

**BLAZER ELITE  
REIGNS**



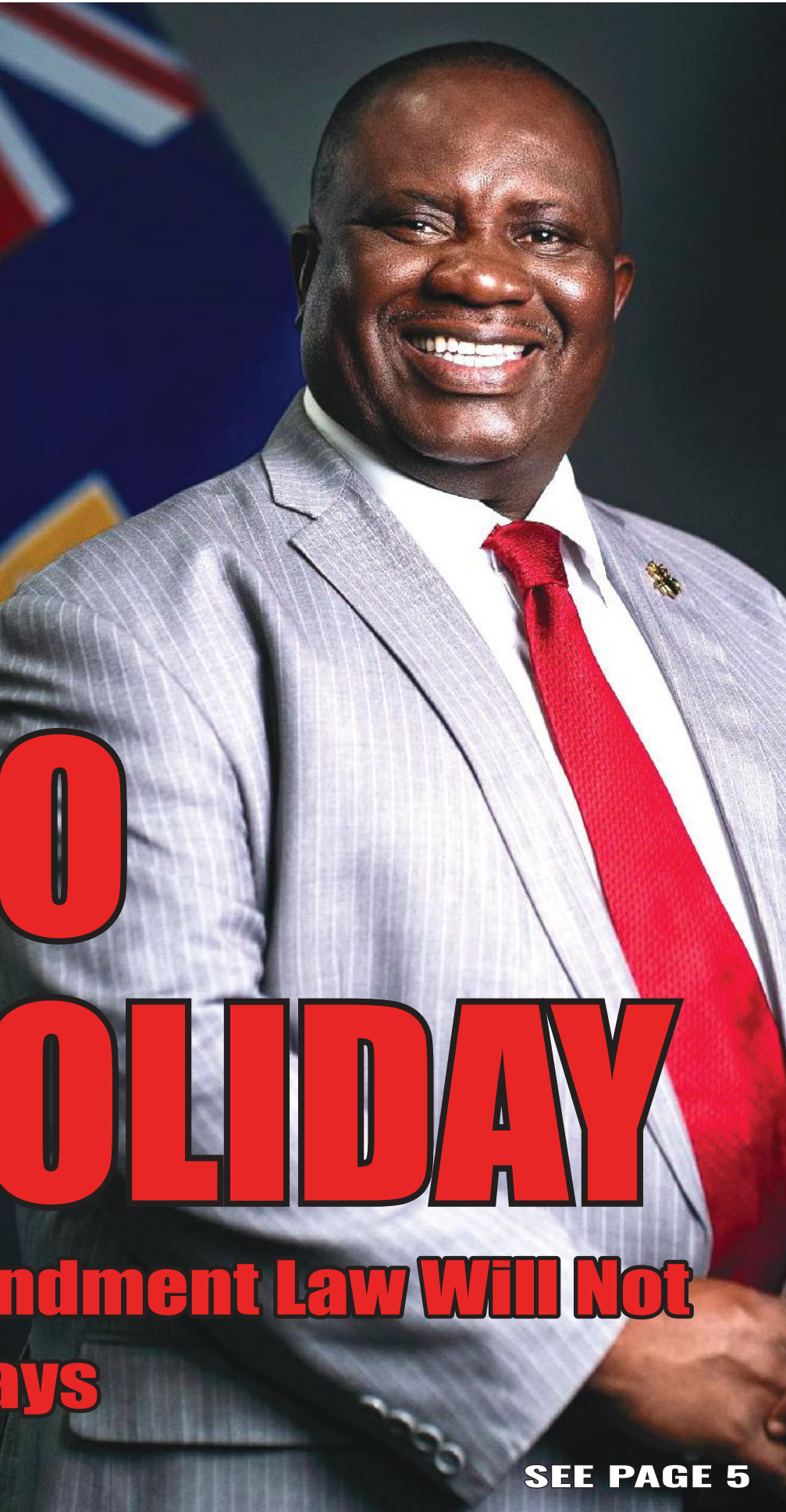
**NEWSLINE**  
*Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage*



**Gov't Approves 50%  
Minimum Salary  
Increase for InterHealth  
Clinical Staff PG4**



**Turks and Caicos  
Surpasses One Million  
Cruise Passengers in 2025  
PG24**



**NO  
LOST HOLIDAY**

**Public Holidays Amendment Law Will Not  
Cut Holidays, Gov't Says**

**SEE PAGE 5**



NEWSLINE TCI MOMENTS THAT SHAPED  
T U R K S & C A I C O S

2025

February 7 Delivers a Historic Political Sweep

The February 7 general election delivered a historic sweep for the Progressive National Party, which won all nine At-Large seats - an apparent unprecedented show of national confidence. Running on the theme “Don’t Rock the Boat,” the PNP campaigned on stability and continuity, resonating strongly with voters. Many observers also pointed to the opposing PDM’s internal disorganization as a key factor in the scale of the victory. The result cemented the PNP’s mandate and reshaped TCI’s political landscape in 2025.

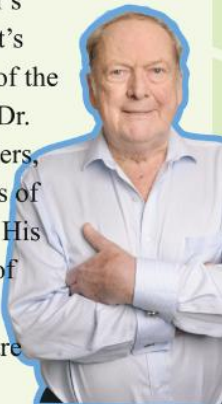
Bereniece Dickenson Rekindles TCI’s National Pride

Bereniece Dickenson may not have brought home the Miss Universe crown, but her performance sparked something far more powerful: a renewed sense of unity and national pride across Turks and Caicos. Her confidence, grace, and cultural presence ignited a wave of excitement, with the entire country rallying behind her for weeks. Through her journey, TCI saw possibility, excellence, and its own reflection on the global stage. Bereniece proved that our beauty and spirit shine brightly, with or without a crown, securing her place in the nation’s history books.



TCI Mourns the Loss of a Medical Giant

The passing of Dr. Euan A. D. Menzies in late 2025 marked the loss of one of TCI’s most trusted and enduring physicians. It’s hard to imagine the medical landscape of the Turks and Caicos Islands without him. Dr. Menzies cared for generations of islanders, guiding the community through decades of change with compassion and expertise. His impact is undeniable, leaving a legacy of service, kindness, and unwavering commitment that helped shape healthcare across the nation.



Farrah Grant Sparks a National Conversation About Identity

Farrah Grant’s historic success on the international pageant stage brought pride to Turks and Caicos - but it also exposed a deeper national tension. Even as she represented the islands with dignity, questions about her identity followed her home. Her journey revealed a painful truth: achievement does not always guarantee belonging. Through resilience and grace, Farrah’s experience has compelled the country to confront difficult questions about who is embraced, who is excluded, and how our understanding of identity must evolve as the nation continues to define itself.



Major Crimes Plummet

After recording a devastating 48 murders in 2024, the deadliest year in TCI history, the islands experienced a significant shift in 2025. Murders dropped by 40%, attempted murders by 25%, and reported rapes by 33%. Police also seized 21 firearms and more than 500 rounds of ammunition, surpassing 2024 totals. Many credit the turnaround to strengthened policing strategies, intelligence-led operations, and expanded resources under Police Commissioner Fitz Bailey, marking a critical step toward restoring public safety and confidence.

TCI Ignites a Bold New Era for Ocean Conservation

In 2025, the Turks & Caicos Reef Fund secured a permanent home for marine science, marking a defining moment for environmental protection in the islands. The 1.45-acre Long Bay waterfront property will house the nation’s first permanent marine research campus, including advanced laboratories and a living coral biobank of over 1,000 colonies. Backed by government and community support, the milestone positions TCI as a regional leader in reef restoration, education, and long-term ocean resilience.

A New Era for TCI’s Sole Energy Provider

One of 2025’s most significant national developments was the acquisition of FortisTCI, TCI’s only electricity provider, by global sustainable-investment firm Vision Ridge Partners and its rebrand to Pelican Energy TCI. Outgoing President and CEO Ruth Forbes assured customers of a smooth transition, while the Board announced Devon Cox as incoming President, effective January 2026. The leadership change and new ownership marked a major shift for a company central to daily life across the islands.



TCI Top Model Crowns First Male Winner

History was made in 2025 when Shakem Charles became the first male contestant to win the TCI Top Model crown. His victory marked a milestone for the long-running competition and reflected its evolving vision. Charles also secured the Mainstream Media Award, impressing judges with his confidence and communication skills. The moment highlighted shifting norms in fashion and representation, and signaled a more inclusive future for the platform.



The Islander Status Debate Reaches a Turning Point

Few issues shaped 2025 more than the question of who qualifies as a Turks and Caicos Islander. Parliament unanimously passed the landmark Status Amendment Bill, removing the Governor’s sole authority and requiring that final decisions be made together with the elected Cabinet. Earlier in the year, a Supreme Court ruling directed the Governor to reconsider applications from 49 individuals, resulting in their approval. Together, these developments intensified national debate around identity, belonging, and the future of citizenship.



TCI Invests Big in Home-Grown Agriculture

A major step toward national food security came with the launch of the Department of Agriculture’s Farmer Field School, a five-month hands-on training programme designed to equip residents with practical farming skills. Beginning January 2026, participants will receive full training in sustainable crop production and gain access to farming plots at the Kew Farm Agro Park. The initiative forms a key part of the “Home Grown – TCI Owned” campaign, promoting locally produced food and greater economic independence.



Sapodilla Bay Vending Clash Comes to a Head

One of 2025’s most significant national developments was the acquisition of FortisTCI, TCI’s only electricity provider, by global sustainable-investment firm Vision Ridge Partners and its rebrand to Pelican Energy TCI. Outgoing President and CEO Ruth Forbes assured customers of a smooth transition, while the Board announced Devon Cox as incoming President, effective January 2026. The leadership change and new ownership marked a major shift for a company central to daily life across the islands.



