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>>> STORY ON PG5

Connolly Criticizes Tourism Authority Bill, Calls for Audit of Former Tourist Board

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Former Minister of Tourism and current government backbencher Hon. Josephine Connolly has strongly criticized the Turks and Caicos Islands Tourism Authority Bill 2026, describing it as a step backward for the country's tourism sector and calling for greater transparency and accountability over the finances of the former Tourist Board.

The legislation was piloted in the House of Assembly on Tuesday by Premier and Minister of Finance Hon. Washington Misick in the absence of Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, who was attending a Caribbean tourism ministerial meeting. The bill was subsequently passed, paving the way for the establishment of the Turks and Caicos Islands Tourism Authority as a statutory body. During her contribution to the debate, Connolly argued that the new authority was effectively a return to the former Tourist Board model and questioned whether the move represented progress for the country's tourism industry. "The Turks and Caicos Islands Tourism Authority might be better described as Tourist Board Mark 2," Connolly told the House. She said it would have been appropriate for the final accounts of what she referred to as "Tourist Board Mark 1" to be laid before Parliament before lawmakers were asked to approve a new tourism structure.

Connolly further alleged that the former Tourist Board had not been audited for more than six years and called on the Auditor General to investigate its financial records.

"I think the people of this country would



CONNOLLY... "The Turks and Caicos Islands Tourism Authority might be better described as Tourist Board Mark 2."

appreciate some transparency and accountability during those times," she said, while urging Parliament to request the audit reports of the former Tourist Board so that the public could gain a better understanding of its operations and expenditures.

The former tourism minister also defended the Destination Management and Marketing Organization (DMMO), which was introduced by the Progressive National Party administration as part of a modern approach to tourism management. She noted that she had campaigned alongside Premier Misick in support of the DMMO model during the 2021 General Election campaign and remained convinced that it was the right



MISICK... "The concept remains. The governance evolves."

direction for the industry.

"We are going backward, back to a failed institution," Connolly said, arguing that the DMMO was designed to create a balanced partnership between the public and private sectors, ensuring that neither side could dominate tourism policy.

She also questioned the costs associated with dismantling the DMMO, winding up existing operations and establishing a new statutory authority, describing the transition as a potentially expensive undertaking for taxpayers.

Responding to the criticism, Premier Misick rejected suggestions that the Tourism Authority represented a return to the old Tourist Board. He told

the House that the legislation largely preserved the structure, objectives and operational philosophy of the DMMO while introducing stronger governance and accountability measures.

Misick, who described himself as the principal architect of the policy direction that led to the creation of the DMMO, said the organization had always been intended as a transitional model. While the concept had delivered important benefits, he argued that it was not fully aligned with the country's Public Finance Management framework and required reform as the tourism sector continued to expand.

"The concept remains. The governance evolves. The accountability is brought into the modern era," the Premier said. He maintained that the bill preserves destination marketing, tourism intelligence, stakeholder engagement and sustainable tourism development functions while providing parliamentary oversight, audited financial reporting and clearer leadership structures.

Misick also dismissed concerns that the legislation concentrated excessive power in the hands of the minister, noting that ministerial appointments and policy direction are standard features of statutory bodies throughout the Commonwealth and remain subject to Cabinet accountability.

The Tourism Authority Bill 2026 was ultimately approved by the House, setting the stage for a new governance framework for the tourism industry as the Turks and Caicos Islands continues to experience rapid growth in visitor arrivals, investment and tourism-related development across the islands.

Caribbean Countries Advance Impact-Based Forecasting for 2026 Hurricane Season

Twenty-five representatives from 17 Caribbean countries and territories have strengthened regional efforts to improve early warning systems, following the successful conclusion of the Regional Workshop on Impact-Based Forecasting and Warning Services (IBFWS) and the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), held from 26–29 May 2026 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

The workshop was jointly organized by the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), with funding support from the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Caribbean Project.

The workshop focused on strength-

ening national and regional capacity to transition from traditional weather forecasting to Impact-Based Forecasting and Warning Services, which communicate not only what weather hazards are expected, but also who may be affected, what impacts are likely to occur, and what actions should be taken to reduce risk.

Participants from Caribbean National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services, Disaster Risk Management agencies, regional organizations and development partners engaged in technical discussions, simulations and practical exercises, along with roadmap development activities aimed at accelerating implementation of Impact-Based Forecasting and Warning Services and the Common Alerting Pro-

cedure throughout the Caribbean.

A major highlight of the workshop was a series of hands-on table-top exercises that exposed participants to operational experiences from Caribbean countries that have already begun implementing impact-based forecasting. Participants also worked through simulated realistic high-impact weather scenarios, developing impact-based warning messages and recommended protective actions for decision-makers and the public.

The workshop revealed a common regional vision among participants for strengthening Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems through improved coordination, people-centred communication, standardized operating procedures and enhanced warning dissemi-

nation capabilities.

A major outcome of the workshop was the agreement to continue to work beyond the workshop as a group; to provide a platform for peer learning, operational collaboration, technical exchange and the sharing of lessons learned across the region.

At the end of the workshop, participants reaffirmed the importance of strengthening partnerships among meteorological services, disaster management agencies, governments and regional institutions to ensure that forecasts are translated into actionable warnings that protect lives, livelihoods and critical infrastructure and agreed to continue advancing IBFWS across the Caribbean in support of the United Nations Early Warnings for All Initiative.



The flight will depart Toronto Pearson at 2:45 p.m. and arrive in the Turks and Caicos Islands at 6:40 p.m.

BermudAir Launches New Direct Toronto Service to Turks and Caicos Islands

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

also fostering stronger cultural and economic ties among our neighbouring territories,” the Minister added.

Tourism officials believe the increased accessibility provided by the new route will further strengthen the Turks and Caicos Islands’ position as one of the Caribbean’s leading tourism destinations.

“Increased accessibility through diversified routes will further elevate the Turks and Caicos Islands’ appeal as a premier Caribbean destination. We are excited by the opportunities this partnership presents and look forward to welcoming BermudAir to our shores in the near future,” the Minister stated.

The new service has also been welcomed by Toronto Pearson International Airport, which sees the route as providing travellers with direct

access to two attractive Caribbean destinations.

Carl Jones, Head of Aviation Business Development at Toronto Pearson, said the service expands travel opportunities for Canadian passengers while introducing a new route option to the region.

All BermudAir flights on the route will be operated using Embraer E190 aircraft. The airline continues to grow its Caribbean network while maintaining its focus on premium service and customer experience.

The addition of BermudAir’s Toronto-Providenciales service is expected to enhance visitor arrivals from Canada, support tourism growth, and further strengthen the Turks and Caicos Islands’ reputation as a world-class destination for leisure travellers seeking a luxury Caribbean escape.

TRAVEL INDUSTRY TODAY also contributed to this story

The Turks and Caicos Islands will welcome a significant boost in airlift this winter with the launch of a new direct flight service from Toronto Pearson International Airport by BermudAir, further strengthening the destination’s accessibility to the Canadian market.

The premium airline has announced that it will begin seasonal service to the Turks and Caicos Islands on December 19, creating a new travel option for Canadian visitors seeking a luxury Caribbean getaway. The route will operate every Saturday through May 1, 2027, providing convenient connections between Toronto and Providenciales during the peak winter travel season.

The new service marks an important development for the Turks and Caicos Islands tourism sector, as Canada remains one of the country’s key visitor source markets. The flight will depart Toronto Pearson at 2:45 p.m. and arrive in the Turks and Caicos Islands at 6:40 p.m. The service will then continue onward to Anguilla, offering additional regional connectivity within the Caribbean.

The return service will depart Providenciales at 11:00 a.m. before arriving in Toronto at 3:00 p.m., providing travellers with a convenient and efficient travel schedule.

BermudAir Chief Executive Officer Adam Scott described the Turks and Caicos Islands as one of the Caribbean’s premier destinations and expressed enthusiasm about expanding the airline’s network to include the territory.

“Both Turks and Caicos and Anguilla are jewels of the Caribbean,” Scott said, highlighting the destinations’ pristine beaches, boutique resorts, world-class hospitality, and exclusive island atmosphere.

