Year recognition and expressed his gratitude to his teams and partners for their dedication during an extraordinary year. "This award reflects far more than any one individual. It is a direct re-

sult of people showing up every day for their communities and believing business is a force for good. "It belongs to the extraordinary teams who carry our shared vision forward – especially the Sandals Foundation, whose work continues to create lasting change across education, health care, disaster relief and environmental stewardship," Stewart stated. "To every colleague and partner who helps bring this mission to life- thank you for your commitment, heart and belief."

# Border Force Marks Law Enforcement Week with National Church Service

The Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force commenced the observance of Law Enforcement Week 2026, held under the theme "Strengthening Unity, Honouring Service, Protecting Our Borders," with simultaneous church services on Sunday, 25 January 2026. The services brought together officers, families, government officials, and partner agencies in reflection, prayer, and thanksgiving. Services were held at Salem Baptist Church in Grand Turk and the Church of God of Prophecy-Blue Hills in Providenciales, underscoring the importance of faith, unity, and moral grounding in the demanding work of law enforcement. The services were attended by members of the Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force, the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, other law-enforcement partners, and members of the wider community. On Providenciales, the Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration

and Border Services joined in worship and reflection. In his remarks at the Church of God of Prophecy- Blue Hills, the Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services, Hon. Jamell Robinson, reminded officers of God's protection and guidance, citing Isaiah 54:17: "No weapon formed against you shall prosper." He noted that this promise extends beyond physical protection, offering reassurance of God's covering over decisions, judgment, and purpose, while reaffirming the Government's commitment to supporting officers and their families. At the Salem Baptist Church service in Grand Turk, Mr. Pascal Bacchus, Acting Permanent Secretary, speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Immigration and Border Services, highlighted the indispensable role of faith in safeguarding the nation, referencing Psalm 127:1: "Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain." He emphasized



Deputy Premier Hon. Jamell Robinson (fourth from left), Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey (third from left), Director General for the TCI Border Force Emilio Seymour (fifth from left) and Superintendent of Police Dwight Gardiner (right) join Border Force Members in a photo op at a church service.

that while law-enforcement work is demanding and often unseen, its impact is deeply felt, and expressed sincere appreciation for the professionalism, resilience, and sacrifice of officers and their families. Both services offered prayers for the safety, strength, and wisdom of law-enforcement personnel as they continue to protect the borders, up-

hold the law, and serve the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands with integrity and dedication. The Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force extends heartfelt thanks to the clergy, congregations, partner agencies, and all attendees for their support in making the church services of Law Enforcement Week 2026 meaningful and dignified.





# TCREA Welcomes Newly Elected Ambassador and Highlights Early Community Impact Initiative

The Turks and Caicos Real Estate Association (TCREA) continues to demonstrate its strong commitment to community outreach and social responsibility through meaningful initiatives led by its newly appointed Ambassador, Lisa Lopes.

Elected on November 24, 2025, Lopes, an agent with Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty, has embraced the Ambassador role with a strong commitment to advocacy, outreach, and meaningful engagement on behalf of the Association. A key component of the position is to help amplify TCREA's collective social impact efforts while fostering collaboration among members.

As part of this mandate, Lopes launched her December 2025 Passion Project, an initiative focused on supporting residents of wellness and aged-care centres across the Turks and Caicos Islands. The project was introduced at the Association's Annual General Meeting, where TCREA agents contributed \$831 toward the initiative. This amount was personally matched by Lopes and matched again by Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty, with additional contributions bringing total funds raised to nearly \$3,000.

The initiative supported residents at several wellness and aged-care facilities across Providenciales, Grand Turk, and South Caicos, including the Eliza M. Basden Aged Care Centre, the Heart of Gold Personal Care Homes, and the Sylvia Melhado Aged Care and Rehabilitation Centre. A total of 24 senior citizens and two teenagers benefited from the programme.

Recipients received thoughtfully assembled care hampers designed to promote comfort, dignity, and well-being. Items included personal care products, snacks, clothing, and recreational items, along with a few international treats that added a personal and unexpected touch.

The initiative was made possible through the collective efforts of TCREA members and volunteers, with support from industry partners who assisted with logistics and inter-island transpor-



tation. Several members also dedicated personal time to assist with preparation, delivery, and in-person visits, reinforcing the Association's commitment to hands-on community engagement.

"This initiative reflects the values of TCREA- collaboration, service, and community responsibility," Lopes said. "I am deeply grateful to the TCREA members, partners, and volunteers whose generosity, time, and support made this possible. A very special thank you to Mr. Lyndon Gardiner, Mr. Robinson, and InterCaribbean Airways for graciously transporting over 200 pounds of gift boxes to Grand Turk on Christmas Eve. As Ambassador, my goal is to help bring visibility to the many ways our members contribute beyond the profession, and to build momentum around initiatives that create lasting impact."

TCREA views the December 2025 Pas-

sion Project as an early example of the role the Ambassador programme will play in advancing outreach initiatives and strengthening the Association's connection to the wider community. Additional projects and partnerships are expected to roll out throughout the year.

To learn more about the TCREA Ambassador Programme and its community initiatives, visit [www.tcrea.com](http://www.tcrea.com). End.

## About Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty

Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty (TCSIR) is the premier luxury real estate brokerage firm in Turks & Caicos. Boasting a profound track record and significant foothold in all market segments, particularly new development and trophy properties, TCSIR is

the go-to resource for developers, investors, home-buyers and sellers in this highly sought-after destination. With strong leadership backed by the world's greatest international luxury real estate brand, and a strong team of agents, TCSIR is influential in both the local community as well as the greater real estate industry worldwide. The firm's signature office is ideally located in uptown Grace Bay with satellite offices at Grace Bay Club, The Palms, Point Grace and South Bank.

For more information, please visit [www.turksandcaicossir.com](http://www.turksandcaicossir.com).