# BE AWARE

**DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE**

LOVED ONES ARE AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL HOME



*The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force wishes to advise persons to refrain from drinking and driving, especially during the upcoming Christmas season.*

- ✓ *Observe the speed limit*
- ✓ *Appoint a designated driver*



# Gov't Approves 50% Minimum Salary Increase for InterHealth Clinical Staff, Retroactive to April 2025

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Government has approved a minimum salary increase of 50 percent for all staff employed under the Clinical Services Contract with InterHealth Canada, marking a major pay adjustment for frontline health care workers. The announcement was made by Minister for Health and Human Services, Hon. Kyle Knowles, during his Two-Minute Statement in the House of Assembly on Thursday, December 18. According to Minister Knowles, the increase takes immediate effect and will be retroactive to April 1, 2025. He confirmed that the funds have already been deposited, bringing long-awaited relief to clinical staff who have gone several years without a significant salary adjustment. “These staff have been waiting for a very long time for this increase,” Minister Knowles told Parliament. “The monies have been deposited and I’m sure they are on the verge of being spent.” The Minister said the decision reflects

the rising cost of living and the growing pressures faced by health care professionals who deliver essential services to the population. He emphasized that doctors, nurses and other clinical staff remain on call year-round and are often the first responders in times of medical emergencies. In addition to the approved increase, Minister Knowles revealed that a comprehensive review of salary compensation is currently underway. The review will examine market benchmarks and performance indicators with the aim of establishing competitive and sustainable remuneration for health care workers over the long term. “We saw it fit to make sure that they got their just due,” the Minister said, adding that the Government remains committed to acting in the best interests of all health sector employees, both in the public and private spheres. Looking ahead, Minister Knowles also outlined the Government’s plans to place health and wellness at the center



KNOWLES...These staff have been waiting for a very long time for this increase

of the national agenda in 2026. He announced a year-long national focus on mental health under the theme “Shift Your Mind: Reframing Mental Health in the Turks and Caicos.” The initiative, to be led by the Ministry of Health and Human Services in partnership with the Department of Behavioral Health Services and the wider health sector, will feature monthly programs aimed at reducing stigma, promoting prevention and early intervention, and improving access to care across all age groups. Minister Knowles stressed that mental health is inseparable from overall health and called for more open conversations without shame or fear. He further highlighted the role of physical activity in supporting emotional well-being, noting its benefits in reducing stress, improving mood and enhancing quality of life. As part of the 2026 agenda, the Government plans to expand initiatives that

integrate mental well-being and physical activity, including community walks and runs, workplace wellness programs, family-friendly activities and creative spaces designed to foster connection and balance. In the meantime, Minister Knowles expressed gratitude to health care workers, community partners, faith-based organizations, educators, volunteers and families for their continued support of national health and wellness efforts. He encouraged residents to prioritize rest, exercise, communication and kindness during the Christmas season. “Caring for the mind and caring for the body go hand in hand,” he said. Minister Knowles concluded by wishing the country a peaceful Christmas and a healthy and hopeful New Year, expressing optimism that 2026 will be a year of strengthened minds, healthier bodies and a more resilient nation.

# Two Suspected Gang Members Killed in Police-Involved Shooting in Blue Hills

Acting Commissioner of Police Rodney Adams has confirmed that two suspected gang members were fatally shot during a police-involved incident in Blue Hills on Monday, December 15, 2025. According to the Acting Commissioner, the shooting occurred shortly after 4:00 p.m. when officers from the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force Tactical Unit, supported by the Serious Crime Unit, executed a lawful search for illegal firearms at a Blue Hills residence. The operation targeted the address of Gerson Peer, also known as “Lele,” who police identified as a person of interest in several murder and shooting investigations. During the operation, officers were confronted by armed suspects, resulting in an exchange of gunfire. Mr. Peer was shot and killed during the confrontation. A second suspect, identified as Keith Reed, also known as “Dun Dun,” was also fatally wounded. Police say Mr. Reed was found in possession of a 9mm pistol loaded with several rounds of ammunition and was wanted in connection with multiple murders and shooting incidents. Both men were

believed to be affiliated with the same gang and linked to the late Andrea Percival. Officers immediately rendered first aid to both individuals, but their injuries proved fatal. Three police officers sustained minor injuries during the incident and were treated by medical personnel. Acting Commissioner Adams noted that

the incident forms part of ongoing efforts to dismantle organized criminal networks across the Turks and Caicos Islands. He revealed that police have recovered 22 illegal firearms to date and have neutralized six high-profile criminals, significantly disrupting gang activity. Police officials report that overall crime across the islands is now on a drastic

decline, attributing the reduction to sustained enforcement, intelligence-led policing, and strong community cooperation. The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force reiterated its commitment to public safety, stating that these efforts are aimed at preserving the country’s reputation as a safe place to live, work, and visit.



Gerson Pierre was wanted for a number of murders



A 9mm pistol along with a magazine containing several rounds of ammunition was take from Keith Reid's body





# Public Holidays Amendment Bill Passed, Constitution Day Becomes New National Holiday

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Government has confirmed that no public holidays will be lost following the passage of the Public Holidays Amendment Bill 2025, which was passed into law in Parliament on Thursday, December 18.

Under the new law, the National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving will no longer be observed as a weekday public holiday but will instead be officially observed on the last Sunday in August.

At the same time, a new national public holiday dubbed Constitution Day, has been established and will be observed on the last Monday in August. The legislation was piloted by Attorney General Hon. Rhondalee Braithwaite-Knowles and amends the schedule of the Public Holidays Act to better reflect national, cultural, and historical milestones in the Turks and Caicos Islands. According to the Attorney General, the updated framework ensures consistency in public holiday observance across the islands, supports workforce and operational planning in both the public and private sectors, and preserves the cultural and historical significance of national observances.

Beginning in 2026, the National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving will be observed on Sunday, August 30, followed by Constitution Day on Monday, August 31. Constitution Day commemorates the introduction of ministerial government and the adoption of the Turks and Caicos Islands' first Constitution in 1976.

The updated public holiday schedule also includes New Year's Day, Commonwealth Day, Good Friday, Easter Mon-



*Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood questioned the wisdom of removing National Day of Thanksgiving from a midweek holiday.*

day, JAGS McCartney Day, King's Birthday, Emancipation Day, National Youth Day, National Heritage Day, Christmas Day, and Boxing Day.

## **ASTWOOD: Confused As To The Date Change**

During parliamentary debate, Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood questioned the rationale behind shifting the Day of Thanksgiving from a weekday public holiday, noting that it was introduced under a former Progressive National Party (PNP) administration. He asked Government members who were part of the original Cabinet decision to explain the reasoning behind the change.

## **MISSICK: Sunday Observance To Focus on Prayer, Thanksgiving...**

Member of Parliament for Leeward and Long Bay Hon. Akierra Missick responded that while former Cabinet members involved in establishing the holiday were unhappy with the change, the observance itself was not being removed. She explained that the Sunday observance would focus on prayer and thanksgiving, followed by Constitution Day celebrations



*MISSICK: Sunday observance would focus on prayer and thanksgiving, followed by Constitution Day celebrations on Monday*

on Monday, creating a unified period of reflection and national pride.

## **Taylor: The Law Allows More Participation**

Minister for Education, Youth, Sports and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor spoke in strong support of the bill, arguing that observing the National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving on a Sunday enhances its spiritual meaning. She said the change allows families and churches to participate more fully without the constraints of a workday and aligns the observance with traditional religious practice.

Taylor also emphasized the importance of Constitution Day as a civic and educational tool, noting that it promotes constitutional awareness, democratic understanding, and youth engagement. She referenced several countries, including Jamaica, The Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, the United States, South Africa, and India, where Constitution Day is marked through public education and national activities.

## **MALCOLM: Changes Have Not Diminished The Celebration**



*TAYLOR: National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving on a Sunday enhances its spiritual meaning*

Minister of Home Affairs, Religious Affairs and Transportation Hon. Shaun Malcolm also supported the legislation, stressing that the National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving had not been diminished. He said the changes take on added significance as the country prepares to mark 50 years of elected government in 2026, with the Sunday observance serving as a spiritual lead-in to Constitution Day celebrations.

Malcolm added that the Turks and Caicos Islands already observe one of the highest numbers of public holidays in the region, and the amendments simply reorganize observances without reducing the total number of holidays.

Closing the debate, Attorney General Braithwaite-Knowles said the Government plans to introduce a week of activities surrounding Constitution Day, including educational, cultural, and historical events highlighting the importance of the Constitution and the evolution of ministerial governance.

The Public Holidays Amendment Bill 2025 was passed into law in Parliament on Thursday, December 18



# We Are Our Own Worst Enemy

*An Op-Ed by Audley Astwood*

Most countries don't fall apart because they lack opportunity or talent. They fall apart because people stop pulling in the same direction. They argue over personalities instead of principles. They treat politics like a blood sport rather than a shared responsibility. The Turks and Caicos Islands isn't immune to that problem. In fact, we're flirting with it. We've become very good at blame and not nearly as good at clarity. Every setback turns into a shouting match. Every challenge becomes proof that someone else is incompetent. In the process, we lose sight of what actually matters. Who is responsible. Who has authority. And who benefits when we stay divided. Old divisions still have power here. Turks versus Caicos is one of them. It has history behind it, and no one can pretend that history doesn't matter. But today, the divide often shows up only when it's politically useful. When things go wrong, the labels come out. When things go right, they quietly disappear. That kind of selective outrage doesn't heal old wounds. It keeps them open. Then there's party politics. PDM and PNP aren't just parties anymore. They've become teams. Too many people judge decisions not by whether they make sense. They judge decisions by who made them. Some even go a step

further and quietly hope the country struggles if it means their side can say I told you so. That isn't accountability. That's rooting against your own house. There's nothing wrong with opposition. Democracy depends on it. But there's a difference between holding a government's feet to the fire and lighting the match just to watch something burn. Full disclosure matters here. I believe in and support the current leadership under Premier Charles Washington Misick. That support isn't about party loyalty. Nor is it about blind allegiance. It's rooted in a belief that direction matters and that governance should be judged by substance, not slogans. Supporting the current administration doesn't mean pretending the country has no challenges. It also doesn't excuse confusion about constitutional responsibility. Nor justify cheering for national failure. That confusion becomes especially dangerous when we talk about border security. The Constitution is clear. External security, including border protection, falls under the responsibility of the Governor. That isn't an opinion or a political argument. It's written plainly in black and white. Yet every time there's an illegal landing, public anger almost automatically turns toward the elected government. That misdirected anger has conse-

quences. It allows the office that actually holds responsibility to operate without sustained public pressure. It also keeps us fighting each other over an issue we don't legally control. All of this happens while the real authority sits just outside the line of fire. And while we're distracted, something else is happening. The British's role is becoming more pronounced. Oversight is tighter. Intervention feels quicker. The language of supervision grows louder, even as public trust in local leadership is chipped away by constant internal attacks. None of this is accidental, and none of it benefits a divided society. History offers a blunt lesson. A people arguing among themselves are easier to manage. Easier to overrule. Easier to correct in the name of stability. Social media only accelerates the problem. Half facts travel faster than full explanations. Everyone's an expert, but few stick around for the consequences. Public debate becomes louder, faster, and less anchored to institutional reality. All of this chips away at our ability to act like a country with a shared future. Unity doesn't mean agreement. It doesn't mean silence. It also doesn't mean blind loyalty to any administration. It means understanding how our system actually works. It means holding the right people accountable. It means

refusing to confuse party loyalty with national interest. The Turks and Caicos Islands faces real tests that won't wait for us to get our emotions under control. Border pressure is real. Economic strain is real. External influence is real. None of these problems care which party we support or which island we're from. They only respond to seriousness, focus, and discipline. Every moment spent tearing at each other is a moment those forces gain ground. Progress doesn't require uniform thinking, but it does require a shared commitment to country over pride, party, and personal vindication. If we want to protect the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands, we can start by stop being our own worst enemy.



