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**PNP TO CONTEST  
BIGHT SEAT  
AFTER ONE-VOTE  
LOSS IN  
FEBRUARY 7  
ELECTION - PG2**



**FORMER TCI TOURIST  
BOARD DIRECTOR  
AVOIDS JAIL TIME  
AFTER CORRUPTION  
CONVICTION  
PG7**

# WASHY'S DECK



Jamell Robinson



Washington Misick



E. Jay Saunders



Otis Morris



Rachell Taylor



Kyle Knowles



Shaun Malcolm



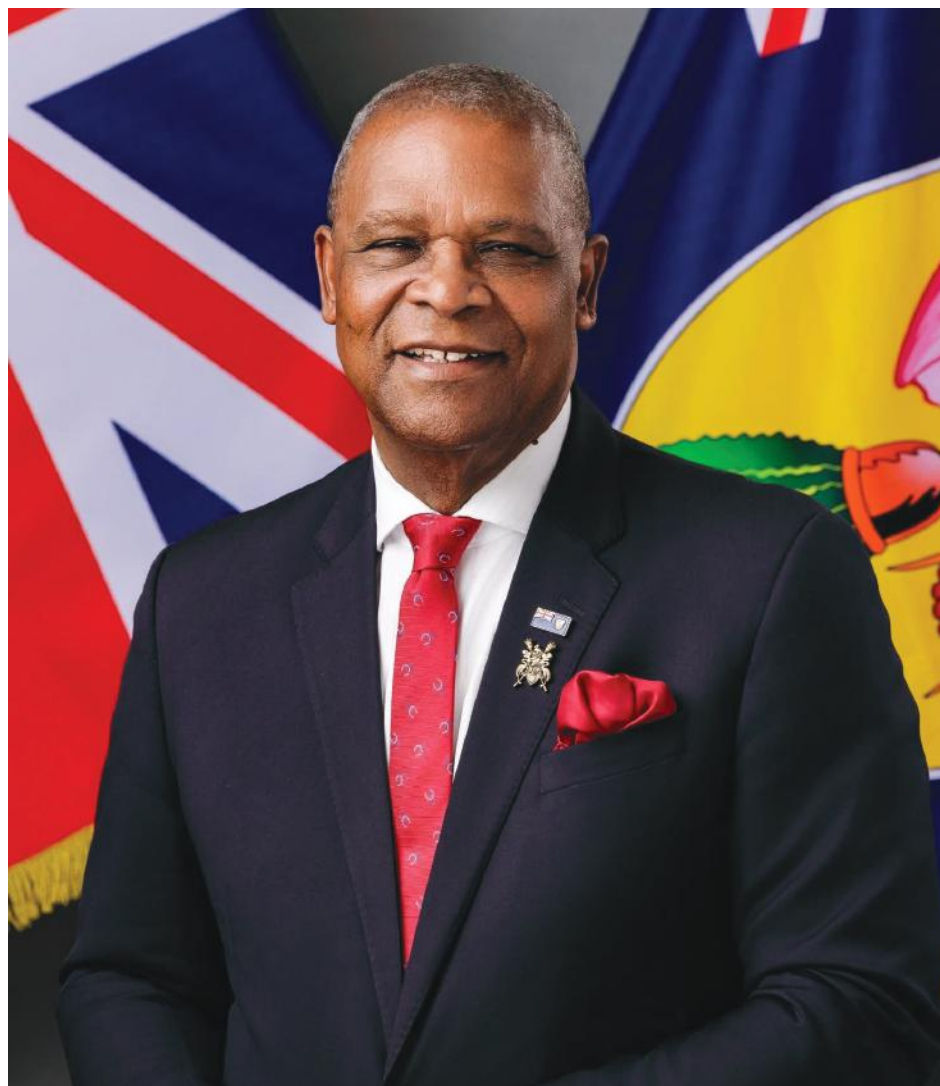
Arlington Musgrove



ZHAVARGO JOLLY

**SEE PAGE 5**

# PNP to Contest Bight Seat After One-Vote Loss in February 7 Election



MISSICK... "And once we resolve Matthew's situation, we could be at 18 to 1."



STUBBS...Lost the Bight Seat by a single vote



Audric Skippings, winner of the Bight Seat by one vote



Independent candidate Tamell Seymour has submitted paperwork to join PNP

The Progressive National Party (PNP) has announced its intention to challenge the result of the Bight electoral seat, which it lost by a single vote in the February 7, 2025, general election.

Premier and PNP leader Hon. Washington Misick made the declaration on Saturday, February 8, 2025, while addressing an enthusiastic crowd during a victory rally at the party headquarters Downtown Providenciales. Despite securing a majority, the party remains determined to contest the outcome in the Bight constituency, where incumbent PNP candidate Matthew Stubbs was narrowly defeated by Audric Skippings of the opposition People's Democratic Movement (PDM).

Misick emphasized his awareness of certain voting discrepancies that he believes warrant further scrutiny. He assured his supporters that the party would take all necessary steps to investigate and potentially overturn the result.

"In this election, we have won 16 seats, with two going to the opposition and one to an independent candidate," Misick stated. "We will be contesting one seat because I understand there have been some irregularities."

The premier took the opportunity to acknowledge and express gratitude to several party candidates who were unsuccessful in their bids. He commended Hon. John Malcolm for his service to South Caicos over the past four years and assured constituents that Malcolm would continue to contribute to the community.

He also praised Walter Gardner for his strong campaign in Grand Turks South, noting that a mere 19 additional votes could have secured his victory.

"This is the closest we have ever come (to winning Grand Turk South), and I want to thank him for his efforts," Misick said.

Regarding Matthew Stubbs, Misick remained optimistic.

"I am not going to say he has lost. There is a one-vote discrepancy, and we believe we will uncover the truth. Matthew could still be our 17th or 18th seat," he asserted.

Tamell Seymour Submitted Paperwork to Join PNP

The premier also addressed developments in South Caicos, where Tamell Seymour, who defeated Malcom as an independent candidate, has submitted an official request to align with the PNP. Misick stated that the party's leadership would review the application but expressed confidence that accepting Seymour would be the best course of action in representing the will of South Caicos voters.

"The people of South Caicos have spoken, and we cannot leave them out," he said. "With yellow on board, we are at 17 to 2. And once we resolve Matthew's situation, we could be at 18 to 1."

As the PNP prepares to challenge the Bight seat's outcome, the party remains focused on maintaining its stronghold and ensuring that every vote is accounted for in what has proven to be one of the closest electoral contests in recent history. The Bight seat has, for the most part, especially in recent times, shaped up to be a closely contested seat. In a recent election, that was determined by pulling the winner from a hat, after both candidates ended on identical vote count.



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# Premier Washington Misick Attributes Landslide Victory to God



Premier Hon. Washington Misick is crowned and caped by party supporters moments before delivering his acceptance speech

Premier Washington Misick has credited divine intervention for the Progressive National Party's (PNP) resounding victory in the February 7, 2025, general election. The PNP secured 16 out of 18 parliamentary seats, defeating the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) in a landslide.

Speaking at a victory rally on Saturday, February 8, Premier Misick addressed an ecstatic crowd, expressing gratitude and reaffirming his belief that the triumph was orchestrated by God.

"Thank the good Lord that we are

here—not by our will or our might, but by His power and His will," Misick proclaimed. "Victory tonight belongs to Jesus. They tried to take me out, they released the demons from hell, but victory belongs to Him."

Quoting scripture, he emphasized that the party's success was not merely the result of political strategy but divine purpose. Citing Psalm 127, he declared, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain." He urged the nation to recognize the role of faith in leadership and called on supporters to keep

his government in their prayers.

"I ask all who know the power of prayer to pray for this government, pray for me, pray for my cabinet, that we will be guided by the principles of righteousness and justice. The scripture tells us, 'Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.' We must lead with integrity, humility, and purpose."

As he stood on stage, flanked by his wife and daughter, Misick acknowledged the sacrifices his family had made throughout his political career. "To my wife and daughter, who have always stood by my side, I am forever grateful. I know I can count on them through the long hours and the challenges that come with leadership."

He also took a moment to recognize the hard work of his campaign team, singling out key contributors such as Joran Harvey, Omega Simmons, acting PNP Chair Delcean Simmons, Secretary General Sonia Williams, and Treasurer Ralph Patrick.

"This victory was not won alone. It took the dedication of a strong and committed team, and I thank each and every one of you for your tireless efforts."

While the rally was a celebration, Misick reminded supporters that the true work was just beginning.

"We have delivered a lot over the

past four years, but we know there is still so much more to do. This is a young country, and we must continue to build a future that benefits everyone," he urged.

He assured citizens that his administration was committed to fulfilling the promises outlined in the party's manifesto.

Reflecting on the challenges of leadership, he acknowledged that political progress often comes with obstacles.

"No one is perfect, and the PNP is not perfect. But I can tell you this—we strive every day to deliver for the people of this country. Yes, there have been moments of friction, but those moments help us grow. It is now time to put aside differences and focus on the future."

Misick celebrated the win by attending the Abundant Life Ministries International Church on Providenciales, on Sunday, February 9.

"We must never be like the nine lepers who did not return to show gratitude. Let us be the ones who come back and give thanks," he said.

With a renewed mandate and a call for unity, Premier Misick assured the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands that his government would work tirelessly to fulfill its mission of progress, prosperity, and faith-driven leadership.

# Grand Turk Man Charged with Sexual Activity Involving a Minor



Kervens Cherenfant

The Safeguarding and Public Protection Unit (SPPU) has charged a Grand Turk resident with sexual offenses in-

volving a minor. Kervens Cherenfant, 19, was formally charged on February 10, 2025, with

two counts of sexual activity with a child under the age of 16.

According to authorities, the alleged incidents occurred between December 2024 and February 2025 and involved a 13-year-old victim. A report was filed with law enforcement on February 6, 2025, prompting an immediate investigation by the SPPU. This led to Cherenfant's arrest and subsequent charges.

Cherenfant appeared in court today, where he was denied bail. His next scheduled court appearance is set for April 4, 2025, for a Sufficiency Hearing, during which the court will assess whether there is enough evidence for the case to proceed to trial.

The SPPU continues to urge the public to remain vigilant and report any suspected instances of child abuse. Authorities stress that protecting vulnerable children is a community responsibility and that swift reporting can help prevent further harm.

Community members who suspect or have knowledge of child abuse are encouraged to report concerns immediately through the following channels:

- Visit the nearest police station to file a report in person.
- Call the Safeguarding and Public Protection Unit at 232-6696.
- Contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) at 338-4013.
- Reach the Department of Social Development at 338-4008.
- Dial 911 for urgent situations.

All reports made to authorities will be handled with utmost sensitivity and confidentiality. Officials emphasize that swift intervention can be crucial in safeguarding children from abuse and ensuring justice for victims. The investigation into this case remains ongoing, and authorities encourage anyone with additional information to come forward.

# Readmission, Omission in New Cabinet

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Hon. Washington Misick, officially swore in his new cabinet on Thursday, February 13, 2025, during a ceremony held at St. Monica's Anglican Church in Providenciales.

The event marked a significant reshuffling of ministerial roles, the return of key figures, and the introduction of new leadership.

The new cabinet lineup includes the return of former Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, Hon. E. Jay Saunders, as well as a new face in Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, who has been appointed Minister of Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment. Notably absent from the new cabinet is former Tourism Minister Hon. Josephine Connolly. Additionally, the reshuffle saw the swapping of ministries between Deputy Premier Hon. Jamell Robinson and Hon. Arlington Musgrove. Robinson now assumes the role of Minister of Immigration and Border Services, while Musgrove takes over as Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development.

Former Health Minister Hon. Shaun Malcolm has transitioned to oversee the Ministry of Home Affairs, Religious Affairs, and Transportation. His previous portfolio, the Health and Human Services Ministry, has been taken over by Hon. Kyle Knowles, formerly responsible for Utilities and Public Safety.

Meanwhile, Hon. Otis Morris has been appointed Minister of Public Safety and Utilities, assuming responsibilities formerly held by Knowles. Hon. Rachel-Marshall Taylor retains her position as Minister of Education, Youth, Sports, and Culture.

One of the most notable reappointments is that of Hon. E. Jay Saunders, who returns to the cabinet to lead the newly established Ministry of Innovation, Technology, and Information.

Premier Misick Retains Leadership in Finance and Economic Development

Premier Misick has retained his extensive portfolio, maintaining control over the Office of the Premier, Public Policy, Finance, Economic Development, Investment, and Trade. His ministerial responsibilities include oversight of key governmental bodies such as:

- Public Policy and Strategic Management Unit
- Delivery Unit
- Communication Directorate
- Public Sector Infrastructure

## Planning

- Budget Office
- Revenue Control Unit
- Trade, Industry, and Fair Competition
- Invest Turks and Caicos
- National Insurance Board
- Statistics Authority
- Responsibilities of Key Ministers

Hon. Jamell Robinson, as Minister of Immigration and Border Services, will oversee:

- Turks and Caicos Islands Border Boards
- Employee Services Department
- Maritime Department
- Customer Service Department

- Labour Tribunal
- Grand Turk Enhancement and Sustainability Agency

Hon. E. Jay Saunders, as Minister of Innovation, Technology, and Information, will manage:

- Government Information Services
- Publishing and Digitisation
- e-Government Technology and Innovation
- Radio Turks and Caicos
- Energy and Utilities Department

Hon. Otis Morris, as Minister of Public Safety and Utilities, will handle:

- Public Safety and Utilities
- Water Undertaking Department
- Postal Services
- Department of Correctional Services
- Fire and Rescue Department
- Telecommunications Commission

Hon. Arlington Musgrove, as Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development, is tasked with:

- Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development
- Public Works Programme Management
- Project Management Division
- Airports Authority
- Ports Authority
- Housing and Community Renewal

Hon. Rachel-Marshall Taylor continues to lead the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports, and Culture, overseeing:

- Primary, Tertiary, and Further Education
- Education Administration
- Various High Schools
- Youth and Culture Departments
- Special Education Needs



Premier Hon. Washington Misick being sworn-in by Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam



Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams takes the oath of office



Deputy Premier Hon. Jamell Robinson gives Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam an embrace after being sworn-in



Minister of Innovation, Technology, and Information Hon. E. Jay Saunders being sworn-in

## Services

- Sports Commission

Hon. Shaun Malcolm's new role in Home Affairs, Religious Affairs, and

**CONTINUES ON PAGE 8**

# All hail King Donald!

An Op-Ed By Audley Astwood



It is perhaps more than ironic that on the eve of celebrating its 250th year of political independence in 2026, having wrested power from the then British monarchy in 1776, the United States of America should now be on the verge of becoming a country once more ruled by a 'king'.