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# New study finds hormone therapy may enhance weight loss treatment after menopause

• *Findings suggest that postmenopausal women using hormone therapy alongside tirzepatide achieve significantly greater weight loss, opening the door to more personalized obesity treatments.*

A new study led by Mayo Clinic found that postmenopausal women receiving menopausal hormone therapy lost 35% more weight while taking tirzepatide, a Food and Drug Administration-approved drug for the treatment of overweight and obesity.

The findings, published in *The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology, & Women's Health*, could expand treatment possibilities for millions of women struggling with obesity and obesity-related diseases after menopause.

Menopause can accelerate age-related weight gain and increase the likelihood of developing overweight and obesity, which are major risk factors for cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and other conditions. The decline in estrogen levels characteristic of menopause is also linked to changes independent of weight that can potentially raise cardiovascular risk.

"This study provides important insights for developing more effective and personalized strategies for managing cardiometabolic risk in postmenopausal women," says Regina Castaneda, M.D.,



The Mayo Clinic in Arizona, United States

postdoctoral research fellow at Mayo Clinic and first author of the study.

Hormone therapy is the most effective first-line treatment for menopausal symptoms, including hot flashes and night sweats, which affect up to 75% of postmenopausal women. While evidence on how this therapy may interact with weight-loss medications is limited, some research has shown that postmenopausal women using hormone therapy experience greater weight loss when treated with the GLP-1-based obesity medication semaglutide.

No previous studies have examined whether hormone therapy might influence outcomes with tirzepatide. Dr. Castaneda and a team of researchers set out to investigate this relationship by reviewing data from 120 participants with overweight or obesity who received tirzepatide for weight management for 12 or more months. Patients receiving tirzepatide along with hormone therapy were compared to participants with similar characteristics who were not using

hormone therapy.

"In this observational study, women who used menopausal hormone therapy lost about 35% more weight than women taking tirzepatide alone. Because this was not a randomized trial, we cannot say hormone therapy caused additional weight loss," says Maria Daniela Hurtado Andrade, M.D., Ph.D., endocrinologist at Mayo Clinic and senior author of the study. "It is possible that women using hormone therapy were already engaged in healthier behaviors, or that menopause symptom relief improved sleep and quality of life, making it easier to stay engaged with dietary and physical activity changes."

Dr. Castaneda says, while more studies that control for these factors are needed, the findings are clinically meaningful. "The magnitude of this difference warrants future studies that could help clarify how GLP-1-based obesity medications and menopausal hormone therapy may interact. Interestingly, preclinical data suggest a potential synergy, with estrogen

appearing to enhance the appetite-suppressing effects of GLP-1," says Dr. Castaneda. "Next, we plan to test these observations in a randomized clinical trial and determine if benefits extend beyond weight loss — specifically, whether hormone therapy also enhances the effects of these medications on cardiometabolic measures," adds Dr. Hurtado Andrade. "If confirmed, this work could speed the development and adoption of new, evidence-based strategies to reduce this risk for millions of postmenopausal women navigating this life stage."

This research was funded by the Mayo Clinic Center for Women's Health Research. Review the study for a complete list of authors, disclosures and funding.

Mayo Clinic is listed as a non-profit 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.



# Nigy Boy Singer lands two hot releases in January

With two hot singles already blazing quite the trail on local airwaves, Nigy Boy is set to cement his transition from rising star to dancehall music visionary. Following a 2024 breakout year that saw him produce hits like *Continent* and *Judgement*, the entertainer says he's ready to use 2026 to prove he has staying power. "I have been mostly silent for the past few months since the release of *Options* last summer. I knew I had to return with a bang, so now I'm just doing my best to maintain the consistency I had in my breakout year in 2024," he told the *Jamaica Observer*. "My plan is just to continuously deliver good music to the people, because at the end of the day, the fans are the biggest deciding factor in what hits, so I'm gonna make sure that I give them music that can never disappoint and keep the momentum going." Nigy Boy went on to stress that if his

impressive 2024 run was about visibility and proving he belonged on the big stage, 2026 will be focused on expansion as he works toward diversifying his musical portfolio and commanding more international presence. He believes that with back-to-back releases already in just the first two weeks of January he is well on his way to growing his fan base. The singer says so far his tracks — *Hush* and *Risk It All* — have already been receiving rave reviews from listeners. Since its release just about two weeks ago *Risk It All* has racked up close to 900,000 views on YouTube. The visuals for *Hush*, which was released last week Monday, have already amassed 386,000 views. Nigy Boy says the feedback is just a taste of the success 2026 is poised to bring. "My new releases thus far have been met with very positive reactions from



Nigy Boy

the fans as well as industry players, for which I'm extremely grateful. Many are even saying that these songs are already hits, and I don't think they've been released even a full two weeks as yet, so that gives me hope for their success," he said. Expressing gratitude for the support he has received so far, Nigy Boy is encouraging listeners to keep their "ears open" and their "eyes peeled" as more exciting projects are on the horizon. He is, however, choosing to remain tight-lipped about the specifics of his musical plans.

"I wouldn't wanna spoil any surprises just yet, so all I can say is keep your ears open, and eyes peeled," he said with a smirk, emphasising that when the next chapter of his story unfolds it will be just as impactful as his debut. In the meantime, the entertainer is staying busy. With his sights set on charting a course to global dominance, Nigy Boy says he has a number of live performances in the coming months. Atlanta, North Carolina, Connecticut, Bermuda and Edmonton, Canada, are just a few of the places he is expected to make appearances.