# Don't Give Unhealthy People Work Permits



Dear Editor,  
I write in response to the article on the cover of the Weekly News, December 6–12 publication, "Healthcare Strained: Over 1,000 Flown Out in Eight Months." I note that the Minister of Health, Hon. Kyle Knowles, stated that the system is "in need of serious repair."  
First and foremost, one of the major issues contributing to the strain, an issue Minister Knowles did not highlight, is the Government's own responsibility in allowing employers to bring in workers with serious pre-existing medical conditions. In most countries, individuals with conditions requiring extensive, high-cost care, such as cancer treatment or dialysis, are not approved for work permits because such cases are

known to place significant pressure on the healthcare system, especially where many treatments cannot be provided locally. What is even more perplexing is that the Government sends patients abroad to designated hospitals for care. Yet, individuals from some of those same countries are being referred back to their own nations by the Government for treatment. Some may argue that these workers are entitled to care because they contribute to the National Health Insurance Plan. While this may be true, many arrive with pre-existing conditions that require ongoing treatment. At the same time, we also have our own nationals returning home after years abroad without insurance, who must be cared for by the Government, sometimes with treatment costs exceeding one million dollars per patient. I also note the recent press release regarding an increase in HIV cases. There are work permit applicants who are HIV-positive, and once they demonstrate that their condition is controlled, they are issued a "Certif-

icate of Good Health." The same occurs for individuals with cancer, diabetes, and other chronic conditions. Once approved and registered with NHIP, they are understandably eligible for treatment. However, the Government owes the public an explanation as to why a Certificate of Good Health is being issued to individuals with significant pre-existing medical conditions, particularly when work permit holders are currently receiving dialysis, cancer care, and other high-cost treatments. Issuing such certificates appears inconsistent with the stated goal of reducing pressure on the system. Minister Knowles stated that the Government is "resolute in its mission to provide sustainable, high-quality healthcare." A meaningful place to begin would be to review the policy that allows employers to bring in workers who require extensive medical care. Many of these individuals come from countries with strong healthcare systems of their own; if their governments do not assume responsibility for their

care, the question becomes: why should ours?  
NHIP employees have reportedly raised concerns to the Government for years about the significant number of work permit holders who, upon registration, are found to have substantial medical issues. These longstanding concerns should not continue to go unaddressed.  
**-Name withheld**

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

NEWSLINE TCI is located at  
1085 Leeward Highway,  
Providenciales,  
Turks & Caicos Islands, BW1.

Our numbers are:  
1649 348-9587  
1649 242-6695  
You can email us at  
**contact@newsline.tci.com** or  
**viviantyson@newsline.tci.com**

Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department





# REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

## New Turnkey Housing Development

We are looking for **highly skilled** and **qualified** developers to submit a proposal for the construction of a **brand new community** for Turks and Caicos Islanders on up to four parcels of land in the North West and North Central areas of Providenciales.

This exciting new community will consist of approximately 200 units featuring two and three bedroom single-family homes across 40 acres of land.



Interested parties can review the full official request for proposal by visiting our government website at [www.gov.tc/publicservice/government-tenders](http://www.gov.tc/publicservice/government-tenders) to learn the full scope of details on the project.

**Tender Reference Number:** TR 25/03

**Contract Number:** TCIG 07/2025

**Parcel Numbers:** 60000/247, 277, 278 & 279

**Acres:** 40

**Units:** approx. 200

**Location:** North West and North Central, Providenciales

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M.**



**CLASP**  
INITIATIVE

*We are excited to launch this RFP under the Crown Land Access Support Programme (CLASP). This is a key project in redefining land management in the Turks and Caicos Islands.*



*This housing development is a joint effort presented by the Crown Land Unit and the Housing Department as part of the CLASP Initiative. For the latest news, be sure to follow the Crown Land Unit and the Ministry of Physical Planning and Infrastructure on Facebook and Instagram.*



# Turks and Caicos Islands Prison Staff Receive Specialist Riot-Control Training in UK

His Majesty's Prison Grand Turk, in collaboration with the UK Ministry of Justice and the UK Prison Service, has achieved a significant milestone with the successful delivery of specialist riot-control training for Turks and Caicos Islands Prison staff.

All prison officers are required to complete and pass annual Basic Use of Force (UoF) training, equipping them with approved techniques to manage violent or recalcitrant prisoners and to safely navigate challenging physical situations in a controlled and professional manner. This training is essential to ensuring the safety of staff, prisoners, and the wider prison environment.

Building on this foundation, HMP Grand Turk staff recently completed the Advanced UoF training course delivered by the National Tactical Response Group Training Centre in Doncaster, UK. Over a three-week period, the team developed advanced skills and tactical responses to manage serious incidents, including large-scale prison disorder. HMP Grand Turk is the first Overseas Prison to have staff attend this UK-based specialist training—a historic achievement for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

In partnership with the Ministry of Public Safety and Utilities, the prison has made substantial investments in prison safety, staff capability, and professional development. For the past two years, HMP Grand Turk has maintained nearly 100% staff compliance in Basic UoF training—an exceptional accomplishment. The prison has also trained five local UoF instructors who have delivered personal protection training to operational and non-operational staff, as well as partner agencies whose duties may bring them into

the prison environment.

Recognising these achievements, the Superintendent of Prisons, Mr. Michael Woodbine, has continued working closely with the UK Ministry of Justice to strengthen operational sustainability, resilience, and management capability. This includes specialist training for Gold, Silver and Bronze Commanders—making HMP Grand Turk the first prison in the Overseas Territories to have its entire Senior Management Team trained at this high operational level. Maintaining such resilience is essential to operating a safe, controlled, and progressive correctional facility.

To reinforce these advancements, the prison has conducted both desktop and live exercises simulating realistic high-risk scenarios. These exercises have enabled staff to test and refine their skills, decision-making, and operational readiness—further enhancing the prison's preparedness for any serious incidents that may arise.

Superintendent Woodbine stated, "Our commitment is to build on the capabilities of our staff and organisation, to continue to support the changes and improvements at HMP, to become the best performing prison in the region and increasingly self-reliant. These initiatives and training support our commitment to HMP and to changing the lives of those in our care and in protecting our local communities and citizens through rehabilitation and reducing crime."

Hon. Otis Morris, Minister of Public Safety and Utilities, also commended the achievements, stating: "The progress at His Majesty's Prison Grand Turk reflects the unwavering dedication of



our officers and the strong partnerships we continue to build with the UK Ministry of Justice. This latest round of advanced training is not only a first for the Turks and Caicos Islands, but a major investment in public safety, professionalism, and national resilience. The Government remains firmly committed to supporting the ongoing transformation of HMP Grand Turk, ensuring that our prison system is secure, modern, and

capable of delivering meaningful rehabilitation for those in our care."

This cross-team collaboration has been instrumental in empowering staff at all levels with specialist training that strengthens knowledge, skills, and operational performance. The continued progress at HMP Grand Turk stands as a testament to the commitment and professionalism of its staff, who remain dedicated to continuous improvement and excellence.

## Turks and Caicos Tourism Youth Congress and Career Expo

Vibrant voices of the nation's youth will take center stage at the 2025-2026 Tourism Youth Congress at the Graceway Sports Center, followed by an interactive Career Expo, scheduled for 29 January 2026.

The event commences at 11:00 a.m., showcasing the innovative ideas of secondary school students before transitioning into an afternoon exploration of professional pathways within the thriving tourism sector.

This annual Congress is a critical initiative for identifying and empowering young leaders. The winner will be awarded the title of Junior Minister of Tourism, taking on an ambassadorial role for the islands' youth. In this capacity, they will gain the distinguished opportunity to represent the Turks and Caicos Islands at the 2026 Caribbean Tourism Organisa-

tion's (CTO) Youth Congress competition, presenting their vision alongside peers from across the region.

The speaking competition challenges participants to delve into tourism topics, crafting and delivering persuasive arguments that mirror the format of a high-level industry board meeting.

Following the Congress, the Career Expo will open its doors, connecting students and the public with representatives from hotels, marine operations, aviation, culinary arts, environmental management, and heritage services. This hands-on experience is designed to illuminate the diverse and dynamic careers that fuel the islands' number one industry.

Honourable Zhavargo Jolly, Minister of Tourism, emphasised the event's

dual significance, "True progress requires both vision and opportunity. The Tourism Youth Congress ensures we are actively listening to the next generation's bold ideas for a sustainable and resilient industry. Immediately following, the Career Expo provides the tangible roadmap, showing our young people the multitude of exciting, viable careers waiting for them here at home. This is more than an event; it's a direct investment in the future leaders and workforce of the Turks and Caicos Islands."

The combined event underscores a national commitment to integrating youth perspective and talent into the long-term development of tourism. Media representatives are cordially invited to attend both the compelling speech competition and the vi-

brant Expo to capture the insights and aspirations of the islands'.



Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly





# WE ARE HIRING!

## BIOSECURITY OFFICER

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

**Location:** Providenciales

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

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



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

## KEY DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

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

## QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

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

**Applications should include a cover letter, resume, copies of qualifications, & two (2) reference letters to be submitted by 31 December, 2025 to:**  
[agriculture@gov.tc](mailto:agriculture@gov.tc)



# Graceway Supermarkets Celebrates Its Team at 2025 Staff Awards

Graceway Supermarkets proudly brought its team together on December 9, 2025, for its Annual Staff Awards Ceremony, an evening dedicated to celebrating the people who make Graceway a trusted part of everyday life across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The ceremony welcomed team members from both retail and non-retail operations, highlighting the dedication, teamwork, and commitment that continue to strengthen Graceway Supermarkets and the communities it serves. From long-serving employees to standout departments and rising stars, the evening was a heartfelt celebration of service and excellence.

## **Honouring Years of Service**

Graceway Supermarkets recognized employees who reached significant service milestones in 2025, thanking them for their loyalty and continued contribution.

## **10 Years of Service Awards**

were presented to: Nikel Valbrun, Nesby Laurant, Charitable Joachim, Jamal Whyley, Astride Senatus, Ilene Morley, San-

dra Harvey, Jane Forbes, Mary Beatrice Walcott, Carola Obas Williams, Marie Lamour, Ewen Rolle, Suze Williams, Angeline Desinor, Miguel Auguste, and Patrick Musgrove.