The airline’s decision to introduce the new route reflects growing demand among Canadian travellers for premium Caribbean vacation experiences. The service also aligns with BermudAir’s strategy of connecting travellers to high-end island destinations while expanding its presence in the Canadian market.



JOLLY... “We are proud to partner with BermudAir to strengthen regional connectivity and expand travel opportunities...”

For the Turks and Caicos Islands, the new airlift represents another opportunity to attract visitors seeking luxury accommodations, exceptional dining, water sports, and the destination’s internationally acclaimed beaches.

Minister of Tourism for the Turks and Caicos Islands, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, welcomed the announcement, describing the partnership as an important step toward strengthening regional connectivity and increasing tourism opportunities.

“We are proud to partner with BermudAir to strengthen regional connectivity and expand travel opportunities throughout the Caribbean region,” the Minister said.

Minister Jolly further noted that enhanced connections between Bermuda, the Anguilla, and the Turks and Caicos Islands will create new opportunities for travellers exploring multiple destinations throughout the region while introducing more visitors to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

“Enhanced connections between Bermuda, Anguilla, and the Turks and Caicos Islands open the door for visitors exploring the region to discover our multi-island destination, perhaps for the very first time, while

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Astwood Questions TCI's High-End Tourism Status as Tourism Authority Bill Sparks Heated Debate

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood has challenged the Turks and Caicos Islands' reputation as a high-end tourism destination, arguing that the country's infrastructure and tourism product do not reflect the luxury image that has long been used to market the destination internationally.

Astwood made the remarks during debate on the Turks and Caicos Islands Tourism Authority Bill 2026 in the House of Assembly on Tuesday, where he criticized the government's handling of tourism management and questioned the return on millions of dollars spent through Experience Turks and Caicos, the destination management and mar-

keting organization established by the government.

According to Astwood, government records show that more than \$21 million has been spent on tourism operations and promotion since the organization was established. While acknowledging that tourism promotion requires investment, he argued that taxpayers deserve to see greater evidence of tourism product development and improvements throughout the islands.

"What did we get for our \$21 million?" Astwood asked during his contribution. He contended that residents and visitors traveling outside of resort properties and cruise facilities would struggle to identify signs that the country is a luxury destination.



ASTWOOD... "Do we look like a high-end destination?"



TAYLOR... "The evidence is there."

The Opposition Leader said tourism professionals themselves have warned that the country's exclusive luxury brand is under pressure as competing destinations adopt similar strategies. He questioned whether sufficient investments had been made to develop attractions and experiences in islands such as Grand Turk, South Caicos, North Caicos, Middle Caicos and Salt Cay.

"If we're saying Turks and Caicos Islands is high-end, are we ensuring that South Caicos remains high-end? Do we look like a high-end destination?" Astwood asked, adding that tourism development should extend beyond resorts and hotels. Despite his criticism, Astwood expressed support for the Tourism Authority Bill, describing it as legislation that contains several positive reforms, including stronger accountability measures, annual business planning requirements and mandatory reporting on the state of the tourism industry.

He argued, however, that the government should have adopted a tourism authority model years ago instead of pursuing the destination management organization structure, which he described as a failed experiment.

Taylor gave robust response

The comments prompted a robust response from Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Social Services Hon. Rachel Taylor, who strongly defended the government's tourism record and the achievements made under Experience Turks and Caicos. Taylor said the Turks and Caicos Islands has consistently maintained its position among the Caribbean's premier luxury destinations, earning international recognition and awards between 2022 and 2025. She pointed to Providenciales' recognition as the Caribbean's Best Incentive Destination at the World MICE Awards and noted that tourism marketing efforts had expanded the visibility of

islands beyond Providenciales.

"The evidence is there," Taylor told the House. "The Turks and Caicos Islands have continued to reign among the Caribbean's most desirable luxury and beach destinations." The minister highlighted several tourism enhancement projects completed in South Caicos and Salt Cay, including landmark signage, beach improvements, heritage installations and product development initiatives. She said these projects demonstrate that government investments have been delivering results and helping to diversify the country's tourism offering.

Taylor also rejected suggestions that operational spending should be viewed as wasteful, noting that tourism promotion requires ongoing investments in destination marketing, airline partnerships, international trade engagement, public relations and market development.

"Tourism promotion is not free. Attracting visitors is not free. Maintaining airlift is not free," she said.

While acknowledging that the government is moving away from the current structure, Taylor argued that the establishment of a Tourism Authority reflects an effort to strengthen governance and improve accountability rather than an admission of failure.

She said the proposed authority will place greater emphasis on quality assurance, tourism intelligence, sales and destination competitiveness, ensuring that the country's most important industry remains resilient and positioned for future growth.

The Tourism Authority Bill 2026 ultimately received support from both sides of the House, though members remained divided on the legacy of Experience Turks and Caicos and whether the organization delivered sufficient value for the significant public investment made over the past several years.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED VIRTUAL ASSETS BUSINESS BILL, 2026

The Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission (TCI FSC) invites members of the public, industry stakeholders and interested parties to submit views on the proposed **Virtual Assets Business Bill, 2026**. The Bill establishes licensing, supervisory, prudential and enforcement arrangements for Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs), stablecoin issuers and virtual-asset activities to enhance consumer protection, financial stability and compliance with international standards.

Key information

- Purpose: To obtain feedback on all aspects of the Bill so it may be refined prior to submission to Cabinet.
- Deadline for written submissions: **8 June 2026**.
- **How to submit:**
 - By email: consultation@tcifsc.tc (subject line: "Public Response: Virtual Assets Bill")
 - By post or hand: TCI FSC Offices, Providenciales or Grand Turk – sealed envelope marked "Public Written Response: Virtual Assets Bill".
- Documents: Consultation paper and draft Bill available at www.tcifsc.tc/consultation
- Privacy: The Commission may publish or summarise responses and may reference contributors' names/affiliations unless anonymity is requested in writing.

Enquiries: consultation@tcifsc.tc

Turks & Caicos Islands
Financial Services Commission
Web: www.tcifsc.tc
Email: FSC@tcifsc.tc

No Sex Offenders Will Qualify for New Community Transportation Licences

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Individuals convicted of sexual offences or crimes against vulnerable persons will be barred from obtaining licences under the Turks and Caicos Islands Government's proposed community transportation system, a key safeguard as the country moves toward an Uber-style public transportation model. The announcement was made by Minister of Home Affairs Hon. Akierra Missick while presenting the Road Traffic Amendment Bill 2026 in the House of Parliament on Monday, June 1. The Bill, which was passed with amendments, forms part of a wider transportation overhaul aimed at replacing the informal jitney system with a regulated and technology-driven network. Missick said the Government is determined to ensure that passengers, particularly children and the elderly, are protected as new transportation opportunities are created.

"We are licensing drivers who are adequately trained in how to handle vulnerable persons, being children and the elderly," Missick told lawmakers. "If you have committed any form of sexual assault or any form of assault against a vulnerable person, being that a child or an elderly person, you will not qualify for a community cab licence."

The Minister said all applicants will be required to undergo criminal background checks and safeguarding training, which will be conducted in partnership with the Social Services Department. She noted that many children currently use informal transportation services to travel to and from school, making passenger safety a top priority. While she acknowledged the importance of rehabilitation, Missick said the Government has a responsibility to prevent vulnerable passengers from being placed at risk.

"I genuinely believe in rehabilitation," she said. "But this is not the licence for you if you have been convicted of those offences because I have an overarching responsibility to protect the public." The new licensing framework is

part of a broader modernization plan that seeks to bring greater order and accountability to the transportation sector.

At the heart of the reforms is the creation of a new category known as "community transportation," replacing the term "community cab." The category will apply to vehicles carrying between five and 15 passengers for hire and will provide a legal framework for regulating services that have traditionally operated informally.

Missick said the legislation is intended to address concerns about unregulated passenger transportation services, commonly known as jitneys, while creating fair opportunities for legitimate operators.

"This bill represents a significant and necessary step forward in the modernization of public transportation here in the Turks and Caicos Islands," she said. "It seeks to bring greater order, greater accountability, greater safety and greater fairness to the transportation sector while protecting both commuters and legitimate operators."

A major feature of the Government's transportation strategy is the development of a locally managed ride-hailing platform similar to Uber.