The nominees for Best Picture "Sinners" during the 98th Academy Awards nominations announcement at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Beverly Hills, California, on January 22, 2026

Vampire period horror film "Sinners" smashed the all-time Oscars record with 16 nominations, the Academy announced Thursday. The blues-inflected drama set in the 1930s segregated US South from director Ryan Coogler scored nominations in nearly every category possible, including best picture. It blasted past the previous record of 14, jointly held by "All About Eve," "Titanic" and "La La Land." The tally included a best actor nomination for Michael B Jordan, who plays twins battling supernatural forces and racists, plus everything from screenplay to score. "Sinners" also picked up a nomination for best casting, the first new category to be added to Hollywood's most prestigious awards in more than two decades. "One Battle After Another" came in sec-

ond place with 13 nods including best picture, best actor for Leonardo DiCaprio and best director for Paul Thomas Anderson. But its female lead, 25-year-old newcomer Chase Infiniti, was surprisingly snubbed by Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences voters. Both of the top two nomination getters came from Warner Bros, the movie studio that is currently the target of a bidding war between Netflix and Paramount. Guillermo del Toro's monster epic "Frankenstein," Timothee Chalamet's ping-pong drama "Marty Supreme" and Norwegian arthouse favorite "Sentimental Value" each bagged nine nominations. "Hamnet," a period drama in which William Shakespeare and his wife struggle to cope with the loss of their son in plague-ravaged Elizabethan England,

# 'Sinners' breaks all-time Oscars record with 16 nominations

secured eight. Jessie Buckley was nominated for playing the Bard's long-suffering wife Agnes, though the film's male lead Paul Mescal missed out. — Acting races — The nominations set the stage for the 98th Oscars ceremony on March 15. While "Sinners" tops the nominations, "One Battle" remains the frontrunner to win best picture, having won almost every precursor prize going so far this awards season. The zany thriller about a retired revolutionary looking for his teen daughter against a wild backdrop of radical violence, immigration raids and white supremacists, broke the all-time record for nominations by Hollywood's Screen Actors Guild. DiCaprio, Chalamet and Jordan will do battle for the best actor Oscar, along with Ethan Hawke for Broadway period drama "Blue Moon," and Wagner Moura from Brazilian political thriller "The Secret Agent." For best actress, Buckley will compete with Emma Stone playing an alien — or is she? — in conspiracy theorist drama "Bugonia," Renate Reinsve in "Sentimental Value," Kate Hudson in quirky

music biopic "Song Sung Blue," and Rose Byrne as a struggling mom in indie hit "If I Had Legs I'd Kick You." — International voters — With the Academy's overseas voter base rapidly expanding, both "Sentimental Value" and "The Secret Agent" were nominated for best picture. But Persian-language Palme d'Or winner "It Was Just An Accident" missed out in the top category, and will compete for best international film, along with Spain's nomadic hippie odyssey "Sirat" and heart-wrenching Palestinian docudrama "The Voice of Hind Rajab." Pop megastar Ariana Grande surprisingly missed out on a best supporting actress nomination for her portrayal of Glinda in "Wicked: For Good," which failed to pick up any nods. Recently appointed Academy president Lynette Howell Taylor opened the early-morning announcement in Los Angeles with a warning about the threat of artificial intelligence. "We live in a time of limitless technology that enables us to push the boundaries of our cinematic experience," she said. "And our profound belief is that the heartbeat of film is and will always remain unmistakably human."





Lamé has more than 160 million followers on TikTok and over 77 million on Meta-owned Instagram.

Khaby Lamé, the world’s most-followed TikToker, has inked over US\$900 million in a deal which saw the sale of a stake in his company, Step Distinctive Limited, according to United States (US) media reports. The Hollywood Reporter detailed the all-stock deal between Lamé and Hong

Kong-based Rich Sparkle Holdings on Tuesday. The financial firm reportedly acquired a stake in Lamé’s company, which allows it to have 36 months of exclusive global rights to his brand, focusing on the United States, the Middle East and South-east Asia.

# TikTok star Khaby Lamé sells company in US\$900m deal

The report says the company has plans to create an artificial intelligence (AI) version of Lamé using the influencer’s face, as well as voice and behaviours, and use that version to create social media content, as well as increase his output and posting capabilities across multiple time zones. Lamé has more than 160 million followers on TikTok and over 77 million on Meta-owned Instagram. Over the 36 months, the firm also plans to capitalise on Lamé’s TikTok fanbase with rights over his TikTok shop, a shopping app available on the platform, the report said. Their control also extends

to his live stream and short-video commerce planning and programming, brand endorsements and more. Born Khabane Serigne Lamé in Senegal in 2000, Lamé, who is Senegalese-Italian, rose to fame for his reaction/hack-videos on TikTok. The company expects to make more than US\$4 billion in sales, it said in a filing citing Lamé’s cumulative 360 million fans across all social platforms. Lamé will also become a controlling shareholder. The report said any pricing will be region-specific, with independent profit accounting to match different consumer purchasing power.

# Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith stepped out together for the first time in months for son Jaden: How things reportedly went

Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith’s marriage has been a major topic of discussion in recent years. The celebrity couple made headlines back in 2020 when Jada (now 54) confirmed that she engaged in an affair or “an entanglement” with rapper August Alsina. By 2023, the Smiths also confirmed that they’d been separated for years. More recently, the couple haven’t been seen together in public, though they recently stepped out in honor of their son, Jaden. With that, an insider dropped claims about how the occasion went. Earlier this month, Jaden Smith (27) celebrated a major professional milestone as the actor, singer and designer made his debut as the first men’s creative director for Christian Loubou-

tin. That happened during Paris Fashion Week, and plenty of people were seemingly in attendance. Among those present were Jaden’s parents, as Will (57) and Jada were photographed during the festivities. Sometime later, a source spoke with People about the vibe the pair gave off: Will and Jada were great. They drove around Paris and were very happy. They were all about this amazing, united family front to support Jaden and enjoy Fashion Week. The last time the Smiths were seen out in public together was back in September 2025. It was at that time that the couple was spotted in Malibu, where they were grabbing something to eat at Nobu. (Interestingly enough, Nobu was also the same place Will and Jada were



The last time the Smiths were seen out in public together was back in September 2025.