## **20 Years of Service Awards**

were awarded to: Fedet Telfort of Graceway IGA Grocery and Anthony Plunkett of the IT Department.

## **Celebrating Excellence in Retail**

Graceway also recognized outstanding retail team members who go above and beyond every day to serve customers with care and professionalism.

## **Customer Choice Awards**

went to: Sharda Gray (Graceway IGA), Fati Abdalla (Graceway Gourmet), Andino Parker (Smart), and Jenifer Quilente (Graceway Grand Turk).

## **Staff Choice Awards**

were presented to:

Gary Pompilus (Graceway IGA), Shanan Maharaj (Graceway Gourmet), Naomi Hamilton (Smart), and Silvano Samuels (Graceway Grand Turk).

## **Department of the Year 2025**

awards were proudly

awarded to:

- Graceway IGA – Dairy Department, led by Fatima Cox
- Graceway Gourmet – Front End Department, led by Mimose Elvariste
- Smart – Deli Department, led by Emanise “Matt” Dorcent
- Graceway Grand Turk – Grocery Department, led by Jesrell Kadusale

## **Retail Employee of the Year 2025**

recipients were:

Angel Luis Bautista Brite (Graceway IGA Dairy), Kettiare Germeau (Graceway Gourmet Front End), Raguel Jean Baptiste (Smart Deli), and Clarine Augustine Carter (Graceway Grand Turk Grocery).

## **Recognizing Non-Retail Teams**

Behind the scenes, non-retail teams play a vital role in keeping operations running smoothly. Graceway proudly recognized their contributions as well.

## **Employee of the Year 2025**

awards were presented to:

Pierre “Marco” Polidor (Graceway Food Service), Leomanuel Valcin (Graceway Cash ‘N’ Carry), Telusma Faustin (Mainte-

nance Department), and Rukine Pierre (Administrative Department).

## **Department of the Year 2025**

awards were awarded to:

- Graceway Food Service – Logistics Department
- Graceway Cash ‘N’ Carry – Cleaning Department
- Graceway Maintenance – Refrigeration Department

## **A Shared Commitment to Community**

Speaking on the occasion, Graceway Supermarkets expressed sincere appreciation to all team members for their hard work, dedication, and loyalty throughout 2025. The company emphasized that its continued success is built on the strength of its people and their commitment to serving customers and communities with care. As Graceway Supermarkets looks ahead to 2026, the company does so with gratitude and optimism grounded in teamwork, service, excellence, and a shared commitment to making a positive impact across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

**SEE PAGES 14-15 FOR PHOTOS**



# HevN'Sent

ISSUE # 7

Got Questions? Let's Talk.

Send your questions to [hevnleadership@hotmail.com](mailto:hevnleadership@hotmail.com), to be answered in our next edition. Please note, ALL questions will be answered anonymously.

Your voice matters. Your journey matters.

## THE ART OF COMMUNICATING AS A LEADER

Communication is not just a skill. It is an expression of who you are. You can have the right intentions, the right strategies, even the right heart, but if you cannot communicate clearly, people will misunderstand your direction and misinterpret your purpose. This is why communication is one of the most powerful tools of leadership. It shapes relationships, guides decisions, and determines how people feel in your presence.

Whether you lead a team or simply lead your own life, the way you communicate reflects your level of self-awareness. Leadership theorists often describe communication as the bridge between what a leader envisions and what a team executes. But in real life, it is even more personal than that. It is how you correct without breaking someone's spirit. It is how you address conflict without becoming destructive. It is how you express truth without losing compassion. Communication reveals character.

### Effective Communication

Research shows that effective communication increases trust, improves performance, and reduces unnecessary conflicts. Yet the heart of communication goes beyond instructions and information. It is the tone you choose. It is the patience you practice. It is the space you create for others to speak. These are the qualities that make people feel safe to follow you. These are the qualities that make people feel respected even when they disagree with you.

Communication is also an everyday leadership tool. You use it when you speak to yourself. You use it when you explain your boundaries. You use it when you apologize or when you express gratitude. Every word you speak has the power to lift or to limit.

So the question becomes, are your words working for you or against you? Are your conversations building unity or creating distance? Are you speaking to be heard or speaking to be understood?

### Not Loud, but Effective

Great leaders are not the loudest. They are the clearest. They do not talk at people. They connect with them. They listen to understand. They speak with intention. They choose clarity instead of confusion. They choose empathy instead of ego. They choose timing instead of tension. This balance is what transforms communication from a basic skill into an art form.

### Communicate with Patience and Purpose

When you communicate with patience and purpose, people respond differently. You begin to notice less resistance,

less defensiveness, and more willingness to collaborate. This is because communication is not only about giving information. It is about offering guidance in a way that honors the dignity of others. And when dignity is respected, leadership becomes easier and relationships become stronger.

Communication also demands accountability. It requires you to check your tone, your attitude, and your delivery. How you communicate under pressure says more about your leadership than how you communicate when everything is calm. Mastering communication is not about being perfect. It is about being intentional. You will not always say the right thing, but you can always choose to correct it with humility.



### Final Thought

"Wise leaders speak because they have something to say. Others speak because they want to be heard." — Plato





I DON'T KNOW WHY I BOTHER READING THE NEWS, ANDY, IT'S ALWAYS DOOM AND GLOOM

LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, JACK, YOU'RE HERE WITH ME, YOUR OLDEST AND MOST LOYAL CUSTOMER

WELL, I'D HATE TO SEE "THE DARK SIDE"

RESERVE THE TIME-OUT CHAIR FOR ME LATER THIS AFTERNOON.

AT LEAST HE'S THINKING AHEAD.

THIS SIGN SAYS WE CAN FEED DUCKS BANANAS THAT HAVE BEEN PEELED.

BA BA BA? IT MAKES SENSE...

THINK HOW HARD IT WOULD BE TO PEEL A BANANA WITH YOUR FEET.

THEN THINK HOW MUCH HARDER IT WOULD BE IF YOU WERE WEARING SWIM FINS.

Dear Santa,

How are you? I am Stupid.

THIS KID'S GOT A MAJOR SELF-ESTEEM PROBLEM

**GARFIELD** **BY JIM DAVIS**

OKAY, HERE GOES, GUYS!

THE PLANET EARTH JUST WENT DARK. WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HAPPENED, KIDS?

OH, I DON'T KNOW, DAD. MAYBE JON ARBUCKLE PLUGGED HIS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN AGAIN?

BLINK!

DUH

# NEWSLINE<sup>TCI</sup> COMICS

I'M INVISIBLE?!

WHAT?! WHO SAID THAT?!

NO ONE TELL MY KID THAT EATING VEGETABLES WON'T GIVE YOU SUPER-POWERS

THE OLDER I GET THE MORE I UNDERSTAND THAT IT'S PERFECTLY

# OK

TO LIVE A LIFE THAT OTHERS DON'T UNDERSTAND

"Hold this up. They're our sponsor."

"RUFF IS JUST WONDERIN' WHAT SANTA IS GONNA BRING FOR HIM!"





NEWSLINE  
Heritage

# 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.



# GRACEWAY SUPERMARKETS STAFF AWARDS



Adino Parker Customer Choice Award at Smart



Anthony Plunkett 20 Years of Service



Carola Obas-Williams 10 Years of Service



Charitable Joachim 10 Years of Service



Dairy the Department of the Year at Graceway IGA



Ewen Rolle 10 Years of Service



Clarine Agustine-Carter Employee of the Year at Graceway Grand Turk



Deli Department of the Year at Smart



Fati Adballa Customer Choice Award Graceway Gourmet



Ilene Morley 10 Years of Service





Clay having fun



Deli Department of the Year at Smart



Logistics Department of the Year Graceway Food Service



Front-End Department of the Year at Graceway Gourmet



Jane Forbes 10 Years of Service



Leomanuel Valcin Employee of the Year - Graceway Cash 'N' Carry



Patrick Musgrove 10 Years of Service



Jenifer Quilente Graceway Grand Turk Customer Choice Awardee



Mary Beatrice Walcott 10 Years of Service



Miguel Auguste 10 Years of Service



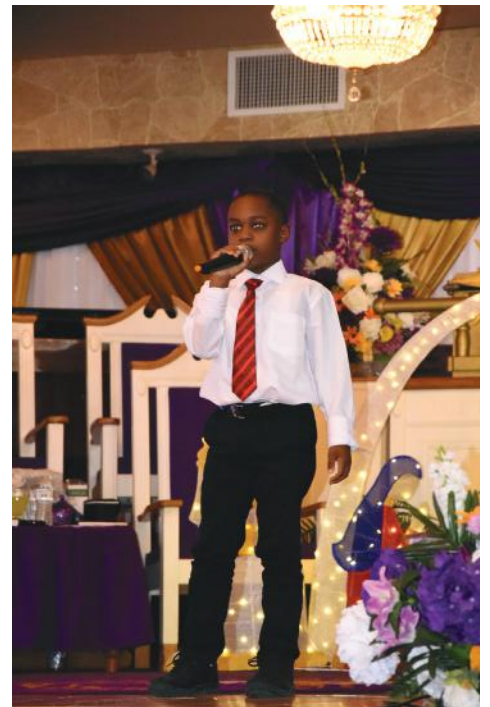


# THE ALMI CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

The Abundant Life Ministries International Church staged its 2025 Christmas Production on Sunday, December 14, at the church. The children who participated in the programme put in sterling performances. The programme culminated with the Christmas Story, being read by pastor for the Church, Bishop C.A. Williams III. The following are photo highlights of the event.









# THE SECRET POWER OF MINERALS

## How sodium, potassium, and magnesium support your whole body

By Monica Uttamchandani  
Holistic Health Coach - Turks and Caicos

Holistic Health Coach, Turks and Caicos Minerals are often overlooked, yet they influence nearly every system in your body. Your energy levels, mood, sleep quality, digestion, and even your stress response all depend on having the right mineral balance. When your mineral stores run low, your body shows it. Fatigue creeps in, cravings spike, anxiety rises, and staying asleep can feel impossible. Modern diets and high-stress lifestyles can deplete minerals quickly. Coffee, excessive sweating, and highly processed foods all contribute to these losses. Many women struggle with low mineral levels for years without even realising it. Over time, this imbalance can disrupt hydration, cortisol regulation, and blood sugar stability, leaving you feeling off-balance and exhausted.

Signs You Might Be Low in Minerals:

- Persistent fatigue or low energy
- Muscle cramps or restless legs
- Difficulty sleeping or staying asleep
- Unexplained cravings for salty or sweet foods
- Feeling anxious or irritable without a clear reason

Sodium and potassium are dynamic partners in keeping your cells nourished. They help move nutrients into cells and maintain fluid balance, supporting your heart, muscles, and nervous system. Magnesium, often called the “calming mineral”, helps quiet the nervous system, ease stress, and promote deeper, more restorative sleep. When these minerals are balanced, your body feels steadier, more resilient, and better equipped to handle daily challenges.