Missick revealed that the Ministry of Home Affairs has already met with four software developers to create an app that will connect passengers with licensed operators. The platform will allow residents, visitors and workers to access transportation services through their mobile devices.

"Most of us in this room have used Uber in some jurisdiction in this world," she said. "The community transportation system that we are creating is akin to Uber in the international world."

However, she made it clear that the Government intends to create its own system rather than invite Uber to operate in the territory.

"We will grow our own, develop our own app, our own software, our own mechanisms to protect our own industry," she said. The app will eventually integrate



"We are licensing drivers who are adequately trained in how to handle vulnerable persons, being children and the elderly,"

taxis, community transportation operators, private reserved services and VIP transportation into a single platform. Vehicles participating in the system will also be equipped with electronic tracking devices linked to the application, allowing users to request rides and enabling regulators to maintain oversight.

The legislation also strengthens enforcement measures against illegal operators.

Under the new provisions, anyone found operating a vehicle carrying between five and 15 passengers for hire without the required licence could face a \$1,000 fine and have their vehicle impounded for 15 days.

Missick emphasized that the vehicle will remain impounded even if the fine is paid immediately. She also warned rental car companies and vehicle owners that their vehicles could be seized if they are used for illegal passenger transportation activities.

The Minister said the tougher penalties are necessary to protect li-

censed operators who have invested time and resources to comply with the law.

She also announced that no additional taxi or VIP licences will be issued at this time because existing quotas have already been met. Instead, the new community transportation category will create additional opportunities for Turks and Caicos Islanders seeking to enter the transportation sector.

Missick said the Government is also developing a public bus transportation policy as part of a comprehensive review of transportation services across the islands. A six-month transition period will be provided to allow existing operators to adapt to the new framework.

"This bill is but the first step in the modernization of public transportation in these islands," she said. "We are seeking to improve the network that we have available, strengthen public confidence, protect passengers and support legitimate operators as we build a transportation system fit for the future Turks and Caicos Islands."

What Exactly Are We Buying?

The Missing Blueprint Behind TCI's \$551.1M Budget and \$360M Borrowing Plan

Op-Ed by Paladin

In a historic **\$551.1 million national budget**, the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands announced its intention to borrow **\$360 million** from the capital markets—framed as “curating capital with sustainable policy aligned investment” and “accelerating critical investments in infrastructure and social programs.”

These are elegant phrases. They sound responsible, visionary, even prudent. But without publicly available plans, they remain exactly that—**phrases**.

- No timelines.
- No baselines.
- No cost breakdowns.
- No measurable outcomes.
- No explanation of how this debt will be serviced.
- No demonstration of how these investments will transform the daily lives of Turks and Caicos Islanders.

And without a plan, there can be no accountability. Money can be allocated, spent, and reported as “progress”—while nothing materializes that improves the way of life for Turks Islanders. With nothing in print, there is **no way** to question the Government on specifics.

Allocations Are Not Plans

The Budget Speech lists broad allocations:

- Public Order & Safety: \$106.2M
- Health: \$99.3M
- General Public Services: \$99.7M
- Economic Affairs: \$84.9M
- Education: \$65.9M

But these are **categories**, not plans.

A **category** tells you where money is going. A **plan** tells you what the money will do.

If the Government is borrowing \$360 million, the public deserves—at minimum—a **national project blueprint** showing:

- Where we are today (2026 baseline)
- What exactly will be built or improved
- How much each component costs
- When each milestone will be delivered
- What measurable outcomes will exist by 2030

Until that exists, the public cannot evaluate whether this borrowing is justified.

The Airport Question: From \$400 Million to \$30 Million — But Still No Answers

The Government promoted a **\$400 million airport mega terminal**, first through a PPP and later through full government ownership. Now, in a major strategic reversal, the Premier has announced a **scaled back \$30 million government led refurbishment** of the Howard Hamilton International Airport.

This pivot does not resolve the core issue. It **deepens** it.

The Premier stated that the original procurement “failed to yield a satisfactory bid,” and that the Government is now choosing a fiscally restrained, sovereign approach. But whether the project costs **\$400 million or \$30 million**, the fundamental question remains:

Where is the money coming from?

Is the \$30 million:

- Coming from the \$360M borrowing plan?
- Being financed separately?
- Coming from the surplus?
- Off balance sheet through a concession?
- Privately financed in part?
- Not yet disclosed?

The same unanswered questions that surrounded the \$400M proposal now surround the \$30M plan.

What Exactly Are We Getting for \$30 Million?

The Government says the funds will support:

- A new 30,000–40,000 sq ft arrivals hall
- Conversion of the existing terminal into a departures only facility
- Apron and taxiway improvements

These are sensible upgrades—but they are **not a long term aviation strategy** for a country whose tourism economy depends on reliable airlift.

If the \$400M mega terminal was “overly ambitious,” the public deserves to see the **technical and financial analysis** proving that \$30M is sufficient for the next decade. Right now, that analysis has not been shared.

Are the Government's Airport Projections Independently Verified?

The Government recently launched a new **Statistics Authority**, presented as an independent, politically insulated institution designed to produce reliable national data. This is a positive step.

But it raises a critical question:

Are the airport passenger forecasts, revenue projections, and traffic growth assumptions being used to justify the \$30M plan independently verified—either by the new Authority or by an accredited Actuary?

If the Government is basing national aviation strategy on, unverified projections, politically curated numbers, or outdated assumptions, then the country risks **underbuilding, overbuilding,** or misallocating tens of millions of dollars.

The Premier has said the Authority will provide “high quality, reliable statistics to guide policy.”

If that is true, then the public should see:

- passenger growth models
- peak hour congestion data
- long term airlift forecasts
- revenue projections
- Actuarial verification

Until then, the numbers used to justify both the \$400M mega terminal and the new \$30M refurbishment remain **unverified claims**, not independently validated national data.

Debt Without a Repayment Strategy Is Not Development — It Is Risk

Debt is not inherently bad.

Debt **without a repayment plan** is.

What is the strategy?

- Higher taxes?
- VAT?
- Increased fees?
- New revenue streams?
- PPPs?
- Citizen investment vehicles?

The Government has not said.

We have lived this before. The hospital contract remains a permanent reminder of what happens when long term obligations are signed without transparency or public consent. We cannot repeat that mistake at a larger scale.

Visionary Language Without Deliverables Is Just Branding

The Budget Speech uses words like:

- “disciplined”

- “grounded”
- “realism”
- “quality growth that is locally rooted”
- “curating capital with sustainable policy alignment”

These are admirable concepts.

But the people deserve **examples**.

What does “quality growth that is locally rooted” look like in:

Middle Caicos?

- A school?
- A ferry terminal?
- A clinic?
- A business incubator?
- A renewable microgrid?

Salt Cay?

- A new dock?
- Regular flights?
- A functioning clinic?
- Restored heritage sites?
- A curated cruise tourism model that benefits residents?

South Caicos?

- A rebuilt airport?
- A Fisheries Institute?
- A modern port?
- Affordable housing?
- A properly managed dump?

Grand Turk?

- Relocating the dump?
- Cleaning the salt ponds?
- Upgrading Governor's Beach?
- Restoring the abandoned mall?
- Turning the old Government Buildings into a museum?
- Refurbishing the Waterloo golf course?
- Without specifics, these phrases are indistinguishable from slogans.

The People Need a Street-Level Translation

The public now needs the next layer of detail:

- How many new teachers—and where?
- How many new police officers—and where?
- What diagnostic machines will hospitals receive?
- How many serviced lots will be ready by 2027—and on which islands?
- What is the timeline for South Dock Phase 3 and 4? Is there a 3 & 4?
- What will the airport arrivals upgrade actually deliver?
- How will these investments reduce the cost of living?
- How will they expand opportunities for Turks Islanders—not just jobs, but empowerment?
- When will the Blue Hills Jetty project be completed?
- When will the Governor's Beach huts be rebuilt?
- When will large scale Agriculture begin on North or Middle Caicos?

This is the human translation of public finance.

This is how citizens understand what a \$551.1M budget and \$360M borrowing plan mean for their lives.

Why Are Turks Islanders Paying for Capital Projects Alone?