spotted for the first time in months after the former’s Oscar debacle in March 2022.) Based on the claims above, the couple’s latest joint outing was filled with positive energy, as they basked in the glow of their son’s success. In recent years, the Smith kids have been carving out lanes for themselves within the entertainment landscapes. Jaden has acted more sparsely as of late, but he’s continued to put a lot of focus on his business endeavors. Meanwhile, his sister, Willow (25) is still making music, and she released her sixth studio album, Empathogen, in 2024. As the young adults continue to find their way and reckon with the notion of being considered “nepo babies,” questions continue to swirl around the state of their parents’ relationship. Jada Pinkett and Will Smith tied the knot in the former’s hometown of Baltimore, Maryland in December 1997. Throughout the years, the two have been open about their relationship, with Pinkett Smith being particularly candid on her since-concluded show, Red Table Talk. It was during an epi-

sode of that show that the Matrix alum addressed her “entanglement.” It was also Jada who revealed in 2023 that she and Will had been separated since 2016. Since that confirmation was shared, insiders have dropped claims about what the dynamics are amongst the Smiths. In late 2023, Jada Pinkett herself declared that she and her husband were “staying together forever” despite their separation. An insider shared alleged details about the Smiths’ marriage in 2025, saying that they were “living their own lives” but hadn’t “completely severed ties.” That last point still seems to ring true, as the pair Jada and Will Smith have still supported each other on different occasions. Amid the separation, Jada also supported the I Am Legend star after the Oscar slap, for which she also received blame. So, given how the two stars have apparently maintained a positive relationship, it tracks that they would reportedly have no problem getting together to celebrate Jaden at his fashion show.





OPEN JOB POSITIONS

POSITION: Assistant Executive Housekeeper      PROPERTY: Grace Bay Club

**Job Overview:** Working under the direct supervision of the Executive Housekeeper, the Assistant Executive Housekeeper will assist and provide support in all areas of departmental operations. The Assistant Executive Housekeeper will maintain regular and effective communication with the Executive Housekeeper on all assignments and responsibilities

**Job Responsibilities:**

- Assist in managing the delivery and measurement of guest service consistent with the company’s core service standards and brand attributes
- Provide input into research, development, evaluation, and implementation of new products, services, technology, and processes to ensure the hotel’s competitive position and in anticipation of customers’ changing needs.
- Assist in managing Human Resources responsibilities, including creating a work environment that promotes teamwork, performance feedback, recognition, mutual respect, and employee satisfaction, quality hiring, training, and succession planning processes.
- Performs the duties of the executive housekeeper in their absence
- Perform other duties as directed; and Any other duties that may be assigned to you

**Skills and Competencies Required**

- Must possess and demonstrate excellent time management skills and ability to manage resources and prioritize and organize work efficiently and effectively.
- Possess and demonstrate a keen eye for details.
- Must be an extremely honest person with high levels of integrity
- Be able to work in close co-operation with and foster team spirit with all coworkers, demonstrating teamwork by co-operating and assisting co-workers as needed.
- Communicates freely and effectively with customers, co-workers, and management to provide services as agreed.
- Provides value-added service to customers by doing whatever is possible and reasonable to meet or exceed customer expectations
- Has full knowledge of Hotel and Department policies and procedures.
- Projects a positive work attitude at all times while refraining from gossiping and other work habits that may affect your work performance as well as fellow workers.
- Demonstrate a high-level flexibility and adaptability Must have a high level of effective communication skills in both oral and written forms.
- Ability to read and write English. Ability to use a computer and computer software programs. Ability to develop data for use in operations, interpret simple and complex business statements.
- Must have a full understanding and possess the ability to develop an operating budget and other financial statements.
- Possess working knowledge of industry standards, inventory management, and cost control procedures.
- Must have excellent organizational and administrative skills. Must be detail-oriented with an ability to handle multiple priorities.
- Possess service-oriented style with professional presentation skills.
- Ability to define and resolve problems in a highly professional manner.
- Have self-control in difficult situations.
- Able to work in a culturally diverse environment.
- Able to work under stress.
- Ability to lift a minimum of 30 lbs. and push/pull more than 50 lbs.
- Must be physically able to stand on feet for long periods of time, bend, and perform repetitive tasks.
- Assist and contribute significantly to the short- and long-term planning of the department.
- Interpret company policies and provide a safe working environment by ensuring compliance with safety programs and job safety analysis.
- Assist in scheduling employees in accordance with occupancy levels and labor guidelines, and as per budgetary guidelines.
- Assist in ensuring maintenance of all equipment and hotel property throughout the designated housekeeping and laundry areas and public areas, through work orders and interdepartmental communications.
- Assist in the proper training, development, direction, and discipline of employees through the implementation of programs, checklists, and training.
- Ensure proper cleaning and project schedules are completed as directed Ensure all follow-up programs and room inspections are completed in a timely fashion according to department standards.
- Assist in maintaining effective communications with all departments to ensure a high-quality product and service are consistently delivered to all guests.
- Assist in the timely completion of department payroll as directed.
- Assist in developing and maintaining a high level of accountability and efficiency procedures in all areas of department operations Assist in maintaining constant vigilance and oversight of department operations, initiating immediate corrective action where deficiencies are identified.
- Assist in ensuring that laundry procedures and standards are established and carried out

Shift Varies. Full time. Weekend and holiday work may be required.

Salary Range: \$55,000.00 - \$60,000.00 per Annum

Interested persons should contact our Human Resources Department no later than February 12th 2025  
Email: [humanresources@gracebayclub.com](mailto:humanresources@gracebayclub.com)  
(649) 946-5050 Ext. 1020  
#38 Grace Bay Circle, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies



# Probe launched into cocaine missing from police station in Belize

BELMOPAN, Belize (CMC) — Belizean Police Commissioner Dr Richard Rosado has confirmed that an investigation has been launched into the disappearance of a quantity of cocaine from a police station and that one police officer is assisting the investigation. “I can confirm that the Belize Police Department is investigating the reported disappearance of just over one gram of controlled drugs from the Orange Walk

Police Station. One officer is currently being questioned,” Rosado told Greater Belize Media (GBM) television. The authorities said that the cocaine was confiscated from an individual during a police operation and that the arresting officer reportedly failed to submit the drugs to the station’s exhibit keepers, as required under police procedures. Media reports said that the officer



stored the cocaine in his personal locker at the station and that the discovery was made last Friday, when another officer who was on duty allegedly accessed that locker and stole the cocaine.

The police commissioner said that any officer found to have breached regulations or compromised evidence would face disciplinary action, including criminal prosecution where applicable.