Simple Mineral Support Habits:

- Add a pinch of high-quality salt to your water or meals daily.
- Eat potassium-rich foods: cooked leafy greens, bananas, avocados, and coconut water.
- Include magnesium sources: nuts, seeds, dark chocolate, and magnesium glycinate at night if appropriate.
- Rotate mineral-rich vegetables like spinach, kale, and Swiss chard.

- Hydrate consistently to support mineral transport and cellular function.

### Your Body Runs on More Than Calories

Minerals are quiet helpers that give your system stability and calm when supported. They keep your heart steady, your muscles relaxed, and your nervous system balanced. Paying attention to these fundamentals can transform how you feel day-to-day.

To learn more about mineral-rich foods, gentle routines, and ways to support your body naturally, 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



## Library Services Launches Interactive Video Showcasing New ATRIUM System

The Department of Library Services is pleased to announce the release of an interactive video showcasing the features and benefits of ATRIUM, the library’s new management system. This engaging resource is designed to help patrons and the wider community better understand how ATRIUM improves access to library services across the islands. ATRIUM represents a major step forward in modernising library operations. The system enhances catalogu-

ing and circulation, streamlines digital resource management, and provides efficient report-generating tools for staff. Through real-time demonstrations, the video guides viewers through key features, including:

- Searching and reserving books online
- Accessing member accounts
- Managing loans and renewals
- Becoming a library member

Deputy Librarian, Mrs Kecha Chase, noted that the video is part of the library’s ongoing effort to increase

public awareness of available services and enhance access to information for all community members. “This video allows patrons and the community to see the full capabilities of our new library management system in an accessible format. It gives the public an opportunity to explore what the system offers at their convenience and to engage more actively with our collection, including making recommendations. It marks an important step in our move towards more modern, efficient, and

user-centred library services.” The public is encouraged to view the ATRIUM video at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1R-J8BiT4AWSprXpSrwDTdJRMVsv9azM-Mt/view?usp=sharing> The video is also accessible via the Department of Library Services Facebook page. For media enquiries, please contact: Department of Library Services Tel: (649) 946-2716 Facebook: Department of Library Services TCI





# National Land Secretariat Advances Cooper-Gardiner Reforms with Staff Training

The National Land Secretariat (NLS), which oversees the Crown Land Unit (CLU), Land Registry Department, Valuation Department and the Survey and Mapping Department has successfully completed a series of in-person customer service training sessions aimed at strengthening service delivery as part of the recommendations posed in the Cooper-Gardiner Report.

The training sessions were held in November on Providenciales at The Atrium and on Grand Turk at Dr. Linda's Life Center. Follow-up sessions are planned, with 42 staff members having participated to date.

Delivered by consultancy firm EY, as part of its ongoing contract with the Crown Land Unit, the training aimed to equip staff with the tools, insights, and standards required to develop the Secretariat's first Customer Service Charter, a key initiative that will set clear expectations for how the NLS engages and serves the public.

Participants received training on:

- Qualities needed to deliver exceptional customer service
- Understanding different customer types
- Identifying and avoiding customer irritants
- Expectations of customer-facing professionals
- Developing a strong professional portrait

"This training represents an important milestone in our commitment to transforming how we serve the people of the Turks and

Caicos Islands," said Tatum Fisher-Clerveaux, Deputy Permanent Secretary with the National Land Secretariat.

"Our staff are the backbone of the National Land Secretariat, and ensuring they are equipped to deliver exceptional and consistent service is essential as we continue implementing the recommendations of the Cooper-Gardiner Report."

Fisher-Clerveaux noted that the NLS is intentionally involving staff in shaping the future of customer service within the department. She continued.

"One of the strengths of this training is that it allows our team to have a direct voice in shaping the NLS Customer Service Charter,"

she said. "Their insights, their experiences, and their frontline knowledge are invaluable. A charter built with their input will be more practical, more relevant, and ultimately more impactful for the public we serve."

She emphasized the importance of timing, given the depth of reforms currently underway. "We are in a critical phase of institutional strengthening," Fisher-Clerveaux added. "Delivering excellent service is not just about efficiency, it builds trust, transparency, and confidence in the National Land Secretariat. This is the right moment to reinforce these values across the NLS."

Looking ahead, the National Land Secretariat remains committed

to long-term improvement. Follow-up sessions planned for January 2026 will build on the foundation established in November and continue preparing the staff for a more customer-oriented future.

"This is only the beginning," said Fisher-Clerveaux. "As we continue to modernize the National Land Secretariat, we will keep investing in our people, strengthening our systems, and ensuring that the public receives the high-quality service they deserve."

For additional information call 946-1145 or 338-2645, visit [www.gov.tc/crownland](http://www.gov.tc/crownland), or follow them on social media at @tcicrownlandunit.







Jasmine Thomas collecting her award

# Jasmine Thomas Receives Prestigious Commonwealth Youth Worker Award in Malaysia

Jasmine Thomas has been awarded a Commonwealth Youth Worker Award during the Commonwealth Youth Worker Conference in Malaysia 17-19th November 2025, becoming the first national of the Turks and Caicos Islands to receive this highly prestigious regional and international recognition. The award celebrates her outstanding contribution to youth development and her unwavering commitment to empowering young people. The Commonwealth Youth Worker Award is one of the highest honours in the youth development sector, celebrating individuals whose work has significantly improved the lives of young people and strengthened communities. Jasmine Thomas was selected from a competitive pool of nominees representing diverse nations across the Commonwealth, underscoring the global prestige and rigor associated with the award. Youth workers make an enormous contribution to national development by engaging, developing, and empowering young adults and older adolescents. Through mentorship, advocacy, and innovative programming, they inspire and motivate young people while building their skills, confidence, and resilience needed for success.

The Commonwealth Youth Worker Awards recognize these outstanding contributions and honour youth workers who foster the positive development of young people across the Commonwealth. The awards are organised and delivered by the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) in partnership with the Commonwealth Alliance of Youth Workers Associations (CAYWA). They celebrate excellence among professionals and volunteers who are at the cutting edge of youth work and aim to increase the global visibility of the youth work sector. To reflect the diversity and reach of the Commonwealth, the awards are structured across regional categories including the Caribbean, Pacific, Europe and Canada, Asia, and Africa. Jasmine Thomas was selected through a rigorous nomination and assessment process that evaluates candidates on professional impact, innovation in problem-solving and system change, quality of achievement, strength of evidence, and sustainability of their work. Nominees must demonstrate at least 24 months of youth development engagement and active contribution within a Commonwealth country, either in a professional or voluntary capacity.

Her achievement not only reflects personal excellence but also places the Turks and Caicos Islands on the international stage as a contributor to progressive and impactful youth development practices. Thereby, highlighting the vital role of youth work in national and global development. Her recognition underscores the importance of investing in youth workers who drive meaningful

change, strengthen communities, and help young people realise their full potential. Jasmine Thomas's recognition serves as an inspiration to youth workers throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands and beyond, affirming the vital role of youth work in national and global development and highlighting the power of dedicated leadership to create lasting change.





# Invest TCI, DMZ Toronto Host Fully Booked Brand Storytelling

Invest Turks and Caicos' Business Support Unit (BSU) successfully hosted a fully subscribed, high-impact Brand Storytelling That Sells workshop on Monday, 24th November 2025, led by Emily Collins, Marketing & Communications Manager at DMZ Toronto, one of the world's leading startup incubators.

The event, held at Invest TCI's Providenciales office, reached full capacity within hours of opening registration. Demand exceeded in-person seating, resulting in additional participants joining online through a live virtual stream.

Attendees represented a wide cross-section of the local business community, including boutique hotel owners, tourism activity operators, beauty industry entrepreneurs, and service-based small business owners. All came eager to strengthen how they communicate their brand value in an increasingly competitive market.

The interactive session walked entrepreneurs through practical marketing frameworks such as understanding their customer "hero," identifying emotional and functional brand benefits, and crafting a clear, compelling brand story for use across websites,



itches, social media, and customer experience materials.

Participants also completed hands-on worksheets provided by DMZ, including the Hero Snapshot, Brand Benefits Builder, and Brand Story Statement templates, which helped them create actionable messaging they could implement immediately.

"We were so happy to have DMZ partner in this marketing workshop to help our entrepreneurs tell their brand stories as we prepare them for TCI and beyond," said Dawn

Higgs, Director of the Business Support Unit. "The enthusiasm in the room confirmed what we already know - our entrepreneurs are hungry for targeted, practical training that equips them to compete confidently and tell their story with clarity."

"This session was incredibly interactive, and I truly enjoyed engaging with TCI's business owners," said Emily Collins of DMZ Toronto. "I was able to have meaningful one-on-one conversations after the workshop, and it's clear that the entrepreneur-

ial spirit in the Turks and Caicos is strong. DMZ was happy to offer this training while visiting for Invest TCI's awards gala, and we look forward to continuing our partnership and supporting the business community across the islands."

This workshop is one of several new BSU initiatives designed to offer intimate, high-value learning experiences for small business owners across the Turks and Caicos Islands. As the Unit continues to modernize and expand its offerings, business owners can expect a steady calendar of impactful sessions, including CEO Mindset for Success, Business Banking Basics, Financial Literacy for Business, Digital Tools for Entrepreneurs, and Investor-Ready Business Planning, all designed to build stronger, more competitive enterprises across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Invest TCI remains committed to strengthening the local entrepreneurial ecosystem by providing access to expert-led training, customized guidance, and partnership-driven opportunities, ensuring that entrepreneurs and business owners are equipped to grow, scale, and succeed both domestically and globally.

# Commissioner Fitz Bailey Elected Second VP of the Regional Police Association

Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey has been elected as the Second Vice President of the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP).

The election took place during the ACCP's Intersessional Meeting, being held from December 3rd to 5th at the Sheraton Miami in Miami, Florida, USA. Commissioner Bailey's appointment underscores his leadership and commitment to advancing regional collaboration on law enforcement matters.

The ACCP brings together Commissioners of Police from across the Caribbean to strengthen cooperation, share best practices, and address common challenges in policing and public safety.

This new role positions Commissioner Bailey to contribute further to the strategic direction of the Association, fostering stronger partnerships among Caribbean nations in the fight against crime and the promotion of community security.





# 4 Spices Packed With Antioxidants—Besides Cinnamon

As spices go, cinnamon tends to get top billing as an antioxidant superfood—and it's true that it's rich in these beneficial compounds, which can combat inflammation and repair damage from free radicals. But other common spices are antioxidant power players in their own right. Here's a closer look at them.