Around the world, major infrastructure is financed through:

- PPPs
- BOT models
- Concessions
- Revenue sharing agreements
- Infrastructure companies with

citizen shareholders

- Retail bonds

TCI is one of the few Tourism dependent economies still trying to fund major infrastructure solely through public borrowing. Why?

Why must Turks Islanders shoulder the full cost when global best practice is to leverage:

- Airport operators
- Port management companies
- Renewable energy developers
- Hospital operators
- Logistics firms

These entities bring capital, expertise, and risk sharing.

TCI taxpayers should not be the only ones carrying the load.

Citizen Ownership: A Better Path Forward

If these projects will generate revenue, Turks Islanders should be able to **own a piece of them**.

1. Turks Islander Infrastructure Bonds
 - \$500–\$5,000 denominations
 - 5–7% return
 - Backed by airport fees, port fees, or utility revenue
 - Exclusively for Turks Islanders

2. Public Participation Companies (PPCs)

Examples:

- TCI Airport Company Ltd.
- TCI Ports Company Ltd.
- TCI Renewable Energy Company Ltd.

These companies could issue shares to the public, enabling citizens to:

- Build generational wealth
- Receive dividends
- Participate in governance
- Reduce national debt exposure


This is how you turn capital projects into **citizen wealth systems**.

The Bottom Line

If the Government is borrowing \$360 million, the people deserve:

- A transparent, sector by sector project plan
- A timeline from 2026 to 2030
- A cost breakdown for each deliverable
- A clear strategy for servicing the debt
- A financing model that empowers citizens rather than indebting them

Until then, we are being asked to sign a **blank cheque**. And history has taught us what happens when we do that.



Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

Triple Murder Suspect Freed of Drug Charges

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Triple murder suspect Jael De Jesus Rigby has been freed of four drug-related charges on Wednesday, June 3, after a Grand Turk magistrate upheld a no-case submission made by his attorney.

Rigby appeared before Magistrate Pat Arana charged with two counts of possession of controlled drugs and two counts of possession of controlled drugs with intent to supply.

During the proceedings, defense attorney Oliver Smith argued that there was no case for Rigby to answer, submitting

that the Crown had failed to comply with the requirements of Section 26(2) and that the chain of custody for the drug exhibits had been broken.

After considering the arguments, Magistrate Arana ruled in favor of Rigby, resulting in his acquittal on all four charges.

Despite being cleared of the drug offences, Rigby was escorted back to prison following the hearing as he remains in custody on separate charges stemming from the deadly shooting at the Island Hookah Lounge in Providenciales. Rigby, 19, was deported from the Dominican Republic to the Turks and Cai-

cos Islands on November 16, 2025, after being detained by law enforcement authorities there. Upon arriving at the Howard Hamilton International Airport, he was taken into police custody.

Five days later, on November 21, 2025, officers from the Serious Crime Unit of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force charged him in connection with the July 27, 2025, shooting at the Island Hookah Lounge.

He faces one count of murder, one count of discharging a firearm, and one count of conspiracy to possess firearms with intent to injure.



Jael De Jesus Rigby

Multi-Agency Reclamation Exercise Conducted in Five Cays

A multi-agency enforcement operation led by the Crown Land Unit (CLU) resulted in the removal of three unauthorised structures from Crown land in the Five Cays area on Thursday, 28 May 2026.

The exercise was conducted on Parcel 60609/033 following a series of inspections undertaken by the Crown Land Unit as part of its ongoing efforts to prevent unlawful occupation and encroachment on Crown land. The operation was coordinated and supported by the Informal Settlements Unit (ISU), with additional support provided by the TCI Border Force and security provided by the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force.

Investigations by the Crown Land Unit determined that the parcel contained unauthorised concrete structures that had been erected without lawful authority. In accordance with the provisions of the Crown Land Ordinance, Notices of Illegal Occupation were subsequently posted on the structures, requiring compliance by the persons responsible for the development.

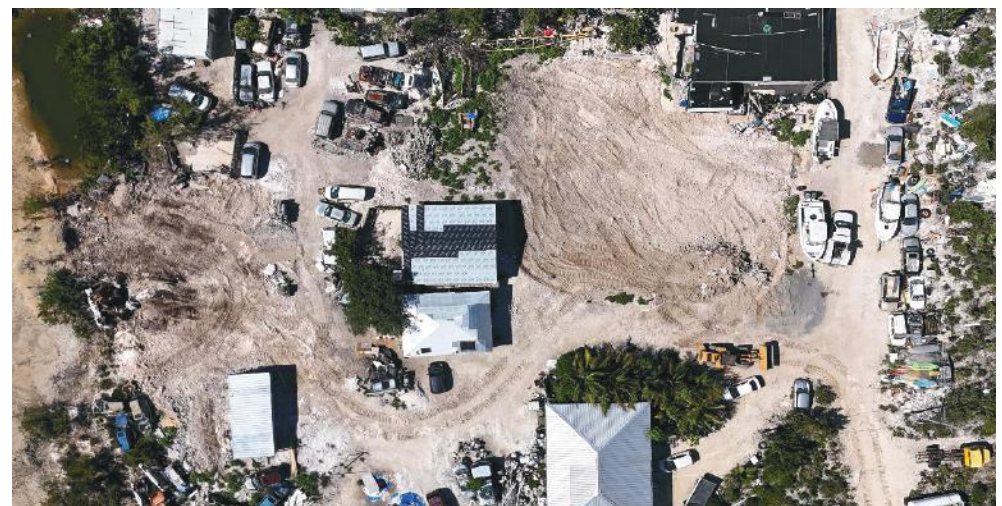
Following a failure to comply with the notice, enforcement action was undertaken to remove the structures and reclaim the affected area. The three structures removed during the exercise were in the early stages of construction, below belt beam level.

The Crown Land Unit continues to monitor Crown land across the Turks and Caicos Islands to identify and address instances of unlawful occupation and development. These



efforts form part of a broader commitment by the Turks and Caicos Islands Government to safeguard public lands, uphold the rule of law, and support orderly and sustainable development.

The Government reminds members of the public that Crown land may only be occupied or developed with the requisite legal authority and approvals. Persons found to be occupying or developing Crown land unlawfully may be subject to enforcement action under the Crown Land Ordinance.



Mortgage Corporation Bill Passes, Paving Way for Expanded Homeownership Opportunities

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The House of Assembly on Monday approved the Mortgage Corporation Bill 2026, legislation that establishes a new statutory body aimed at expanding access to mortgage financing and increasing homeownership opportunities for Turks and Caicos Islanders.

Presenting the bill, Premier and Minister of Finance Hon. Washington Misick described the legislation as a direct response to the growing challenges many residents face in securing affordable housing and mortgage financing.

“Home ownership remains just beyond reach for too many hard-working Turks and Caicos Islanders,” Misick told Parliament, citing rising construction costs, increasing property values, and limited access to traditional mortgage financing as key barriers confronting families across the islands.

The Premier said the new Mortgage Corporation would form a critical part of the government’s broader housing strategy, designed to help first-time homeowners, young professionals, public servants, and families with inherited land who have struggled to access financing through commercial banks.

According to Misick, the corporation will complement rather than replace traditional lending institutions by filling financing gaps and supporting affordable housing development throughout the country. He emphasized that the initiative is particularly important for residents in the family islands, where access to mortgage financing has historically been limited.

“This bill is about fairness,” Misick said. “It is about ensuring that Turks and Caicos Islanders are not priced out of their own country and that the dream of owning a home remains within reach for the many, not just a few.”

Supporting the bill, Deputy Premier Hon. Jamell Robinson noted that the purpose of Mortgage Corporation is to create a structured and sustainable framework for providing mortgage financing to Islanders so they can acquire or build affordable homes.



MISICK... “This bill is about fairness.”

“The legislation also supports broader national efforts to promote the availability of affordable housing through responsible financing, strategic partnerships, and sound governance,” Robinson said.

He added: “Housing is one of the most fundamental pillars of national development. A home provides more than shelter; it offers security, stability, and the foundation upon which families and communities are built. In a small developing country such as ours, creating pathways for Turks Islanders to own homes is essential not only for social wellbeing but also for long-term economic resilience.”

He stated that the establishment of a Mortgage Corporation represents a strategic step forward in addressing the challenges many Islanders face when attempting to access financing for home ownership.