OF all the progress Jamaica has made over the past 50 years — bouncing back from economic shocks to battling climate change and natural disasters — the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is most proud of the assistance it has provided in getting the country to reduce poverty levels to what is now a “50-year low”. The historic achievement has been stated by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), an institution the UNDP helped to establish in 1984. The PIOJ was preceded by the National Planning Agency which was established in 1972, and before that, the Central Planning Unit that was created in 1955. At a press conference last November, director general of the PIOJ Dr Wayne Henry reported that Jamaica’s poverty rate dipped to a low of 7.8 per cent in 2024, down from the previous record low of 8.2 per cent in the prior year. At the same time, he noted that the number of Jamaicans facing extreme poverty was at 2.7 per cent — the same as in 2023 and, more importantly, the lowest level since 1989. “We have played a big part in Jamaica’s poverty eradication programme,” UNDP’s Resident Representative in Jamaica Kishan Khoday told the Jamaica Observer on Friday as he outlined plans to mark the UNDP’s 50th year in Jamaica. UNDP first set up shop in Jamaica

on January 26, 1976 and has been here since. “Over the years and today [addressing], poverty eradication...and inequality is job number one for UNDP; it’s at the core of our mandate globally. When we started our UNDP office in Jamaica in 1976, extreme poverty rates was about 30 per cent — so about one out of every three Jamaicans was living in extreme poverty at that time,” added Khoday as he proudly underscored that the poverty rate has steadily declined to single digits today. Asked whether Jamaica could be held up as a test case for other small island developing states (SIDS) when it comes to poverty reduction, Khoday said, “There has been a lot of good practices, both policy wise, in terms of institutions [and] in terms of the types of initiatives on the ground. There are a lot of good practices in Jamaica that I think are worthy of being embraced by other countries that the UNDP is currently practising in, and vice versa.” Khoday further pointed to Jamaica’s cooperation with the African State of Rwanda to reduce inequality in the justice system, with the help of the UNDP. “What we’re doing is bringing some good practices from Rwanda — which has put in place an excellent system of digitisation into its case management process — and we are bringing those

# UNDP proud of Jamaica’s poverty reduction

lessons to Jamaica. “Likewise, we’re bringing some of the good practices of Jamaica ...on poverty reduction ...on taking action on climate change [to other countries],” added Khoday who is now two years into his five-year term in Jamaica. He argued that the heavy lifting started back in the 1970s with the initial cooperation between UNDP and the National Planning Agency, the aforementioned forerunner of the PIOJ. Khoday said the focus at that time was on establishing the initial national development plans, combating poverty in terms of the basic needs of the population, income generation, and human capacity for entering the labour market for employment, among others. The cooperation between the UNDP and the Jamaican Government also explored the basic inputs needed for farming such as access to water for rural communities, agricultural extension services — the whole gamut of services needed for a population to thrive. “That was the focus in the early years of our work at UNDP here in Jamaica back in the 70s and into the 80s,” Khoday said. “And then it started to take on more of what we would call a multidimensional lens to poverty. So beyond basic income and beyond some of those critical inputs it became a focus much more on some of the multidimensional features such as the environment, such as deprivation. “So expanding access to participation and decision-making, expanding access to justice, and looking at other factors so that in more recent years we are addressing the challenge of inequality and how factors such as climate change tie in to poverty and inequality,” declared Khoday. He told the Observer that the UNDP is aware that the gains made by Jamaica could be fragile, “so today and going

forward, our cooperation is much more about how do you sustain these gains, how do you make those achievements more resilient. “And also how do you factor in modernisation, the important role for digitisation, the challenges of informality, and rural versus urban divide.” Khoday pointed out that, “Many challenges still remain. So while we’re proud of the cooperation and doing our small part in Jamaica, the people and the Government’s achievements over those 50 years, we’re very much focused on the ongoing challenges such as inequality and, going forward, those multidimensional factors.” He argued that said climate change is now one of the biggest challenge facing SIDS such as Jamaica. “The SIDS are really a segment of countries globally that are really at the front line of the climate crisis, but also I might say they are at the front line of the challenges of sustaining those many years of development gains because of the accelerating threat of climate-related disasters,” said Khoday. The UNDP representative pointed out that Jamaica is a case in point where the challenges of climate change are concerned and noted that, “unfortunately, the last few years — whether it’s the [COVID-19] pandemic or the combination of a double year of record disasters [such as Hurricane] Beryl and now [Hurricane] Melissa back-to-back — and so we see how that fragility is becoming a protracted situation”. Khoday stressed that the climate crisis is a major focus of the UNDP as it continues to work to combat poverty in countries like Jamaica. He said the UNDP’s work on access to justice, building capacity at the community level, and building resilience into the productive sectors, are key to bridging the divide between the rich and the poor.





## OPEN JOB POSITIONS

**POSITION: Laundry Attendant**

**PROPERTY: Grace Bay Club**

**Job Overview:** Member of the Grace Bay Resorts Housekeeping team. Responsibilities include ensuring guests are provided with the clean and adequate linen services they enjoy as a part of their hotel experience, ensuring that owner's investment in linen is treated carefully allowing a full linen life and return on investment. This position reports to the Laundry Manager, Assistant Executive Housekeeper and Executive Housekeeper.