As spurious as this may sound, it is safe to say that if the necessary checks and balances reinforced in the American Constitution are not upheld and vigorously defended by the American people through their elected representatives, the incumbent President Donald J Trump seems hell-bent on taking on the trappings of a monarch.

Just barely under a month since being sworn in as the 47th president of the world's most renowned and revered democracy, "The Donald" has embarked on a number of initiatives and made certain pronouncements which strongly suggest that he intends to rule with absolute power. Of course, in this context, there is the famous saying by British historian Lord Acton which states "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

It has been said that, given Jamaica's proximity, when the US sneezes we catch a cold. With the advent of President Trump and his hard line MAGA (Make America Great Again)-inspired policies and enactments, it is perhaps safe to say that Jamaica may well end up with a serious case of pneumonia over time.

Already, the spectre of mass deportations hangs heavily over this fledgling nation with the possibility of numerous deportees returning to the country of their birth, among them criminals, murderers, gangsters, and homeless people who are likely to become a burden on the State in more ways than one.

In the meantime, the planned scrapping of US Agency for International Development (USAID) is likely to have devastating consequences for several voluntary organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGO), and civil society groupings that deal with such pressing issues as health, human rights, education, social development, and citizens' advocacy. In this vein, the Jamaican Government will be hard-pressed in the long run to find the necessary funds to keep some, if not all, of these beleaguered bodies alive and well.

So far Prime Minister Andrew Holness has put on a brave face, declaring that we have to be independent, insinuating that Jamaica has to take care of its domestic business and not continue to rely so heavily on foreign aid. After all, foreign aid does come with several strings attached, and it has been observed, for example, that there were several attempts to "encourage" Jamaica to embrace certain cultural "norms", inclusive of embracing the "rainbow coalition" which seeks to preach acceptance for the LGBTQ+ stance on matters

relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals, a scenario that has found much resistance from the Jamaican clergy as well as other civil society groups that abhor this particular lifestyle. The flying of the rainbow flag at the US Embassy in Kingston raised many eyebrows and utterances of condemnation, and, interestingly, opponents of this cause may well take comfort in the stance taken by the Trump presidency, as he has stated unequivocally that in the United States only two genders are recognised, male and female.

In the meantime, it is instructive that many Jamaicans with US citizenship voted for Trump based on the aforementioned matter; immigration — yes, some Jamaicans believe that their brothers and sisters who are in the country illegally are posing a threat to them and their survival; as well as the view that the high cost of living under the Joe Biden Administration was unbearable. Well the pigeons have come home to roost, and apart from the deportation thrust, there has been no indication that the president is inclined to immediately pursue those bread-and-butter issues as was promised during his election campaign.

Meanwhile, his touted imposition of tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China, not to mention some European countries, and the taking over of the Panama Canal and the Gaza Strip, among other flights of fancy, are fast making "Uncle Sam" the laughing stock of the world. On the home front, the looming evisceration of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of Justice, the Department of Education, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), led by "Co-President" Elon Musk, the world's richest man, who has taken on a Rasputin-like posture in the White House, all in a bid to replace employees in the aforementioned organisations with Trump loyalists, are all part and parcel of ensuring that the king has full allegiance from all his subjects. All hail, King Donald!

In all of this, what boggles the mind is that Republicans, for the most part, have remained supine, allowing the incremental decimation of the GOP (their Grand Old Party) while MAGA rises like a Godzilla, reminiscent of the prophetic words of Irish poet W B Yeats in his seminal work

The Second Coming (a favourite of the late iconoclastic talk show host Wilmot "Motty" Perkins) "...And what rough beast, its hour come round at last, Slouches towards Bethlehem [Washington DC] to be born?"

The die has been cast... but is the cast dead? Will Democrats and well-thinking Americans take the bull by the horns and stand up to preserve the world's most stable democracy (up till now)?

In terms of foreign policy, as far as Jamaica is concerned the big elephant in the room, which so far the Holness Administration has been dodging, is that of the relationship between China and Jamaica. Indeed, now that USAID and other American donor agencies may be debunked by King Donald, Jamaica may well have to turn more to the Chinese for assistance. But will Trump allow the Chinese influence as well as affluence in Jamaica and the Caribbean region to go unnoticed by his genuflecting State Department led by his key ally Secretary of State Marco Rubio? Is it only a matter of time before he cracks the whip? Already we see what he has been doing to Cuba, and the fearless Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Mottley has fired a shot across the bow. In the final analysis, the Chinese curse may well prove to be more than relevant as we continue to live in "interesting times".

Lloyd B Smith has been involved full-time in Jamaican media for the past 49 years. He has also served as a Member of Parliament and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives. He hails from western Jamaica where he is popularly known as the Governor. Send comments to the Jamaica Observer or lbsmith4@gmail.com.



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

Our numbers are:  
1649 348-9587  
1649 242-6695  
You can email us at  
[contact@newslinetci.com](mailto:contact@newslinetci.com) or  
[viviantyson@newslinetci.com](mailto:viviantyson@newslinetci.com)

Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

# Former TCI Tourist Board Director Avoids Jail Time After Corruption Conviction



Ramon Andrews

Ramon Andrews, the former Director of the now-defunct Turks and Caicos Islands Tourist Board (TCITB), has been spared jail time following his sentencing in the Supreme Court on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

February 12, 2025.

Andrews, 45, was convicted of corruption but received a financial penalty and a temporary ban from public office instead of a custodial sentence.

The Supreme Court ordered Andrews to pay a fine of \$5,000, which must be settled within 14 days. Additionally, he was required to make restitution of \$352 to the successor of the TCITB. As part of his sentence, he has also been disqualified from holding public office for two years, effective from February 10, 2025.

The sentencing hearing was presided over by His Lordship, The Hon. Mr. Justice Chris Selochan. Representing the prosecution were Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions Dr. Angela Brooks and Principal Public Prosecutor Mr. Clement Joseph. Andrews was defended by a team of King's Counsel. The case was investigated by the Turks and Caicos Islands Integrity Commission, led by Mr. Brant Gager.

Charges and Allegations

The charges against Andrews

stemmed from his time as Director and Accounting Officer of the TCITB. Prosecutors alleged that he abused his position by awarding contracts to businesses in which he had a personal financial interest.

Initially, Andrews faced six charges, including corruption, financial misconduct, and acquiring criminal property. The allegations included:

- Counts 1 & 2 (Corruption): Andrews was accused of improperly influencing TCITB's decision-making to benefit his own companies, Caicos Wheels Limited and Economy, by awarding them contracts to provide hired car services.
- Count 3 (Corruption): He was alleged to have used his position to award a contract to Island Tours and Excursions, a company he owned, to provide tour services for a staff retreat in North and Middle Caicos.
- Counts 4 & 5 (Financial Misconduct): Andrews was accused of authorizing irregular expenditures that violated public procurement regulations.
- Count 6 (Acquiring Criminal

Property): Authorities claimed that between January 9, 2017, and May 17, 2017, he unlawfully obtained \$4,103.42 through improper financial transactions.

Trial and Verdict

The trial, which lasted five weeks, was closely followed by the public due to its implications for government accountability and corruption enforcement in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

During the final days of the trial, Andrews' defense attorney, Oliver Smith KC, successfully filed a "no case submission," arguing that the majority of the charges were unsubstantiated. As a result, the judge dismissed four out of six charges, leaving only counts one and two for jury deliberation.

On Tuesday, December 3, 2024, the jury found Andrews guilty on count two but not guilty on count one. Following the verdict, his bail was extended, allowing him to remain free until his sentencing, which was initially scheduled for January 29, 2025, before being finalized on February 12, 2025.

## Andaz Turks & Caicos Welcomes Stephen Meredith as General Manager



Stephen Meredith

We are delighted to announce Stephen Meredith as the newly ap-

pointed General Manager of Andaz Turks & Caicos.

With over two decades of global hospitality leadership, Stephen brings a wealth of expertise, having successfully led distinguished luxury properties across Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia.

Renowned for his strategic vision, transformative leadership, and commitment to exceptional guest experiences, Stephen has an impressive track record of elevating world-class hotels, including Dream Doha, Taj Jumeirah Lakes Towers, and Steigenberger Hotel Business Bay. At each, he has revitalized operations, built high-performing teams, and driven profitability, earning industry recognition for his ability to deliver innovation and excellence in a competitive luxury market.

An MBA graduate from UNISA's School of Business Leadership, Stephen seamlessly blends academic rigor with hands-on leadership, making him a dynamic force in re-

fining operations and enhancing guest experiences. His lifelong passion for food and beverage innovation, coupled with his meticulous attention to detail and calm leadership under pressure, has shaped his reputation as a forward-thinking hospitality expert. He fosters a culture of collaboration, adaptability, and excellence, ensuring teams operate at their highest potential. Stephen's appointment underscores Hyatt's confidence in the transformative vision and potential of Andaz Turks & Caicos as it moves toward its highly anticipated Grand Opening in early 2026. Stephen is set to lead the property into a new era of modern Caribbean luxury. His leadership will play a pivotal role in crafting immersive guest experiences rooted in cultural authenticity, sustainability, and deep community connections. Under his guidance, Andaz Turks & Caicos will redefine contemporary island hospitality, setting a new benchmark for design-forward, meaningful travel experiences.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5



Attorney General Hon. Rhondalee Braithwaite-Knowles takes the oath of office



Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly taking the oath of office



Hon. Arlington Musgrove, the new Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development takes the oath of office at the swearing-in ceremony



Hon. Kyle Knowles, Minister of Health and Human Services is being sworn-in



Minister of Home Affairs, Religious Affairs and Transportation Hon. Shaun Malcolm takes the oath of office



Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor, the only woman in the cabinet, takes the oath of office

Transportation includes responsibility for:

- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Registrar General's Office
- Social Development and Welfare
- Gender Affairs
- Citizenship and Naturalization
- District Administration

Hon. Kyle Knowles, in charge of Health and Human Services, will oversee:

- Dental Department
- Primary Healthcare Unit
- Health Promotion and Advocacy
- National Public Health Laboratory
- Emergency Medical Services
- National Health Insurance Board
- Health Regulation Authority

responsible for:

- Agriculture Department
- Department of Environment and Coastal Resources
- Department of Tourism Regulation
- Experience Turks and Caicos
- Gaming Control Commission
- National Trust
- Governor and Deputy Governor Also Sworn In

Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams and Attorney General Hon. Rhondalee Braithwaite-Knowles were also sworn into their respective positions during the ceremony, which was presided over by Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam.

Premier Misick's Address to the Nation  
In his address at the swearing-in ceremony, Premier Misick emphasized the weight of responsibility that comes with public service. "This is not just a swearing-in ceremony. It is a binding covenant



Hon. Otis Morris, Minister of Public Safety and Utilities takes the oath of office

between us and the people we serve. Our citizens have entrusted us with their faith and future. We must lead with integrity, humility, and unity," Misick stated. He reaffirmed his commitment to economic growth, infrastructure development, and social progress, urging his cabinet to prioritize service over power.

"The road ahead will be challenging, but with faith, wisdom, and dedication, we will build a Turks and Caicos where every citizen can thrive," he said. Premier Misick also called for unity and a pledge to work diligently toward the nation's continued development.



# TCI Border Force Hosts Border Security Training for Overseas Territories



One of the Members of the TCI Border Force who underwent the training, shows off his certificate of completion, where Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam (left) and Emelio Seymour, Director General of the TCI Border Force share in the moment.



risk analysis within container traffic, and practical exercises utilising intelligence flows.

The second, Search of Containers, saw participants receive specialised training on current threats facing the shipping industry and best practices for container search procedures. Finally, a crucial course on Firearms Awareness provided instruction on various types of firearms and the identification of firearm parts, equipping officers with the knowledge necessary to interdict illegal weapons.

These training exercises represent a significant step forward in strengthening the TCI Border Force's ability to facilitate trade while protecting the borders of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Enhanced targeting and search capabilities will lead to more effective screening of cargo and potentially shorter processing times for legitimate shipments. Greater security will also be evident as the increased focus on firearms awareness will contribute to a safer environment.

"This training is a crucial investment in the safety and security of the Turks and Caicos Islands," stated Emilio Seymour, Director General of TCI Border Force. "By working collaboratively with our regional partners and leveraging the expertise of the Home Office, we are significantly improving our ability to detect and deter criminal activity. The enhanced skills acquired by our officers will have a direct and positive impact on our community, protecting our economy and ensuring a safer environment for all."

The TCI Border Force remains committed to protecting the borders of the Turks and Caicos Islands and ensuring the safety and security of its citizens. This training initiative represents a significant investment in that commitment.



The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) Border Force recently concluded a series of critical training exercises focused on container targeting, search procedures, and firearms awareness.

