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PG32

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PG7



SERVICE WITH DISTINCTION
PG8



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TCl Government Signals Move to International Markets to Finance Major Development Push

>>> STORY ON PG5

CONTESTANTS VYING FOR CYCLE 7, REVEALED!

After a rigorous recruitment and training period, six finalists have been selected to compete for the title of The Face of the Turks & Caicos — TCI Top Model 2026.

From an initial field of 27 applicants across the islands, this year's Cycle 7 ushers in a bold, co-ed era that celebrates greater inclusivity across gender, height and body type.

The 2026 TCI Top Model Contest Finalists:

1. Donnell
2. Juane
3. Charly
4. Shedley
5. Alecia
6. Watkins

Courtney Robinson, Founder and Executive Producer of the TCI Top Model Contest, said, "Cycle 7 is a turning point — we're redefining what a runway looks like in the Turks and Caicos. By welcoming a diverse, co-ed class, we're not only expanding opportunity but also reshaping global perceptions of beauty and talent. This competition is a launchpad: mentorship, exposure and professional development that turn local talent into international voices. We're proud to showcase a new generation that represents the true spirit of our islands — bold, inclusive and ready to lead."

Cycle 7 officially kicks off with the Fan Favourite Challenge (15–21 April), a social media contest in which the winner is decided by the highest combined number of likes and shares. On Saturday, 18 April, contestants will also compete in the Broadcast Presence and Mainstream Media Awards—judged events that offer immediate visibility and a platform to amplify winners' voices.

The Grand Finale will take place at Brayton Hall, Providenciales, on Saturday, 2 May. Patrons can anticipate an electrifying evening of award-winning performances, an innovative multimedia presentation, and a runway competition that redefines fashion excellence across the Turks and Caicos Islands. Prepare for unforgettable looks, show stopping moments, and a celebration of talent that will resonate well beyond the final walk."

Since its inception in 2009, the TCI Top Model Contest has evolved into the premier platform for fashion, beauty, arts, and entertainment in the Turks and Caicos Islands. More than a modelling competition, it is a movement—empowering young creatives through education, mentorship, and international exposure. Tickets are currently on sale; for more information, call 649-232-6796 or follow @TCITopModel on all social platforms.





This process reflects a careful and deliberate assessment of leadership potential across the Force.

Massive RT&CIPF Promotions

“I commend the men and women who have earned these advancements and encourage them to remain attentive to the welfare of their colleagues as they assume greater leadership responsibilities. To whom much is given, much is expected. Your roles are pivotal as you stand at the forefront of leadership, driving the transformation and modernization of the Force. Your leadership must embody the core values of this organization, Service with Pride and Integrity.

“It is also particularly commendable to see more female officers stepping into leadership positions, reflecting the continued progress toward a more inclusive and representative Force.” These promotions mark the completion of a comprehensive review of the Force’s supervisory needs and signal a renewed commitment to building a modern, resilient, and community-focused police force.

The RT&CIPF remains dedicated to professional development, organizational excellence, and strengthening public trust through effective leadership and service delivery.

The following officers have officially been promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Police: Jerome Caley; Sandy Williams; Paulin Nemours; Randy Ellis; Inga Taylor.

The following officers have officially been promoted to Inspector; Glenroy Mitchell; Damien Mitchell; Leron Albert; Huntley Forbes Jr.; Sherina Lightbourne; Tashauna Wilson; Crystal Stubbs; Hodel Harris; Jordon Sutton; Allan Scipio; Latoya Rigby; Lauralee Jagroop; Wynifer Rodriguez; Jeremy Jones; Kayeadian Gillespie; Carl Wynter.

The following officers have officially been promoted to Sergeant: Ernie Audain; Jonald Belzi; Ian Ganness; Michelle Goslyn; Calbert Baker; Wendy Innocent; Destini Handfield; Dexter Anthony; Elliott Brown; Joshua Lightbourne; Paterian Russell; Sabrina Lightbourne; Goodwin Charles; Andy Wintz; Marlin Dawkins; Marlon Morse; Alesa Brown; Rojay Graham; Youdlin Charles; Kareema Francios; Franz Clennon; Rohan Pennant; Elquin Caesar; Chad Vialva; Kimberlee Markland.

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF) has announced the promotion of 46 officers who have assumed new leadership roles within the organization.

April 2nd, 2026, six officers were promoted to the rank of Assistant Superintendent, 15 to the rank of Inspector, and 25 elevated to the rank of Sergeant.

This is the largest promotion the RT&CIPF has had in recent times. All officers were successful in a rigorous promotion process, which included examinations assessed by the University of the West Indies campuses in Barbados and Jamaica, as well as a comprehensive interview process conducted by a panel comprising key stakeholders within the Turks and Ca-

icos Islands.

The final selection of candidates was made following consultation with the Force Executive, with recommendations submitted to His Excellency the Governor, which resulted in the confirmation of the promotions. A formal Force Order has since been issued.

Commenting on the promotions, Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey said, “Congratulations to each of these competent, capable, and talented officers on their promotion. This process reflects a careful and deliberate assessment of leadership potential across the Force.

“These promotions are critical to strengthening our supervisory structure and enhancing our operational effectiveness.

PUBLICATION OF THE 2026/2027 REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Acting Supervisor of Elections, Ms. Willette Pratt, would like to inform the general public that the 2026/2027 Electors Register is now published in accordance with the Elections Act (reprint) 2024, to allow Registered Electors the opportunity to view the Electoral Register. Registered Electors who seek to inspect the 2026/2027 Electoral Register can view it at The Office of The Governor, The Public Library, The Post Office on the Islands of Providenciales and Grand Turk, at all seventy-two (72) locations listed below throughout the Electoral Districts (ED1- ED10) and all District Commissioners’ Offices.

The Electors Register can be viewed at the following locations:

ED 1 – Grand Turk North
ED 2 – Grand Turk South & Salt Cay

Fulford’s Gas Station Graceway Supermarket

Sunny Food Store (West Road) Do-it-Centre
 Durham’s Home Centre Sunny Foods
 John Missick Bar (West Road) Grand Turk Library
 Shop Rite Grocery Store Grand Turk International Airport
 Things Galore Store (Over Back) DC’s Office Salt Cay
 A&H Hair Supply (Over Back) Community Centre (Salt Cay)
 Fishermen Paradise (OverBack) Grand Turk Liquors
 Poop Deck Restaurant (Pond Street) Grace Bay Pharmacy (Church Folly)

ED 3 – South Caicos

ED 4 – Middle and North Caicos

Airport Terminal Dist. Commissioner’s Office Conch Bar
 District Commissioner’s Office Community Centre, Bambarra
 Seaview Marina Government Clinic, Lorimers
 Super value Supermarket Dist.

Commissioner’s Office Bottle Creek
 G & H Enterprise Kevin’s Enterprise
 Government Treasury Digicel Store Bottle Creek
 Community Centre Kew
 Community Centre Whitby
 Community Centre Sandy Point

ED 5 – Leeward

ED – 6 The Bight

Sand Castle Convenience Store
 Froggies Souse House & Sports Bar
 TCI Ferry Service IBO Store Kathleen’s 7 – 11 Store
 Rick’s Flamingo Café
 Rubis Grace Bay Petro Mart
 Rubis Gas Station

ED 7 – Cheshire Hall & Richmond Hill

ED – 8 Blue Hills

The Library Keyse’s Variety Store
 Grant’s Gas Station Pablo Wash House

The Post Office Chicken Shack
 Betty’s Store Kew Town
 The African Store
 Black’s Store Kew Town
 Grace Variety Store
 Chinson’s Grill Shack
 Lapel’s TCI Dry Cleaners
 Discount Liquors
 Provo Discount Store
 Parker’s Variety Party Store
 Building Material Do-It-Centre
ED 9 – Five Cays
ED 10 – Wheeland
 Mackey’s Automotive Froggies on the Beach
 Kitch’s Restaurant
 Frank’s Store 4U
 Hole in the Wall Restaurant
 Red Zone Variety Store
 Gilly’s Café International Airport
 Snappers Beachfront Restaurant
 Five Cays Wash House
 Walkin Service Station
 Liz Bakery
 Caicos Oil Mart

Gov't Reviewing Mitigation Measures Before Reopening Turtle Cove Construction Site

The Turks and Caicos Islands Department of Planning is continuing its assessment of corrective actions taken at a construction site in Turtle Cove Canal following reports of environmental pollution linked to development activity. Deputy Director of Planning, Torino Williams, confirmed that the department has received and vetted a mitigation report submitted by the developer of the Loren project, where construction activity was previously halted due to the discharge of turbid effluent into the canal.

Williams explained that the department conducted a follow-up after issuing directives for corrective measures to determine whether the necessary environmental safeguards had been implemented.

"We've received the report outlining the mitigation mechanisms and measures to address the damages and poor practices identified," Williams said. "The next step involves a joint review, including a site inspection and assessment of the developer's self-reporting." Despite progress, Williams emphasized that the affected portion of the site re-

mains closed and will not reopen until the department is fully satisfied that all environmental protections are in place. "It's not reopened yet," he noted. "We are taking preventative measures, particularly given that this involves development within a sensitive marine and coastal environment."

The department will make a final determination on reopening only after completing its inspection and verifying that all required mitigation efforts meet regulatory standards.

The issue stems from an incident reported on March 24, 2026, when turbid effluent was observed in the Turtle Cove Canal. The Department's Environmental and Enforcement Unit traced the source to construction activities at the Loren Development site.

In response, authorities ordered an immediate halt to all construction works and required the developer to implement corrective measures to prevent further environmental harm.

The Department of Planning has reiterated its commitment to safeguarding the natural environment and ensuring compliance with the Physical Planning

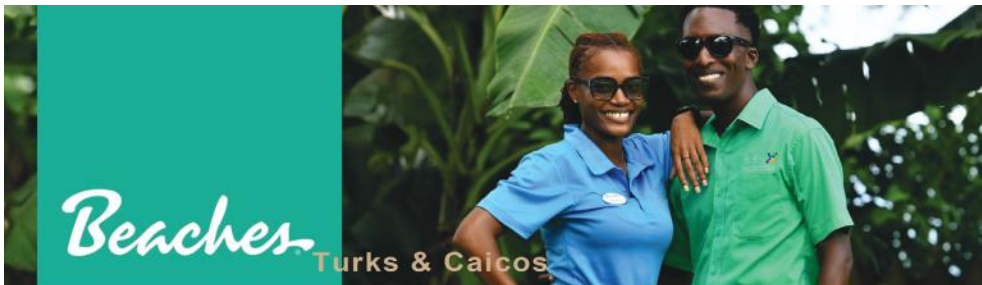
Ordinance.

Members of the public are encouraged to continue reporting suspected envi-

ronmental breaches as part of ongoing efforts to protect the islands' marine ecosystems.



Williams... We are taking preventative measures, particularly given that this involves development within a sensitive marine and coastal environment.



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|--|---|---|

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• Local Status Document [Belonger Card, Freelance Permit, Residence Permit, Permanent Resident Certificate, Naturalization Certificate]
▪ Qualifications/Experience required*

BENEFITS: ▪ Healthcare • Education and Training • Staff Transportation • Competitive Salary Packages
Opportunities for Growth & Development

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

Integrity Commission Issues Reminder on Mandatory Declarations for Public Officials

The Turks and Caicos Islands Integrity Commission is reminding all Specified Persons in Public Life, referred to as declarants, of their legal obligation to submit Declarations of Income, Assets and Liabilities in accordance with Section 39 of the Integrity Commission Ordinance.

The Commission advised that the declaration period will run from April 1 to June 30, 2026, and filings will be conducted on an ongoing basis during this time.

All declarants must submit their completed forms, along with supporting documents, in person and by appointment only at designated Commission offices. Individuals will be contacted directly with their scheduled date, time, and location for submission.

Who Must File

The requirement applies to:

- Individuals who last submitted declarations on or before June 30, 2024
- Persons appointed to Statutory Boards from April 1, 2026 onward
- Public officers appointed within the Turks and Caicos Islands Government (TCIG) from April 1, 2026 onward
- Former members of Statutory Boards as of March 31, 2026
- Individuals who have resigned or whose government contracts end-

ed, who must file within 90 days of leaving office

- Any other persons deemed to be Specified Persons in Public Life who may not have previously been aware of their obligation to file

Declaration forms are available on the Commission's official website. For appointment inquiries, individuals may contact the Commission by phone or email.