### Job Responsibilities:

- Reports to work on time, with a clean uniform, neatly groomed and in accordance with company guidelines.
- Follows hotel grooming and position dress standards, including name tag and proper shoes.
- Proceeds to Housekeeping Office immediately and follows procedures for signing/clocking in.
- Take due note of announcements on Notice Board and actively seek out information relevant to daily departmental and hotel operations.
- Following procedures, sorts all soiled linens as to prepare them for washing.
- Separate all stained linen by stains and treat accordingly
- Processes, (wash, dry, fold and press) linen as directed, as per quality standards and according to schedule.
- Maintain linens in accordance with the hotel standards by bringing to the attention of the Laundry Supervisor/Housekeeping Manager, the condition of linens, specifically those in need of repair and or replacing
- Maintain a minimum level of productivity as required.
- Check chemical and supplies inventory daily to ensure adequate supplies. Report low stock inventory to H/K Manager immediately.
- Constantly monitor supplies and linen for signs of abuse or overuse. Report any and all such observations to Supervisor immediately.
- Log and record all items received as directed and according to policy.
- Issue linen as per policy.
- Report and hand over to H/K Office all Lost and Found Items immediately. Make note on Daily Production Report.
- Ensure worksheets are completed accurately and completely. Reconcile work sheets at the end of the work day.
- Maintain a clean, neat and well-organized work area at all times
- Responsible for the safe and efficient use of equipment, preventing any abuse and ensuring that they are cleaned and turned off at the end of the work day. Clean lint traps as required to prevent any loss in operating efficiency. Perform cleaning duties as per schedule.
- Maintain constant vigilance and observation of equipment operations. Report any equipment malfunctions or defects immediately to Supervisor. Assist in physical inventory in laundry and linen Store Room as directed.
- Practice safety standards at all times including constant awareness of safety hazards
- Respond to all guests requests quickly and appropriately and remain alert, courteous and helpful to guests and fellow workers at all times.
- Has full knowledge of Hotel and Department policies and procedures.
- Projects a positive work attitude at all times while refraining from gossiping and other work habits which may affect your work performance as well as fellow workers.
- Demonstrate a high-level flexibility and
- Handles any routine projects assigned on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.
- Complete special project or assignments as directed.
- Attend and participate fully in pre-shift briefings, department meetings or other meetings as requested.

### Skills and Competencies Required

- Must possess and demonstrate excellent time management skills and ability to manage resources and prioritize and organize work efficiently and effectively.
- Possess and demonstrate a keen eye for details
- Must be an extremely honest person with high levels of integrity
- Be able to work in close co-operation with and foster team spirit with all co-workers, demonstrating teamwork by co-operating and assisting co-workers as needed.
- Communicates freely and effectively with customers, co-workers and management to provide services as agreed.
- Maintain positive relationships in the Housekeeping Department and with other departments within the hotel as well as with guests and other affiliates.
- Interprets policies and procedures and ensures proper standards of conduct and service are maintained
- Provides value added service to customers by doing whatever is possible and reasonable to meet or exceed customer expectations
- Ability to read and write English
- Ability to communicate effectively with guests and co-workers in English
- Ability to do basic arithmetic
- Responsible, punctual and neat in appearance.
- Have self-control in difficult situations
- Able to work in a culturally diverse environment
- Able to work under stress and multi task.
- Ability to lift a minimum of 30 lbs. and push/pull in excess of 50 lbs.
- Must be physically able to stand on feet for long periods of time, bend and perform repetitious tasks.

**Shift Varies. Full time. Weekend and holiday work may be required.**

**Salary Range: \$8.00 – \$9.00 per hour**

Interested persons should contact our Human Resources Department no later than February 12th 2025

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#38 Grace Bay Circle, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies



# RUTHLESS SHARKS



**HAMMER BEACHES 10-0 IN PPL FOOTBALL**



# Grand Slam Fishing Charters Expands Fleet and Services in Turks & Caicos

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos — [January 28, 2026] — Grand Slam Fishing Charters, recently recognized as Charter Company of the Year by the Travel & Hospitality Awards, has expanded its fleet and service offerings with the addition of Reel Buoys, a 41-foot Hydra Sport Vector 4100. The new vessel enhances the company's capacity and flexibility, allowing for a broader range of private charter experiences across Turks & Caicos. The new vessel significantly increases Grand Slam's capacity, accommodating up to 15 passengers for private fishing trips, snorkeling excursions, island-hopping adventures, and group celebrations. With added space, com-

fort, and versatility, the expansion enables the company to serve larger families, corporate groups, and special events seeking private time on the water.

The added capacity also allows Grand Slam to introduce group/shared charter opportunities, offering an option for individuals, couples, and smaller parties to join scheduled trips when available while maintaining the company's core focus on private, personalized experiences.

Guests can now enjoy a wider range of private charter experiences aboard Reel Buoys, including:

- Deep Sea Fishing
- Bottom Fishing

- Snorkeling Adventures
- Sunset Cruises
- Island Hopping & Cave Exploration

"This new addition allows us to offer more flexibility for our guests," Tatiana Cleare, Guest Relations Manager at Grand Slam Fishing Charters. "Whether it's a family fishing trip, a private snorkeling cruise, or a full-day island-hopping experience, we can now comfortably host larger groups while maintaining the personalized service we're known for."

Powered by quad Mercury 300 engines, Reel Buoys is equipped with modern amenities including an on-board restroom, spacious fish bins,

and over 35 rod holders. It's not just about a larger vessel — it's about enhancing the guest experience. Reel Buoys will be operated by the same experienced captain and crew that Grand Slam guests know and trust, ensuring the high level of service, expertise, and enjoyment the company is known for throughout Turks & Caicos.

Reel Buoys joins the rest of Grand Slam's fleet, including Shady Grady, Wahooters, Angler Management and Serendipity. Together, they offer a range of private deep sea fishing, reef fishing, snorkeling, and island adventure tours that showcase the very best of Turks and Caicos.

# FIFA resists calls to ban Senegal from 2026 World Cup

Football authorities are weighing disciplinary action against Senegal following a controversial Africa Cup of Nations final, but FIFA is not expected to support demands that the team be barred from the 2026 World Cup.

The issue has drawn attention not only because of events on the pitch, but also because it unfolds as the next World Cup faces broader political and logistical challenges linked to its North American hosts.

Senegal, the reigning Africa Cup of Nations champions, came under scrutiny after players left the field during the AFCON final in protest at a disputed penalty decision. The incident sparked criticism across African football and led to calls for sanctions against those involved.

The Confederation of African Football said it did not condone the actions of certain players and officials. In a statement, CAF said it "condemns the unacceptable behaviour from some players and officials" and confirmed that it is reviewing match footage.

"CAF is reviewing all footage and will refer the matter to competent bodies for appropriate action to be taken against those found guilty," the organisation said.