This initiative, a vital investment in regional security, saw TCI Border Force officers joined by colleagues from the Anguilla Customs Department, BVI Customs Department, and Cayman Islands Customs and

Border Control.

The training, conducted from 21st to 31st January, was facilitated by a team from Home Office International Operations through the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) Border Security Programme and organised via the Integrated Security Funding Overseas Territories Border Security Programme. This collaborative effort underscores the commit-

ment of the UK government and participating agencies to combat transnational crime and the flow of illicit goods within the Overseas Territories.

The curriculum encompassed three courses. The first, Fundamentals of Container Targeting (21st-24th January), focused on enhancing participants' understanding of current priorities and container targeting capabilities,

# Border Force Warns Travellers About Illegal Importation of Handheld Gambling Devices



The Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force recently intercepted illegal handheld gambling devices coming through Howard Hamil-

ton International Airport. Often disguised as everyday electronic gadgets, these devices are strictly prohibited under the Casino Ordinance, which imposes severe penalties for their importation.

In the past month alone, Border Force officers intercepted 70 such devices during routine inspections of passengers' luggage and cargo. Smugglers frequently attempt to conceal these items within personal belongings or mislabel them on cargo manifests to evade detection.

Sophisticated tactics, including hidden compartments and misleading product descriptions, are commonly employed to bypass customs controls.

Under the Casino Ordinance, importing, possessing, or distributing unlicensed gambling devices is a criminal offence. Offenders may face fines of up to \$3,000, imprisonment for up to two years, or both, depending on the severity of the violation.

The Border Force hereby reminds

the public that ignorance of the law is no defence and urges all travellers and businesses to comply with import regulations.

Travellers are advised to ensure that any electronic devices they bring into the country comply with local laws. Importers and retailers are likewise reminded to verify the legality of their products before shipment.

It is important to note that TCI Lotto Games is the only authorised operator of lottery activities in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Any other entity or individual involved in importing or possessing unlicensed gambling devices is breaching the Casino Ordinance and will be held accountable under the law.

By remaining vigilant and adhering to these regulations, travellers and businesses can help prevent illegal activities and support the integrity of the Turks and Caicos Islands' border controls.

For all media inquiries, please contact [crilightbourne@gov.tc](mailto:crilightbourne@gov.tc)

# National Internship and Apprenticeship Programme (NIAP) Now Open for Registration



The Turks and Caicos Islands Government is pleased to announce registration for the fourth implementation of the National Internship and Apprenticeship Programme (NIAP) officially opened on 10 February 2025. Tertiary students across the islands and abroad are encouraged to apply before the deadline on 31 March 2025.

NIAP provides valuable work-based learning opportunities for

students, helping them gain practical experience, develop professional skills, and enhance their employability. Over the past three years, the program has successfully assisted over 230 students in securing meaningful placements across various industries within their field of academic study.

Understanding the Difference: Internship vs. Apprenticeship

Internship Program: This is for students currently enrolled in tertia-

ry institutions (college or university) and returning home for the summer break (June- August). It is a six-week experience that provides students with exposure to a professional work environment, allowing them to apply their academic knowledge in real-world settings. These are ideal for students looking to gain insight into their chosen career paths.

Apprenticeship Programme: This is for graduates seeking to grow their skills and gain professional experience while seeking full-time employment (Open All year round). It is a 12 to 24-month work experience that combines hands-on training to prepare participants for specific trades or professions. Apprenticeship programmes offer a more in-depth learning experience, often leading to certifications or employment opportunities.

Benefits of Joining the NIAP

Gain Practical Experience: Work in industries related to your field of study, gaining exposure to the day-to-day operations of your fu-

ture career.

Build Professional Networks: Interact with industry professionals who can provide guidance, mentorship, and possibly job opportunities.

Earn While You Learn: Receive a stipend while gaining valuable experience in your field.

Soft Skills Training: Learn essential skills like communication, leadership, and emotional intelligence, which are critical for professional success.

How to Register

To register, click the link <https://forms.gle/wzUptSaPPyt7zK6J9>.

The NIAP is dedicated to Building Human Capital. This programme continues to bridge the gap between formal education and gainful work experience, thus ensuring that participants are equipped with the necessary skills to thrive in their chosen career field. Students enrolled in tertiary education are strongly encouraged to apply and take advantage of this opportunity.

# TCI TOP MODEL GOES CO-ED – MAKING HISTORY IN THE TCI



The TCI Top Model Contest – En Vogue is set to make history in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Organisers have announced a significant expansion of the contest, making it Co-Ed for the first time.

This decision allows both male and female contestants to compete for the distinguished title of The FACE of the Turks and Caicos, TCI Top Model.

The decision to broaden the contest aligns with the increasing demand for inclusivity in the fashion industry. By extending participation to male contestants, the event now provides equal opportunity for aspiring models of both genders to

showcase their talent and vie for the title of TCI Top Model.

“Over the years, we have observed a growing interest from male participants, many of whom questioned why they could not compete for the title. The show has never been exclusive to women, only the contest, and with this expansion, we are ensuring that all talented individuals have the opportunity to be recognised in the boldest possible way. We feel that this year, the time is right; the talent is here, so why not?!” stated Courtney Robinson, Executive Producer of the TCI Top Model Contest.

**A PLATFORM FOR TALENT, CREATIVITY, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The TCI Top Model Contest was relaunched in response to the increasing demand for quality entertainment, creative expression, and professional opportunities in the Turks and Caicos Islands. “The TCI Top Model Contest has always been designed as a platform to discover and nurture talent in fashion, media, and the creative arts. We are committed to providing participants with exposure, industry connections, and career-building opportunities. This year, we recognise that the time is right to make the TCI Top Model Contest fully inclusive,” Robinson added.

**TCI TOP MODEL CONTEST JUDGING**  
The judging criteria remain the same, ensuring fairness, transparency and integrity. Contestants will be evaluated by top fashion industry professionals in categories such as Industry Readiness, Portfolio Folder, Impact Appeal, Runway Walk, Fitness, and Fashion Forward. These persons know what to look for in a model, as they sign, submit and book models for castings, campaigns, runway shows, film and television roles routinely.

**CONTESTANTS AND MODEL CASTINGS**  
There will be a second round of castings for contestants and fashion models to be held on Saturday, February 15th, 2025, at the Edward C. Gartland Youth Centre in Downtown Providenciales from 4:30PM to 5:30PM.

**Eligibility Requirements**

- Contestants: females and males must be aged 16 and older.

- Females—5’6” and taller; dress size 00 to 6

- Males—5’10 and taller; waist 28 to 34

- Female models must be 5’6” or taller; size 00 and larger

- Male models must be 5’10” and taller; waist size 28” to 36”

The TCI Top Model event is open to ALL individuals residing full-time in the Turks and Caicos Islands. All as-

pirants must bring government-issued identification (passport, driver’s license, or status card), along with recent photographs. It is advisable that for the contestants and model search, persons must wear fitted clothing (e.g., t-shirts, tank tops, leggings, jeans, or shorts). Female participants should bring heels (minimum 3 inches) and wear minimal makeup.

**EN VOGUE**

Under the theme En Vogue, this year’s event promises to elevate fashion, entertainment, and competition into an unforgettable evening of opulence and pure glamour. Scheduled for May 31st, 2025 at Brayton Hall, Providenciales, this highly anticipated event is set to be more extravagant than ever, featuring an array of prizes, surprises, influencers, and celebrity guest appearances.

“It’s been a humbling experience to see so much creativity and passion unfold on this platform, and we’re honoured to play a part in supporting the incredible talent in our community. The countdown to the 2025 TCI Top Model Contest: En Vogue has begun. Join us on this exciting journey, where passion, talent, and opportunity converge to shape the future of fashion in the Turks and Caicos Islands,” added Robinson.

## 2025 National Spelling Bee Feb. 27

The highly anticipated Annual National Primary Schools Spelling Bee returns on Thursday, February 27th, 2025.

Organized by the Ministry/Department of Education and generously sponsored by F Chambers/Island Printing and Beaches Turks & Caicos, this event is a showcase of intellectual prowess and linguistic talent among the nation’s young learners.

The 2025 edition will see 12 bright and enthusiastic spellers from grades 4 to 6 compete for the prestigious title of Champion Speller. The event promises to be an engaging and stimulating experience, designed to highlight the students’ phonemic awareness and foster a love of reading and learning.

The competition, which is a major part of the educational calendar, will take place in the Key West Conference Room at Beaches Turks & Caicos, starting at 9:00 AM. This year’s contest will feature

words sourced exclusively from the Oxford Dictionary, ensuring a challenging and fair competition for all participants.

The Spelling Bee is more than just a competition—it is an educational initiative that aims to promote excellence and intellectual growth. By encouraging students to engage in friendly rivalry, the event enhances their spelling, vocabulary, and public speaking skills while also nurturing self-confidence.

A dedicated team of officials will oversee the event, including two Spelling Pronouncers, three Judges, two Scorers, and a Timekeeper. To ensure inclusivity, those unable to attend in person can listen to the live broadcast on Radio Turks & Caicos, courtesy of FLOW.

Participants will not only compete for the glory of being crowned the Champion Speller but also for an impressive array of prizes:

- Grand Prize: Apple MacBook Laptop and a printer

- Runner-Up Prize: Apple iPad Mini

- Third Place: Apple iPad Mini

- Top 7 of Final 10: Asus Memo Tablet

- Champion Coach: 17” Laptop

- Remaining Participants: \$50 gift certificates

- All Participants: Complimentary trophies

Meet the 2025 Participants and Their Coaches:

- Na’Kay Williams – Alpha Christian Academy | Coach: Heather Moffat-Robertson

- Jared Meritus – Oseta Jolly Primary | Coach: Tevynn Lewis

- Kaeden Robinson – B.E.S.T. Institute | Coach: Nadienne Crossman/Tanisha Rigby

- Yash Ochani – Precious Treasures International School | Coach: Maurissa Horne

- Kevaun Lewis – Eliza Simons Primary | Coach: Emalyn

Wilson

- Amylia P Fulford – Providence International School | Coach: Rushell Farrington

- Herifer Fermin – Enid Capron Primary | Coach: Elizabeth Vandenburg

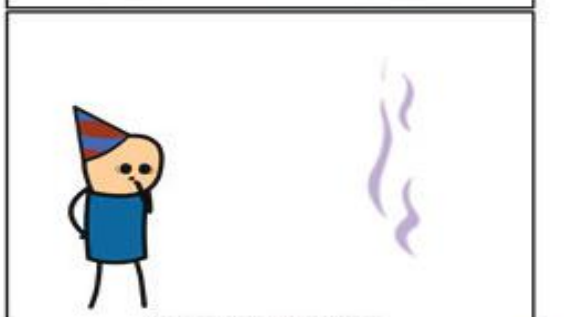
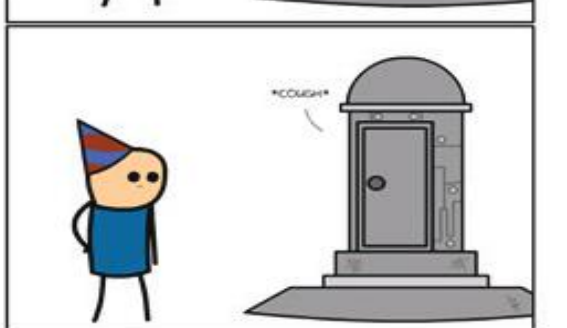
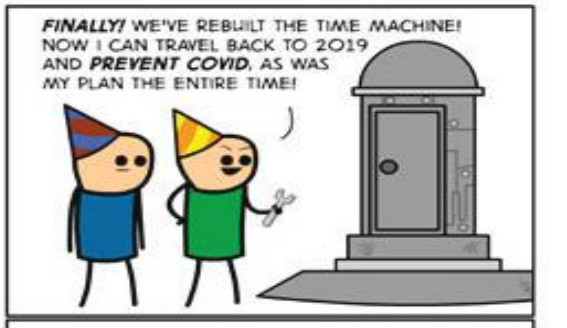
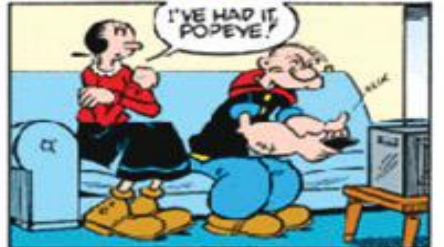
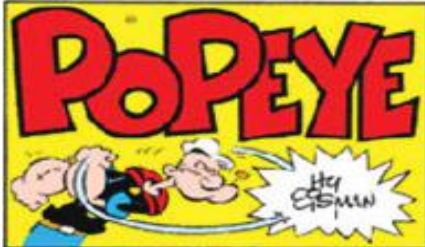
- Dabria Thomas – Richmond Hill Preparatory | Coach: Veranick Burrick-Sinclair

- Karesa Wynter – Ianthe Pratt Primary | Coach: Daniela Carroll

- Kylee S Baxter – Thelma Lightbourne Primary | Coach: Greeta Jenkins

- Joshua Ariza – Ona Ginton Primary | Coach: Robert Loftman

The general public is invited to tune in to Radio Turks & Caicos for live coverage of this national event. This year’s Spelling Bee promises to be a thrilling demonstration of the talent, dedication, and academic commitment of Turks and Caicos’ young learners.



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JTM DAVTS 11-2

# Flamingo Pond Overlook

- Whitby Highway, North Caicos -



NEWSLINE  
Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Culture

# HERITAGE

Source: VisitTCI.com

Flamingo Pond Overlook is found off King's Road between Whitby and Horstable Beach. As the location's name suggests, this area is typically inhabited by the West Indian Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*, and also known as the American Flamingo or the Caribbean Flamingo), and the flocks here are at times in the thousands. In addition to the flamingos, there may be spoonbills, ducks, stilts, herons, and egrets to see as well.