Penalties for Non-Compliance

The Commission emphasized that failure to submit a declaration without reasonable cause constitutes a criminal offence. Offenders may face up to one year in prison, a fine of \$15,000, or both. Additionally, the Commission is required to publish instances of non-compliance in the Gazette.

Confidentiality and Submission Rules

All declarations are treated as confidential documents. Declarants are advised not to submit forms through third parties or via electronic or postal methods, as only in-person submissions will be accepted.

The Commission also noted that individuals who filed declarations during the 2025 calendar year, in keeping with the regular filing cycle, will not be required to file again this

TCI Government Signals Move to International Markets to Finance Major Development Push

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands Government is preparing to enter the international capital markets to secure significant funding for a slate of priority national projects, marking a major shift in its fiscal strategy for the 2026–2027 financial year.

Premier Washington Misick, who also the Minister for Investment, made the announcement in the House of Assembly on Thursday, April 2, outlining plans to raise substantial financing to support infrastructure expansion, digitization, housing, and other critical development needs.

The move signals a deliberate transition from a traditionally cautious, low-debt approach toward a more proactive borrowing strategy aimed at accelerating national development.

Strategic Shift Toward Borrowing

Laying the budget document on the table in Parliament, the Premier emphasized that while the Turks and Caicos Islands enjoys a strong credit rating and relatively low debt levels, the country can no longer rely solely on cash reserves to meet growing demands.

“We cannot have a platinum credit card... and have no debt,” Misick told Parliament, underscoring the government’s intention to leverage its financial standing to unlock capital for transformative projects.

The administration is already taking steps to prepare for entry into the international financial market, including the recruitment of a debt advisor to guide negotiations and secure favorable financing terms.

According to the Premier, the funds raised will be directed toward several key areas, including national infrastructure, digital transformation initiatives such as a fiber network and national identification system, improved housing access, and modern waste management systems.

While full details of the borrowing plan are expected in the formal budget presentation in the coming weeks, Misick indicated that financing will likely be spread across four or five major sectors over a multi-year period.

Balancing Growth and Fiscal Discipline

Despite the shift toward borrowing, the government maintains that fiscal prudence remains central to its strategy. The Premier stressed that

the administration is committed to responsible debt management and will avoid reckless spending.

“We will not mortgage the future to satisfy the present,” he said, framing the borrowing plan as a calculated investment rather than a departure from discipline.

The funding initiative is part of a broader fiscal strategy designed to balance immediate development needs with long-term sustainability. Officials argue that without increased investment, critical infrastructure and services risk falling behind the rapid pace of economic growth.

Tourism, the country’s primary economic driver, continues to perform strongly, with nearly two million visitors recorded last year and over \$1 billion in foreign direct investment agreements secured. However, this growth has placed increasing pressure on public services, infrastructure, and housing.

Financing Development Priorities

The planned engagement with international markets is intended to address these pressures by enabling the government to fast-track essential projects.

Among the areas expected to benefit are:

- Infrastructure development across all islands, including transportation and utilities

- Digital transformation, including national ID systems and expanded connectivity

- Housing and land access, aimed at improving affordability and availability for residents

- Environmental and waste management systems, to support sustainable growth

The Premier noted that these initiatives are aligned with the country’s long-term development framework, Vision 2040, and are essential to maintaining both economic competitiveness and quality of life.

Timing and Economic Context

The decision comes amid global economic uncertainty, with the Premier citing geopolitical tensions, inflation, and climate-related risks as factors shaping the government’s cautious but forward-looking approach.

Small island economies like the Turks and Caicos Islands, he said, must navigate these challenges with “agility and discipline,” leveraging their strengths while preparing for external shocks.



MISICK: “We cannot have a platinum credit card... and have no debt.”

Photos: Contributed.

By accessing international capital markets, the government aims to create a financial buffer that allows it to invest in resilience while sustaining growth.

Public Spending and Budget Framework

The borrowing plan, according to Misick, complements a budget that prioritizes key sectors without introducing new broad-based taxes. The government instead intends to rely on improved compliance and economic expansion to drive revenue growth.

Major allocations in the upcoming budget include:

- \$105.2 million for public order and safety

- \$94.1 million for healthcare reform and services

- \$86.7 million for economic development initiatives

- \$63.3 million for education, including free community college

- \$21.1 million for social protection programs

These investments, the premier continued, are designed to strengthen institutions, improve service delivery, and support inclu-

sive growth across the islands.

Managing Growth Responsibly

The Premier also linked the borrowing strategy to broader efforts to manage economic expansion sustainably. The government’s Sustainable Tourism and Spatial Development Policy aims to ensure that growth does not outpace infrastructure or degrade the quality of life for residents and visitors.

“We must be careful that the cost of that growth does not exceed the benefit,” Misick cautioned.

The government’s plan to enter the international capital market represents one of the most significant financial policy developments in recent years for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

While the approach introduces new levels of borrowing, the premier argue it is a necessary step to modernize infrastructure, enhance public services, and secure long-term economic resilience.

Further details on the scale, structure, and timeline of the borrowing program are expected when the full 2026–2027 budget is presented later this month.

*Public Service Gold Standard TCI...PT2***TCI's Gold Standard for Public Service***And the Five Year Roadmap to Finally Achieve It**by Anthony Gardiner*

Readers, by now you've seen the headlines. Both the Premier and the Deputy Governor have expressed deep concern about the standard of service delivered to the public. They want to see a "marked improvement." The question is: improvement toward what? What does excellence actually look like in a modern public service?

Before we talk about fixing anything, we must first define the **Gold Standard**. Only then can we build a serious, multi-year plan to achieve it. And let's be honest: the effort required to truly change a system is far greater than the effort required to make temporary improvements. If we are serious, we are talking about a full scale overhaul from top to bottom.

Training will be essential—whether that means sending individuals abroad or bringing institutions here to set up shop. But training alone won't fix a system. We need structure, accountability, and a clear national commitment to excellence.

Below is the Gold Standard for Public Service, followed by a realistic, culturally grounded **Five Year Roadmap** for transforming the Turks and Caicos Islands Government into a modern, citizen centered institution.

The Gold Standard for Public Service
Modern public sector excellence frameworks consistently point to ten pillars:

- 1. Clear Purpose & Mission**
- 2. Strong Leadership & Governance**
- 3. Professional Standards & Competence**
- 4. Service Delivery Excellence**
- 5. Integrity, Ethics & Accountability**
- 6. Citizen Engagement & Participation**
- 7. Innovation & Continuous Improvement**
- 8. Performance Measurement & Results**
- 9. Financial Stewardship**
- 10. Culture & Values**

These are not abstract ideals. They are practical, measurable, and achievable—if we commit to them.

How TCI Can Implement the Gold Standard

- 1. Clear Purpose & Mission**
 - Publish Service Charters for every ministry.
 - Display them in offices and online.
 - Train staff to explain their mission in plain language.
- 2. Strong Leadership & Governance**
 - Leadership development for senior civil servants.
 - Annual public performance reports.
 - Stronger internal audits and empowered oversight bodies.
 - Clear decision making protocols.
- 3. Professional Standards & Competence**
 - Establish a TCI Public Service Academy.
 - Standardize job descriptions and competency frameworks.
 - Mandatory training in customer service, ethics, and digital literacy.

- Scholarships and professional development for Belongers.

4. Service Delivery Excellence

- Set service time standards.
- Introduce queue management systems.
- Expand online services.
- Create a unified "One Government" portal.
- Use mystery shoppers to measure performance.

5. Integrity, Ethics & Accountability

- Stronger conflict of interest rules.
- Transparent procurement.
- Whistleblower protections.
- Annual ethics training.

6. Citizen Engagement & Participation

- Quarterly town halls on every island.
- A Citizen Feedback App.
- Surveys for major policy decisions.
- Advisory councils for youth, business, and civil society.

7. Innovation & Continuous Improvement

- Create an Innovation Unit.
- Pilot digital forms, mobile units, and kiosks.
- Annual Innovation Awards.
- Benchmark against other small-island governments.

8. Performance Measurement & Results

- KPIs for each ministry.
- Quarterly dashboards online.
- Leadership evaluations tied to results.
- Data-driven process redesign.

9. Financial Stewardship

- Strengthen budget planning and monitoring.
- Publish citizen-friendly budget summaries.
- Require cost-benefit analysis for major projects.

- Expand internal audit capacity.

10. Culture & Values

- Launch a Public Service Values Campaign.
- Annual awards recognizing excellence.
- Promote teamwork across ministries.
- Encourage courtesy, empathy, and responsiveness.

The Five Year Roadmap to Achieve the Gold Standard

Now that the Gold Standard is clear, here is the practical, achievable rollout plan.

YEAR 1 — Foundation & Alignment

Goal: Establish clarity, standards, and structure.

Key Actions

- Publish a TCI Public Service Gold Standard Policy.
- Require Service Charters for every ministry.
- Launch mandatory training in customer service, ethics, and digital literacy.
- Establish a Public Service Transformation Steering Committee.
- Map all major government services.
- Introduce basic KPIs for processing times.
- Begin a Public Service Values Campaign.

Outcomes

- Ministries know their mission and standards.

- Citizens see early signs of transparency and consistency.

YEAR 2 — Service Modernization & Capacity Building

Goal: Improve skills, systems, and service delivery.

Key Actions

- Launch the TCI Public Service Academy.
- Introduce queue management systems in high traffic offices.
- Begin digitizing forms and applications.
- Pilot online payments.
- Establish a Citizen Feedback System.
- Strengthen internal audit and procurement transparency.
- Implement leadership development programs.

Outcomes

- Faster, more predictable services.
- Staff feel more supported and professionalized.
- Citizens experience early wins in convenience.

YEAR 3 — Digital Transformation & Accountability

Goal: Make government modern, data driven, and transparent.

Key Actions

- Launch a One Government Digital Portal.
- Introduce public performance dashboards.
- Expand online services (business licensing, work permits, property tax, vehicle licensing).
- Implement mystery shopper evaluations.
- Strengthen whistleblower protections.
- Establish an Innovation Unit.

Outcomes

- Citizens access many services online.
- Government performance becomes visible.
- Integrity systems strengthen.

YEAR 4 — Integration, Innovation & Culture Shift

Goal: Build unity, efficiency, and a culture of improvement.

Key Actions

- Integrate databases across ministries.
- Introduce mobile service units for the family islands.
- Launch annual Innovation Awards.
- Expand Academy training (project management, leadership, data analysis, policy).
- Conduct annual citizen satisfaction surveys.
- Strengthen community engagement.

Outcomes

- Government becomes more unified and efficient.
- Innovation becomes part of the culture.
- Citizens feel heard and included.

YEAR 5 — Excellence, Sustainability & Global Benchmarking

Goal: Make the Gold Standard permanent.

Key Actions

- Conduct a full Public Service Performance Review.
- Benchmark TCI against Cayman, Bermuda, Barbados.
- Publish a Five Year Public Service Im-

pact Report.

- Introduce long term sustainability measures (succession planning, talent pipelines, digital upgrades).
- Expand the digital portal with real time tracking and AI assisted support.
- Institutionalize the Gold Standard through legislation or Cabinet policy.

Outcomes

- TCI becomes a regional leader in public service excellence.
- The Gold Standard becomes permanent.
- Citizens experience a modern, responsive, transparent government.

What This Roadmap Achieves
By the end of Year 5, TCI will have:

- A professional, well trained public service
 - Faster, more reliable services
 - Stronger integrity and accountability
 - Modern digital systems
 - A culture of innovation and citizen centered service
 - Higher public trust and satisfaction
- This roadmap is ambitious—but absolutely achievable for a country the size of TCI, especially with strong leadership and clear standards.

A Final Thought: Scaling the Singapore Model

For years, people have mentioned the "Singapore Model." And yes—Singapore is far larger than TCI. But instead of dismissing it, why not **scale it**?

Think like Singapore, but tailor it to our population.


We can invite universities to establish temporary adjunct campuses here for 5–10 years, focused entirely on **how to run a government—especially a Caribbean one**. Civil servants could receive reduced work hours to attend classes and graduate with diplomas in their specific fields.

By Year 5, TCI could have an entire public service that is trained, certified, and empowered.

That is nation building.

That is empowerment through employment.

And that is how we transform the TCI Public Service from the inside out.



Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department



Justice Cummings-Edwards will assume office on May 1, 2026

New Chief Justice Named

the Judicial Services Commission in accordance with the Constitution, follows what officials described as a rigorous and highly competitive selection process.