“Traditional lending requirements can often be difficult for ordinary working families to meet,” Robinson continued. “Through this Corporation, Government will be able to mobilize financing, support mortgage lending, and create opportunities that may otherwise be out of reach for many Islanders.”

Opposition Raises Concerns

While supporting the goal of increasing homeownership, Opposition MP for The Bight Hon. Audric Skippings raised several concerns about the legislation.

Skippings argued that the bill lacks clearly defined eligibility criteria, including income thresholds, first-time homeowner requirements,



ROBINSON... “Traditional lending requirements can often be difficult for ordinary working families to meet.”

and loan qualification standards. He also questioned whether the corporation would offer mortgage rates lower than those available through commercial banks.

Among his concerns were the corporation’s proposed financial structure, including its authority to receive \$20 million in startup funding, borrow up to \$50 million, and issue bonds, potentially exposing taxpayers to significant liabilities if loan defaults increase. “The success of this legislation will not be measured by the creation of another statutory body,” Skippings said. “It will be measured by how many islanders receive affordable mortgages, build homes and secure a better future for their families.”

Government Defends Framework

Responding to the concerns, Minister of Home Affairs Hon. Akierra Missick explained that the legislation is enabling in nature and that detailed operational rules, eligibility requirements, and procedures will be established through regulations and guidelines after the bill becomes law.

Missick shared her own experience of difficulties securing mortgage financing through commercial lenders, arguing that many Turks and Caicos Islanders face similar challenges despite having stable employment and assets.

She said the corporation would provide a more accessible and responsive alternative while maintaining proper compliance and lending standards.



SKIPPINGS... “The success of this legislation will not be measured by the creation of another statutory body.”

“The corporation will have a responsibility to ensure that persons who come to it are suitably qualified for funding,” she said. “We want to ensure that genuine opportunities are provided to Turks and Caicos Islanders.”

Broad Government Support

Several government members spoke in support of the measure, describing it as a key campaign promise and an important step toward addressing housing affordability.

Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Arlington Musgrove called the bill “a promise fulfilled” and said it would help stimulate economic activity while creating opportunities for first-time homeowners and families traditionally overlooked by commercial lenders.

Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Kyle Knowles also endorsed the legislation, noting that many young professionals struggle to meet the requirements imposed by traditional banks. He described the Mortgage Corporation as a necessary intervention that would help bridge financing gaps while promoting economic development and social stability.

The Mortgage Corporation Bill 2026 was subsequently approved by the House, clearing the way for the establishment of the Turks and Caicos Islands Mortgage Corporation, which government officials say will play a central role in expanding homeownership and supporting affordable housing development across the country.

GRACE BAY CLUB

GRACE BAY RESORTS

OPEN JOB POSITIONS

POSITION: Corporate Accountant

PROPERTY: Grace Bay Club

Job overview: The Corporate Accountant will be an integral member of the Grace Bay Club Finance team. This role supports multi-entity operations, including intercompany transactions, financial reporting, and strata accounting. This position reports to the Financial Controller or such designation as directed by the Director of Finance.

Main responsibilities:

- Prepare and post intercompany invoices between hotel entities.
- Reconcile intercompany balances and resolve discrepancies.
- Maintain accurate records of intercompany transactions.
- Assist the Financial Controller with monthly Profit & Loss reporting.
- Analyze variances and provide commentary on financial performance.
- Support budgeting and forecasting activities.
- Assist with owner billing, expense allocation, and reserve fund tracking.
- Support month-end and year-end close processes.
- Prepare journal entries and account reconciliations.
- Assist with audits and internal controls.

Skills and competencies required:

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field.
- Minimum 3 years of Accounting experience, preferably in hospitality or property management.
- Strong understanding of intercompany accounting and financial reporting.
- Experience with strata or HOA accounting is a plus.
- Proficiency in accounting software (SAP Business One, QuickBooks, or similar).
- Excellent attention to detail and organizational skills.
- Strong communication and teamwork abilities
- Discretion and integrity when handling confidential information
- Must be comfortable working in a multicultural, team-oriented setting and adapting to the service standards of a luxury resort.

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

Salary Range: \$65,000.00 - \$75,000.00 per annum

Interested persons should contact our Human Resources Department no later than June 19th 2026

Email: humanresources@gracebayclub.com

(649) 946-5050 Ext. 1020

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

Crown Land Amnesty Programme Extended to December 31, 2026

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands Government (TCIG) has announced a final extension of the Crown Land Amnesty Programme, giving eligible individuals until December 31, 2026, to regularise their land tenure and secure legal ownership of Crown land.

The extension provides what officials describe as a last opportunity for qualified applicants to benefit from special concessions designed to help Islanders obtain legal title to Crown land before the programme officially concludes.

According to the Crown Land Unit (CLU), the amnesty forms part of the Government's broader effort to improve land administration and expand access to land ownership across the Turks and Caicos Islands. While the programme remains open, TCIG stressed that it will continue to actively manage Crown land and enforce the regulations governing its use.

Individuals who fail to resolve outstanding Crown land matters before the programme closes will no longer have access to the amnesty concessions and will be subject to the Government's standard land administration processes.

Additional Benefits Available

As part of ongoing Crown Land reforms, TCIG currently offers eligible applicants discounts of up to 50 percent off the market value of Crown land. Through the Amnesty Programme, participants may also benefit from additional concessions, including:

- Waivers of rent and mesne profits upon purchase of the property;
- Possible forgiveness of arrears; and
- Flexible pathways to land ownership tailored to varying circumstances.

Applicants will be informed of land costs and available payment options following a review of their submissions.

Government Encourages Early Applications

Permanent Secretary in the National Land Secretariat, Alexandria Missick, urged eligible persons not to wait until the deadline approaches.

"This is a limited extension designed to help people as we bring the programme to its conclusion," Missick said. "We strongly encourage all eligible individuals to take the necessary steps without delay to secure their legal rights and take advantage of the opportunities available through the Amnesty Programme."

She noted that the initiative has already



assisted many Islanders in moving closer to legal land ownership and said the Government remains committed to ensuring as many eligible residents as possible benefit before the programme ends.

Premier Highlights Importance of Land Ownership

Premier Hon. Charles Washington Misick described land ownership as a key pathway to economic security and generational wealth.

"Through this final extension of the Crown Land Amnesty Programme, the Turks and Caicos Islands Government is providing eligible Turks and Caicos Islanders with a meaningful opportunity to regularise their land tenure, secure legal ownership, and strengthen their stake in our nation's future," the Premier said.

He added that the extension aligns with

the Government's wider Crown Land reform agenda, which aims to ensure Crown land is managed fairly, transparently, and for the long-term benefit of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

How to Apply

Residents interested in participating in the programme are encouraged to begin the process as early as possible to allow sufficient time for review and approval before the deadline.

Applicants should first confirm their eligibility through the Crown Land Unit, complete the required application forms, gather supporting documentation where necessary, and submit their applications along with the required fee. For more information, individuals may contact the Crown Land Unit at 338-2654 or visit the Government's Crown Land website.

Rehabilitation vs. Punishment: A Shift in the Justice System

An Op-Ed by Martin Black,

Rehabilitation versus punishment for people who have committed an offence is an argument that often divides opinion and one that has seen a change in direction within the justice system over time. Whilst breaking the law and committing offences certainly needs to have punitive consequences, rehabilitation and addressing the root causes of offending behaviour is often more effective at achieving long-term desistance. By focusing on the reasons why people commit offences, the most appropriate support, advice, guidance, and treatment can be applied through an individual's rehabilitation plan to foster change. For example, an individual may have suffered trauma as a child and uses drugs to block out the pain associated with those memories, potentially turning to crime to fund their addiction. By using a trauma-focused approach to promote coping strategies, the individual is empowered to move forward. Guidance on substance misuse could

then be applied, and the individual may cease using drugs and, therefore, desist from committing crime. This could be more effective than simply incarcerating the individual, only for them to be released and fall back into old habits.

In 2019, the Alternative Sentencing Act was passed in the Turks and Caicos Islands, providing the courts with more sentencing options as alternatives to incarceration and placing an emphasis on rehabilitation in a bid to reduce offending behaviour. There is no "one size fits all" approach, and it is important that rehabilitation plans are tailored to individuals' criminogenic needs and circumstances in order to be as effective as possible.