The main overlook area is about 300 feet (91 m) from the pond, and the flamingos may be even farther out, so binoculars or a spotting scope will be necessary to get an excellent view of the birds.

# The Department of Special Education Needs Services announces the Expansion of Speech Therapy Services



The Department of Special Education Needs Services (SENS) is pleased to announce the addition of speech therapy interns to Zone 1- Grand Turk and South Caicos, further expanding access to essential therapy services for children on the islands.

Since mid-January, these dedicated interns have been providing speech and language therapy, ensuring that children on these islands receive dedicated support.

This initiative is a part of our ongoing partnership with Therapy Abroad, aimed at increasing speech therapy capacity across the country. Our data indicates that in addition to autism spectrum disorder, speech delays and disorders are the highest presenting issues among our children. By integrating speech therapy interns into our program, we are taking a significant step toward addressing



these challenges.

With this expansion, our department's speech therapist can now accommodate more children in Providenciales and the twin islands, ensuring a broader reach and measurable improvement in early intervention and long-term outcomes for children with communication difficulties.

Director of SENS department, Dr. Anya Malcolm-Gibbs shared, "our statistics clearly show that speech delays and disorders are among the most common issues affecting our youth.

By integrating speech therapy interns into our program, we are not only expanding access to these critical services in Grand Turk but also paving the way for a more comprehensive approach to early intervention.

This initiative is a key part of our strategy to address the communication needs of our children and help them reach their full potential." Permanent Secretary of Education, Mr. James Astwood, also commented, "this expansion of speech therapy services is a significant milestone for our education and health sectors. It demonstrates our commitment to leveraging international partnerships, such as those with Therapy Abroad, to bring best-in-class support to our communities."

Through this collaboration, the Turks & Caicos Islands will see an influx of trained therapists in the areas of speech and occupational therapy in the near future, significantly improving access to specialized care for children with speech and communication challenges.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to register their children with the Department of Special Education Needs Services to ensure they receive the necessary support. For more information on our department and its services, please contact the department at [sens@gov.tc](mailto:sens@gov.tc) or visit our social media pages.

# Life Line FEATURED CHURCH

This week, the NewslineTCI Featured Church spotlight shines on the Community Fellowship Center, located along the Leeward Highway in Providenciales. The Community Fellowship Center, which also operates a school- the Community Christian Academy- is led by Pastor Bradley Handfield, who is also a trained teacher. Community Fellowships Center conducts a series of activities during the course of each week, starting with Divine Service on Sunday at 9:00 AM. On Thursday and Friday between seven 7:30 AM and 6:00 AM., is early morning prayer meeting. Between Monday and Friday, at 12 noon, it conducts midday prayer meeting. Between Monday to Friday at 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM it conducts Bible study. Youth meeting is held on Friday.



## 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>

**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@newslineTCI.com](mailto:contact@newslineTCI.com)

# PNP VICTORY CELEBRATION

Supporters of the victorious Progressive National Party (PNP) came out in great numbers to celebration that party' victory on Saturday, February 8, 2025, at the party's headquarters in Providenciales. The PNP registered an emphatic victory on Friday, February 7, winning 16 of the 19 seats up for grabs, thereby retaining power. The opposition People's Democratic Movement (PDM) secured two seats, while an independent candidate Tamell Seymour wrest South Caicos from the ruling party. Most of the winning candidates were on hand to thank their supporters.







# UWI Delegation Visits Turks and Caicos Islands, Strengthening Regional Medical Education Partnerships Through MOU Signing

A high-level delegation from The University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona Campus, led by Professor Densil A. Williams, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UWI Mona, and Professor Marvin Reid, Lead, UWI Global Health Initiative, visited the Turks and Caicos Islands to advance key initiatives in regional medical education and healthcare development.

During the visit, the delegation signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Hamilton Education Foundation and Hamilton University School of Medicine (HUSM).

This agreement solidifies a strategic partnership aimed at developing HUSM into a world-class institution and strengthening healthcare delivery and education in the Caribbean.

Key Highlights of the Visit:

1. Signing of MOU with HUSM:

The MOU formalizes a partnership between UWI, Mona and HUSM to advance medical education, research, and healthcare initiatives in the region. This collaboration is part of UWI Mona's Global Health Initiative (GHI), which supports health professional training and addresses health inequities across the Caribbean and the wider world.

2. Visit to the Hamilton University School of Medicine Development Site:

The delegation toured the site of the future Hamilton University School of Medicine and its University Medical Center, which is currently undergoing preparatory work for the construction of its state-of-the-art Medical Education building. Construction is expected to begin in the coming months, marking a significant step toward HUSM's goal of opening its doors to students in 2027.

3. Tour of Cheshire Hall Medical Center:

The UWI delegation also visited the Cheshire Hall Medical Center, a diamond-level accredited facility operated by InterHealth Canada. Dr. Denise Braithwaite-Tennant, CEO, and Dr. Dawn Perry-Ewing, Chief of Medical Services, led a comprehensive tour of the facility, showcasing its cutting-edge infrastructure and capabilities.

As a UWI internship-approved center, Cheshire Hall Medical Center will play a pivotal role in HUSM's clinical training programs. The delegation lauded the center's contributions to healthcare in the Turks and Caicos Islands and its signifi-



Dr. Rufus Ewing, Executive Chairman of Hamilton Education Foundation addresses the audience



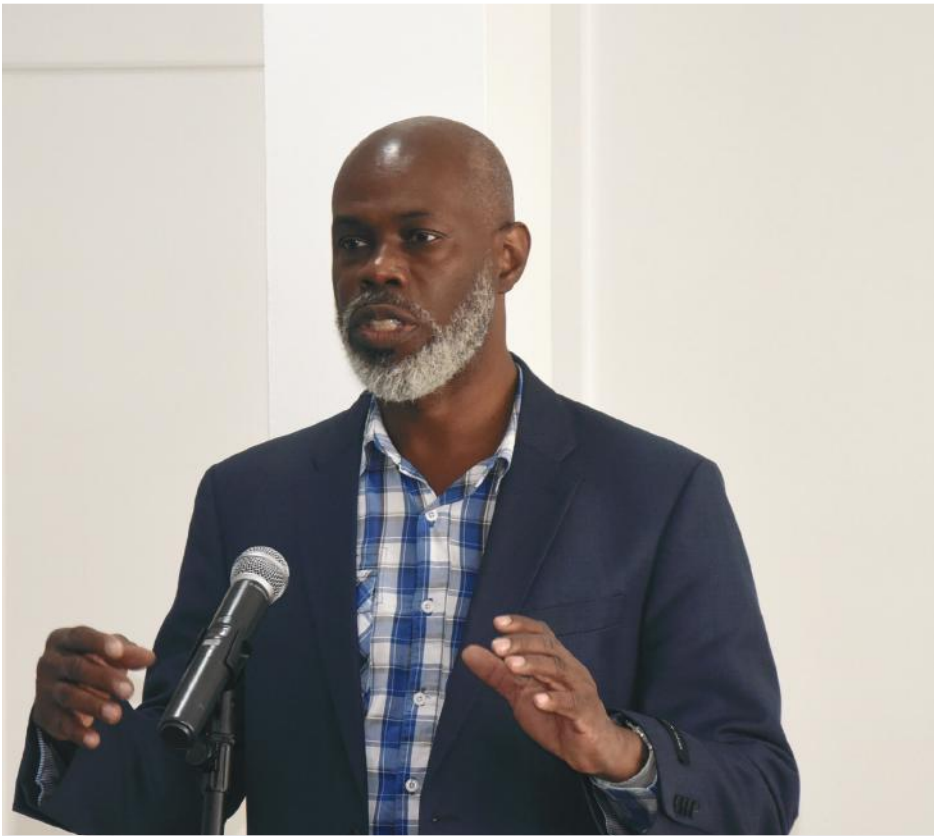
From left: Attorney Judith Garland; Professor Densil Williams – Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, University of the West Indies; Dr. Rufus Ewing, Executive Chairman of Hamilton Education Foundation; Dr. Dawn Perry-Ewing; Education Minister Hon. Rachel Taylor; Dr. Stuart Ewing; Health and Human Service Minister Hon. Shaun Malcolm; Professor Marvin Reid, Deputy Dean of the University of the West Indies; and Professor Marvin Reid, Deputy Dean of the University of the West Indies.

cance as a key partner in HUSM's medical education delivery. Statements from Leaders: Professor Densil A. Williams emphasized the importance of regional collaboration, stating, "This visit signifies UWI's commitment to fostering partnerships that advance the Caribbean's healthcare sys-

tems and medical education. The MOU with HUSM is a testament to our commitment to work with indigenous regional institutions to advance teaching and learning, and, research and innovation in healthcare so that we can build a more productive citizenry within our region. And our engagement

with key healthcare institutions in the Turks and Caicos Islands underscore our vision for a healthier, more equitable region."

Dr. Rufus W. Ewing, Executive Chair of the Hamilton Education Foundation, noted, "The partnership with UWI and the engagement with world-class institutions like



Professor Marvin Reid, Deputy Dean of the University of the West Indies for Global Health



From left - Dr. Rufus Ewing, Executive Chairman of Hamilton Education Foundation; Minister of Education Hon Rachel Taylor; and Professor Densil Williams – Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, University of the West Indies sign the MOU.



Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor



The management Team, from left: Dr. Rufus Ewing, Executive Chairman of Hamilton Education Foundation; Dawn Perry-Ewing; and Dr. Stuart Ewing



From left - Dr. Rufus Ewing, Executive Chairman of Hamilton Education Foundation, Hon. Shaun Malcolm, Minister of Health and Human Services; Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education; and Professor Densil Williams – Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, University of the West Indies

Cheshire Hall Medical Center reflect our shared goal of providing high-quality medical education and healthcare services to the Turks and Caicos Islands and the wider Caribbean.”

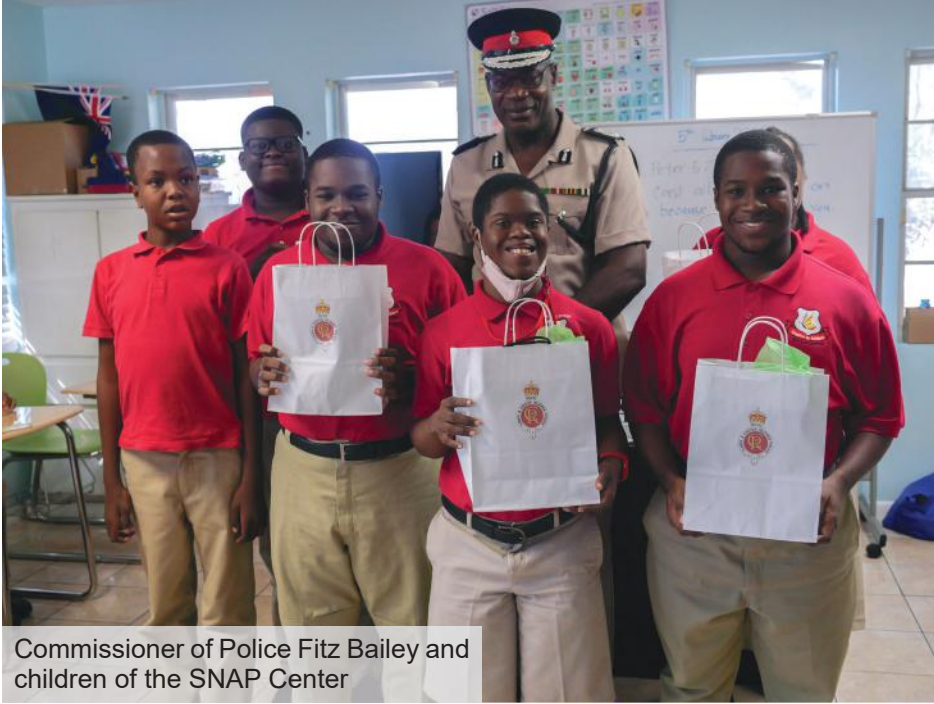
Looking Ahead

This visit marks a significant milestone in the development of HUSM and its collaboration with UWI. The strategic partnerships estab-

lished will not only enhance medical education but also strengthen healthcare delivery throughout the region.

As construction on HUSM’s Medical Education building begins and clinical programs are integrated with institutions like Cheshire Hall Medical Center, the Caribbean is set to benefit from improved training and healthcare access.

# Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Bring Stories to Life on World Read Aloud Day



Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey and children of the SNAP Center

February 5, 2025, was celebrated as World Read Aloud Day, and the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) made the day special by visiting schools across Providenciales to read to children and foster a love for storytelling. World Read Aloud Day emphasizes the importance of reading aloud and encourages children and adults alike to share stories with others. In celebration, the RTCIPF

visited several schools, making meaningful connections with students through engaging storytelling. Commissioner Fitz Bailey visited the Special Needs Association Providenciales (SNAP) Center, where he read to students aged 5 to 11 and later spoke with older students in the 12 to 20 age group. He shared an uplifting message, reminding them of their unique-



Inspector Delton Robinson engages students at the Ianthe Pratt Primary School

ness as children of God, made in

His image. His visit also featured a singalong session, which earned applause from the students. Commissioner Bailey expressed gratitude to Principal Ms. Regena Little and her dedicated staff, commending their patience and care for the students. He assured them that this would be the first of many visits. Meanwhile, Inspector Delton Robinson and Constable Janefer Stubbs delighted students at Ianthe Pratt Primary School with lively readings, while Constables Rhoan McKoy and Roan Waugh of the Tactical Unit captivated young minds at Oseta Jolly Primary School through animated storytelling sessions. The RTCIPF reaffirmed its dedication to supporting local communities by promoting education and fostering positive interactions. Their participation in World Read Aloud Day exemplifies their ongoing efforts to inspire and engage young minds across the islands.