## 1. Cloves

Ground cloves are particularly rich in antioxidants. While laboratory measures of a food's antioxidant content don't reveal how the body absorbs or uses them, ground cloves do have a higher Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity (ORAC)—one way scientists assess antioxidant levels—than cinnamon, according to Seema Shah, MPH, MS, RD, IFNCP, WIMI-CP, owner of Seema ShahRD Whole Nutrition.<sup>1</sup>

Antioxidants found in ground cloves include eugenol, flavonoids, and gallic acid. A 2025 study found that clove pods' antioxidants could be more effective in lower doses than several other antioxidants, such as ascorbic acid and beta-carotene. It also revealed that eugenol binds strongly to bacterial enzymes, giving it potential antibacterial properties.<sup>2</sup>

Cloves sometimes seem to take a backseat to more popular spices—but integrative nutrition health coach Amanda Crowe, MS, RDN, INHC, told Health they're worth experimenting with. "A small pinch of ground clove in yogurt, oatmeal, or baked goods provides a concentrated dose," she said. "Whole cloves work well in simmered drinks like wassail. Clove tea or infused water will still deliver antioxidant compounds, although in lower amounts than the spice itself." Cloves may also help decrease blood clotting and blood sugar, said Shah. However, high doses (more than ¼ teaspoon ground) could be harmful to the liver, so those with liver issues should be cautious.

## 2. Turmeric

According to functional dietitian Jennifer Bianchini, MS, RD, IFNCP, you don't want to overlook turmeric as an anti-inflammatory spice. "The key antioxidant in turmeric is curcumin," she told Health. "It helps support the immune system, supports the inflammation path-

ways in the body, and decreases oxidative stress, which can damage tissues and organs over time." Though more research is needed, some studies have linked curcumin to improvements in metabolic syndrome, arthritis, anxiety, and more.<sup>3</sup>

Culinary turmeric typically contains around 2–9% curcumin—technically less antioxidant content than spices like cinnamon and cloves.<sup>4</sup> But percentage alone doesn't always equate to human health benefits.

Crowe said ground turmeric powder contains concentrated antioxidants, so "even a small amount of the dried form is effective in cooking." For best antioxidant activity, be sure to pair it with black pepper and a source of fat, which increase its bioavailability. Curries, soups, sauces, and sautés all make delicious vehicles for turmeric's warm, slightly bitter flavor.

On the other hand, high doses of turmeric can interfere with blood thinners and other medications, so consult your doctor before using it in large amounts or as a supplement.

## 3. Oregano

The herb you probably know and love in pizza and tacos does more than just tickle the taste buds. "It's right after cinnamon in terms of the

ORAC score," Shah said. "Oregano is rich in flavonoids and other antioxidants like thymol and carvacrol, along with other phenolic acids."<sup>1</sup> In terms of health, these antioxidants may help support immunity. As an essential oil, oregano has also been shown to have antimicrobial and antifungal properties, which Bianchini said could help fight infections and the common cold.<sup>5</sup> Oregano supports the intestines as well. "It helps fight bad bacteria and balance overall gut bacteria and microbiome," she added. You can sprinkle oregano into all sorts of dishes, from Italian to Mexican to Greek cuisine. "Drying oregano intensifies its flavor and concentrates some of its antioxidant compounds, which is why dried oregano works so well in tomato sauces, marinades, and roasted dishes," said Crowe. Just note that this spice's potency warrants some caution. As a supplement, oregano is very strong and should only be used under medical supervision, Shah said. And if you're using oregano oil, Bianchini advises keeping it short-term. "You do not want to take it long-term because it can disrupt the gut microflora," she said.

## 4. Ginger

Ginger makes an earthy yet zingy twist for tea, pies, smoothies, and

stir-fries. "Both fresh and ground ginger offer benefits, but fresh ginger brings additional aromatic compounds that people enjoy using in everyday cooking," said Crowe.

While you may have been in your kitchen adding ginger to meals and baked goods, scientists have been in labs assessing its antioxidant content—and finding that it has high levels that help reduce inflammation. According to 2020 research, ginger can trigger the release of anti-inflammatory messenger proteins called cytokines while reducing pro-inflammatory ones.

The specific compound behind these effects is gingerol. "Gingerols give ginger its bright, warming flavor," explained Bianchini. "When ginger is dried, gingerols convert into shogaols, which can be even more potent in some lab measures." Studies suggest that both gingerols and shogaols may have anti-tumor as well as anti-inflammatory properties.

Bianchini said ginger is safe to use in the amounts typically called for in recipes. "But when you take it in supplemental form with concentrated doses, you may need to take precautions," she said. High doses can cause digestive upset or interfere with some medications.







Beaches Turks and Caicos Master Scuba Dive Trainers (left to right) Horneil 'Mouse' Vaughan, Cleon Lewis, and Christopher Bartolome disembark a dive boat at the Watersports pier with diving gear



Tryston Sang, Beaches Turks and Caicos Dive Boat Captain (left) along with Alex Fyffe, Boat Captain show the approval signal as they bring the vessel into dock at the resort pier

# Beaches Turks and Caicos Unveils Paradise through Purposeful Excursions

At Beaches Turks and Caicos, every vacation is an invitation to discover the extraordinary beauty and vibrant culture of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

More than a luxury escape, the resort encourages guests to explore beyond its shores and immerse themselves in experiences that celebrate and help sustain the islands' "Beautiful by Nature" heritage.

From the Sunset Catamaran Cruise to the Clear Boat Experience, snorkelling and diving adventures, each excursion is designed not only to showcase the breathtaking turquoise waters but also to inspire appreciation and respect for the islands' fragile marine ecosystem. Guests are encouraged to participate in eco-conscious experiences, such as reef exploration and guided tours that support local conservation and community initiatives.

"Our excursions go beyond sight-seeing," shared James McAnally, managing director at Beaches Turks and Caicos. "They're opportunities for guests to connect with the environment, understand the local culture and contribute positively to the islands we proudly call home. We want every adventure to be unforgettable and meaningful."

Safety remains at the core of every activity. All captains and dive instructors are Emergency First



Beaches Turks and Caicos resort snorkel boat captain Magroy Haynes (left) and Dive Master Wilsa Lantigua smile as they complete a successful snorkel trip

Response (EFR) certified; this ensures that guests can relax and explore with confidence. As a PADI 5-Star Dive Centre for over a decade, the resort offers both diving certifications and guided dives ranging from 20 to 100 feet. Beginners and seasoned divers alike can share in the experience.

"We have something for every-

one," said Elvis Grant, water sports manager. "Each experience combines fun with education. Our guides not only teach water skills; they share insights about local marine life and the importance of preserving our oceans."

By venturing beyond the resort, guests discover the heart of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Every

activity deepens guests' connection to nature and supports local communities and conservation partners.

At Beaches Turks and Caicos, adventure meets purpose. Guests leave with cherished memories and a renewed sense of stewardship for the islands that make their vacation truly extraordinary





The Star Princess Cruise Ship docking at the Grand Turk Cruise Center

# Turks and Caicos Surpasses One Million Cruise Passengers in 2025

The Turks and Caicos Islands have surpassed the one-million mark in cruise passenger arrivals for 2025, underscoring the continued strength and growth of the destination’s cruise tourism sector. Preliminary figures show that cruise passenger arrivals for October 2025 totaled 51,308, representing a 53 percent decrease compared to October 2024. The decline was attributed to at least three cruise cancellations caused by the passage of Hurricane Melissa, along with 10 fewer cruise calls scheduled for the month when compared to the same period last year. Despite the October downturn, overall cruise traffic for the year remains robust. January, February, and July recorded the highest passenger volumes, with 144,039 arrivals in January, 138,931 in February, and 127,503 in July.



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, welcomed the milestone achievement, noting its significance for the country’s tourism industry and economy. “Crossing the one-million passenger mark before year end is a major achievement for the Turks and Caicos Islands and a clear signal of the strength of our cruise sector,” Minister Jolly said. “While October was impacted by weather-related disruptions, November’s rebound demonstrates the resilience of the destination and the continued confidence cruise lines place in Grand Turk.” He added that the Government remains focused on ensuring that growth in cruise tourism delivers lasting benefits. “Our ongoing focus is to ensure this growth is well managed and consistently translates into meaningful, long-term economic opportunities for Grand Turk and the wider community,” the minister stated. Tourism officials expect cruise arrivals to remain strong through the remainder of the year, supported by renewed scheduling and sustained interest from major cruise lines.



Carnival Magic docking at the Grand Turk Cruise Center





# United Way TCI, Worldwide Witness Powerful “Yes I Can Read” Impact In Local Schools

United Way Turks and Caicos Islands, together with visiting United Way Worldwide Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Samuel Gonzalez, conducted an inspiring site visit to two schools participating in the Yes I Can Read literacy programme. The visits, held on Thursday, December 4th, highlighted the transformative impact of the programme on young learners and strengthened ties between United Way TCI and the global United Way network.

Chairman Mark A. Fulford, CEO Claudine Ewing, Vice Chairman Mr. Rex Messam, and Mr. Gonzalez began the day at Enid Capron Primary School, where they were welcomed by Reading Teacher Mrs. Farrington and Vice Principal Mrs. Swan. Students proudly demonstrated their sight-word mastery, reading fluency and growing confidence as they engaged with the visiting officials. Their excitement was evident, and the progress they displayed underscored the programme's impact inside the classroom.

Mrs. Farrington expressed gratitude for the consistent support from United Way, emphasizing how the programme has strengthened student performance. Vice Principal Mrs. Swan echoed these remarks, highlighting the alignment between the Yes I Can Read programme and the school's overall literacy goals. Students shared their appreciation as well, expressing how much they enjoy the programme and thanking the visitors for supporting their learning journey.

The second visit took the team to Thelma Lightbourne Primary School, where they were joined by Ms. Maureen Grant Hayes, Director of the Waugh Family Foundation, a longstanding supporter of United Way TCI. There, they were warmly received by Principal Mrs. Cox-Foster and Reading Specialist Mrs. Marjorie Bassett.

In a lively and engaging session, Mrs. Bassett led students through sight-word exercises and reading activities, giving the delegation a firsthand look at how children are progressing through the programme. The

students eagerly participated, confidently showcasing their skills and expressing their gratitude for the opportunity to be part of Yes, I Can Read.

Ms. Grant Hayes offered warm and positive remarks about the programme, noting the clear improvement in students' reading abilities and commending the teachers' dedication. She applauded United Way TCI for implementing a model that produces measurable, meaningful results in the classroom.