Justice Cummings-Edwards brings more than 37 years of judicial experience, having served at the highest levels of the judiciary in Guyana, including as Acting Chancellor and previously Chief Justice. Her career has been defined by significant efforts to modernise the courts, including the digitisation of systems, improved case management, and expanded access to justice, particularly for remote and underserved communities.

She has also been instrumental in developing specialised courts, promoting restorative justice, and strengthening judicial training and institutional capacity. Her work reflects a strong commitment to judicial independence, integrity, and efficiency.

In announcing the appointment, Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam said Justice Cummings-Edwards emerged as an exceptional candidate.

"I am confident that her extensive judicial experience, demonstrated leadership and unwavering commitment to the rule of law will be instrumental in further strengthening the administration of justice and enhancing public confidence in

our judicial system," the Governor said. The Governor also paid tribute to outgoing Chief Justice Mabel Agyemang for her six years of distinguished service, noting that her tenure brought significant reforms that strengthened the courts and improved access to justice.

Chairman of the Judicial Services Commission, Neville Adderley, said the appointment fulfills the Commission's commitment to maintaining high judicial standards. He added that fellow commissioners Dame Janice Pereira and Carlos Simons were also satisfied with the outcome.

In accepting the role, Justice Cummings-Edwards said she was honoured by the appointment and committed to strengthening the justice system.

"I look forward to working collaboratively with my judicial colleagues, the legal profession and justice-sector partners to build on the strong foundation established and to further strengthen the delivery of justice in a manner that is fair, efficient and accessible to all," she said.

Justice Cummings-Edwards will assume office on May 1, 2026, for a three-year term. In the interim, Tanya Lobban-Jackson will serve as Acting Chief Justice, ensuring continuity in the administration of justice.

A new head of the judiciary is set to take office in the Turks and Caicos Islands following the departure of former Chief Justice, Hon. Justice Mabel Agyemang. Her Excellency the Governor, Dileeni

Daniel-Selvaratnam, has announced the appointment of Hon. Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards as the country's new Chief Justice.

The appointment, made on the advice of

Attorney General Calls for Democratic Renewal in Easter Address

Attorney General Rhondalee Braithwaite-Knowles has urged parliamentarians and citizens across the Turks and Caicos Islands to recommit to the core values that underpin democracy and national unity, as she delivered a reflective Easter message in the House of Assembly.

Addressing members of Parliament, individuals in the public gallery, and those listening via various media platforms, the Attorney General framed her remarks around the significance of Good Friday and Easter, describing the period as one not only of religious observance but of deep national reflection.

She began by offering condolences to families who have recently lost loved ones, with particular recognition given to the Cadet Corps and the family of Lt. Col. Nimrol Beckles, who passed while undergoing treatment in Cayman. She noted that such moments of loss remind the nation of the importance of compassion and solidarity.

Reflecting on the meaning of Good Friday, Braithwaite-Knowles described it as a powerful symbol of sacrifice, injustice, and the courage to stand firm in truth despite adversity. In contrast, she said Easter represents renewal, hope, and the triumph of light over darkness. Together, these observances form a narrative that continues to shape moral values not only within the Christian faith

but also within societies such as the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"The lessons of this season speak directly to us as leaders," she said, emphasizing that true public service requires sacrifice, integrity, and a commitment to justice. She stressed that leadership must always prioritize the needs of the people over personal interests, while remaining steadfast in upholding the rule of law.

The Attorney General further highlighted the importance of hope in governance, noting that in times of uncertainty, leaders have a responsibility to inspire confidence and provide reassurance about the future of the country.

Moving beyond the religious context, she underscored that the principles associated with Easter, compassion, forgiveness, and renewal, are universal and should guide public policy and national discourse. She called on members of Parliament to actively seek reconciliation in the face of division, protect the most vulnerable in society, and approach decision-making with a forward-looking vision.

Braithwaite-Knowles also reminded lawmakers that their responsibilities extend beyond politics, describing their work as inherently moral in nature.

"The laws we pass and the decisions we make shape the lives and futures of our people," she said, urging members to

act with both humility and purpose. As the country enters the Easter season, she encouraged unity and collective reflection, calling on all citizens to embrace the values symbolized by Good Friday and Easter Sunday. In the meantime, the Attorney General extended warm wishes to members of

the House and the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands for a blessed Good Friday and a joyful Easter. She expressed hope that the season would renew national spirit, strengthen unity, and inspire a continued commitment to service grounded in integrity, compassion, and hope.



Braithwaite-Knowles: The lessons of this season speak directly to us as leaders."



Nimrol Beckles (left of the photo) and the Cadet Corps participate in the Abundant Life Ministries International Church's Annual Mothers Day Awards and Concert in May 2025.

SERVICE WITH DISTINCTION

The passing of Lt. Col. Nimrol Beckles

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

the wider community. Adams noted that Beckles embodied the core values of courage, commitment, and integrity, adding that his loss is deeply felt across the organization. Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam also paid tribute, emphasizing Beckles' extraordinary contribution to youth development over more than two decades. She described him as a driving force behind the growth and success of the Cadet Corps, noting that his leadership helped shape "hundreds of young people" by instilling values of discipline, service, and national pride. For many, Beckles was more than

a public servant, he was a mentor, role model, and nation builder. His influence can be seen in the lives of countless young people who passed through the Cadet Corps under his guidance, many of whom have gone on to serve in various professional fields.

As the Turks and Caicos Islands reflects on his life and service, there is a shared recognition that Lieutenant Colonel Nimrol Devon Beckles leaves behind a powerful legacy, one defined by leadership, commitment, and an enduring investment in the nation's youth.

His life of service, leaders say, will continue to inspire generations to come.

Tributes continue to pour in across the Turks and Caicos Islands following the passing of Lieutenant Colonel Nimrol Devon Beckles, a respected law enforcement officer and Commandant of the Turks and Caicos Islands Cadet Corps, whose life of service has left an enduring national legacy.

Beckles passed away on March 30, 2026, in the Cayman Islands, where he had been transported for emergency medical treatment after a brief illness. His passing has underscored ongoing concerns about access to critical care, as patients in urgent need are often required to travel overseas for specialized treatment.

A veteran member of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CI PF), Beckles enlisted in February 2005 and quickly distinguished himself through dedication, discipline, and professionalism. Over the course of more than two decades, he served in several key divisions, including the Criminal Investigation Department, Tactical Unit, Special Branch, and Beat and Patrol. In each role, he earned a reputation for integrity, courage, and an unwavering commitment to public service. National leaders have been swift to honour his contributions. In an official statement, Premier Charles Washington Misick described Beckles as a man who "served our nation with distinction, dedication, and an unwavering sense of duty," noting that his work left "an indelible mark" on the country. The Premier also highlighted Beckles' passion for mentorship and youth development, calling it a defining feature of his legacy.

That legacy is perhaps most visible in his transformative leadership of the Turks and Caicos Islands Cadet Corps. As Commandant, Beckles was instrumental in expanding the

programme both in reach and impact. Under his stewardship, the Cadet Corps grew in enrollment, attracting hundreds of young people from across the islands and providing them with structured opportunities for personal development.

He championed leadership training, discipline, and civic responsibility, ensuring that cadets were not only prepared for potential careers in uniformed services but also equipped with life skills that would benefit their communities. Beckles played a pivotal role in strengthening recruitment efforts, broadening access to cadet programmes in underserved communities, and enhancing training standards.

His leadership also led to the expansion of cadet units across multiple islands, including the establishment and development of the Grand Turk Cadet Detachment and the strengthening of programmes in South Caicos. Through these initiatives, he helped to ensure that young people throughout the territory could benefit from the structure and mentorship the Corps provides.

Beyond local development, Beckles elevated the regional presence of the Cadet Corps. He led delegations to international training exercises and exchanges in countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and Jamaica, fostering regional collaboration and exposing cadets to broader opportunities. These experiences not only enriched participants but also raised the profile of the Turks and Caicos Islands on the regional stage.

Colleagues within the police force remember him as a steady and dependable leader. Acting Commissioner of Police Rodney Adams described him as a "hardworking, disciplined, and respected officer" whose contributions have left a lasting impact on both the Force and



He championed leadership training, discipline, and civic responsibility, ensuring that cadets were not only prepared for potential careers in uniformed services but also equipped with life skills

Shore Club Resort Honors Top Staff at First Quarter Heartbeat Awards

The Shore Club Resort on Tuesday, 31 March 2026, recognized its outstanding team members during its Heartbeat Awards Ceremony, held on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at the Long Bay property.

The awards celebrate exceptional service and dedication among staff, highlighting both front-of-house and back-of-house employees across the first quarter of the year.

For the month of December, Kaylesa Basden was honored as Front of House standout, while Jean Mislo earned recognition for Back of House excellence.

In January, the awards went to Khem Gautam (Front of House) and Claudia

Fortuna (Back of House), reflecting their continued commitment to service quality.

For February, Anabel Paulino secured the Front of House award, with Ornella Ward recognized on the Back of House team.

The ceremony also highlighted top leadership performance for the quarter. Lorenzo Manalo was named Supervisor of the Quarter, while Keioceia Howell received the distinction of Manager of the Quarter.

The Heartbeat Awards form part of the resort's ongoing efforts to celebrate excellence, boost morale, and reinforce a culture of outstanding hospitality service.



Keioceia Howell was voted Manager of the Quarter. She accepts her award from General Manager Christopher Elliott.



The Food and Beverage Department was voted Department of the 1st Quarter



Khem Guatam is the winner of the Front of House Award



Kaylesa Basden was voted the winner of the December Front of House



Claudia Fortuna is the winner of the January Back of House Award



Ornella Ward was voted Winner of the February Back of House 2026

Voices from the Streets Part 65...

How Did We Get Here?

By Nixon Dickenson

This week's Voices in the Streets highlights the story of Rendy Rigby, a man known by several aliases, including "Bob Cat" and "Give Me Dollar." Too often, Rendy is overlooked or shunned by community members because of his appearance.

Yet I had the privilege of sharing a short but meaningful conversation with him, one that reminded me of the simple power of kindness. Rendy spoke passionately about how we treat one another. He emphasized that we should speak to people the way God expects, with kindness and respect. He believes that compassion is not optional; it is a calling.

During our conversation, Rendy also shared his thoughts on how to help the youth of our community. He believes more can be done to give young people purpose and direction, suggesting initiatives such as building a structured community army or encouraging youth involvement in the police force. To him, empowering our young people is an essential step toward a better future.

Rendy revealed that he once held a good job, but life's challenges and his own difficult choices led him down a different path. Today, he depends on the generosity of kind Samaritans those who are willing to look beyond his outward appearance and offer a moment of support, conversation, or care.

So, you may ask: How did Rendy get here?

The answer is simple yet profound: life's choices. Some were his; others were circumstances beyond his control.



Voices from the Street Writer Nixon Dickenson (right) shares a photo with Rendy Rigby

But despite the hardships he now faces, Rendy remains clear-minded about one essential truth: kindness matters. The way we treat others can either uplift or break them. Rendy's story is a reminder that every person, no matter their situation, carries wisdom, dignity, and a longing to be treated with humanity. And sometimes, all it takes to uncover that truth is a single conversation.

A Call to Action

Rendy's story challenges each of us to pause and look a little deeper. Every day, we pass people whose journeys we do not know and whose struggles we may never fully understand. Yet kindness costs nothing, and it can change everything.

So today, let us commit to seeing people the way God sees them: with compassion, respect, and dignity. Let us

speak to others with gentleness, offer help when we can, and teach our children to do the same. Let us build a community where no one is invisible, and where a kind word or a simple act of generosity becomes the norm rather than the exception.

Rendy reminds us that we all have a role to play. Whether it's starting a conversation, supporting a local initiative, mentoring a young person, or simply choosing to be kinder, our actions matter.

Let's be the community that lifts people up. Let's be the reason someone still believes in humanity. Let's choose kindness, today and every day. Rendy's journey is difficult, but his message resonates louder than his circumstances. In a world that often turns away from those who look worn by life, he stands as a living reminder that wisdom can

come from unexpected places, and dignity is never lost; it simply needs to be acknowledged. So today, let us not just hear Rendy's words, but carry them with us. Let us be the ones who pause, who listen, who extend a hand instead of turning our backs. Because behind every face we pass, whether familiar or forgotten, there is a story. And every story deserves compassion.