Constables Rhoan McKoy and Roan Waugh of the Tactical Unit captivated young minds at Oseta Jolly Primary School through

# Wymara Villas Unveils Azure Villa: A Stunning 6-Bedroom Island Retreat Redefining Luxury in Turks & Caicos

Wymara Villas + Beach Club, the epitome of luxury in Turks & Caicos, proudly announces the launch of its newest and most expansive villa offering to-date: the six-bedroom Azure Villa.

Officially available for bookings starting June 1, 2025, this breathtaking retreat is designed to elevate the luxury villa experience with unmatched elegance, modern sophistication, and seamless indoor-outdoor living.

Spanning an impressive 6,010 square feet of interior space and expanding to nearly 10,000 square feet when including the generous outdoor living areas, the Azure Villa embodies the ultimate island sanctuary. Crafted with natural limestone and oak accents, this villa harmoniously blends contemporary design with organic elements, creating a tranquil yet refined setting for the most discerning travelers.

The new Azure Villa is the first of 3 six-bedroom villas to soon be ready to welcome guests. Once complete, the spacious new villas will be among the largest and most luxurious full-service, private accommodations on the island.

## A Villa Like No Other

The Azure Villa is more than just a residence—it's a haven of relaxation and entertainment. Designed for those who seek both serenity and sociability, the villa features multiple indoor and outdoor living spaces, allowing guests to flow effortlessly from a sun-drenched infinity pool to the stylish interiors. The villa's T-shaped infinity pool is the largest of any of the villas at Wymara, making it a show stopping centerpiece for daytime lounging or evening gatherings under the stars.

Guests can also indulge in the villa's spacious outdoor firepit, perfect for lively sunset conversations and S'mores, or take advantage of the overwater swim platform, offering direct access to the crystal-clear waters of Turks & Caicos. Culinary enthusiasts will appreciate the villa's expansive outdoor kitchen, featuring ample counter space, a built-in BBQ, and a dedicated fridge for effortless al fresco dining.

## Unparalleled Comfort & Indulgence

Each of the six elegantly appointed bedrooms serves as a private retreat, complete with en-suite bathrooms that exude spa-like luxury. The downstairs primary suite boasts a private outdoor



shower, providing an intimate, nature-infused bathing experience. Meanwhile, the upstairs primary bathroom offers a soaker tub and shower with breathtaking ocean views, redefining relaxation.

For those seeking a touch of rejuvenation, the villa includes a spa pool, equipped with heaters and bubble jets to create the ultimate tranquil escape—an elevated alternative to a traditional hot tub.

"The Azure Villa represents the pinnacle of our commitment to luxurious, immersive island living," said Bruce Maclaren, owner of Wymara Resort + Villas. "With its stunning design, thoughtfully curated amenities, and breathtaking oceanfront setting, this villa is an extraordinary addition to our collection. We can't wait to welcome guests to experience this unmatched level of indulgence."

**Private Oceanfront Retreat**  
Guests of Wymara Villas enjoy exclusive access to Sunset Cove Beach Club, a private oceanfront retreat. The Beach Club boasts a

new 130-foot-long ocean pool, the first of its kind in the Caribbean, offering an unparalleled way to experience the sea.

For those looking to stay active, the state-of-the-art sports club features basketball and pickleball courts, tennis facilities, Technogym fitness equipment, and a lap pool, ensuring guests have access to top-tier fitness and recreational options. Additionally, villa guests can take advantage of all the luxurious amenities at the nearby Wymara Resort, including world-class dining, a state-of-the-art spa, and a stunning infinity pool overlooking Grace Bay Beach, regarded as one of the world's best beaches.

Expanding the Wymara Experience  
The introduction of the Azure Villa comes as part of Wymara's continued commitment to redefining luxury on the island. This milestone coincides with the upcoming launch of a new restaurant, Land + Sea, set to open at Sunset Cove in March 2025, further enhancing the exclusive Wymara experience.

Additionally, guests can indulge in new bespoke offerings, like the new Pool-Lates experience, designed to elevate relaxation and well-being.

The ultimate fusion of fitness and relaxation Pool-Lates is Wymara's take on Pilates performed on Stand-Up Paddleboards in the pool. This water-based workout enhances balance, flexibility, and core strength while offering a unique way to connect with the water. With small, personalized class sizes, guests can enjoy an intimate wellness session that revitalizes both body and mind.

## A Healthful Stay

Leave the stress of daily life behind and be immersed in paradise, where every moment is designed to restore mind, body, and spirit with Wymara's Healthful Stay package. Enjoy daily private yoga or Pilates sessions, guided evening meditation or sound baths, and indulgent spa treatments including a 50-minute Bamboo Massage and Reiki Healing session. Savor curated healthy meals and fresh-pressed juices, all personalized by a personal wellness concierge.

## Romance Escape

Indulge in a romantic retreat with private airport transfers, a welcome bottle of Champagne and chocolate-covered strawberries, and a 50-minute Wymara Facial by 11SKIN for two. Enjoy daily breakfast, a private candlelit dinner, and a beachfront bonfire experience with s'mores under the stars.

## Spring Escape

Swap winter attire for flip flops and enjoy up to 25% off rooms and suites with daily breakfast included. Book by June 30, 2025, for travel between April 15 and June 30, 2025. Subject to availability and blackout dates.

# Allergies and you

ALLERGY OCCURS when a person's immune system reacts to substances in the environment that are harmless to most people. These substances are known as allergens and are found in dust mites, pets, pollen, insects, ticks, moulds, foods, and drugs (medications). There are many causes of allergy, and symptoms vary from mild to severe.

A hypersensitivity reaction is an overreaction of your immune system to something that would not usually cause an immune response. This leads to allergy symptoms. There are different types of hypersensitivity reactions, that usually develop within a few minutes of exposure to an allergen but can occasionally develop over a few hours. They are mostly mild, but can sometimes develop into a severe reaction called anaphylaxis. Hypersensitivity reactions can also occur when something triggers your body's own immune system to attack parts of your body. This can cause autoimmune diseases that range from mild to severe. Other responses are also called 'delayed hypersensitivity reactions', that can occur 12 to 72 hours after exposure to the allergen.

**HARMLESS OR NON-THREATENING**  
According to Dr Kimberly Cousins, American Board-Certified physician with the ABIM and ABAI licensed to see both pediatric and adult patients with allergic and immunologic disease, while an allergy is an overreaction of the immune system to harmless substances, hypersensitivity is an excessive or inappropriate immune response to a substance that is typically harmless or non-threatening.

"Hypersensitivity in reactions are classified into four different categories: Immediate Hypersensitivity (Type I), Cytotoxic Hypersensitivity (Type II), Immune Complex-Mediated Hypersensitivity (Type III) and Delayed-Type Hypersensitivity (Type IV)", Dr Cousins said.

"Examples of the different types of hypersensitivities include allergic rhinitis, asthma, anaphylaxis, hemolytic anemia, transfusion reactions, autoimmune diseases, systemic lupus erythematosus, serum sickness, contact dermatitis, tuberculin skin test reaction, and chronic transplant rejection.

Dr Cousins was a presenter at the sixth annual continuing education seminar, Mpowered by MDS – Gone To The Dogs Pharmacy Conference. That explored the complexities of allergies in both human and animal health. Her clinical interests include allergic rhinitis, asthma, common variable immunodeficiency, drug allergies, food allergies and nasal polyps.

The session, which attracted a large audience of medical professionals and animal lovers, explored critical topics including the distinction between allergy and hypersensitivity, the differences between allergens and mucogenic substances, and the latest insights into allergy etiology and management.

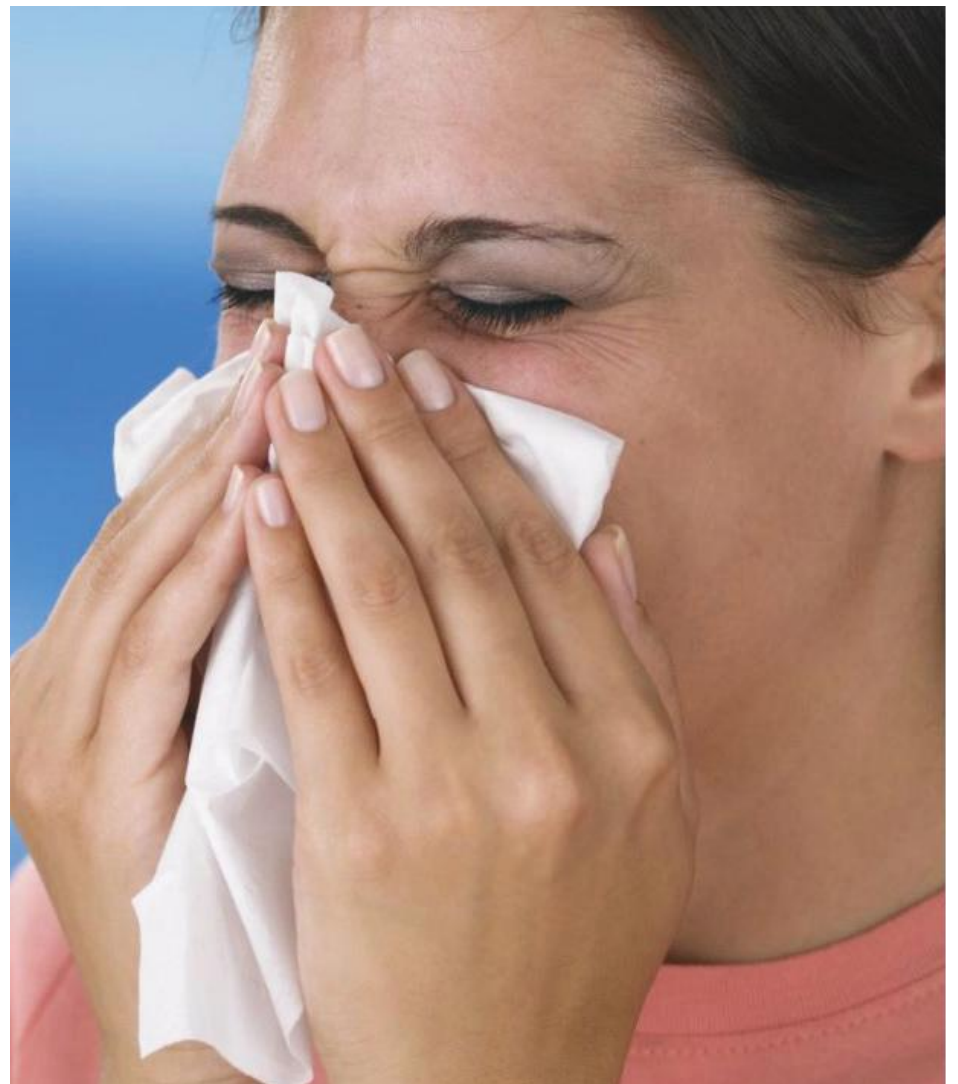
#### VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE

Dr Cousins also presented an overview on the physiological mechanisms behind allergies and their progression, emphasising the importance of understanding the immune system's response to allergens. She explained the key differences between allergic reactions and hypersensitivity, providing attendees with valuable knowledge to better differentiate between these often-confused terms.

A significant portion of the presentation was also dedicated to the causes and triggers of severe allergic reactions, particularly focusing on anaphylactic shock. Dr Cousins outlined the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, including rapid onset of symptoms including difficulty breathing, swelling, and gastrointestinal distress, underscoring the importance of rapid intervention.

"Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death. Typically, the onset is within 30 minutes, rarely ever after. The Quiescent period may occur followed by progression 60-120 mins (Biphasic), however if it is severe, it may recur three to six hours after. It is very rare that it will prolong for days," Dr Cousins said.

"Patients at risk for anaphylaxis should be prescribed auto-injectable epinephrine (Epi Pen). Individuals can test for allergies using a number of methods, including diagnostic testing, in-vitro testing, oral food challenge and penicillin



skin testing," she added.

Another focal point of the session was allergic rhinitis, a common condition affecting both humans and animals. Dr Cousins provided a detailed analysis of the various symptoms of allergic rhinitis, such as sneezing, itching, and nasal congestion, and highlighted diagnostic methods and management strategies.

She discussed the latest treatment options available, emphasising both pharmacological and non-pharmacological approaches to managing the condition, and stressing the importance of preventative measures.

"We are witnessing a rise in allergy-related conditions across both human and veterinary populations, and understanding these complexities is essential for effective treatment and management," Dr. Cousins said.

"By expanding awareness of allergy-related disorders, especially in the context of pets, we are empowering both professionals and pet owners to make more informed decisions in managing these often-debilitating condi-

tions," she added.

#### COGNITIVE AND PSYCHIATRIC IMPACTS

Rhinitis is often accompanied by symptoms involving the eyes, ears and throat. It is found to affect 30 to 60 million people annually within the United States, with 10 to 30 per cent of those affected being adults, while a whopping 40 per cent being children. Rhinitis has been proven to affect sleeping patterns, reduces work productivity and lost school days, and it has cognitive and psychiatric impacts.

"Rhinitis can be seasonal and perennial, caused by tree, grass and weed pollen in the spring and summer time; as well as dust-mites, moulds, animal allergens, or certain occupational allergens. It can be treated by the use of nasal sprays, oral antihistamines, oral steroids, and oral or nasal decongestants," Dr Cousins said.

The 'Gone to the Dogs' conference featured other speakers discussing topics such as pet nutrition and pharmacology led by Vanessa Benjamin-Chatrri, and pet therapy led by Joseph Brown and Lorenzo Letts.