One of the most touching moments of the day came when a young student offered a heartfelt prayer for the programme, asking that it continues “so all children can learn to read and do better in school.” The gesture resonated deeply with the delegation and served as a powerful reminder of the programme's emotional and academic impact.

Mr. Gonzalez praised the teachers for their

commitment and expressed admiration for United Way TCI's leadership, noting that the Yes I Can Read programme reflects the very best of the United Way movement: community-driven solutions that change lives.

Chairman Mark Fulford reflected on the significance of the visit.

“Today reminded us why this programme matters. Seeing children reading with confidence, recognizing sight words and expressing pride in their progress shows us the future of these Islands. We are grateful to our teachers, our partners and to the students who welcomed us with such warmth and joy.”

CEO Claudine Ewing added, “The enthusiasm we saw in both schools shows that literacy is not just improving, it is transforming lives. Our teachers are doing exceptional work and our students are responding with determination and excitement.

We remain committed to expanding this programme so that even more children can benefit.”

Vice Chairman Rex Messam also shared his appreciation for the experience, noting the dedication of teachers and the remarkable engagement from students.

The December 4th visits reaffirmed the power of the Yes I Can Read initiative, strengthened collaboration with United Way Worldwide and highlighted the invaluable role of partners such as the Waugh Family Foundation. United Way TCI extends heartfelt thanks to Enid Capron Primary School and Thelma Lightbourne Primary School, their principals, administrators, teachers and students for their warm welcome and inspiring demonstrations.

United Way TCI remains committed to ensuring that every child in the Turks and Caicos Islands has the opportunity to read, learn and succeed.







# SANDALS RESORTS WELCOMES TRAVEL ADVISORS BACK TO JAMAICA

In a powerful show of unity, Sandals Resorts welcomed nearly 400 travel advisors and industry partners to its home country for a special “Back to Jamaica” immersion event at Sandals Dunn’s River last week.

The immersive 4-day experience, the first large-scale industry gathering on the island since Hurricane Melissa, was designed around a single, powerful purpose: to show, not tell, that Jamaica is ready to welcome travelers back.

Bringing the island’s unmistakable energy, beauty and resilience vividly to life, the event served as a reaffirmation of Jamaica’s resilience and its readiness ahead of the December 6 reopening of Sandals and Beaches Resorts in Ocho Rios and Negril.

“Seeing is believing,” said Adam Stewart, executive chairman, Sandals Resorts at the cornerstone business session held on Friday, December 5. “Much of Jamaica was largely unaffected and it is important that you come and see it. Of course, I can stand on a stage and say Jamaica is ready, but when you walk the roads, meet the people, visit the attractions and feel the spirit of this island for yourself — you know it. Jamaica has never looked more beautiful, and the gratitude of our people has never been stronger,” Stewart told an enthusiastic audience.

Echoing Donovan White, director of tourism at the Jamaica Tourist Board that it had only been 38 days since the storm, Stewart reinforced that Jamaica’s recovery is both ongoing and deeply collaborative, crediting the tireless work of communities, team members, government partners and international allies.

White thanked Sandals Resorts and its partners for their continued collaboration and underscored strong forward demand and the importance of getting the message out that Jamaica is open. He emphasized that while a narrow corridor of the island sustained notable damage, “the vast majority of Jamaica is open, vibrant and eager to welcome visitors.”

Travel Advisors: “The Single Strongest Force for Recovery”

Gary C. Sadler, executive vice president of sales & industry relations at Unique Vacations Inc., emphasized how travel advisors are central to Sandals’ success and their participation, crucial to restoring

confidence in travelers considering Jamaica. “Travel advisors play an essential role in telling Jamaica’s story,” said Sadler. “Bringing you here created a meaningful opportunity to reconnect with the island you love. This is your customer and our guest; together, we share the responsibility of caring for them, reassuring them and inspiring them to come back to Jamaica.”

Zane Kerby, president & CEO of American Society of Travel Advisors (ASTA), praised the spirit and composure of Jamaicans in the wake of the storm, noting that the warmth and optimism on display was “one of Jamaica’s greatest strengths.”

He also underscored the crucial contribution of advisors in balancing negative imagery. “Your role as demand creators has never been more important,” Kerby told the audience. “Every itinerary you build, every honeymoon or family reunion you plan, sends economic lifelines rippling throughout Jamaica. Travel restores jobs, rebuilds communities and accelerates recovery faster than anything else. Keep telling Jamaica’s story.”

**A Unified Tourism Ecosystem**

The programme brought together Jamaica’s public and private sector leaders. In addition to Donovan White, Jeremy Jones, Sandals’ regional managing director for Jamaica, detailed ongoing investments in the destination, crediting Sandals’ success to careful preparation. “Preparing properly is how you recover faster,” Jones said.

Shane Munroe, CEO of Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay, recounted the extraordinary efforts to reopen the airport that welcomes 70% of all visitors to Jamaica and acknowledged the support of Sandals Resorts.

Travel advisors explored the island through Island Routes excursions and visits to open attractions, including Dunn’s River Falls, Mystic Mountain, Yaaman Adventure Park, championship golf, luxury catamaran cruises and more, reinforcing that Jamaica’s tourism ecosystem is very much alive.

“Tourism doesn’t work unless the entire ecosystem comes back together,” Stewart said. “From taxi drivers and tour operators to craft vendors and restaurateurs — they’ve opened their doors for you and are ready to welcome your return.”

Sandals Foundation Executive Director Heidi Clarke received a standing ovation for her work leading relief efforts in Jamaica’s hardest hit communities. The goal now, said Clarke, was to get schools back open quickly, and return children to, “normalcy, learning, hot meals and love.”

In one of the afternoon’s most moving moments, local schoolchildren whose voices and energy brought the room to its

feet, serenaded the audience, concluding with a tear-jerking rendition of One Love—a vivid reminder of why recovery matters.

**Jamaica Is Ready**

A celebratory beach party, infused with the music, flavors and unmistakable joy of Jamaica, brought the event to an uplifting close, a fitting end to a gathering that symbolized not just recovery, but renewal.







The Digicel Group Procurement team at CIPS Caribbean Conference and Awards 2025

Digicel Group has become the first company in the Caribbean to be awarded the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS) Corporate Ethical Procurement & Supply Kitemark, joining an elite group of organisations worldwide recognised for excellence in ethical procurement and supply chain integrity.

The award was presented last week at the first CIPS Caribbean Conference and Awards at the Hyatt Regency in Trinidad, where Digicel's Procurement team accepted the distinction.

The accreditation highlights Digicel's commitment to ethical sourcing, supplier integrity, and strong gover-

# Digicel Becomes the Caribbean's First to Achieve CIPS Ethical Procurement & Supply Kitemark Accreditation

nance. It is awarded to organisations that demonstrate consistent ethical practices across their procurement process and is validated through independent audits.

"This accreditation is an important reflection of how we do business," said Arshad Ali, Director of Group Procurement, Supply Chain & Real Estate for Digicel. "It demonstrates the significant progress we have made in embedding ethical, transparent, and accountable procurement practices for the Group and reinforces our commitment to raising the bar for responsible sourcing and supply chain governance in the region."

For customers and partners, the CIPS Kitemark provides assurance that Digicel operates ethically and responsibly across its supply chain. Procurement decisions are guided not only by commercial value but

also by ethical considerations, ensuring every interaction reflects integrity and accountability.

Partners can expect fair, transparent engagement, clear ethical standards, and stronger long-term relationships built on trust and compliance, creating a more stable and reliable ecosystem for everyone involved.

"This award highlights Digicel's commitment to ethical practices, along with the continued enhancement of our ethics and compliance programmes. It also gives our customers, suppliers, and partners confidence that Digicel is committed to the highest ethical standards," said Michael Watson, Chief Compliance and Cyber Security Officer for Digicel Group.

This milestone underscores Digicel's ongoing commitment to ethical leadership, responsible growth, and delivering long-term value for the region.

# Message from the President of the Bar Council – Turks and Caicos Islands

*World Human Rights Day – 10 December 2025*

*Theme: Human Rights – Our Everyday Essentials*

Today, the Turks and Caicos Islands joins the global community in observing World Human Rights Day. This occasion reminds us that human rights are not distant ideals. They are the everyday essentials that support a just, peaceful and dignified society.

In the past year, our islands have faced many challenges, yet we have also seen encouraging progress. Under the leadership of Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey, serious crime has decreased by more than 40 percent. The successful apprehension of suspects in the tragic mass-shooting incident who now await trial reinforces the importance of pub-

lic safety, accountability and the protection of life and security for all residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The work of the Human Rights Commission continues to play an important role. Its inspection of His Majesty's Prison and its efforts to promote children's rights across our primary schools demonstrate the commitment of our institutions to fairness, humane treatment and education on the values that sustain our democracy.

Our islands also continue to navigate the complex pressures created by irregular migration. This issue affects national security, public resources and



the daily lives of our people. The Bar Council affirms that strong and lawful border enforcement is essential for maintaining order and protecting our community. At the same time, all persons within our jurisdiction must be treated in accordance with the law. Due process, humane treatment and orderly procedures are fundamental requirements of the rule of law. Upholding our borders and upholding our values must always work together.

We also recognise broader human rights concerns, including the right to health and access to essential services. Strengthening the administration of justice, improving timeliness and transparency in the court process and ensuring equal access to justice remain central to public confidence in our legal

system.

We commend the ongoing efforts of the Judiciary to enhance transparency and accessibility within the justice system, and we encourage the continued strengthening of these important principles which support public confidence and the rule of law.

On this World Human Rights Day, I call on all institutions, justice partners and community stakeholders to renew our collective commitment to dignity, fairness and the rule of law. Let us continue to build a society where human rights are respected, protected and lived in the everyday experiences of our people.

**Mark A. Fulford**  
**President**

**Turks and Caicos Islands Bar Council**



# BLAZER ELITE REIGNS

Local Boys Play Huge Role in Bahamas Sports Academy's Dominance





# Salt Rakers Open Water Swim Returns to Grace Bay Shores

The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club's Annual Open Water Swimming Competition returns each March to the world-famous shores of Grace Bay Beach, staged directly in front of Rickie's Flamingo Café in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands. Now firmly established as a marquee community sporting event, the competition continues to grow in participation and excitement, welcoming swimmers of all ages and ability levels. The 2026 edition

will feature race distances of 2.5 kilometres, 1 kilometre, 500 metres and 100 metres, providing opportunities for elite competitors, recreational swimmers, youth athletes and first-time open-water participants alike. Beyond competition, the event promotes healthy lifestyles, aquatic sports development and ocean safety, while offering a stunning backdrop that highlights the natural beauty of Grace Bay. Families,

spectators and visitors are encouraged to come out and cheer on the athletes as the beach comes alive with sport and community spirit. For registration details or additional information, contact the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club at (649) 241-1272 or via email at [saltrakers@gmail.com](mailto:saltrakers@gmail.com). Join the excitement for a memorable day of swimming, community and fun in the Turks and Caicos Islands.