To Rendy: your voice matters. Your courage to speak truth, even in hardship, is a gift to this community. Thank you for reminding us that kindness is not just an act, it is a responsibility. May God strengthen you, surround you with mercy, and guide you toward brighter days. And may your story stir our hearts to treat every person with the respect they deserve.

In lifting you up, Rendy, may we learn to lift each other.

Thoughts, Prayers and Poems...

More of 'Them' Than 'Us'

An Op-Ed by Chrystal Charles

Hi, my name is Chrystal Charles, and I am A Voice of Turks and Caicos.

This, being the first of multiple series, is a body of expression that has been accumulated over many years that I've decided to share.

This series will be called "Thoughts, Prayers and Poems." Here's a thought for you:

"An artist's duty is to reflect the times": Nina Simone.

I took a stance recently to be quiet, because in the world as it is, there seems more of 'them' than 'us', shouting into the sea of the mindless.

When I say 'us', I refer to those who seek to be, but particularly those who just ARE genuine, divine and connected. Their bones, their hearts, their minds and their actions align with those of goodness and depth and integrity.

Those who have convictions, who sacrifice and lead because their soul and spirit allow them no other way of being, even in protest.

Those who are convicted, inspired, empowered and tormented by their connection, their calling, the essence of themselves.

And 'them?' We know who they are. They are our neighbours, our players, our movers and shakers, those we laud and follow and look up to as they lead us down the path of unrighteousness, through performative actions and self esteem issues disguised as confidence.

Those who have the unfortunate fortune of swallowing their sense of self and attaching to the failing Euro ideals of greed, of gain, of deception or lust, of business, and burying oneself so deep in a grave their predecessors dug that they have not realised the bones of corpses

passed along the way.

The way, they will find, only leads to torment and dissatisfaction.

I wonder if to rest, collect my strength, centre myself; instead of taking blow after blow being railed against by the failing world. Preservation during the shift, right? Because as the land sinks, the seas shall rise, and so? Should I just, "Let people have things"?

The problem with letting them have things is that these things embody spirits and energies that stir the world with power and evil, and they affect US all. Leaving those of US who know not who we are yet; the confused, the impressionable, the future and the pure - lost and without guidance.

The loudness of THEM one day will quiet; however, if not even a whisper from US during the time of impression, how will any of US be inspired?

How will any of US survive the next harsh tide or sweeping change of the world? Who will the rest of US draw strength from and have knowledge to do what is necessary when the time for US comes to be loud? Who will be the good against the evil?

Funny. I've often wondered how the imagination of the artist and storyteller, while wildly differing, always touches the same topics.

Good vs. Evil.

Love vs. Hate.

Sacrifice, pain and preservation. Clarity comes along with that morning joy.

The year passed has taught me much about evil and the perception of it, also how close we can teeter to and be complicit in it.

With heads in sand, along with purpose and awareness pending, there is much to fear for some. Goodness is everywhere



at all times, but the awareness... the level of awareness of self, and faith and God that we need to access, enjoy and spread—it is one that is easy to elude us.

Today, quickness and noise, debauchery and newness, greed and power, acceptance and sameness to the masses - the tangible- these are the processes we are all taught to seek our desires through.

We shed our power and our joy, seeking through flesh and fakeness. Our eyes become clouded, our hearts hardened and minds darkened by the things we ingest and the way we train our consciousness.

We dismiss energetic cues and changes, actively destroy history, ancestral selves and worthwhile education. We are walking our consciousness through hell, and if we continue, it will

eventually burn.

Our ancestors waded through waters to cleanse themselves and then, when times changed, they used it to free themselves; but unlike them, we neither escape foolishness nor treachery, but are so lost in hell that when we find the water, we drown in sorrow, emptiness, hatred and discontent.

So, I choose not to be quiet, and I sing:

"Wade in the water, wade in the water, children, wade in the water. God's going to trouble the water."

My name is Chrystal Charles, and I am a voice of Turks and Caicos.

Go to tesspresents.com to hear the narration.

For advertising and orator contributions, email tesscharlestci@gmail.com

IT SEEMS LIKE THE COUNTRY IS GOING BACKWARDS ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

BUT AS A WHOLE, THE WORLD MOVES FORWARD. CHINA LEADS IN SOLAR AND BATTERIES. AFRICA WILL PROBABLY LEAPFROG FOSSIL FUELS AND ELECTRIFY EVERYTHING.

DOESN'T THAT SPUR YOU ON?

YES!

TO EMIGRATE AGAIN.

Hallatt 4-2

NAG!
NAG! NAG! NAG!
NAG! NAG! NAG!

SO, WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY FOR YOURSELF, ANDREW?

ARE THEY NEW CURLERS?

GOLDSMITH & GARNETT

YOU'VE GOT ME WHERE YOU WANT ME.

ALMOST...

CLICK.

4/2

TWO, FOUR, SIX, EIGHT, WHAT DO WE APPRECIATE?

PIZZA PIE, HOT DOGS, CHOCOLATE WOULD BE GREAT!

PIG OUT! PIG OUT! RAH, RAH, RAH!

EATING CONTEST CHEERLEADERS

JIM DAVIS 4-2

TOURNAMENT TIME AGAIN, HUH?

I HEAR YOU'RE PLAYING IN THE THIRTY-FIVES...

YOU'RE NOT THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OLD

YEARS? I THOUGHT THEY MEANT INCHES!

4/2

CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS! YEAH! SCREEH!

UH-- HI, MR. LODGE!

DADDY, ARE YOU OK?

AH! I HEAR THE CHRISTMAS BELLS!

NEWSLINE TCI COMICS

SURE SUNDAY IS THE DAY OF REST...

Rest of the laundry. Rest of the housework, and rest of the freakin' chores I didn't get around to yesterday!

HOT STUFF

The material collected from the crevasse appears to be a suspension of garlic and herbs in crushed tomatoes.

WYMAN & PIRRO 4-2-26

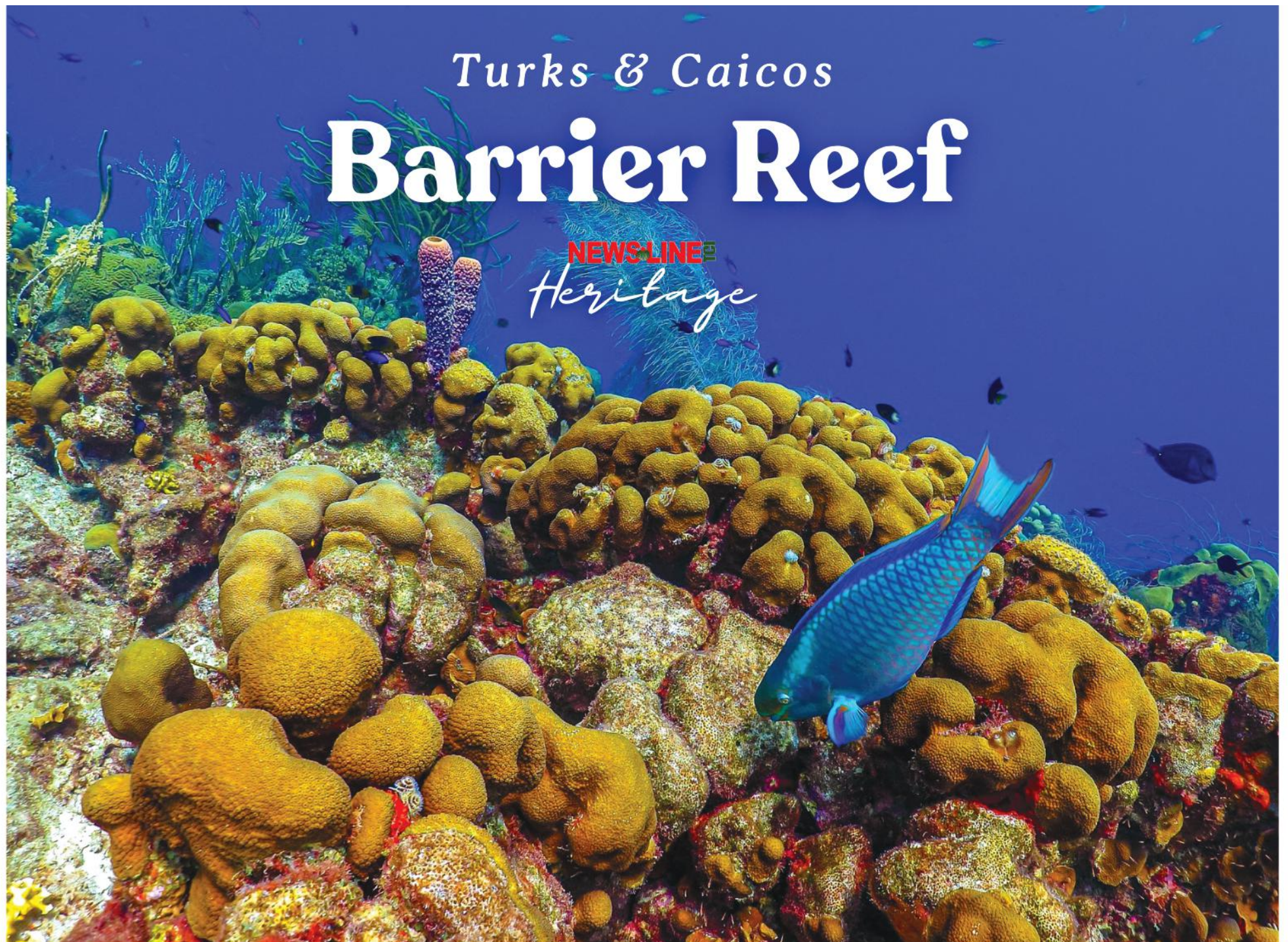
THE MARINARA TRENCH

Eric Scott

"This is your first time, isn't it?"

4-2

"I THINK THAT WAS A GOOD COOKIE, BUT IT'S HARD TO TELL BY JUST THE ONE."



Turks & Caicos Barrier Reef

NEWSLINE
Heritage

The Turks and Caicos Barrier Reef: A Living Legacy Beneath the Sea

Spanning over 340 miles, the Turks and Caicos Barrier Reef is the third-largest coral reef system in the world and the most significant continuous barrier reef in the Atlantic region. This sprawling underwater ecosystem is more than just a diver's paradise — it's a vital part of our national heritage, shaping our environment, culture, and economy for generations.

A Natural Fortress and Cradle of Biodiversity

The reef acts as a natural fortress, shielding the low-lying islands from strong ocean currents, storm surges, and coastal erosion. It creates the calm, shallow waters that have become iconic to the TCI experience.

But its beauty lies deeper. The Turks and Caicos Barrier Reef is home to an astonishing diversity of marine life. Over 60 species of hard and soft coral thrive here, including staghorn, elkhorn, and brain coral. These form complex habitats for a wide range of species — from schools of blue tang and angelfish to nurse sharks, eagle rays, spiny lobsters, and sea turtles. In these waters, reef fish and invertebrates carry out an age-old dance of survival, reproduction, and balance.

Economic Lifeline and Cultural Symbol

For generations, the people of Turks and Caicos have relied on the reef for their livelihoods. In earlier centuries, it supported local fisheries that fed families and fueled trade. Today, it powers a modern economy centered on eco-tourism. Tourists flock to the islands for world-renowned snorkeling and diving experiences in Grace Bay, Smith's Reef, and the dramatic wall drop-offs of Grand Turk and West Caicos. The reef not only draws visitors — it also draws admiration, awe, and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

The reef is also part of our cultural consciousness. Fishermen, boat captains, artisans, and tour operators all draw from its rhythms. Its bounty has inspired local music, folklore, and the culinary heritage passed down through generations. Protecting the reef, then, is not only an environmental responsibility — it is a cultural one.

Fragile Wonder, Shared Responsibility

Despite its resilience, the Turks and Caicos Barrier Reef faces numerous threats. Rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, overfishing, and pollution have taken their toll. The loss of coral not only threatens biodiversity but undermines the very fabric of island life.

Thankfully, efforts are underway to protect this irreplaceable heritage. Organizations like the Turks and Caicos Reef Fund and the Department of Environment & Coastal Resources (DECR) work to raise awareness, enforce marine protection laws, and support reef restoration initiatives. Community-based conservation, sustainable tourism practices, and education are key to ensuring the reef's survival for future generations.