# Barbados PM Mia Mottley hails Bob Marley at Grounation



Bob Marley

Mia Mottley, Barbados Prime Minister

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley told a large Jamaica Music Museum (JaMM) Grounation gathering at the Institute of Jamaica's (IOJ) Lecture Hall last Sunday that her strong advocacy had been inspired by reggae icon Bob Marley. Speaking at JaMM's 13th annual cultural symposium, on the theme, 'Bob Marley at Eighty: His Music, Legend and Legacy', in a pre-re-

corded presentation, Mottley said she had been listening to Marley since childhood, so much so that she had become a "disciple of his vision". She recalled feeling this was something "special" as a teenager listening to Bob sing, "Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery, none but ourselves can free our mind", long before she even knew the words were origi-

nally those of Marcus Garvey. Invoking several of the reggae legend's popular songs throughout her 15-minute-long presentation, Mottley lamented that there was "so much trouble in the world", pointing to the "deep inequalities" atrocities such as the COVID-19 pandemic exposed and the fact that "the most vulnerable among us suffer first and suffer worse". "Don't let them fool you, or even try to school you," she cautioned against the powers that seek to "divide and undermine democracies" – propaganda, rumours, fake news, social media algorithms, conspiracy theories, and the absence of common spaces that encourage shared values and shared facts. Many of these divisions she said were happening in our own backyard in the form of violence and the degradation of our music. Reminding her audience of the revolutionary stance of Marley in his charge to "get up, stand up, stand up for your right", Mottley noted that fulfilling his philosophy meant that we had to become advocates for the many issues with which the Caribbean and vulnerable states like ours grapple. Still, she said Marley had warned us, "Until the philosophy which holds one race superior and another inferior is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned, everywhere is war!" "If we do not act, we risk losing an entire generation ... to a war of the mind, a war of the soul, a war of hopelessness," the two-term

prime minister said. She said it was the responsibility of leadership to respond to the challenges, noting that leadership is about "action", later pointing out that Marley used his art, influence and voice to act and that a similar approach was needed if the people of the Caribbean are to receive due justice. "Justice is not given. It is demanded," she said, noting that Marley was all too aware of this and fully grasped the issues that maintained divisiveness among us; issues, for which, she said, Caribbean governments must demand action from their more powerful counterparts. "Are we demanding of the financial systems that small-island states should not have to beg for climate justice? Are we demanding that our education systems teach our children not just how to make a living, but how to make a difference?" she asked, telling them, "Our fate is in our hands." Professor Clinton Hutton, retired University of West Indies lecturer, and Dr Michael Barnett, senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology at UWI rounded out a two-man panel following Mottley's presentation. The proceedings were moderated by attorney-at-law and journalist Dionne Jackson-Miller. Held every Sunday in February at 2 p.m., Grounation brings together a community of culture and music enthusiasts for a 'reasoning' on various aspects of the country's musical history juxtaposed against a contemporary society.

# Kanye West's account on X goes dark after hate-filled rant



Kanye West's account on X has been deactivated after a days-

long rant on the platform that included vitriolic, anti-Semitic out-

bursts. It was not immediately clear if the artist and entrepreneur, who legally changed his name to Ye, deactivated the account himself or if X took it down. "I'm logging out of Twitter. I appreciate Elon for allowing me to vent. It has been very cathartic to use the world as a sounding board," he wrote in his final post, referring to the owner of X, Elon Musk. It's a familiar pattern for Ye, 47, who is now in the headlines as often for his provocative, often hate-filled rants as he is for his music. The rapper has been locked out of social media platforms in the past, notably when he was

banned from X for nearly eight months for violating rules barring incitement to violence. Ye's most recent missives included comments in support of music mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs, who is imprisoned on sex trafficking charges. He repeatedly referred to himself as a "Nazi." He also referred to the stunt he pulled at the Grammys last week with wife Bianca Censori, who appeared virtually nude on the red carpet ahead of the awards gala. X did not immediately respond to a request for comment. For years, Ye has spoken openly about struggles with bipolar disorder. He recently said on "The Download" podcast that he in fact has an autism diagnosis.

# Cooper Is Shocked as Gayle King Abruptly Asks About Her Favorite Sexual Position with Husband During Live Interview



Alex Cooper (left) and Gayle King

Gayle King caught Alex Cooper off guard with one of her questions. In an interview on CBS Mornings on Feb. 11, the 70-year-old anchor surprised the Call Her Daddy host, 30, when she asked her about her favorite sex position with husband Matt Kaplan after being married for one year.

“Oh my god Gayle, are we allowed to talk about that?” Cooper asked while King’s other CBS Mornings anchors Nate Burleson and Tony Dokoupil laughed and added that

their producers said “no” to answering that question.

Although Cooper was ready to give a candid answer, Gayle clarified that she had asked the question for a specific reason. “I’m making a point [that this] is what Alex does on her show [with her guests],” King clarified as the podcast host wiped away laughing tears.

“[Alex] got Katy Perry to talk about her love language, she got Hailey Bieber to talk about her fa-

vorite sex position, Simone Biles about her mental health... I’m amazed [by it],” King continued. “What amazes me about you is that we’re sitting there in those hooded sweatshirts, which makes everyone comfortable, you ask these raunchy questions sprinkled in with a lot of smart too.”

Cooper elaborated on her interview method and explained that “I do ask a lot of the crazier questions that we’re not [always] allowed to talk about [on a show like CBS Mornings].”

“There’s a lot that goes into it prior to [the interview],” Cooper continued. “I’m not asking [something like their favorite sexual position] as the first question in the interview. I think there’s a rapport that I build with these people and yes, when I’m asking [celebrities], it is a question we want to know, but it’s asked in the appropriate way at the right time.”

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to stay up-to-date on the best of what PEOPLE has to offer, from celebrity news to compelling human interest stories.

Cooper added that she’s “reading the room” during the interview and making sure she’s “self-aware” and “not making someone uncomfortable.”

“I’ve also been interviewed a lot of times and I can recognize when someone is not reading the room and you’re like ‘That was not an appropriate question to ask,’” she continued. “I think that’s what I take pride in; making my audience feel comfortable and my guests feel comfortable too.”

Cooper — who launched the Unwell Network back in August 2023 — also spoke about the feedback she’s gotten from her audience about her conversation style, noting, “It has allowed them to feel less shame around normal, everyday things that we’re all experiencing [like sex], so why can’t we talk about it.”

## Versions project pays tribute to Jamaican culture



Aglobal music project paying homage to Jamaica’s rich cultural heritage is set to launch its full soundtrack. Dubbed the Versions Hub, the project is a digital archive preserving the stories, music, and wisdom imparted through the island’s cultural legacy.

“Versions is a love letter to Jamaica — honoring the resilience, creativity, and impact of our elders and ancestors while passing that legacy to the next generation and the world at large,” D’Ari Lisle, co-founder of project organisers Darkspark, said in a release. “This project is a tribute to that legacy, a testament to how music can be a tool for empowerment, a voice for the unheard, and a catalyst for social justice.”

Created by Darkspark, a Cana-

da-based non-profit dedicated to harnessing the power of music for social change, Versions was recently honored with an Anthem Award in 2024 by the International Academy of Digital Arts & Sciences (The Webby) for its contributions to arts and education. Versions stands as a celebration of Jamaica’s influence on global music and its powerful tradition of using song to uplift and empower communities.

The project brought together 27 emerging youth artists from around the world — including four from Jamaica — for a year-long fellowship, offering mentorship, wellness support, and leadership training. Inspired by Jamaica’s versioning and juggling traditions (where artists create unique songs

over the same shared riddims to showcase diverse voices and perspectives), participants collaborated with thought leaders, celebrity mentors, and top-tier producers to craft powerful music as well as design and deliver community impact projects.

Guided by a network of musical and cultural leaders, select youth artists explored how they could leverage their art and platforms for social impact. Drawing inspiration from artist mentors Sean Paul, Lila Ike, Chronixx and Mutabaruka; and the wisdom of Dr Carolyn Cooper, Mikie Bennett, and Uncle Ronnie of 8 Mile Sound, the emerging artists reimagined the Jamaican tradition of versioning. With music production from JLL and The Wixard, they crafted original songs over shared rhythms, breathing new life into a practice that has empowered voices for generations.

The project’s deep Jamaican roots were strengthened by the invaluable work of Artiste and Community Engagement and Content Producer Kareece Lawrence, plus child justice leader Heather Galimore, whose consultation and guidance ensured the best fitting and nurturing space for the participants. With additional support

from icons Sharon Burke and Team Shaggy, Gabre Selassie of Kingston Dub Club, visits to Skyline Levels (Jacks Hill) and Rasta City (in Tivoli Gardens), Versions is not only an artistic endeavor, but a movement. “I feel blessed to be a part of this project that amplifies youth voices and celebrates Jamaica’s cultural wealth and diversity. Youth capacity and Community building both play a vital role in nation-building, so for me to lend my talents and skills plus share my network, as my contribution to this project, is a natural alignment. One of the biggest takeaways for me is how everyone who has collaborated and participated in Versions, is now a part of a global community [or family as I love to say] of creatives,” said Lawrence

Versions is the brainchild of Lisle and Mel Larkin. As co-founders of Darkspark, the duo has garnered global recognition for their approach to merging art and social impact. Their past work earned praise from President Obama and an award for intercultural innovation from the UN. The final music soundtrack will be released on all streaming platforms on February 27, 2025.



# MARK GARLAND APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands – Thursday, 23 January 2025: The Office of the Deputy Governor is excited to announce the appointment of Mr. Mark Garland as the new Director of Education within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports, and Library Services.

Mr Garland's educational journey began at the Ona Glinton Primary School, formerly North Primary School, in Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos Islands. He continued his studies at H J Robinson High School in Grand Turk, leaving in Form 4 to pursue GCE O-Level studies at St. John's College in Nassau, Bahamas, from 1989 to 1991. Mr. Garland went on to earn a Teacher's Diploma in Education (Credit) from Mico University College in Jamaica from 1991 to 1994, followed by a Bachelor of Education (Hons.) at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, from 1996 to 1998. Additionally, he attained a Master of Science Degree in Education Management from the University of Leicester, UK, in 2004-2005. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in Education at Northern Caribbean University, focusing on Leadership, which he commenced in 2021.

Mr Garland has a wealth of experience in education. He began his career as a Teacher of English Language and Literature in English at H J Robinson High School from 1994 to 1996. He then joined the

Clement Howell High School from 1999 to 2004, where he taught English Language and English Literature.

In 2008, Mr. Garland began a new path in his career journey when he was appointed as the Deputy Director of Education for the Turks and Caicos Islands. He has held this post for over 16 years, working directly with the former Director of Education to significantly influence educational policies and practices and shape the curriculum and standards that affect students' learning and development. This role provided a platform to lead and inspire educators, administrators, and the community, fostering a positive educational environment and promoting effective teaching strategies.

As the Deputy Director of Education, Mr Garland was privileged to determine resource distribution, ensuring schools had the necessary tools and support for success. A highlight of his tenure was the personal and professional development opportunities he encountered, networking with other educational leaders and engaging in high-level decision-making. He also advocated for student needs, ensuring equitable access to quality education and addressing systemic issues within the education system.

Mr Garland commented on his appointment, "From a young age, my parents introduced me to the transformative power of educa-

tion and its ability to uplift individuals and communities. Growing up in a diverse environment, I witnessed firsthand how access to knowledge can shape lives, inspire hope, and build a brighter future. This understanding has fueled my passion for education and my desire to dedicate my efforts to uplifting others through this vital tool. As I stand on the brink of my next appointment, I am driven by the vision of creating an educational framework that uplifts my fellow men. Education is a catalyst for change, and I am committed to being an agent of that change. My desire to uplift others through education is not merely a career choice; it is my life's mission. I look forward to the opportunity to inspire, educate, and transform lives, one learner at a time.

I am deeply grateful to acknowledge the invaluable role my family and church have played in my journey leading to this new opportunity. My wife Kayan Garland and children Omar, Sanabria, Nathan and Matthew have been my unwavering foundation, providing encouragement, love, and goodwill every step of the way. My mother, Sandra Garland, brother, Anthony Garland, and sister, Judith Campbell, have all been pillars of strength throughout my life. The support of the Seventh-day Adventist community has been a constant source of inspiration, reminding me to trust in God's plan and to seek wisdom in all I do. To

my colleagues in the Ministry and Department of Education, your support has uplifted me in moments of doubt and fueled my determination. Thanks to our Deputy Governor, H.E. Anya Williams, for her visionary approach, which has provided leaders in the Public Service with the platform to grow, flourish, and excel.

I am truly blessed to have such a supportive network, and I dedicate this milestone to the collective influence you have all had on my life. Thank you for being part of this journey with me."

Deputy Governor and Head of the Public Service, H.E. Anya Williams, commented on this important appointment: "Heartfelt congratulations are extended to Mr Mark Garland on his promotion to the post of Director of Education here in the Turks and Caicos Islands. With over 30 years of dedicated service to the education sector here in the Turks and Caicos Islands, Mr Mark Garland has demonstrated exceptional commitment and expertise in the field of education. His promotion to this important post is a testament to his dedication to improving the quality of education in the Turks and Caicos Islands. We are excited to see the positive impact he will continue to make for our students, schools and our islands in this new role.

Congratulations, Mr Garland, on your well-deserved promotion."

## Solar PV Projects Completed at Critical Turks and Caicos Islands Healthcare Facilities

The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) have taken a significant step toward a more sustainable energy future with the installation of five (5) solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at key healthcare facilities across the archipelago.