# TCIFA Women's Football Festival

The Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) Staged a Female Football Festival at the TCIFA Field at Venetian Road. The event was held from December 11 to 14. Two teams – Antigua & Barbuda and Renegades from The Bahamas – were invited to match skills with the local Senior Women. This following NEWSLINETCI Photos are from the match between the Renegades (in blue) and Antigua & Barbuda.



PHOTOS : VIVIAN TYSON



# FORMER WEST INDIES STAR MARLON SAMUELS VISITS SPORTS COMMISSION

Former Jamaican and West Indies batting star, Marlon Samuels (second left), took time from his vacation in the Turks and Caicos Islands to pay a visit to the office of the Sports Commission in Providenciales recently.

Samuels who was a key member of the West Indies team that won the 2012 ICC World Twenty20 and 2016 ICC World Twenty20 Tournament and was named man of the match in the final of both tournaments, met with Sports Director Jarrett Forbes (left), Deputy Director Alvin Parker (right) and Jonathan Ramraj (second right), CFO. Cricket is the national sport of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Samuels made his Test debut in Australia in 2000, and his One Day International debut against Sri Lanka in Nairobi during the ICC Knockout Trophy the same year.

In 2013 he was named one of the Wisden Cricketers of the Year. He was one of the franchise players for the inaugural Caribbean Premier League. In 2016 the West Indies Cricket Board named Samuels as the ODI Player of the Year and the Cricketer of the Year.

On 4 November 2020, Samuels announced his retirement from professional cricket.



## TWO WAREHOUSE LABOURERS NEEDED

Ananda Ltd. AV Butterfield Drive has an opening for a **Labourers**; this position is currently held by a work permit holder.

**Responsibilities of this position include:**

- Heavy lifting, assist customers in placing goods purchased onto delivery truck/van
- Maintain safe and clean work environment, placing goods purchased onto customers' truck/van

**EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS:**

Minimum 2 years experience as a Labourer with the ability to communicate effectively.

**SALARY: \$8.00 - \$10.00 per hour.**

Please apply no later than Friday, January 1st, 2026, to:  
Ananda Ltd., Leeward Hwy, Providenciales.  
Tel: 339-4663 Email: [jobs@kbhomecenter.com](mailto:jobs@kbhomecenter.com)

## STORE ATTENDANT NEEDED

Ananda Ltd., AV Butterfield Drive, is seeking a

**STORE ATTENDANT**

**Responsibilities of this position include:**

Ensuring excellent customer experiences - greeting, advising, handling transactions, returns, stocking, merchandising and inventory.

**EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS:**

Minimum 2 years' experience as a Store Attendant with the ability to communicate effectively.

**SALARY: \$9.75 per hour.**

Please apply no later than Friday, January 1st, 2026, to:  
Ananda Ltd., Leeward Hwy, Providenciales.  
Tel: 339-4663 Email: [jobs@kbhomecenter.com](mailto:jobs@kbhomecenter.com)





*April Thirumalaiyandi in action at the 19th Annual "Little Mo" International Tennis Tournament*



*April Thirumalaiyandi during the nationality parade*

# April Thirumalaiyandi Impresses on the International Stage at Little Mo Internationals

April Thirumalaiyandi continues to elevate the profile of Turks and Caicos Islands tennis, delivering a strong and memorable performance at the 19th Annual "Little Mo" Internationals, one of the most prestigious junior tennis tournaments in the United States.

The event featured approximately 650 elite junior players from 68 countries, placing April among the world's top young competitors. Competing in the 11-and-under division, April entered the tournament as the No. 1 seed, a distinction that reflected both her recent results and her steady development under the guidance of her coach, Reinaldo "Rey" Rivera.

According to Rivera, April's top seeding was the product of consistent high-level performances, including strong showings in Colorado, USA, and Medellín, Colombia, along with a solid UTR rating of 5.45.

"She's earned this position through hard work, discipline, and the ability to compete against quality opponents," Rivera noted. As the tournament's top seed, April received a first-round bye before opening her campaign in dominant fashion. In the round of 32, she defeated A. Muñoz Soto (USA) 6-3, 6-0, quickly establishing control from the baseline and increasing her intensity as the match progressed. Rivera highlighted her composure in the opening rounds, noting her ability to balance aggression with patience.

April followed with an emphatic 6-1, 6-0 victory over K. Accursio (USA) in the round of 16, showcasing excellent court positioning, early ball contact, and confidence under pressure. She continued her strong run in the quarterfinals, dispatching I. Prusinkiewicz (Canada) 6-0, 6-2 in a match that underlined her tactical awareness and maturity beyond her years.

The tournament's defining moment came in the semifinals against M. Palafox Sanchez of Mexico. April dominated the opening set 6-0, controlling the match technically and

tactically. However, early in the second set, a controversial referee call altered the emotional momentum. Despite her technical superiority, April struggled to fully reset mentally, and the match shifted as her opponent claimed the second set 6-1.

The contest was decided in a dramatic 10-point match tiebreak. April showed courage and determination, battling point-for-point, but her opponent narrowly prevailed 10-7. Rivera later described the match as "a powerful lesson in the mental side of elite competition," emphasizing that learning to respond to adversity is an essential step in an athlete's long-term growth. April demonstrated that lesson immediately in the third-place playoff, delivering one of her strongest performances of the tournament. She defeated Mia Verlinich (USA) 7-6 (7-5), 6-1, displaying mental resilience, tactical clarity, and a positive emotional response after disappointment.

Her efforts earned her third place in singles, a significant achievement at an event widely regarded as a proving ground for future international stars.

April also excelled in doubles competition, partnering with Victoria Grujovska of Bulgaria. The pair advanced to the finals and finished as runners-up, further highlighting April's adaptability and competitive maturity.

Throughout the tournament, April's serve emerged as a standout weapon. She recorded 11 aces, earning her the nickname "Ace Queen" from fellow players and spectators, a testament to her growing confidence and power on court.

Reflecting on the overall performance, Rivera expressed optimism about what lies ahead.

"This tournament showed exactly where April is in her development," Rivera. She has the technical and physical tools to compete at the highest level. Now we continue building mental resilience, because experiences like this are what shape future cham-

pions."

With another strong international result added to her résumé, April Thirumalaiyandi leaves the Little Mo Internationals stron-

ger, wiser, and better prepared for the next stage of her tennis journey, continuing to represent the Turks and Caicos Islands with distinction on the global stage.



*April Thirumalaiyandi showing off her trophy won at the Little Mo International Tennis Tournament*





The Blazer Elite Boys showing off their numerous trophies

# Blazer Elite’s TCI Boys Continue to Shine, Bringing Home More Gold from The Bahamas

Once again, Blazer Elite Sports Academy, based in Freeport, Grand Bahama, has reaffirmed its reputation as a powerful pipeline for young men pursuing excellence in basketball, track and field, and cross country, with soccer set to be added in the New Year. And at the heart of this success are the young men from the Turks and Caicos Islands, who continue to fly their national flag with pride on the regional stage. On December 14, 2025, ten Turks and Caicos athletes, accompanied by Dr. Ray Evans, Principal and Head Coach of Blazer Elite, were warmly welcomed home by proud parents, Coach Kevin Harvey, and members of the academy’s board. It was a familiar but no less emotional scene, another homecoming marked by trophies, medals, and awards, symbols of months of discipline, sacrifice, and elite performance. Following the remarkable achievement of last year’s Blazer Elite team, where every player earned a scholarship offer, the spotlight shifted to the next generation, affectionately known as the “Baby Dragons.” The young squad wasted no time announcing its arrival,

opening and closing the season in championship fashion with victory at the Jags McCartney Tournament.

**A Dominant Four-Month Run**

In just four months of competition, the Turks and Caicos contingent at Blazer Elite has compiled an extraordinary list of accomplishments:

- 2025 GBISA Preseason Champions
- Marlin Splash Junior Boys Champions
- Marlin Splash Senior Boys Champions
- Road Racing Excellence

At the Tabernacle Miracle Road Race, Turks and Caicos runners dominated multiple age divisions:

- 1st Overall & Under 17 – Jewensley Elmius
- 3rd Overall & 1st Under 20 – Mikiel Phillips
- 2nd Under 20 – Bradley Brenord
- 2nd Under 17 – Shagarion Mills
- 3rd Under 17 – Lamar Whyley
- 3rd Under 15 – Romeo Higgs Jr.

**Mile and Relay Supremacy**

At the Jack Hayward Mile, El-

mius again led the way, winning 1st Overall and Under 17 in 4:52, followed closely by teammates Shagarion Mills, Mikiel Phillips, and Bradley Brenord, all finishing on the podium in their respective divisions.

The Turks and Caicos athletes also combined forces for victory in the Extreme Half Marathon Relay, capturing 1st Place Overall in 1:31.25, with a team made up entirely of Blazer Elite standouts from the TCI program.

**Cross Country and Track Dominance**

In cross country competition at the L.N. Coakley 3K, Blazer Elite runners swept the top four positions, led by Jewensley Elmius’ commanding win in 9:02. At the Winter Classic Track Meet, the medal haul continued:

- Bradley Brenord – 1st Place Under 20 Discus
- Jewensley Elmius – 1st Place Under 17 1600m
- Shagarion Mills – 2nd Place Under 17 1600m
- Lamar Whyley – 3rd Place Under 17 1600m
- Romeo Higgs Jr. – 1st Place Under 15 1600m
- Individual Honors Highlight

**Leadership and Talent**

Several Turks and Caicos athletes also earned prestigious individual awards:

- GBISA Preseason Tournament MVP – Kanye Robinson
- All-Tournament Team – Kanye Robinson and Ahmard Coalbrooke
- Marlin Splash Jr. Boys MVP – Morvins Sintil
- Marlin Splash Sr. Boys Tournament MVP – Bradley Brenord
- Marlin Splash Sr. Boys Finals MVP – Mikiel Phillips
- Flying the Flag for Turks and Caicos

The Blazer Elite roster features a strong Turks and Caicos core led by captains Bradley Brenord and Dominique Ewing Jr., alongside Morvins Sintil, Romeo Higgs Jr., Kanye Robinson, Ahmard Coalbrooke, Jewensley Elmius, Caden Forbes, Shagarion Mills, Lamar Whyley, and Mikiel Phillips. Together, they represent not just a sports academy, but a growing movement, one that continues to open doors, earn scholarships, and prove that young men from the Turks and Caicos Islands can compete, dominate, and lead at the highest levels.