References:
 DECR (2022). *Turks and Caicos Islands Department of Environment & Coastal Resources.*
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 NOAA (2022). *The Role of Coral Reefs in Coastal Protection.*
 Smithsonian Ocean Portal (2022). *Coral Reefs: Biodiversity and Conservation.*
 TC Reef Fund (2023). *Turks & Caicos Reef Facts and Preservation Initiatives.* <https://www.tcreef.org>
 Visit TCI (2024). *Turks and Caicos Barrier Reef Overview.* <https://www.visitci.com>



Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam (sixth from left), along with Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor (fourth from left), Minister of Health and Human Service Hon. Kyle Knowles (second from left) share in a photo with Candianne Williams (seventh from left) of the TCI Red Cross; Dr. Denise Braithwaite-Tenant (eighth from left), CEO of the TCI Hospital and other government, Red Cross and educators, along with Holy Family Academy student Mcxene Francisco (left). Occasion was the launch of the Hello Baby Bundle Program.



Students of the Holy Family Academy attending the launch of the Hello Baby Bundle program at the Cheshire Hall Medical Center in Providenciales

TCI Red Cross Launches “Hello Baby Bundle” Program to Support New Mothers

The Turks and Caicos Islands Red Cross (TCI Red Cross) has officially launched its Hello Baby Bundle program at Cheshire Hall Medical Centre, marking a meaningful step forward in strengthening support for new mothers and their newborns across the Islands.

The initiative provides thoughtfully prepared baby care packages to every new mother, offering essential items to help families navigate the first days of a child’s life. Each bundle includes a baby bag filled with diapers, wipes, clothing, a towel, a blanket, and other necessities, carefully curated through a blend of new and gently used items restored with care.

“This program is a simple but powerful expression of compassion,” said Candianne Williams, Director of the Turks and Caicos Islands Red Cross. “It ensures that every mother feels supported and every newborn is welcomed with love, dignity and care.”

Williams noted that the program builds on the Red Cross’ longstanding partnership with Cheshire Hall Medical Centre, where the organization has consistently responded to the needs of mothers and infants. “This initiative was inspired by ongoing requests for newborn essentials and the dedication of our staff and volunteers,” she said. “We are especially proud of the commitment shown by our Thrift Store Manager, Paula Garland, who has gone above and beyond, even outside of regular

hours, to ensure families receive the support they need.”

The concept was further strengthened when team member Kate Solecki introduced the idea of preparing ready-made bundles for immediate distribution. These initial bundles were quickly utilized during a crisis response, highlighting both the demand for and impact of the initiative. With encouragement from medical professionals, including Dr. Braithwaite of InterHealth Medical Centre, the program was expanded to serve all new mothers delivering at the facility.

A standout contribution to the program came from a student of Holy Family Academy, Mcxene Francisco, who embraced the initiative as a community project. She created the name Hello Baby Bundle, designed its logo, and worked alongside the Red Cross team to assemble the packages, demonstrating the meaningful role young people can play in community service.

The program also reflects a strong commitment to sustainability. Through the Red Cross Thrift Store, gently used items are given a second life, reducing waste while supporting families in need and strengthening community well-being.

“We extend our sincere thanks to our volunteers, donors, and sponsors, as well as a dedicated midwife volunteer who contributed helpful guidance for new mothers included in each package,” Williams added. “Their collective efforts ensure that

every bundle is prepared with care and compassion.”

The Hello Baby Bundle program is now available to all new mothers at Cheshire Hall Medical Centre, reinforcing the Red Cross’ mission

of providing humanitarian support where it is needed most.

For more information or to support the Hello Baby Bundle program, please contact the Turks and Caicos Islands Red Cross.



Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam presents a new mother with a care package under the Hello Baby Bundle Program

Life Line FEATURED CHURCH

Church of Christ, Blue Hills

This week on Newline Featured Church, we highlight the Church of Christ, located in Blue Hills, Providenciales. The Church of Christ offers several opportunities for weekly worship. On Sunday at 9a.m. is Devine Worship. At 6:30p.m. is evening service. On Wednesday starting at 6:30pm is Bible Study and prayer meeting. The church is founded on Romans 16:16 – “Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.” Its bedrock is also built on 2Corinthians 9:1-15. The Church of Christ is pastored by Jack Phanor and Patrick Forbes.



Life line Church Directory

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

Firm Foundation Ministries International
Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581

Christ is the Answer Ministry,
George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales
Tel: 241-8030

One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry,
Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive,
Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194.
Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com.

Touch of Love Ministries International Center
Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales
Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731

Abundant Life Ministries International
P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward
Highway, Providenciales
Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755

Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk,
Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289

Bethany Baptist Church,
Blue Hills, Providenciales
Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118

Church of God of Prophecy,
Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

Calvary Baptist Church,
South Caicos. Tel:946-3212

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

Rock of Jesus Ministry,
15 Five Cays, Safe Haven.
Tel: 649-3317628 of 649-2410087

Firm Foundation Ministries International
19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket ,
Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240

Church of God of Prophecy,
Providenciales Tel:941-3438

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

Faith Tabernacle Church of God,
Providenciales, Tel:946-4073

New Testament Church of God,
Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175

New Testament Church of God,
South Caicos Tel:946-3631

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

Healing Waters Ministries,
Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867

House of Prayer Church of God,
Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses,
Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727

Mount Mariah Baptist Church,
Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205

New Beginning Harvest Ministry,
Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759

New Testament Church of God
Orea Alley
P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales
Tel: 946-1255
Airport Road, South Caicos
Tel:231-2402

Firm Foundation Ministries International
Waterloo Road, Grand Turk.
Telephone: 649-332-624

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Junior Achievement Awards Ceremony

The conclusion of the Junior Achievement Company Program, which is a business venture competition among high schools and other institutions geared towards secondary school children, concluded with an awards ceremony at Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort and Spa on Providenciales, where the winners were announced. The institutions that took part in this year's competition were: the Edward Gartland Youth Centre, operating a business called Tropical Releaf Compositivny; the A. Louise Garland Thomas High School, operating Turquoise Tales; Raymond Gardiner High School, which operated Lush Isle Creations; British West Indies Collegiate, which operated Island Hope; and the Marjorie Basden High School, which operated Harbor Bay Boutique. The following are photo highlights of the event.





WHY SOME PEOPLE DEVELOP TYPE 2 DIABETES AND OTHERS DON'T

It's not just sugar. It's stress, hormones, and daily patterns

By Monica Uttamchandani
Holistic Health Coach, Turks and Caicos

Type 2 diabetes is often framed as a simple result of eating too much sugar. In reality, it develops through a combination of metabolic, hormonal, and lifestyle factors that build up over years. Many people with similar diets and activity levels have very different outcomes. That's because diabetes risk is not only about food choices. It's about how the body handles stress, insulin, and inflammation over time.

Insulin is the hormone that allows glucose to move from the bloodstream into the cells. When insulin works well, blood sugar remains stable and energy stays consistent. When insulin is constantly overstimulated, often due to irregular meals, chronic stress, lack of sleep, and inflammation, cells become less responsive. This is insulin resistance, the foundation of type 2 diabetes.

A common pattern I see is someone who eats lightly during the day, relies on coffee to push through work, then experiences



strong hunger and cravings in the evening. Blood sugar dips repeatedly, cortisol rises to compensate, and insulin output increases. Over time, this cycle trains the body to stay in a stressed metabolic state. Stress plays a major role here. Cortisol raises blood sugar so the body has quick fuel in perceived danger.

When stress is constant, cortisol remains elevated, pushing blood sugar higher even without food. This is why people under chronic stress often struggle with glucose control despite "eating healthy." Sleep deprivation compounds the issue. Poor sleep increases insulin resistance the following day and

raises hunger hormones, leading to higher calorie intake and stronger cravings. Inflammation from gut issues, excess alcohol, or ultra-processed foods further interferes with insulin signalling.

Preventing type 2 diabetes is not about perfection or restriction. It is about consistency. Regular meals that include protein, fibre, and healthy fats. Managing stress so cortisol is not constantly elevated. Supporting sleep. Allowing the body predictable fuel so it does not rely on emergency hormones to function.

Blood sugar balance is a long-term relationship with your body, not a short-term fix. When daily rhythms are supportive, the risk of metabolic disease drops significantly.

For more guidance on blood sugar regulation and metabolic health, follow @balancedbymonica on Instagram.

Monica Uttamchandani is a certified Holistic Health Coach based in the Turks and Caicos Islands. She also consults in person at The Elephant Rooms in Salt Mills, Providenciales.

Department of Tourist Regulations Welcomes New Civil Servant TIDES Ambassadors

The Department of Tourism Regulations has made significant headway in our latest initiative to broaden TIDES Training compliance among frontline Public Service sector officials, with the onboarding of staff at the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) and the Turks & Caicos National Trust. This effort reflects the country's ongoing commitment to strengthening service delivery and safeguarding the quality of the Turks and Caicos Islands' world-renowned tourism product. The training typically utilises immersive and interactive techniques such as role-play, scenario-based learning, and audio-visual presentations. These methods were specifically chosen to support diverse learning styles

and enhance real-world application for frontline staff.

Jasmine Thomas, Executive Director of the Turks and Caicos Islands, commenting on the TIDES initiative, emphasised the importance of active involvement in culture and cultural heritage. She noted that "engaging in and preserving cultural traditions helps strengthen national identity, fosters community pride, and ensures that the rich heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands is passed on to future generations."

D.E.C.R Director Luc Clerveaux said, "We are proud to have participated in the T.I.D.E.S. programme hosted by the Department of Tourism and Regulations. It was imperative that our staff become ambassadors of

the Turks and Caicos Islands, especially as we interface with members of the public from local and international communities. Through the T.I.D.E.S. programme, we were better able to deliver well-informed, high-quality customer service.

Commenting on the Initiative, DTR Director Avi Adams said the following: "We remain committed to building capacity across government agencies through the TIDES Program. This initiative is an integral part of the country's national Quality Assurance framework, and partnering with departments such as DECR and the National Trust contributes to the ongoing push for greater sustainability and cultural preservation awareness amongst stakeholders."

Minister of Tourism, the Honourable Zhavargo Jolly, added: "The expansion of the TIDES programme across key government departments underscores our commitment a consistent, high-quality visitor experience in the Turks and Caicos Islands. By equipping our public officers with the knowledge and skills to serve as proud ambassadors, we are strengthening our national identity while ensuring that sustainability, cultural preservation, and service excellence remain at the forefront of our tourism industry."

Government departments are encouraged to participate in upcoming training sessions as part of the nation's broader sustainability and service excellence objectives.

Flow TCI Empowers Local Communities with 'Project EmpowerHER'

Telecoms provider Flow has strengthened its commitment to community welfare with a substantial donation of personal care and self-care items to the Turks and Caicos Islands Red Cross, marking a significant contribution in support of International Women's Month.

The donations, collected throughout March under the theme 'Give to Gain', were driven by Flow's internal initiative, 'ProjectEmpowerHER' where employees across the business contributed essential feminine items, underscoring the company's continued dedication to supporting the health, dignity, and well-being of women and girls across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"International Women's Month serves as a powerful reminder of the work still required to support women in our communities," said Joanne Missick, Country Manager, Flow Turks and Caicos.

"Through 'ProjectEmpowerHER', our



From left, Carlencia Lightbourne, Senior Marketing Specialist; Tuvol Higgs, Office Manager for Red Cross; Philbert Lubrin, B2B Manager for Liberty Business; Joanne Missick, Country Manager for Flow TCI; and Sarah Jones, Sales Support Officer at Flow display some of the items sourced under the Project EmpowerHer initiative.

team wanted to take meaningful action and the 'Give to Gain' theme highlights that when we support others, we strengthen the entire community. I am incredibly proud of the generosity shown by our staff, and equally proud that Flow cwwan play a part in creating safer, more supportive environments for women across our islands."

The handover ceremony, held this week at the Red Cross headquarters, represents an important component of Flow's corporate social responsibility agenda.

"We are extremely grateful for this contribution from Flow," said Tuvol Higgs, Office Manager, Turks and Caicos Islands Red Cross.

"Partnerships like this reinforce the strength of our community network, and Flow's support allows us to extend our reach even further. Their generosity will make an immediate and meaningful difference in the lives of the women we serve."

POWER OF PRESENCE WORKSHOP EQUIPS MODELS WITH CAREER DEFINING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

On Saturday, 28 March 2026, participants in the 2026 TCI Top Model contest took part in a transformative workshop, "Showing Up: The Power of Presence", led by Melanie Smith, Managing Director of Talent Recruitment Group.