This initiative, funded by the European Union through the Resilience, Sustainable Energy, and Marine Biodiversity Programme (RESEMBID) and implemented by Expertise France, aims to enhance sustainability, reduce operational costs for the TCI Government, and contribute to long-term economic viability.

The solar PV systems have been strategically installed at critical medical facilities, including the Blue Hills Clinic in Providenciales, the Bottle Creek Clinic in North Caicos, the Alsada Hall-Malcolm Primary Healthcare Clinic in Mid-

dle Caicos, the South Caicos Primary Health Clinic, and the Wellness Centre in Grand Turk. These healthcare centers provide essential services to local communities, and the integration of solar energy demonstrates TCI's commitment to environmental responsibility and energy efficiency within vital public sectors.

Leading this transformative initiative is the Energy and Utilities Department (EUD) under the Ministry of Public Safety and Utilities (MPSU). The EUD has overseen the installation and integration of these solar PV systems within the local energy landscape, leveraging the islands' abundant sunshine which averages approximately 350 sunny days per year-- an ideal setting for solar energy generation. These systems, equipped with advanced battery storage solutions,

will significantly reduce electricity costs for healthcare facilities while ensuring uninterrupted power supply during grid outages or energy supply challenges.

EUD Commissioner Delano R. Arthur emphasized the importance of this initiative: "The solar PV systems will greatly reduce electricity costs and symbolize our shift toward a sustainable energy future. This investment not only strengthens energy security, but reduces dependence on imported fossil fuels, lowering carbon emissions and environmental impact."

The collaboration between the European Union, Expertise France, and local government agencies ensures that the project aligns with international renewable energy standards, benefiting both the environment and the community. Installation was successfully car-

ried out by Green Revolution Ltd., a local company committed to advancing sustainable development in TCI. Their involvement highlights the importance of local expertise and community engagement in executing renewable energy initiatives.

Permanent Secretary Desmond Wilson reinforced the Government's commitment to renewable energy, stating: "This initiative marks a significant step toward a cleaner, more resilient energy future for the Turks and Caicos Islands, ensuring that future generations benefit from sustainable practices while preserving the country's natural beauty and resources. With continued investment in similar initiatives, TCI is positioned to lead in energy security and environmental sustainability within the Caribbean region."

# Over 800K Investors Lose Over £1.61B on Trump Meme Coin as 31 Early Traders Netted £540M



US President Donald Trump is spearheading the cryptocurrency industry and even launched his official meme coin, \$TRUMP, just days before his inauguration last month.

The \$TRUMP meme coin soared over 1000% in days to £60 before steadily declining to hover around £12.93 today.

Crypto forensics firms like Chainalysis carried out a blockchain study

on behalf of the New York Times, finding that over 810,000 investors, including many Trump supporters, lost over £1.61 billion after the meme coin nosedived.

The New York Times highlighted that the total losses were likely much higher because the blockchain data analysis didn't include figures from some top crypto marketplaces.

The Ongoing Exploitative Pattern of Crypto Pump and Dump

The legal but unregulated meme coin industry often follows a pattern in which sophisticated traders make early buys to pump the token prices before dumping their holdings as less experienced investors join the rally.

New York state regulators warned consumers about these offerings, stating that "creators or their associates artificially inflate the price of the coins and then sell their own coins rapidly at an inflated price, reaping substantial profits while causing the price to crash."

The regulators call these patterns "pump-and-dump schemes,"

which can leave late buyers with big losses. The Trump family could stand to profit from these meme coins as the President works to undo the regulatory crackdown on the crypto industry.

However, no evidence indicated that Trump or his associates artificially inflated the \$TRUMP meme coin's price or engaged in insider trading.

31 Early \$TRUMP Traders Netted £540M

The reconstruction of early trades by crypto experts revealed that some traders, including foreign traders, made big \$TRUMP meme coin purchases right when the President formally announced the launch on his social media handles. Analysis revealed a 12-hour gap between creating the \$TRUMP meme coin contract address and the official launch. Furthermore, several new wallets emerged during that time, scooping up millions of tokens within minutes of launch before dumping most of their holdings in a matter of days, raking in massive profits.

A crypto wallet with a unique ID beginning with 6QSc2Cx bought over 5.9 million at £0.15 each and walked away with a two-day profit of over £88 million. The person behind this trade was among other professional traders who rapidly bought and sold a significant portion of the token supply.

Further digging revealed that almost 31 early large traders made over £540 million in total profits in the early days of the \$TRUMP coin. Moreover, Chainalysis found that nearly 700,000 crypto wallets cashed out early for profits close to £5.33 billion. The high trading volumes helped the Trump family make close to £80.79 million in trading fees.

"The president is participating in shady crypto schemes that harm investors while at the same time appointing financial regulators who will roll back protections for victims and who may insulate him and his family from enforcement," says Corey Frayer, a former US Securities and Exchange Commission staff member.

# Elon Musk shut down by ChatGPT boss after launching \$97bn bid to buy OpenAI



Elon Musk has led a £78.3billion bid to take control of artificial intelligence company OpenAI, only to face immediate rejection from its chief executive.

The Tesla billionaire's consortium offered \$97.4bn to buy the ChatGPT maker in a dramatic escalation of his ongoing dispute with the company he helped found.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman swiftly dismissed the proposal on Musk's social media platform X, responding: "No thank you but we will

buy twitter for \$9.74 billion if you want."

Musk had purchased Twitter, now known as X, for \$44bn in 2022.

The consortium, which includes Musk's AI startup xAI and several investment firms, aims to revert OpenAI back to its original charitable mission as a non-profit research lab, according to Musk's lawyer Marc Toberoff.

The bid marks the latest development in an ongoing legal battle between Musk and the company

he helped establish.

The group of investors backing the proposal includes Baron Capital Group, Valor Management, Atreides Management, Vy Fund, Emanuel Capital Management and Eight Partners VC.

OpenAI's leadership has taken a firm stance against the takeover attempt, with Altman telling staff that the board of directors plans to make clear it has no interest in Musk's "supposed bid."

The internal message, reported by the Information, underscores the company's determination to maintain its independence.

The rejection comes as OpenAI continues its transition towards a for-profit model, a move that has been at the centre of recent legal disputes with Musk.

Musk and Altman, who together established OpenAI in 2015, have been locked in a feud over the startup's direction since Musk resigned from its board in 2018.

As an early investor who contributed about \$45m to the startup, Musk filed lawsuits against OpenAI in both California state and

federal courts last year.

Last week, during a federal court hearing, Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers called it a "stretch" for Musk to claim irreparable harm from OpenAI's for-profit transition.

The judge, however, raised concerns about OpenAI's relationship with Microsoft and indicated the case could proceed to trial next year.

Musk's lawyer Toberoff emphasised the importance of fair compensation if OpenAI proceeds with its for-profit transition.

"If Altman and OpenAI's current board are intent on becoming a fully for-profit corporation, it is vital that the charity be fairly compensated," he said.

Toberoff has also written to the attorneys general of California and Delaware, requesting information about competitive bidding processes.

The letter questioned how the public's beneficial interest would be protected in determining fair market value for OpenAI's charitable assets.

# Grenada to borrow funds to finance 2025 budget



CORNWALL... "We continue to build Grenada after the incident of Hurricane Beryl and currently we are in the reconstruction phase of this activity,"

The Grenada government says it will be seeking to borrow more than EC\$700 million (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) to finance the 2025 national budget that will be presented to Parliament on March

7. "We will present to the Parliament an opportunity to have us borrow extra money for all our development projects that will be coming up. I will wait until that number is

finalised before I announce it to the nation...I know what ballpark figure we are looking for, it is over EC\$725 million," Finance Minister Dennis Cornwall told a news conference.

Grenada's fiscal year runs from January 1 to December 31, and Cornwall, who will be presenting the fiscal package 10 weeks into the financial year, told reporters that the government will be increasing its borrowing on the St Kitts-based Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange (ECSE) by auctioning more Treasury Bills.

For the two-year period, 2023-2024, Grenada raised more than EC200 million on the ECSE with the funds being used to refinance its existing treasury bills and treasury notes currently on the market.

"To finance our 2025 budget, we may need to basically increase our borrowing from the Eastern Caribbean Stock Exchange, we are fine-tuning that number to find out what exactly that will be for the portion of debt that we will try and raise from the Eastern Caribbean Stock Exchange in terms of new borrowings and new treasury

bills that will be issued and as such I will not be able to tell you exactly how much that will be as yet," Cornwall said.

Following the passage of Hurricane Beryl on July 1 last year, Cabinet decided to suspend the fiscal rules of the Fiscal Resilience Act.

Cornwall said that the suspension may continue until 2026 because the Dickon Mitchell government will not be reinstating it while it's in the recovery phase following the passage of the hurricane which devastated the northern part of the island.

"We continue to build Grenada after the incident of Hurricane Beryl and currently we are in the reconstruction phase of this activity," Cornwall told reporters.

"In 2025, all our efforts will be concentrated on rebuilding Grenada and so we will not reinstate the fiscal rule until we are at the end of the rebuilding process. So it can take you the whole of 2025 and parts of 2026," Cornwall added.

Last year, Parliament approved a national budget of EC\$1,548.1 million.

# St Vincent gov't wins appeal in 'vaccine mandate' case



The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court of Appeal Wednesday ruled in favour of the St Vincent and the

Grenadines government in the so-called "COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate" case.

The St Vincent and the Grenadines Teachers' Union (SGVTU), Public Service Union (PSU) and the Police Welfare Association (PWA) funded the lawsuit in which former public sector workers Shanile Howe, Novita Roberts, Cavet Thomas, Alfonso Lyttle, Brenton Smith, Sylvorne Oliver, Shefflor Ballantyne, Travis Cumberbatch, and Rohan Giles are the complainants.

The Minister of Health and the Environment, Public Service Commission, Commissioner of Police, Attorney General, and Police Service Commission are the respondents.

In a March 13, 2023 ruling, then High Court judge Justice Esco Henry ruled against the government on all 11 grounds and held that the mandate breached natural justice, contravened the constitution, was

unlawful, procedurally improper, and void.

The government appealed the ruling and the Court of Appeal heard the arguments on May 2, 2024, but reserved its judgment.

The Court of Appeal by a 2-1 majority during a virtual sitting upheld the government's appeal saying that the government had succeeded in persuading them that then High Court judge Justice Esco Henry was wrong in making most of the orders she made in her judgment.

There were no immediate reaction from either the government or the public sector unions in the case.

However, both had suggested ahead of the judgment that they would consider appealing to the London-based Privy Council if the judgment went against them.



# SPRINTS AND THROW MEET MARCH 1

# Eagles 'Hurts' Chiefs 'three-peat' dream



Jalen Hurts and the Philadelphia Eagles shattered Kansas City's dream of an unprecedented Super Bowl 'three-peat' with a brutally efficient dismantling of the Chiefs in a 40-22 victory at the Superdome on Sunday.

It was sweet revenge for Nick Siriani's team who had suffered an agonising Super Bowl defeat to the Chiefs two years ago in Arizona and criticism after a 2-2 start to the season.

While much of the focus before the game had been on Philadelphia's running game, Hurts showed the other side of his game, throwing for two touchdowns and 221 yards and running in another score in a brilliant per-

formance.

"He had an unbelievable game today when we needed him to," said Siriani, suggesting that they may have taken advantage of the Chiefs preoccupation with the running game.

"When you set out to stop one thing, another thing opens and Jalen was able to take advantage of that. Him and this team are world champions forever," he said.

The Chiefs were able to largely limit the impact of the Eagles star running back Saquon Barkley but they managed precious little else on either side of the ball.

For all the talk of the Chiefs rising to become the greatest dynasty in the NFL, this was, instead, the kind of loss that can tarnish a legacy.

"Too many turnovers, too many penalties, against a good football team you just can't do that," said Chiefs Coach Andy Reid.

Mahomes' status as one of the great quarterbacks is already secure but he had a night to forget, throwing two interceptions, giving up a turnover on a fumble and was sacked six times.

Right from the outset, the Eagles were dominant and they opened their account on their second drive when Hurts found Jahan Dotson wide right with a perfectly floated 28-yard pass.

Dotson was ruled to have gone down just short of the end-zone but predictably on the next play, the Eagles pushed Hurts over the line for the

score.

The Eagles defence was swarming all over the Chiefs offensive line and Mahomes struggled to get any kind of momentum.

At the start of the second quarter, a Hurts pass intended for AJ Brown was superbly intercepted by safety Bryan Cook but again the Chiefs were forced to punt.

A 48-yard Jake Elliott field goal made it 10-0 but much worse was to come for Kansas City.

Mahomes fired up the middle towards DeAndre Hopkins but didn't spot Eagles cornerback Cooper DeJean who, anticipating the pass, sprinted infield and grabbed the pick and sprinted 38 yards for the touchdown.

At 17-0 down, the Chiefs badly needed to find something on offence but instead Mahomes was intercepted again with the diving Zack Baun making the play.

On the resulting possession, Hurts took full advantage of a Chiefs defence in disarray, finding a wide-open Brown for a 12-yard score that sent the Eagles in with a 24-0 lead.

The statistics told the story of a disastrous first half for Mahomes and the Chiefs — he was sacked three times and managed just 34 yards passing, completing six of 14 attempts.

The Chiefs had 23 total yards offence and 20 net pass yards in the first half — the second worst of any team in Super Bowl history.

All 13 other teams to have been shut-out in the first half of a Super Bowl went on to lose the game and the Chiefs attempt to avoid being the 14th required a bright start to the second half.

But the Eagles were in no mood to relent — a 29-yard Elliott field goal maintained the momentum for Philadelphia and then Hurts delivered the killer blow with a magnificent 46-yard hurl down field to DeVonta Smith for a touchdown that made it 34-0.