The role of the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision (DRCS) is central to this, providing structured supervision, interventions, and support to promote rehabilitation for people on Probation or Parole. The Department also has a Juvenile Unit, which focuses on prevention and diversion for at-risk youth in an effort to pre-

vent them from entering the criminal justice system.

Although rehabilitation is very important, there also have to be consequences for breaking the law as, ultimately, this provides a deterrent and helps to ensure the local community remains safe. DRCS compiles pre-sentencing reports for the courts ahead of a defendant appearing for sentencing after being found guilty of a crime. These reports gather a wide range of information from defendants and people close to them to assist the court in determining what sentence should be imposed and what conditions may be attached to that sentence.

If the court decides to issue a community-based sentence, then DRCS will be responsible for supervising that individual throughout their time on Probation. Similarly, if a defendant is sentenced to prison and later released on Parole, DRCS will work with that individual throughout their period of supervision, ensuring they adhere to their licence conditions while supporting their re-

habilitation and reintegration back into the community.

Ultimately, it is the court's decision what sentence to impose on each defendant, but DRCS has a role in balancing its recommendations between punishment that reflects the harm caused and rehabilitation tailored to the individual's needs and circumstances in a bid to prevent reoffending. Once the sentence has been handed down, the role Probation Officers play in ensuring rehabilitation needs are met, whilst monitoring the risks individuals may pose, cannot be underestimated.

The shift in the justice system has yielded positive results and, as the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision in the Turks and Caicos Islands continues to expand, it is hoped that these positive outcomes will continue and further enhance life across the Islands.

Martin Black is Probation and Parole Officer with the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision (DRCS).

Should Turks and Caicos Choose Between Growth and Affordability? I Don't Think So.

An Op-Ed by Donnie Gardiner

Last week, I was privileged to participate in what I understand to be the Turks and Caicos Islands' first-ever Youth Tribunal, a forum that brought together young people from across our islands to debate, deliberate, and speak on matters of national importance.

The topic put before us was this:

Should the Turks and Caicos Islands prioritize controlling the cost of living over rapid economic growth?

My answer, standing in front of that room, was simple: I do not think we should have to choose.

But the fact that we are even being asked the question tells us something important. It tells us that many people in these islands are not feeling the benefits of our growth. And that is a problem we cannot afford to ignore.

A Table That Not Everyone Can Reach

Many of us grew up around Sunday dinner. Peas and rice, fry fish, baked chicken, macaroni, potato salad. Family filling the house. Laughter coming from every corner. When that table was prepared, everyone was supposed to eat.

I used that image in my remarks because I believe it captures something true about where we are as a nation. Our table is growing. Tourism is expanding. Investment is flowing. New developments are rising across Providenciales and beyond. By nearly every headline measure, the Turks and Caicos Islands is thriving.

And yet, many Turks and Caicos Islanders are asking an honest question: are we actually feeling it?

The numbers give us reason to pause. A July 2025 analysis of 914 real estate listings found that the median price of a two-bedroom home in TCI had reached \$995,000. Even when beachfront and waterfront properties were excluded, the median remained \$607,000. The same analysis reported that government stamp duty income rose from \$21.9 million in 2014 to \$48.5 million in 2024.

At the same time, our national minimum wage remains \$8 per hour for many workers.

I do not raise these figures to be alarmist. I raise them because they are real, and because the young people in that room deserve to hear them spoken plainly. Growth and affordability are not supposed to be enemies. When they begin to feel that way, it is a signal that something in how we are governing our growth needs to change.

This pressure is not limited to housing or groceries. It extends to the cost of staying connected to the very places on which island residents often depend.

For many families, South Florida is not simply a vacation destination. It is where they go for school supplies, essential shopping, medical appointments, and connections to wider opportunities. Yet, at the time of writing, American Airlines displayed May 2026 round-trip economy fares from Providenciales to Miami beginning at \$1,201, with some displayed fares reaching \$1,311. By comparison, the airline displayed May round-trip economy fares from Bridgetown, Barbados to Miami beginning at \$983, despite Barbados being much farther

from South Florida. Fares change quickly, and a single snapshot is not the whole story. But it illustrates a frustration many residents already know: even necessary access can become painfully expensive.

Electricity is another essential burden. Electricity costs in TCI have long been identified as among the highest in the Caribbean, a reality shaped in part by our small size and dependence on imported fuel.

That issue is not merely economic. It is deeply human. In August 2025, four people, including a young girl, were found dead in a home in South Dock, Providenciales, in what police believed may have been carbon monoxide poisoning caused by a generator. We should not assume the reason any household uses a generator unless the facts are established. But we should recognize the broader truth: safe and affordable access to electricity is not a luxury. It is a matter of dignity, security, and, at times, life and death.

The Tools We Have Must Become More Visible and More Effective

One of the most important things I discovered while preparing for the Youth Tribunal was that TCI already has a Consumer Protection Ordinance.

Passed in 2016, amended in 2019, and brought into force in 2020, the Ordinance provides protections against misleading and deceptive conduct, false representation, and unfair business practices. The Department of Trade, Industry and Fair Competition is tasked with protecting consumer rights, supporting fair trade and competition, and disseminating accurate information in the marketplace.

It is also important to be clear about what the law currently does not do. According to the Government's own public statement, the Department does not have power under the Ordinance to regulate the prices at which goods or services are sold in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Consumers can make complaints where they believe they have been adversely affected, but the Department cannot simply set prices under the existing framework.

That distinction matters, because the solution cannot simply be to point to a law and pretend the problem has been solved. The Ordinance gives us an important foundation for consumer protection. But if families continue to struggle with the cost of food, fuel, electricity, housing, and essential travel, then we must be willing to ask what additional policy tools are needed.

The Government already publishes Breadbasket Reports and Fuel Reports through the Department's website, including reports released in May 2026. That is a valuable starting point. But the scale of the cost-of-living challenge requires something broader, clearer, and easier for the public to use.

This is precisely why the choice between growth and affordability is a false one. Protecting consumers, making essential costs transparent, and ensuring that development serves the people who call these islands home are not obstacles to growth. They are what make growth sustainable.

Three Practical Steps Forward

I am not writing this article simply to lament the problem. I am writing because choosing between growth and affordability

is not our only option. There are concrete actions our government can take to ensure that economic growth in TCI lifts everyone, not just some.

1. Tie Workforce Housing to Major Development Approvals

As major hotels, resorts, residential communities, and commercial projects continue to rise across our islands, we must begin asking a hard question during the planning process: where will the people who build, staff, clean, secure, maintain, and serve these developments afford to live?

Development should not only create jobs. It should help create communities.

The Cayman Islands, another high-cost tourism-driven economy, recently adopted a Public and Affordable Housing Policy and Ten-Year Strategic Plan after recognizing that strong foreign investment and economic expansion had contributed to serious housing affordability challenges for local residents and workers.

TCI should study similar options, including requiring large-scale developments to contribute toward workforce housing, employee accommodation, or a dedicated affordable housing fund as part of the approval process.

This is not anti-development. It is responsible development. When a project profits from our land, our labour, our infrastructure, and our national brand, it should contribute to the stability of the communities that make that success possible.

2. Expand Existing Reports into a Public Cost-of-Living Dashboard

TCI does not need to begin from nothing. The Government already publishes Breadbasket Reports and Fuel Reports. The next step should be to expand these efforts into a clear, regularly updated public cost-of-living dashboard.

That dashboard should track the prices of essentials that families cannot simply choose to avoid: bread, milk, rice, cooking gas, fuel, electricity, basic household items, and, where appropriate, the cost of essential regional air access.

The public should be able to see where prices are rising, how different suppliers compare, and what government is doing when essential costs become unusually burdensome. This would not automatically reduce every price, but it would make the problem measurable, visible, and harder to ignore.

Barbados provides a helpful regional example. Its Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs operates PriceCheck, a public platform designed to monitor and compare consumer goods prices across retailers and supermarkets.

TCI can build on the work it has already started. Families should not have to rely on rumours, scattered receipts, or social media frustration to understand whether the cost of basic life is rising beyond reason. Good governance begins with good information, made public and made useful.

3. Build Ownership Pathways, Not Just Employment

Tourism and development will continue to grow in TCI. That is not in question. What is in question is who benefits from that growth in the long run.