The intensive session translated industry insight into immediate, career ready tools, teaching participants how to make unforgettable first impressions, communicate with clarity at castings and interviews, and turn casual conversation into lasting professional connections.

The session opened with a reminder that perception often precedes speech: attendees have seconds to establish credibility. Through practical demos and guided activities, participants refined presentation elements—dress, punctuality, posture, eye contact, and handshake—and learnt to speak with intention by slowing down, using purposeful pauses, and minimising fillers. Rehearsal techniques helped reframe nerves as focused energy and prepare calm responses to tough questions.

The workshop introduced the A.R.E. method (Anchor, Reveal, Encourage) to turn brief exchanges into memorable dialogue, emphasising active listening, reflective responses, and thoughtful follow-ups. The network-

ing module promoted intentional outreach—researching contacts, leading with value, and sending personalised follow-ups within 24 hours—and showed how a curated, authentic social media presence can serve as a professional portfolio.

Role play anchored the session: participants perfected a 60-second casting intro, name, origin, one defining trait, and industry motivation and ran two-minute networking drills to sharpen openers, sustain conversation, and close smoothly. Mrs Smith gave immediate, targeted feedback to increase composure, refine delivery, and quicken conversational tempo under pressure.

"Professional presence is a trainable skill," said the recruitment and training executive. "Today's attendees left with concrete techniques that make them memorable for the right reasons—reliable, poised and unmistakably ready to connect. That confidence doesn't just open doors; it creates opportunity and accelerates careers."

Courtney Robinson, Founder and Executive Producer of TCI Top Model, added, "In an industry driven by first impressions and relationships, Showing Up gave models the rehearsal, strategy and confidence to turn raw talent into lasting careers. The calibre



Melanie Smith, Managing Director of Talent Recruitment Group

of this workshop will have a profound and enduring impact."

The Turks and Caicos' premier fashion event returns bigger and bolder.

Cycle 7 of TCI Top Model culminates in a spectacular Grand Finale on **Saturday, May 2nd, 2026**, at Brayton Hall,

Providenciales – expect high fashion, fierce competition and unforgettable entertainment.

Tickets are currently on sale; for more information, call **649-232-6796** or follow **@TCITopModel** on all social platforms.



ISU FUTURE CREATORS CHALLENGE CELEBRATES YOUTH CREATIVITY AND INTELLECT

The Informal Settlements Unit (ISU) successfully hosted its Future Creators Challenge Prize Distribution Ceremony on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at its office in Providenciales, recognising outstanding student creativity and participation from across the Turks and Caicos Islands with winners hailing from Providenciales and North Caicos.

The Future Creators Challenge formed a central component of the ISU's Youth Outreach Programme, an initiative designed to engage young people in understanding the challenges associated with informal settlements while encouraging critical thinking, creativity, and

solution-oriented perspectives on national development.

Through a combination of educational content, school engagement, and creative competitions, the programme provided students with an opportunity to explore issues of community development in accessible and meaningful ways. Students competed across three categories: 2D Art, Essay Writing, and Jingle Creation, producing submissions that demonstrated both creativity and thoughtful engagement with the themes of the programme.

The following students were recognised for their outstanding performances:

2D Art Challenge

1st Place – Emily Joree – MILLS Institute

2nd Place – T'Sean Anthony – Thelma Lightbourne Primary School

3rd Place – Jagan Russell – MILLS Institute

4th Place – Eve Harvey – MILLS Institute

Essay Challenge

1st Place – Jordan Pierre – Louis Garland Thomas High School

2nd Place – Kavya Mirwani – British West Indies Collegiate

3rd Place – Mirsendy Obei – Raymond Gardiner High School

Jingle Challenge

1st Place – Naivan Smith – Raymond Gardiner High School.

In addition to individual awards,

MILLS Institute was presented with a special prize in recognition of submitting the highest number of entries to the ISU Future Creators Challenge, reflecting exceptional student participation and institutional support.

In remarks delivered during the session, ISU Strategic Lead Justice Carlos Simons KC underscored the importance of youth participation in shaping the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands, noting that "the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands depends on young people like you who are willing to engage, to imagine solutions, and to play a role in the development of your communities."



He further encouraged students to continue playing an active role in national development, expressing that he hoped “this is only the beginning of your journey as agents of change here in the TCI.” The ISU extends its sincere appreciation to all participating schools, students, and teachers as well as the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture,

whose support contributed to the success of this inaugural Youth Outreach Programme initiative. The Unit remains committed to expanding its engagement with young people across the Turks and Caicos Islands through innovative, inclusive engagement efforts that support awareness, education, and long-term national development.

Surgery is often the first step in colorectal cancer treatment

In March, Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, a specialist explains when surgery is often the first step.

When someone is diagnosed with colorectal cancer — which includes both colon and rectal cancers — many people immediately think “surgery.” And it’s true that surgery plays a central role in treatment for most patients.

But whether it comes first, and what it entails, depends on several factors, especially where the cancer is located, how far it has grown into surrounding tissues, and whether it has spread, explains Eric Dozois, M.D., chair of colon and rectal surgery at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

“For colon cancer, surgery is typically the first and main step when the disease hasn’t spread to distant organs. The goal is to remove the cancerous part of the colon along with nearby lymph nodes, which are the first places cancer spreads,” Dr. Dozois says. “After surgery, the removed tissue is examined under a microscope to confirm the stage of the disease and decide whether additional treatment, such as chemotherapy, is needed.”

In early-stage colon cancer (stages 1 and 2), surgery alone may be curative. Many patients won’t need further treatment beyond regular follow-ups. In stage 3 disease, chemotherapy after surgery is usually recommended to help reduce the risk of the cancer returning.

“Surgery also may be used in more advanced cases, including relieving symptoms like bleed-

ing or bowel obstruction, or removing tumors in other organs, which might help control the disease”, Dr. Dozois adds.

Rectal cancer, found in the last several inches of the large intestine, is often treated differently from colon cancer. Because the rectum is deep in the pelvis next to other organs and structures, such as nerves that control bowel and bladder function, doctors often use a multidisciplinary approach.

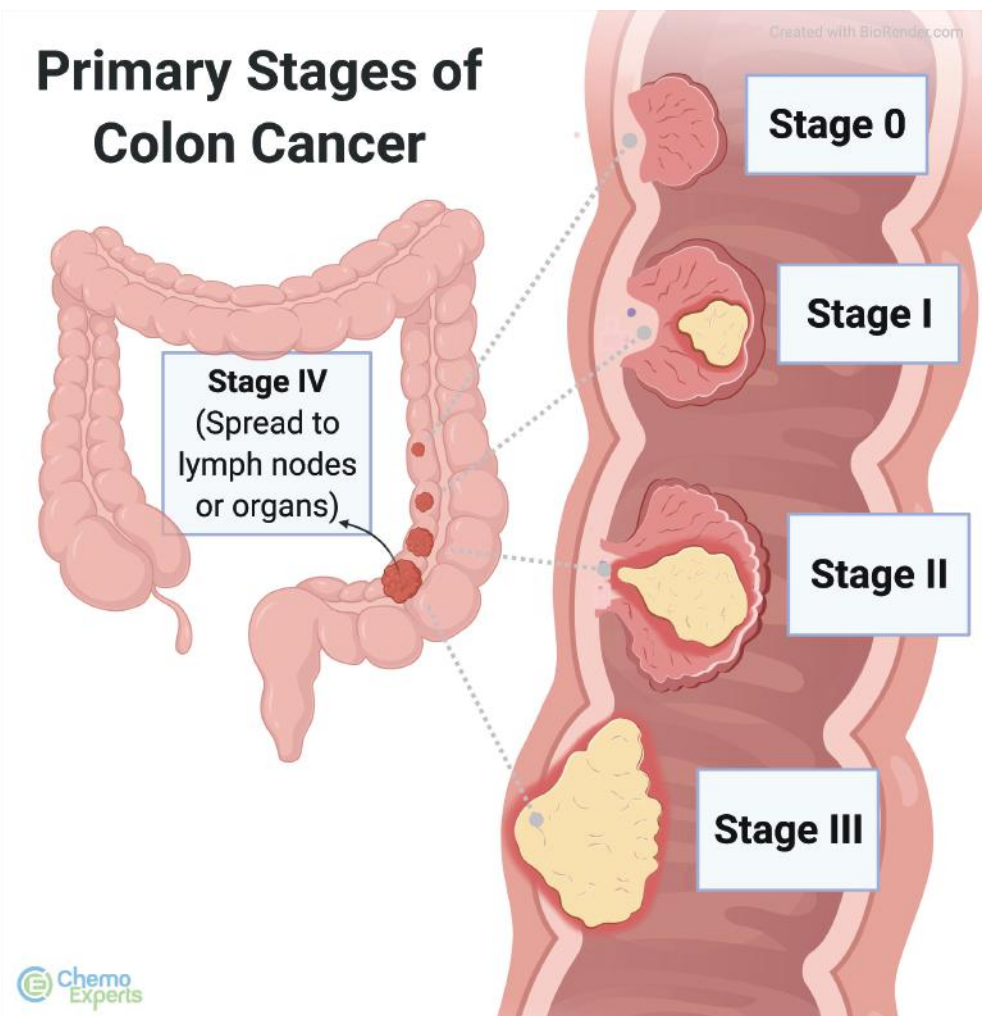
“For many rectal cancers, especially those that are locally advanced or close to critical structures, treatment typically begins with chemotherapy and radiation before surgery,” Dr. Dozois says. “The aim is to shrink the tumor so it can be removed more completely and safely and reduce the risk that it will come back.”

This sequence, called neoadjuvant therapy, is less common in colon cancer but standard in many cases of rectal cancer, which have a higher risk of local recurrence. It often improves outcomes and, in some carefully selected patients, may even allow preservation of more typical bowel function.

Rectal cancer care can involve a team of specialists, including colorectal surgeons, medical oncologists and radiation oncologists, who discuss each case together to tailor the best plan for each patient.

“Whether it’s for colon or rectal cancer, the basic aim of surgery is the same: to remove the tumor completely, along with a margin of healthy tissue around it and nearby lymph nodes,” Dr.

Primary Stages of Colon Cancer



Dozois says. “The surgeon then reconnects the remaining bowel so it can continue normal function.”

Many colorectal operations are performed using minimally invasive techniques such as laparoscopy or robotic-assisted surgery, he adds. These methods use small incisions and advanced instruments that allow surgeons to work precisely, leading to fewer complications, less pain and a faster recovery than with traditional open surgery.

For colon cancer, minimally invasive colectomies are common and, in many patients, can be done through several very small incisions. Recovery may be quicker, with patients beginning to eat soon after surgery and returning home in a few days.

For rectal cancer, minimally invasive techniques also are used, but the surgery can be more complex because of the tighter space in the pelvis and the need to preserve nerves. Robotic surgery in particular offers 3D visualization and refined control that can be especially helpful.

Surgery for rectal cancer can sometimes affect bowel function. In some patients, a temporary or permanent stoma, an opening on the abdomen for

waste to pass, may be necessary depending on the tumor’s location and extent. Even with technically successful surgery, some patients experience changes in bowel habits or control (a condition sometimes called low anterior resection syndrome), urinary difficulties or sexual dysfunction. These are important aspects to discuss with your care team.

Not every colorectal cancer case is the same. The approach is individualized based on:

Stage of the cancer: how deep it has penetrated and whether it has spread.

Location of the tumor: rectal cancer often needs a different sequence of therapy than colon cancer.

Overall health and preferences: patient goals, other medical conditions and recovery expectations all matter.

“Experience matters when it comes to optimizing outcomes in patients with colorectal cancer,” Dr. Dozois explains. “That’s why it’s important to seek care from expert centers that treat a high volume of patients with colorectal cancer each year, use multidisciplinary teams to review each case, and recommend a therapeutic sequence that balances cure and quality of life.”

Resort Riddims! Sandals Region wide Team Talent Showcase Delivers New Service Anthem

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

In a room filled with enthusiastic team members, Sandals Resorts leaders from across the Caribbean region, celebrity guests and an electrifying atmosphere, the company awarded two standout team members US\$10,000 for creating the jingle that has become the anthem of the brand's Service DNA. This "Service DNA" represents the genetic code that shapes the mindset, behaviours, culture and systems behind the signature Sandals experience – a theme underscored earlier during the company's first group wide town hall of 2026, led by Executive Chairman Adam Stewart. At the town hall, Stewart provided team members with key updates, including progress on hurricane recovery efforts and several exciting new developments across the Sandals portfolio.