That finally sparked a reaction from the Chiefs with Mahomes finding receiver Xavier Worthy with a 50-yard pass and then finishing off the five-play drive finding Worthy again with a 24-yard touchdown pass.

The Eagles were now taking few risks knowing the outcome was in their own hands and they settled for another field goal from Elliott to make it 37-6.

Mahomes misery — and lack of protection — continued when he fumbled as he was sacked by Milton Williams who recovered the ball.

The Chiefs had two late touchdowns but the game was long over — the only question now is whether this was the beginning of the end of the Chiefs era?

For the Eagles it was the franchise's second Super Bowl triumph following the win over another dynasty, the New England Patriots, in the 2017-2018 season.

## Miller hails Warrican heroics, West Indies team in Pakistan



West Indies cricketer Kevin Sinclair (left) congratulates spin bowler Jomel Warrican (second left) as other teammates join the celebration of the dismissal of Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan during the third day of the first Test match at Multan Cricket Stadium on January 19, 2025.

ASSISTANT Coach Nikita Miller says the willingness to learn and adapt was pivotal to the West Indies cricket team matching hosts Pakistan punch for punch on dry, dusty surfaces in Multan last month.

After disappointingly losing the first Test by 127 runs, the Andre Coley-coached Caribbean side stunned Pakistan by inflicting a 120-run defeat in the second match to level the series 1-1. Both matches were held at Multan

Cricket Stadium.

The biggest hero for the visitors was 32-year-old left-arm finger spinner Jomel Warrican, who claimed 19 wickets in the two matches. He ended the series with a remarkable average of exactly nine runs per wicket.

In the context of a low-scoring series, Warrican was also outstanding with the bat in the West Indies lower order.

"The whole coaching unit and the

team analyst had a lot of conversations around how we needed to approach the series. We knew the pitch [in Multan] was going to take spin, but not so much," Miller, 42, told the Jamaica Observer.

"The analysis was critical in terms of us deciding the pace we needed to bowl on that pitch. We didn't execute as well as we should [have] in the first innings but when we saw how Pakistan [spinners] bowled, we revisited the conversations. The bowling unit made the adjustment and we started to see the results. The bowlers were willing to listen and take on board the information the coaches were sharing, and that also played a role in them being effective," he said.

Man of the Series Warrican took 3-69 and 7-32 in the first Test loss and was just as effective in the second match, grabbing 4-43 and 5-27.

The next-best West Indies bowler in the series was left-arm finger spinner Gudakesh Motie, who finished with seven wickets. Off-spinner Kevin Sinclair had five wickets while pacers Jayden Seales and Kemar Roach, who played one match each, captured early wickets even

though neither was prolific.

Not surprisingly, the Pakistan spinners were also dominant. Left-arm-er Noman Ali took 16 wickets in the series, closely followed by off-spinner Sajid Khan (15). Wrist spinner Abrar Ahmed took seven.

Pakistan employed a similar tactic of setting dry, spin-friendly surfaces against visiting England late last year. And that worked to near perfection as they recovered from a loss in the first Test to win the three-match series 2-1.

Against the West Indies, however, it backfired monumentally in that second Test. The win was the first for a West Indies team away to Pakistan since 1990.

Miller argued that his side outdid the hosts with ball and bat.

"We shouldn't underestimate the magnitude of this drawn series coming out of Pakistan — a place where historically we haven't done so well. Going into the series, when you compared our spin bowling unit to their unit, people would lean more toward theirs because they are used to their conditions and they have done it to other teams.

## Shaw scores on return to squad for Women's FA Cup after racist, misogynistic abuse



Manchester City striker Khadija "Bunny" Shaw

Manchester City striker Khadija "Bunny" Shaw has made a triumphant return, scoring in Sunday's Women's FA Cup fifth-round match against Leicester after a brief break to focus on her mental well-being.

According to BBC Sport, the 28-year-old Jamaican withdrew from last Thursday's League Cup semi-final against Arsenal following racist and misogynistic abuse she received on social media after City's 4-3 loss to the Gunners

in the Women's Super League the previous week.

However, Shaw returned to the squad on Sunday for the Women's FA Cup fifth-round match against Leicester at the Joie Stadium in Manchester, England.

Introduced at half-time, she scored her side's third goal as she nodded home from close range, BBC Sport said.

City secured a comfortable 3-1 victory, with first-half goals from Leila Ouahabi and Kerolin Nicoli.

## Asafa covers travel expense, donates shoes to Camperdown netballers



Camperdown High's Mahalia Mills (left) fits new Puma shoes as Jamaica's retired sprint icon Asafa Powell looks on during a presentation at Sagicor Foundation's offices on February 7, 2025.

A heart-warming moment at a recent Jamaica Sunshine Girls netball match led to a generous act of support from Jamaica's former sprint star Asafa Powell. A Camperdown High School student had approached Powell seeking assistance for her participation in the 2025 Florida Netball Classic, set for April 19-20.

Moved by the request, Powell immediately stepped up. He donated \$450,000 (US\$3,000) to cover travel expenses for three netballers — Mahalia Mills, Lasana Cooper, and Rihanna Lewis — ensuring they have the chance to compete on the international stage. In addition to the financial support the players also received brand-new sneakers, courtesy of Powell's apparel and footwear sponsor, Puma.

The donation was made possible through Sagicor Foundation, with the official cheque handover taking place on Friday.

Troy Yorke, Camperdown's team manager and assistant bursar,

expressed his gratitude.

"This means so much to us. These girls love netball, and Asafa's generosity will allow them to compete. His support not only gets them to Florida but also inspires them to keep pushing for excellence."

East Kingston-based Camperdown High School has been a regular competitor at the Florida Netball Classics for over a decade, securing the Under-19 title in 2015. Powell, a firm believer in youth and sports development, reflected on the reason for making the donation.

"I was raised to be a people person, and I'm blessed to be in a position where I can give back. As an athlete I know how hard it is to reach the top, so seeing the smiles on their faces and knowing they have this opportunity makes me just as happy."

Powell's contribution further cements his legacy — not just as a global track and field icon but as a dedicated supporter of Jamaicans in sports.

# Grand Turk Sports Centre to be Named in Honor of Veteran Administrator Rita Gardiner



A lifelong advocate for sports and youth development, Gardiner has played a pivotal role in shaping the sporting landscape of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Veteran sports administrator and celebrated icon Rita Gardiner is elated as the Grand Turk Sports

Centre is set to be named in her honor. The facility, which has already

received Cabinet approval, will proudly bear the name: 'Hon. Rita Gardiner, OBE Building.'

Gardiner, a trailblazer in sports development in the Turks and Caicos Islands, expressed her deep gratitude and excitement at the recognition.

"First of all, I'm honored and ecstatic that this new Sports Center has already been given Cabinet's approval even before completion to be named the 'Hon. Rita Gardiner, OBE Building.' The fact that it's a new building and has never had a name attached to it is commendable. We know that usually if a building is named from inception, the name usually sticks, no matter how many times the name is changed."

A lifelong advocate for sports and youth development, Gardiner has played a pivotal role in shaping the sporting landscape of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"This is a long-time goal of having a sports building named in my honor, in my beautiful island of Grand Turk where I was born, grew up, and made my mark in sports as an athlete, coach, founder, and sports administrator of various sporting bodies. This naming will solidify my legacy as a sports icon," she added. Her achievements in the sporting arena are extensive. She was the

first person inducted into the National Sports Hall of Fame in the Turks and Caicos Islands and has received numerous accolades at the national, regional, and international levels. Among her notable recognitions are her induction into World Athletics in 2017, being the first woman in the Commonwealth Games Federation to receive the Merit of Honor in 2017, and being honored by the Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees (CANOC) as a Founding Member in 2022.

Despite her long list of achievements, having a building named after her in Grand Turk holds a special significance.

"To have this achievement set in stone is indeed remarkable," Gardiner stated. "My sincere thanks and appreciation to the committee who have the confidence that such an honor should be bestowed on me. I will live up to the ideals that come with such a great and prestigious honor."

The Grand Turk Sports Centre, soon to be known as the Hon. Rita Gardiner, OBE Building, will serve as a beacon of inspiration for future generations of athletes and sports administrators in the Turks and Caicos Islands, further cementing Gardiner's profound impact on the nation's sporting legacy.

## SWA Sharks FC Stage Late Comeback to Stun Beaches FC



The SWA Sharks team, which defeated Beaches FC courtesy of a come-from-behind win.

SWA Sharks FC produced a thrilling second-half comeback to defeat Beaches FC 3-1 in a midweek showdown at the TCIFA Field on Wednesday night.

The game started with Beaches FC asserting early dominance, breaking the deadlock in the 25th minute through a penalty converted by forward Jerry Belizaire (#9).

The spot-kick was awarded after a foul inside the box, and Belizaire made no mistake, slotting the ball past the Sharks' goalkeeper. With Beaches FC holding a 1-0 lead at halftime, the Sharks had work to do in the second half.

SWA Sharks came out firing after the break and found an immediate response in the 48th minute

when Elbaillet Eugene (#25) capitalized on a defensive lapse to slot home the equalizer. With both teams battling fiercely, Beaches FC worked hard to regain control but struggled to break down the Sharks' defense.

As the game approached stoppage time, the momentum swung entirely in favor of SWA Sharks. In the 90+2 minute, Eugene struck again, securing his brace with a powerful finish to put Sharks ahead for the first time in the match. Just six minutes later, Ernst Alcius (#21) sealed the victory with a well-placed effort in the 90+8 minute, completing a dramatic turnaround for the visiting side.

Despite the loss, Beaches FC saw an impressive performance from #13 Desir Patterson, who stood out with his relentless work rate and defensive efforts. Meanwhile, the standout performer for SWA Sharks was undoubtedly Elbaillet Eugene (#25), whose two-goal performance earned him the Player of

the Match honor.

The match also saw Beaches FC's #10 Iveno Issac Pedro receive a yellow card in a heated contest.

With this result, SWA Sharks FC continue their strong form, while Beaches FC will look to bounce back in their upcoming fixtures. Fans were treated to an action-packed encounter, proving once again why midweek football under the lights never disappoints.

Final Score: Beaches FC 1-3 SWA Sharks FC

Goalscorers:

Beaches FC: #9 Jerry Belizaire (25' - Penalty)

SWA Sharks FC: #25 Elbaillet Eugene (48', 90+2), #21 Ernst Alcius (90+8)

Cautions:

Beaches FC: #10 Iveno Issac Pedro (Yellow Card)

Player of the Match:

SWA Sharks FC: #25 Elbaillet Eugene

Beaches FC: #13 Desir Patterson

# Sprints and Throws Meet March 1

The countdown to the prestigious 2025 CARIFTA Games has officially begun, and local high school athletes will get a crucial opportunity to test their skills at Development Meet 2, organized by the Turks and Caicos Amateur Athletic Association (TCAAA) in collaboration with the TCI Sports Commission.

The event, scheduled for March 1, 2025, at the National Stadium on Venetian Road, kicks off at 10:00 A.M. and focuses on sprints and throws.

The meet forms part of the ath-

letes' preparation for the 2025 CARIFTA Games, which will be held in Trinidad and Tobago over the Easter weekend. With the CARIFTA Games being a key event in the Caribbean's athletic calendar, this meet is expected to provide valuable competition experience for emerging talents aiming to represent the Turks and Caicos Islands on the regional stage.

Organizers emphasize that this development meet is not just a competition but also a platform to assess the athletes' readiness,

identify areas for improvement, and foster high-performance standards. The athletes competing in sprints and throwing events will have the chance to fine-tune their skills under the watchful eyes of coaches and selectors.

"We're looking for standout performances that will give us an indication of who is ready to compete at the CARIFTA level," a TCAAA representative shared. "This meet is about giving our athletes a competitive edge and helping them feel confident before they head to

Trinidad and Tobago."

The event also promises to be an exciting experience for local spectators, who are encouraged to come out and cheer for the young talents. With CARIFTA Games selections on the line, the competition is expected to be fierce, with athletes eager to earn their spot on the national team.

As anticipation builds for the 2025 CARIFTA Games, Development Meet 2 serves as a vital milestone, helping shape the future of athletics in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

## Turks & Caicos Islands Football Association Seeks Volunteers for Upcoming Events



The Turks & Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) is calling on passionate individuals to volunteer and support the growth of football in the country. In a recent announcement, the association expressed an urgent need for dedicated volunteers to help with various roles essential to the success of local football programs and events.

The TCIFA is looking for volunteers to serve as coaches, referees, match commissioners, team managers, media officers/photographers, and event staff.

These roles play a crucial part in the smooth operation of football activities, from grassroots development to professional matches. A promotional flyer released by the organization emphasizes the importance of volunteers in shaping the future of football in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The images featured highlight referees, photographers, and on-field action, showcasing the vibrant football community that relies on committed individuals to keep the sport thriving.

The Technical Director, Dane

Ritchie, and Office Manager/Marketing & Communications Coordinator, Candia Ewing, are leading the recruitment efforts. Interested individuals can reach out via email at [technicaldirector@tcifa.com](mailto:technicaldirector@tcifa.com) or [cewing@tcifa.com](mailto:cewing@tcifa.com) for more details. Additionally, they can contact the association at +1 (649) 941-5532. This initiative aligns with TCIFA's ongoing mission to develop and promote football across the islands. By involving more volunteers, the organization aims to provide better training opportu-

nities, improve officiating standards, enhance media coverage, and create memorable events for players and fans alike.

For those passionate about football and eager to contribute to the sport's growth in the Turks and Caicos Islands, this is a valuable opportunity to get involved, gain experience, and make a difference in the local football community.

Interested individuals are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to ensure the success of upcoming football events.