According to French sports newspaper L'Equipe, CAF is close to issuing a ruling. Reported options include fines between €50,000 and €100,000, along with suspensions for individual players and head coach Pape Thiaw.



*Sadio Mané celebrates with the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) Trophy*

Pressure builds for tougher sanctions Some observers have argued that the punishment should go further. Moroccan lawyer Adil Mouline publicly called for Senegal to be stripped of their AFCON title and excluded from the next World Cup.

Writing on X, Mouline said: "In this context, the ONLY sanction that can fulfill the overarching goals of JUSTICE and DETERRENCE is the formal

disqualification of the Senegal national team from the AFCON 2025 final... and the suspension of the Senegal national team from the FIFA World Cup 2026."

Despite such calls, L'Equipe reported that FIFA is opposed to a World Cup ban, and world football's governing body is not believed to be seriously considering that option.

World Cup planning shaped by wider

tensions

The disciplinary debate comes as preparations continue for the 2026 World Cup, which will be hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico and expanded to 48 teams for the first time.

The tournament has already been affected by political developments. U.S. President Donald Trump has suspended visa applications from 75 countries, several of which have qualified for the World Cup. Media reports say some football associations have raised concerns about whether players, staff and officials would be able to travel freely for the competition.

While FIFA has not indicated that those issues will disrupt the tournament, the situation highlights how decisions beyond football governance are increasingly influencing the sport's biggest event.



*FIFA President Gianni Infantino*





OPEN JOB POSITIONS

POSITION: Housekeeper PROPERTY: Grace Bay Club

**Job Overview:** Member of the Grace Bay Resorts Housekeeping team. Responsibilities include assisting and providing support in all areas of Housekeeping. The goal is to create a clean and orderly environment for our guests that will become a critical factor in maintaining and strengthening our reputation. This position reports to the Housekeeping Supervisor, Assistant Executive Housekeeper and the Executive Housekeeper.

- Main Responsibilities:**
- Collecting your work sheet at the begging of your shift
  - Handing your updated worksheet at the end of your shift (must be authorized by your supervisor before you go off duty) handing your authorized worksheet to the coordinator.
  - Ensuring that all rooms assigned to you during your shift are completed in accordance with t Grace Bay Resort room cleaning standards, before you go off duty.
  - Placing a Do Not Disturb note under the guest room door that has the Relaxing signage hanging on the handle – (make a note on your room assignment sheet – stating the time you slipped the card under the door and what time you followed up to see if the guest had removed the Relaxing signage) Advise your supervisor also.
  - Greeting guests and responding to queries in a friendly and timely manner.
  - Always wares their name badge (must be neat and tidy) your name must be clear.
  - Clean rooms assigned to you according to the Grace Bay Resort rooms standard.
  - Advise your Supervisor of Manager regarding any defects in the room or public Areas.

- Skills and Competencies Required**
- High school diploma required; training certificate is preferred.
  - 3-5- years housekeeping experience working in a luxury/fine hotel preferred.
  - Must be able to work under pressure in a fast-paced environment.
  - Must be comfortable to speak to guests and diffusing a situation should they become upset.
  - Must be well groomed, clean and polite.
  - Must have clear, concise English written and verbal communication skills.
  - Must be able to work morning shifts, afternoon shifts, holidays, weekends when required.
  - Must be flexible to cover Public Areas and Laundry shifts if required.

Shift Varies. Full time. Weekend and holiday work may be required.  
Salary Range: \$8.00 – \$9.00 per hour

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#38 Grace Bay Circle, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies



OPEN JOB POSITIONS

POSITION: Senior Chef De Partie PROPERTY: Grace Bay Club

**Job Overview:** The Chef de Partie ensures that all stocks are kept under optimum condition, mise-end-place is always freshly prepared and on time, dishes are being prepared to the correct recipe and to the correct quantity, dishes reach the hot plate or passé correctly garnished, the correct portion and size, presented on the correct serving dish in the prescribed manner. Must attend all training classes required. Report any shortages promptly to the Sous Chefs.

- Job Responsibilities:**
- Ensuring that the hotel is always supplied and stocked with the necessary pastries and desserts for the various meal services
  - Assisting with purchasing and ensuring that inventories are properly kept and recorded
  - Assisting with the recruitment and hiring of the department
  - Assisting with any function/ events that the property may be hosting
  - Assisting with the coordinating meal service with the other departments within the Kitchen to ensure that service runs smoothly
  - Helping to maintain the kitchen standards
  - Will assist with supervising all kitchen workers and give performance reviews

- Skills and Competencies Required**
- Bachelor’s Degree in Culinary Arts, Food and Beverage Management or Equivalent
  - International culinary experience in a five-star property with focuses on creative and interesting desserts
  - Candidate should have at least 3 years’ experience in a kitchen management capacity and excellent knowledge of current culinary trends.
  - Must have experience in high volume hotel business.
  - Must be competent in culinary creativity as demonstrated by cooking test.
  - Have strong knowledge of food cost and inventories.
  - Must possess the ability to handle stressful and busy hotel.
  - Candidate must have good knowledge of computers (e.g. Excel & Word).
  - Clear, concise written and verbal communication skills.
  - Candidate must be comfortable to speak to guests and conduct meetings.
  - Must have a good understanding of cost control.

Shift Varies. Full time. Weekend and holiday work may be required.  
Salary Range: \$24,000.00 - \$26,000.00 per Annum

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# GK Foods Assert Dominance in TCICA League Victory Over Air Cool Knight Riders

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

GK Foods delivered a commanding all-round performance in the ongoing Turks and Caicos Islands Cricket Association (TCICA) League, securing a 56-run victory over Air Cool Knight Riders in their 20-over encounter.

Batting first in TCICA League action, GK Foods posted a competitive 151 for 6 from their allotted 20 overs, maintaining a healthy run rate of 7.5. Ariharan Kuthalingam anchored the innings with a composed 53 off 55 balls, striking six fours and a six, while Rajakumar Kasi provided late momentum with a rapid 30 off 15 balls, including three fours and two sixes. Ashok Kumar added valuable support with an unbeaten 20 from 15 balls as GK Foods closed strongly in this TCICA League fixture. Air Cool Knight Riders were further hurt by indiscipline in the field, conceding 33 runs in extras.