With updates delivered and the room brimming with anticipation, he queued the 'lights and action,' shifting the spotlight to the finale of the company's first-ever Resort

Riddims competition held recently. This group wide initiative invited team members, months earlier, to write and perform an original song highlighting the values embodied in the company's DNA. The response was extraordinary.

Over 100 entries poured in from Sandals and Beaches Resorts team members across the Caribbean, highlighting incredible talent and friendly rivalry. After a thrilling preliminary round at each location across the nine countries in which the company operates, the competition culminated in a vibrant live show in Jamaica. The top four performances emerged from Grenada, Jamaica and The Bahamas. The grand finale transformed the conference area of Sandals Ochi Beach Resort into a full-scale performance studio – complete with big screens, colourful stage lighting and sparkler fountains – setting the tone for an unforgettable evening of music, camaraderie and competition. The event was made even more memorable with celebrity appearances from reggae/dancehall singer Christopher

Martin and Soca star Alison Hinds, who served as judges alongside the Executive Chairman.

Following captivating performances from the finalists, it was the dynamic duo Brent McMeo and Ahkim Baptiste of Sandals Grenada who won over both the judges and the audience. Their melodic, feel-good Caribbean song, The Sandals Way, earned them the grand prize of US\$10,000.

"This winning song is now our official Service DNA anthem – a rallying call for every team member who shows up every day to create Caribbean moments that last a lifetime," said Corporate Manager of Employee Experience, Jamie Green.

After the applause settled, the evening took an even more heartfelt turn. Sandals' Executive Chairman rewarded the artistry and effort of all the finalists with an unexpected gift.

"What amazing talent every one of you exemplified and for that we think it is fitting that each of you get a Sandals holiday with your loved ones, with airfare, where

you will be treated the way you deserve. We will VIP you all the way. You'll be in butler suites, and we're going to remind you how appreciative we are. I am grateful for this whole journey. You're all rock-stars," Stewart shared.

Beyond the excitement, the competition carried a deeper purpose. Resort Riddims was an initiative developed by the company's Experience Department and its twin divisions – Customer Experience (CX), which elevates the guest journey, and Employee Experience (EX), which empowers the team members who deliver those moments.

"That's what Service DNA is all about – equipping our teams with clear, measurable tools that celebrate the individuality and warmth of Caribbean hospitality. It represents a cultural reset for our brand. It is our commitment to returning to the foundations of who we are, while strengthening how we deliver genuine Caribbean moments to our guests and to each other," said Regional Manager of CX for Jamaica, Kareema Plummer.



Brent McMeo and Ahkim Baptiste of Sandals Grenada share smiles after emerging as winners of the company's Resort Riddims finals held recently.



Executive Chairman of Sandals Resorts, Adam Stewart, shares key updates during Sandals Resorts' first group wide town hall meeting for 2026, held recently.



Executive Chairman of Sandals Resorts Adam Stewart (right) and Corporate Manager for Employee Experience Jamie Green at Sandals Resorts' first group wide town hall meeting for 2026. The town hall was held just before the company's Resort Riddims finale.



Corporate Manager for Employee Experience Jamie Green and Regional Manager of CX for Jamaica, Kareema Plummer, speak on Sandals Resorts' "service DNA" ahead of the company's Resort Riddims live finals.



Reggae singer Christopher Martin, Sandals Executive Chairman Adam Stewart (centre), and Soca star Alison Hinds are a picture of focus while serving as judges during the recently held Resort Riddims competition.



Team members in the audience at the Resort Riddims live finale at Sandals Ochi Beach Resort cheer on their favourite contestants.



Reggae singer Christopher Martin (right) and Soca singer Alison Hinds at Sandals Ochi during the company's Resort Riddims competition.



Finalists of the Resort Riddims competition wait eagerly for the judges to announce the winner.



Reggae singer Christopher Martin (right) and Soca singer Alison Hinds at Sandals Ochi during the company's Resort Riddims competition.



A winner of the Resort Riddims competition holds a large check for Ten Thousand US Dollars (US \$10,000) on stage.



Women in Sports

In recognition of International Women’s Day, observed annually on March 8, representatives from the Women in Sports Organization paid a special visit to Ashley Learning Center School on March 13, 2026. The delegation included the President, Rosalie Ingham-Hall, Assistant Treasurer, Gertrude Forbes and a member of the organization, Edith Skippings, who spent time with the students and staff of the school. Ashley Learning Center School serves children with disabilities and provides a nurturing environment for learning and personal growth.

During the visit, members of the Women in Sports Organization gave gifts to the children and shared words of encouragement with them.

The visit formed part of the organization’s ongoing commitment to uplifting and inspiring young people in the community, while



also recognizing the importance of celebrating and supporting children of all abilities.

The Women in Sports Organization expressed their gratitude to the staff and students of Ashley Learning Center School for the warm welcome and memorable experience.





(L-R) Dr. Mark Sami, CARPHA Director witnesses Dr. Lisa Indar, CARPHA Executive Director at the signing of the Georgetown-CARPHA new partnership agreement.



Executives from CGHPI (L-R) Kemisha Denny, Care Continuity Specialist, Dr Jennifer Hayes-Klosteridis, Vice President for Health Sciences Strategic Management & Operations, Dr. Norman Beauchamp, Executive Vice President for Health Services & Dean of the School of Medicine and Dr. Babatunji Oni, Senior Programme Director, witness the landmark signing with CARPHA.

CARPHA, Georgetown University Formalise Regional Public Health Strategic Partnership

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and Georgetown University's Center for Global Health Practice and Impact (CGHPI) announced a new bidirectional collaboration to strengthen health systems research, innovation and public health capacity across the Caribbean.

The collaboration establishes a framework for joint action in health systems and implementation science research tailored to the unique contexts and needs of CARPHA Member States. The agreement also promotes knowledge exchange and collaboration between academia and public health practice, including health and non-health stakeholders.

Key opportunities from the agreement include:

- Enhanced reach and efficiency: Strengthening workforce development through coordinated resource sharing,

tailored training, mentorship and technical assistance. This will build competencies in epidemiology, data use, clinical care, evaluation, research and evidence-to-policy translation.

- Innovation for effectiveness: Advancing integrated care models that address both communicable and noncommunicable diseases to improve primary care delivery and chronic disease management.

- Shared learning: Leveraging expertise and experiences to design, test and scale evidence-based interventions that support sustainable, context-appropriate solutions.

Dr. Lisa Indar, CARPHA Executive Director shared, "This MoU brings distinct benefits to the Agency and its Member States, specifically in the areas of surveillance, emergency response and workforce development, while simultaneously bringing the asset of the

strong academic and analytical capabilities of Georgetown University in applied global health practice, education, and research".

Dr. Deus Bazira, Director, CGHPI, said the collaboration represents a transformative moment in Caribbean public health. "This collaboration marks a new chapter in doing global health work differently- one that is genuinely bidirectional, rooted in Caribbean priorities, and built on the principle that the most powerful health innovations emerge when institutions combine their strengths in service of shared goals."

CARPHA and CGHPI will work together on impact assessments, developing monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the effectiveness of health interventions and inform future strategies.

Dr. Horace Cox, Director of the Surveillance, Disease Preven-

tion and Control Division at CARPHA, stated, 'This partnership embodies a commitment to advancing evidence-based public health approaches, by bridging operational gaps between academia and public health practice, for the benefit of all CARPHA Member States'. The agreement also supports innovations in health care delivery, including co-development of new care models and technology integration such as telemedicine and mobile health applications. It encourages public-private partnerships to maximize resources and expertise.

This agreement reflects CARPHA's mandate to provide strategic leadership and technical excellence in public health across the Caribbean and Georgetown University's commitment to advancing global health through research, education, and implementation science.

Beaches adds four new PADI Dive Instructors to watersports department

Beaches Turks & Caicos, a PADI-certified dive resort in Providenciales, continues to invest in its watersports team by training and certifying four team members to become qualified dive instructors to its operation. The resort operates one of the most comprehensive resort diving programmes in the region, offering on-site PADI courses and daily dives for guests of varying experience levels.

These latest certifications were conducted under the supervision of PADI Course Director and Dive Shop Manager Leonard Suckrajh, who is among an elite group of PADI professionals in the Caribbean. His role as course director allows the resort to deliver instructor-level training on property, further elevating the standard of safety, education and guest experience at the resort's dive centre.

Suckrajh expressed his satisfaction with the commitment and professionalism demonstrated by the four new instructors, Almina Browne, Cicely Clarke, Andrew Dunkley and Boat Captain Tryston Sang throughout their training and assessment. "I am extremely proud of them," he said. "They have invested significant time and effort in developing their technical competence and instructional skills and their achievement reflects a deep commitment to delivering safe, high-quality dive experiences for our guests."

He noted that their performance reflects a strong culture of excellence within the watersports department and aligns with the resort's long-standing emphasis on safety and training. "At Beaches Turks and Caicos, our ob-



The four new PADI Instructors added to the Beaches Watersports Department

jective is not only to train divers, but to develop highly responsible professionals who understand that every dive is grounded in safety, teamwork and respect for the marine environment," he added. Suckrajh, whose own progression to course director spans more than two decades in watersports and diving within the Sandals and Beaches brands, said the new instructors represent "the next generation of leaders within our dive operation."

General Manager Deryk Meany, commended the level of collaboration required to guide four new instructors through the rigorous PADI process.

"Attaining PADI instructor status is a demanding accomplishment that cannot be realized in isolation," Meany said. "It requires the coordinated support of the dive shop, the wider watersports team, and the broader resort operation to ensure candidates have the necessary resources, time and mentorship to succeed."

He emphasized that strengthening the cadre of certified instructors supports the resort's commitment to excellence in guest service. "Each additional instructor enhances our capacity to offer guests a greater range of options, a higher degree of personal at-

tention and consistently high safety standards," Meany continued. "This milestone reinforces our position as a leading provider of family-friendly diving experiences in the Caribbean."

Beaches Turks and Caicos is recognized for providing a wide spectrum of PADI courses on site, from Discover Scuba Diving and Open Water certification to advanced and specialty programmes. Previous training initiatives at the resort have resulted in many team members achieving PADI instructor status, significantly increasing both certification capacity and in-water safety oversight.

The Agency Publishes Q1 2026 Market Report Highlighting Real Estate Trends and Future Outlook

The Agency Turks and Caicos has officially released its Q1 2026 Market Report, offering a comprehensive analysis of real estate trends and market performance. The newly published report provides buyers, sellers, and industry professionals with critical data and actionable insights to navigate the evolving housing landscape successfully.

The comprehensive document highlights shifting consumer demands and the continued strength of the property sector. Throughout the first three months of the year, data shows a consistent increase in buyer interest for properties that offer exceptional lifestyle amenities and long-term in-

vestment security. The report serves as a vital tool for understanding how broader economic shifts are influencing purchasing decisions in highly sought-after destinations around the globe.

"The first quarter of 2026 has demonstrated remarkable resilience and a sustained appetite for premium real estate," said Sean O'Neill, Managing Partner of The Agency Turks and Caicos. "Buyers are entering the market with clear priorities, focusing heavily on lifestyle enhancements and properties that hold enduring value. This focused demand continues to drive momentum and stability across our core markets."

Beyond immediate performance metrics, the Q1 2026 Market Report details emerging trends that will shape the industry in the coming months. Inventory levels, pricing adjustments, and the pace of transactions are thoroughly examined to give clients a clear advantage.

The data indicates that properties in prime locations maintain competitive pricing, rewarding sellers who position their homes accurately while offering buyers opportunities to secure legacy assets. While transaction numbers have declined it is clear that steady growth continues, with record sales being noted at The Shore Club, West Bay Club and South Bank.

A highlight of Q1 was the imminent completion of sales at The Retreat in Grace Bay. This landmark development for Turks and Caicos Islanders has seen significant interest since launch and at the time of publication only one unit remained available for sale at this boutique resort property.

"Looking ahead, the real estate market is positioned for healthy, steady growth," O'Neill added. "Our Q1 findings reveal that informed buyers are acting decisively when the right opportunity arises. We anticipate this confident approach will carry forward through the remainder of the year, creating a dynamic environment for both buyers and sellers."