Our young people should not simply be employed within the industries shaping

our future. They should own within them. That requires intentional investment in technical training, apprenticeships, entrepreneurship support, access to capital, and leadership pipelines designed to produce Turks and Caicos Islanders who are not only workers, but business owners, managers, developers, skilled tradespeople, and investors.

We must also be honest about the connection between affordability and ownership. A young person who spends most of his or her income simply trying to afford rent, groceries, electricity, and transportation is being denied the ability to save, invest, purchase property, or build a business.

A country whose citizens do not own a meaningful share of its primary industries has not truly developed. It has simply been developed.

Ownership is how growth becomes generational.

We Do Not Have to Choose

The topic posed to us at the Youth Tribunal framed growth and affordability as competing priorities. I pushed back on that framing then, and I push back on it now.

In a healthy economy, growth and the well-being of ordinary people are not rivals. Growth was always meant to be the engine that makes life better for the people it serves, not a rising tide that lifts luxury yachts while leaving fishing boats behind.

The moment we accept that we must choose between a thriving economy and families who can afford to live here, we have already conceded too much.

What TCI needs is not less growth. What TCI needs is growth with intention, growth with accountability, and growth with the political courage to ensure that ordinary Turks and Caicos Islanders, working families, and young people building their futures here are not left behind.

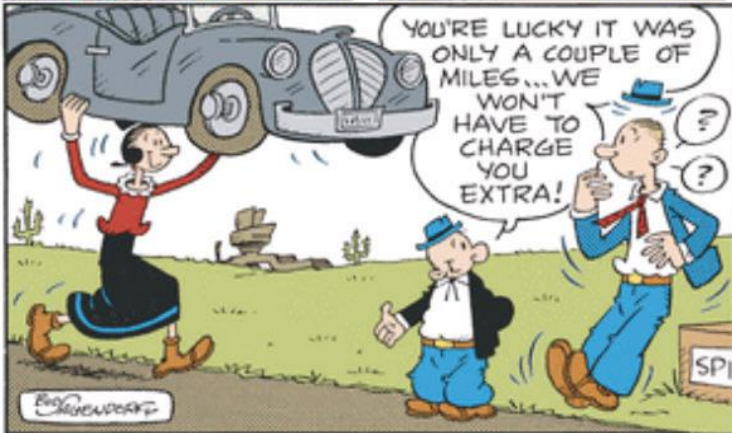
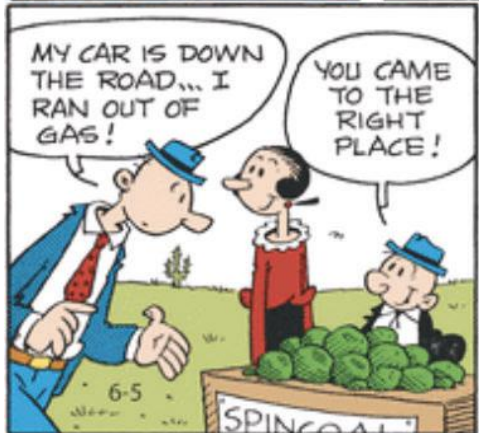
Our existing consumer protection framework gives us a foundation. Our development sector gives us leverage. Our young people, as demonstrated at the Youth Tribunal, have both the ideas and the urgency.

We do not have to choose between growth and affordability. We simply have to govern as though both matter.

Because the goal is not to make the table smaller.

The goal is to make sure that as the table grows, everyone has a seat.



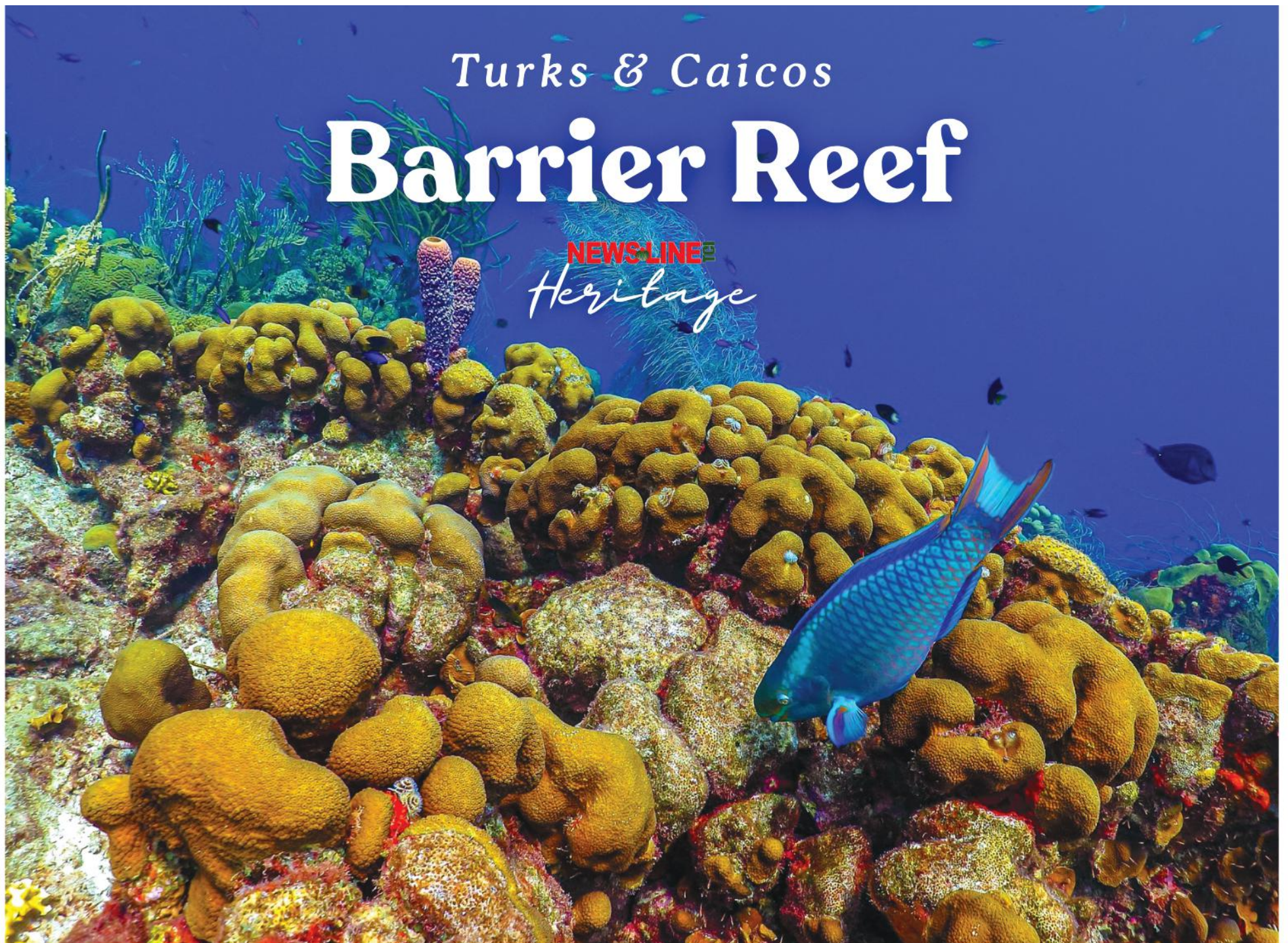


NEWSLINE TO COMICS

MARRIAGE

IS WHERE YOU GASP WHILE YOUR HUSBAND IS DRIVING AND HE GETS SUPER ANNOYED OVER AND OVER UNTIL YOU DIE.





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

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

A Natural Fortress and Cradle of Biodiversity

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

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

Economic Lifeline and Cultural Symbol

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

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

Fragile Wonder, Shared Responsibility

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

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

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



Dr. Eldonna Boisson, PAHO/WHO Representative for the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands presents the EMTCT Certificate to Minister of Health Hon. Kyle Knowles



Government members, along with local and regional health officials take time for a group photo with the certificate of validation for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of Hepatitis B and HIV.