Among the Air Cool Knight Riders bowlers in the TCICA League contest, Stephen Brown returned economical figures of 2 for 16, while Richard Gardiner claimed 1 for 16. Shane McDowell also picked up a wicket, though Zeddy Lord endured a difficult spell, conceding 45 runs in his four overs.

Chasing 152 in the TCICA League match, Air Cool Knight Riders faltered early and were eventually bowled out for 95 in 13.3 overs. The chase was derailed when Kevin Hinds and Aaron Mack were dismissed without scoring. Stephen Brown (23 off 14 balls) and Ricardo Johnson (33 off 26 balls) mounted brief resistance, but the required run rate quickly climbed beyond reach.

GK Foods' bowling attack was ruthless in this TCICA League outing. Ariharan Kuthalingam starred with the ball, claiming 4 for 16 from three overs, while Ashok Kumar delivered a devastating burst, taking 2 wickets for no runs in just three balls. Nagarajan Kuthalingam and Vijay Daniel Paramasivan also struck at key moments as GK Foods maintained relentless pressure. Air Cool Knight Riders collapsed from 40 for 5 to 95 all out, sealing a comprehensive TCICA League win for GK Foods and underlining their dominance with both bat and ball.

## Beaches Beat Police

In another encounter, Beaches produced a controlled all-round performance to defeat Police by 42 runs.

Beaches, batting first in TCICA League play, posted 155 for 4 from their 20 overs. Earl Henry anchored the innings with a fluent 51 off 50 balls, striking seven fours and a six, while Sidue Hunter boosted the scoring rate with an aggressive 32 from 24 deliveries, including three fours and two sixes.

After the early loss of Anthony McKnight for 14, Beaches built steadily in this TCICA League fixture, with Jerome Daley adding 5 before falling in the final overs. Unbeaten cameos from Renne Carlson Jones (7 off 6) and Kenneth Lewis (5 off 4) helped push the total to a competitive 155. Police were also punished for conceding 41 runs in extras.

In reply, Police struggled to keep pace in the TCICA League contest, losing early wickets as Alpha Edwards and Gavin Bruno fell cheaply. Shan Livermore led the resistance with 24 off 21



Earl Henry of Beaches was voted man of the match

balls, while Rojay Graham remained unbeaten on 12, but wickets continued to fall at regular intervals.

Beaches' bowlers shared the workload effectively in this TCICA League match. Anthony McKnight led the attack with 3 for 15, Jerome Daley followed with 3 for 18, and Renne Carlson Jones and Sidue Hunter collected two wickets each to dismiss Police for 113 in 16.4 overs.

The result highlighted Beaches' balanced strength in the TCICA League, while Police were left to rue costly extras and the lack of sustained partnerships.

## TCICA League Standings Begin to Take Shape

GK Foods now sit atop the Turks and Caicos Islands Cricket Association (TCICA) League standings following the latest round of matches. After three TCICA League

games, GK Foods have accumulated four points from two wins and one loss. Despite a net run rate of -0.33, their ability to secure results has kept them ahead of the chasing pack.

Jaguars, Red Strikers, Omars and Beaches are all locked on two points in the TCICA League. Jaguars have made a strong early statement with a net run rate of 4.31, while Red Strikers (2.02), Omars (1.71) and Beaches (0.31) remain well positioned as the competition unfolds.

Police, Air Cool Knight Riders and Kishco are still searching for their first TCICA League points. Kishco currently sit at the bottom of the table with a net run rate of -3.22.

With several matches still to be played and little separating the teams, the TCICA League remains wide open as the season progresses.





The Sharks Team

# Sharks Devour Beaches in PPL Football

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The SWA Sharks FC delivered a ruthless reminder of their title credentials with a stunning 10–0 demolition of Beaches FC, headlining a TCIFA Premier League double-header on Saturday, January 24 at the TCIFA Field in Providenciales. The Sharks were in complete control from the opening whistle, racing to a commanding 5–0 halftime lead before piling on five more goals in the second half. Brian Gregg was simply unplayable, netting four times (21’, 45+2’, 64’, 85’), while Joseph Friendlerr added a brace (25’, 36’) to anchor the Sharks’ attacking onslaught. Mark Edy Longchamp also struck twice (12’, 79’), with Junior Belizaire (67’) and Junior Paul (74’) rounding out the scoring in a dominant all-round team performance. Friendlerr was named Most Valuable Player for SWA Sharks, while Khavon Nelson earned MVP honors for a beleaguered Beaches FC side that struggled to contain the relentless pressure. Earlier in the double-header, Teachers FC and Flamingoes FC battled to a hard-fought 1–1 draw. Flamingoes struck just before the breakthrough Samuel Jean (45+1’), but Teachers FC responded in the second half when Ismael Athis found the net in the 70th minute. Goalkeeper Emerson Dossous stood tall between the posts to earn MVP honors for Teachers FC, while Jean took MVP recognition for Flamingoes.



The Teachers aggregation

Midweek action continued on Wednesday, January 28, with Teachers FC YS securing a 3–1 victory over Provo United SC, again at the TCIFA Field. Teachers YS came out sharp and purposeful, taking a 2–0 halftime lead behind a brace from Airlandes Nash in the 22nd and 33rd minutes. Nash later capped an outstanding performance by being named match MVP. Bredjy

Clarke added a third in the 59th minute to put the contest firmly in Teachers’ control. Provo United SC pulled one back through Junior Duran in the 66th minute, but the comeback hopes were short-lived as Teachers YS managed the game professionally down the stretch. Discipline became a storyline late, with red cards shown to Provo

United’s Richardson Saintfort (57’) and Teachers YS head coach Taiwayne Lewin in stoppage time. Diamant Ralph earned MVP honors for Provo United SC, while Tevynn Lewis served as Match Commissioner across the fixtures. The league was slated to continue this weekend. At press time, the results from the games were not available.