OPTIMISTIC

**TCI Swim Team Eyes Strong Showing at
CARIFTA Championships in Martinique**



SEE PG32

Kishco Defeat Air Cool Knight Riders as Smith Delivers Match-Winning Performance



Mario Smith collects his Man of the Match Award from Maxine Salmon.

ularly from Stephen Brown, who struck an aggressive 36 off just 19 balls, and Kevin Root, who contributed a brisk 20, the team struggled to build meaningful partnerships. Wickets fell at regular intervals, disrupting any momentum and leaving the batting side under constant pressure.

At the center of the Knight Riders' collapse was Mario Smith, whose bowling performance proved decisive. Delivering with control, variation, and accuracy, Smith tore through the lineup to finish with outstanding figures of 6 wickets for 22 runs from his four overs. His spell effectively dismantled the middle order and ensured the Knight Riders were bowled out for 113 in just 14.1 overs, a total that appeared below par on a good batting surface.

Kishco's bowlers complemented Smith well, maintaining tight lines and capitalizing on the pressure he created. The disciplined effort in the field further restricted scoring opportunities, ensuring the target remained within comfortable

reach.

Chasing 114 for victory, Kishco approached the innings with composure and confidence. Once again, it was Smith who led from the front, this time with the bat. Displaying positive intent, he struck a fluent 34 off 20 deliveries, including four towering sixes that energized his side and shifted the momentum firmly in Kishco's favor.

Supporting him was Winston Callam, who played a measured and controlled innings, finishing unbeaten on 34. His calm presence at the crease ensured stability as wickets fell at the other end. Smijo Devassys also played a valuable role, contributing 16 not out and helping guide the team through the latter stages of the chase.

Although Air Cool Knight Riders attempted to fight back through the bowling efforts of Stephen Brown and Iran Mack, they were unable to apply sustained pressure. Kishco's batsmen managed the chase effectively, rotating strike and capitalizing on scoring opportunities to

steadily close in on the target.

Kishco eventually reached 117 for 4 in 16.3 overs, sealing a comfortable win and strengthening their position in the Group A standings. For Air Cool Knight Riders, the loss highlighted inconsistencies that have affected their campaign, particularly in maintaining partnerships and defending modest totals.

With this result, the TCICA T20 competition continues to build excitement among local cricket fans. However, there will now be a short pause in the schedule, as the association takes a break from competition.

Matches are set to resume on Sunday, April 12, 2026, when teams will return refreshed and ready to continue the battle for supremacy in what is shaping up to be a highly competitive season.

For now, the spotlight firmly belongs to Mario Smith, whose outstanding all-round performance not only guided Kishco to victory but also set a high standard for excellence in the tournament.

Cheshire Hall FC Headlines Dominant Week in Provo Premier League

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Cheshire Hall FC emerged as the undisputed headline-makers in the Beaches-sponsored Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) Provo Premier League, delivering two commanding performances to underline their title ambitions at the TCIFA Field in Providenciales.

The standout showing came midweek as Paulsaint Standley produced a brilliant hat trick to lead Cheshire Hall to a 4-2 victory over Teachers Young Strikers. The attacking display set the tone for what would become a dominant run, capped by a resounding 7-1 triumph over Beaches FC.

Against Teachers Young Strikers, Cheshire Hall wasted no time asserting control. Standley opened the scoring in the 2nd minute and added two more goals in the 23rd and 34th minutes to complete a first-half hat trick that gave his side a comfortable 3-1 lead at the break. Teachers stayed within reach thanks to an own goal credited to Idelin Gardiner in the 19th minute, but Cheshire's attacking quality proved decisive. In the second half, Cheshire Hall main-

tained their composure and sealed the victory when DJuffson Charles found the net in the 81st minute. Teachers Young Strikers managed a late consolation goal through Emmanuel Harvey in the 89th minute, but it was not enough to threaten the result. Standley's clinical finishing earned him Most Valuable Player (MVP) honors for Cheshire Hall, while Genixson Petion was named MVP for Teachers Young Strikers. Teachers also picked up two cautions, while Cheshire Hall completed the match without a single booking.

Cheshire Hall carried that momentum into their clash with Beaches FC, producing one of the most dominant performances of the season in a 7-1 rout. Idelin Gardiner led the charge with four goals, striking in the 2nd, 4th, 66th, and stoppage time to deliver a sensational individual display. Stanley Israel added a brace with goals in the 27th and 34th minutes, while Darrion Campbell also got on the scoresheet in the 50th minute.

Beaches FC struggled to contain the relentless attack but managed a lone goal through Deshaun Curtis in the 73rd minute. Gardiner's four-goal performance earned him MVP honors for Cheshire



Cheshire Hall FC

Hall, while Curtis was recognized as Beaches FC's top performer. Discipline remained relatively controlled, with just one caution issued to each team. On Sunday, fans were treated to a thrilling contest between Flamingo FC and SWA Sharks FC, which ended in a dramatic 2-2 draw.

SWA Sharks FC struck early, with Brian Gregg converting a penalty in the 10th minute to give his side the advantage. Kevern Bellot extended the lead shortly after halftime, scoring in the 47th minute to put the Sharks firmly in control.

However, Flamingo FC mounted a remarkable late comeback. Ismael Athis ignited hope with a goal in the 82nd minute before Ashley Ojasma completed the rally with an equalizer in the 86th minute, sending the match to a thrilling finish.

Athis was named MVP for Flamingo FC, while Caleb Noncent earned MVP honors for SWA Sharks FC. The match was also marked by physical play, with three cautions issued to each team. The competition was set to continue over the Easter Weekend.



The recipients of the Wine Cellar Golf and Fishing Tournament display their cheques in front of the Wine Cellar, located along Leeward Highway in Providenciales, on Monday, March 30. At left are representatives of the Swim Federation. At centre is the Edward Gartland Youth Centre, and at right are representatives of the TCAAA.

Wine Cellar Tournament Fuels Youth and Sports Development in Turks and Caicos

The Wine Cellar Golf and Fishing Tournament made a hefty donation of \$60,000 to youth-centered entities in the Turks and Caicos Islands, reinforcing its commitment to sports development and community upliftment. This year's beneficiaries included the Edward Gartland Youth Centre, the Turks and Caicos Amateur Athletic Association (TCAAA), and the Turks and Caicos Swim Federation. The Edward Gartland Youth Centre received the lion's share of the donation at \$30,000, while the TCAAA got \$30,000, the Swim Federation collected \$20,000. Speaking during the cheque presentation, Nikimo Williams, a director at Gilley's Enterprises, the company behind the event, emphasized the purpose behind the growing event. "This is about giving back to the youth," Williams explained. "Every year we host the tournament and raise funds through various initiatives, including

Calcutta bidding, so we can support programs that are making a real difference." Williams noted that the Youth Centre remains a major focus due to its holistic approach to youth development, blending education, sports, and the arts. At the same time, support for athletic programs reflects the rising performance of young Turks and Caicos athletes on the regional stage. "We've seen our kids push themselves hard this year," he said. "We want to be part of contributing to that success." **Longstanding Support for Athletics** For Edith Skippings, President of the TCAAA, the contribution is both timely and impactful. The association has been a beneficiary of the tournament for most of the past decade, and Skippings praised the continued commitment to youth and sports development. "This funding helps tremendously, es-

pecially this year when our expenses are much higher," she said. Team Turks and Caicos is preparing to compete in Grenada, facing increased travel and accommodation costs due to scheduling and logistical challenges. Despite these hurdles, Skippings remains optimistic. "We're hoping to bring back medals, but more importantly, we want our athletes to perform at their best and achieve personal milestones," she added. **Community at the Core** At the grassroots level, the impact of the donations is deeply felt. Roxann Wake-Forbes, Director of the Youth Centre, highlighted the importance of consistent community backing. "As a non-profit, everything we do depends on community support," she said. "This tournament is a staple event that not only brings people together but also ensures that programs for our

youth can continue." The funds will go directly toward sustaining operations and expanding programming, helping to provide safe spaces and opportunities for young people across the islands. **A Tradition That Continues to Grow** With its blend of sport, philanthropy, and community engagement, the Wine Cellar Golf and Fishing Tournament has become a cornerstone event in Turks and Caicos. Organizers say they are committed to expanding their reach even further in the years ahead. "This isn't the first time we've done this, and it won't be the last," Williams said. "As the event grows, so does our ability to give back." As athletes prepare to represent the nation and youth programs continue to thrive, the tournament stands as a reminder that behind every success story is a community willing to invest in its future.

Salt Rakers Shine at Open Water Competition in Grace Bay

The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club delivered another standout event on Saturday, March 28, 2026, hosting a highly successful Open Water Competition at Rickie's Flamingo Café in the heart of Grace Bay, Providenciales.

Set against the backdrop of turquoise waters and clear skies, the competition brought together swimmers of all ages and skill levels for a morning of spirited racing, sportsmanship, and community engagement. From seasoned competitors to emerging young talent, participants embraced the challenge of open water swimming in one of the country's most scenic locations.

The 2K race proved to be one of the highlights of the day, with Lex Olorenshaw producing a strong and consistent performance to claim first place. Amanda D'Cruz followed closely to secure second, while Katie McCully rounded out the podium with a solid third-place finish.

In the 1K event, Jabri Remsey showcased impressive endurance and pacing to take top honours. Mark Kanzler delivered a competitive swim to finish second, with Christopher Novak placing third after a determined effort in the closing stretch.

The 500m race featured an exciting display of speed and technique, as Gabrielle Martin surged ahead to capture first place. Ethan Williams continued his strong showing on the day by finishing second, while Daniel Martin secured third position.

Short-distance excitement came in the 100m sprint, where Michael Martin powered his way to first place in a fast-paced contest. Ethan Williams added another podium finish with second place, and Darwin Ganasan completed the top three with a commendable performance.

Beyond the results, the event highlighted the strength and unity of the local swimming community. The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club extended sincere appreciation to all participants, including Katie McCully, Christopher Novak, Kebbie Brown, Jasan Brown, Amanda D'Cruz, Candi Storey, Mark Kanzler, Joanne Hopkins, Mark Julie, Paul Julie, Lex Olorenshaw, Akeen Jones, Darwin Ganasan, Grain Muthcruil, Ethan Williams, Gabrielle Martin, Daniel Martin, Michael Martin, Samuel Martin, and Isabelle Martin.

Organizers also acknowledged the invaluable support of families, volunteers, and supporters who contributed to the smooth execution of the competition. Their presence and encouragement added to the vibrant atmosphere and helped make the event both memorable and rewarding for all involved.

With another successful competition completed, the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club continues to play a vital role in promoting aquatic sports and fostering talent across the Turks and Caicos Islands.





The Turks and Caicos Swim Team to the CARIFTA Championship in Martinique share in a photo op at the Howard Hamilton International Airport in Providenciales, before departing for the games in Martinique.

TCI Swim Team Eyes Strong Showing at CARIFTA Championships in Martinique

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands Swim Team has set its sights on a standout performance at the 2026 CARIFTA Swimming Championships in Martinique, with officials expressing confidence that this year's squad will surpass previous teams.

The team departed the Turks and Caicos Islands on Wednesday, March 1, ahead of the regional competition, which runs from March 2 to March 8.

Head coach Jessica Soderquist believes the swimmers are in an excellent position to deliver strong results.

"We've got a great young team. Everyone's very ex-

cited," Soderquist said. "They've been doing a great job preparing and are in a great head space. I expect everyone to swim really well."

According to the coach, the swimmers have shown impressive dedication in training, with their hard work and commitment evident in recent sessions.

"They've been looking great in practice. I'm really excited to see them compete. It's my favorite thing, watching their work pay off in the pool," she added.

Each swimmer is expected to compete in multiple events, ranging from four to as many as seven or eight races, depending on the athlete.

Preparation for the cham-

pionships has been intensive despite a short window for team training. While swimmers trained with their respective clubs throughout the year, the national squad has spent the past three weeks fine-tuning performance and building team chemistry.

"We've focused on refining strokes, race skills, and the small details we can control," Soderquist explained. "They've also built a strong team dynamic, which is really important."

Meanwhile, Bennett Williams, president of the Turks and Caicos Islands Swim Federation, praised the team's work ethic and spirit heading into the competition.

"These kids have been working really hard to represent themselves, their families, and the Turks and Caicos Islands," Williams said. "This is a different team, very motivated. The spirit is high, and that's something to watch."

Williams also highlighted the blend of experience and new talent as a key strength.

"Some of these swimmers are going to CARIFTA for the third or fourth time, so they know what to expect. That experience, combined with new swimmers coming in, will make a big difference for us this year." The team is expected to return home around March 9 or 10 following the conclusion of the championships.