TCI ACHIEVES HISTORIC MILESTONE WITH ELIMINATION OF MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV AND HEPATITIS B

The Turks and Caicos Islands has achieved a landmark public health victory, becoming the first country or territory in the Americas to receive validation for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of Hepatitis B, while also securing certification for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

The achievement was formally celebrated during a special ceremony held Wednesday at The Shore Club Resort in Providenciales, where government leaders, healthcare professionals, regional health officials and international partners gathered to mark the historic occasion.

Accepting the certification on behalf of the Government and people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Kyle Knowles described the recognition as a moment of immense national pride.

"Today marks a moment of immense pride, not only as a significant milestone, but as a reflection of what we have worked together to achieve through commitment, collaboration and sustained effort," Knowles said. The Health Minister noted that the validation confirms that the country's health system has met global standards while delivering meaningful outcomes for residents.

"We are especially proud to be the first country in the region to achieve the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of Hepatitis B," he said. "This distinction speaks to the dedication, consistency and focus that have guided our nation's response and demonstrates what is possible when public health remains a na-

tional priority."

Knowles praised healthcare workers, laboratory professionals, surveillance teams, community organizations and international partners including the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and UNAIDS for their contributions to the achievement.

Premier Hon. Charles Washington Misick hailed the certification as one of the most significant public health accomplishments in the nation's history.

"Today is a proud and defining moment in the history of the Turks and Caicos Islands," the Premier said. "We gather not only to celebrate a remarkable public health achievement, but to recognize what this milestone says about who we are as a people and what we are capable of achieving together as a nation."

Misick emphasized that the accomplishment extends beyond the health sector and reflects the strength of national institutions and partnerships.

"The achievement represents far more than a health sector success. It is a national triumph," he stated. "It reflects the strength of our institutions, the effectiveness of our partnerships and our unwavering commitment to protecting the health and well-being of every mother, every child and every family throughout these islands."

The Premier added that the Turks and Caicos Islands had demonstrated that even a small nation can achieve results of global significance.

Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam also commended the achievement, describing it as evidence of a strong and coordinated healthcare system.

"It is a privilege to join you today on this important national occasion as the Turks and Caicos Islands receives formal validation for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Hepatitis B," the Governor said.

She noted that the certification reflects years of planning, professional discipline and commitment by healthcare teams across the country.

"The elimination of mother-to-child transmission stands amongst the clearest demonstrations of what a strong, coordinated healthcare system can achieve," Selvaratnam said. "When prevention, testing, treatment, care and follow-up are delivered consistently and compassionately, the results are profound."

The Governor stressed that while the validation is cause for celebration, it must also serve as motivation to sustain the gains achieved.

"Validation is not the end of the journey. It is a standard to be sustained," she said, while also warning that HIV infection rates continue to rise globally and regionally, making continued public awareness, testing and treatment efforts essential.

Earlier in the ceremony, PAHO/WHO Representative Dr. Eldonna Boisson described the achievement as "doubly special," noting that the Turks and Caicos Islands is the first territory in the Americas to achieve validation for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of Hepatitis B.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Nadia Astwood called the validation "a historic milestone for our country and for public health across the region," while Permanent Secretary for Health Desiree Lewis praised the coordinated efforts of healthcare professionals and technical teams that made the achievement possible.

Messages of congratulations were also delivered virtually by PAHO Assistant Director Dr. Rhonda Sealey-Thomas, PAHO Director Dr. Jarbas Barbosa, UNICEF Associate Director for HIV/AIDS Anurita Bains, and Dr. Jennifer Dionne, Chair of the Regional Validation Committee.

According to the Regional Validation Committee, the Turks and Caicos Islands demonstrated exceptional performance in key indicators, including 100 percent HIV testing and treatment coverage for pregnant women and 100 percent Hepatitis B screening and birth-dose vaccination coverage for newborns.

Health officials said the certification reflects years of work strengthening maternal and child health services, expanding access to screening and treatment, improving surveillance systems and ensuring that mothers and infants receive comprehensive care throughout pregnancy and after birth.

The achievement places the Turks and Caicos Islands among a select group of countries recognized globally for eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV, while setting a new regional benchmark through its pioneering success in eliminating mother-to-child transmission of Hepatitis B.

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

HEALING WATERS MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

This week on Newsline-Featured Church, we shine the spotlight on Healing Waters Ministries International, which is in the community of Wheeland in Providenciales. The mantra of that ministry is: Delivering Healing Through Praise and Worship. The entity is headed by Overseer Irma Coleby. Healing Waters Ministries International has several opportunities for worship on a weekly basis. On Sunday is Worship Service beginning at 10a.m. On Monday is Prayer Meeting from 7p.m. to 8p.m. and Tuesday is Bible Study between 7:30p.m. and 9p.m.



Life line Church Directory

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

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

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

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

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

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

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

New Testament Church of God
Orea Alley
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Tel: 946-1255
Airport Road, South Caicos
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Firm Foundation Ministries International
Waterloo Road, Grand Turk.
Telephone: 649-332-624

Paradise Baptist Church,
Five Cays, Providenciale
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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

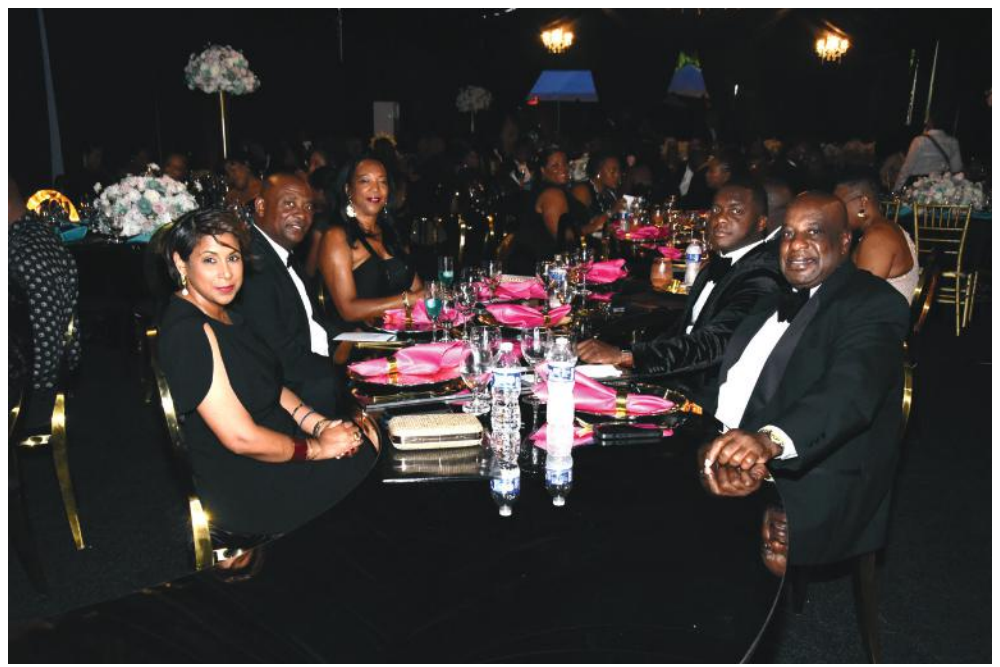
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P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales
Tel: 946-4046
Fax:946-4046;941-8499

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

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TCI AIRPORTS AUTHORITY 20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA BANQUET

The Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority (TCIAA) celebrated its 20th anniversary with a gala banquet that celebrated longstanding staff members, former CEOs and business partners. The event was held at the Grace Bay Market in Providenciales. The following are photo highlights of the event.





50th Anniversary of Ministerial Government (1976–2026)

ROAD TO 1976 SERIES SPECIAL FEATURE...

THE NIGHTS THAT CHANGED THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE

A series by Joan Astwood Sutton

The Junkanoo Club Incident and Its Impact

5-6 June 1975 and the Awakening of a Nation

On the evening of 5 June 1975, few could have known that events unfolding around a youth club in Grand Turk would become part of the political history of the Turks and Caicos Islands. What began as a developing confrontation would soon dominate conversations across the country. Families listened for news. Communities watched anxiously. Rumours travelled from house to house and island to island. Questions multiplied. Tensions rose.

And by the time the events had passed into history, the political atmosphere of the Turks and Caicos Islands had been permanently altered.

Nearly fifty years later, the Junkanoo Club Incident remains one of the most discussed, debated, and remembered episodes of the political awakening that helped shape the road to Ministerial Government.

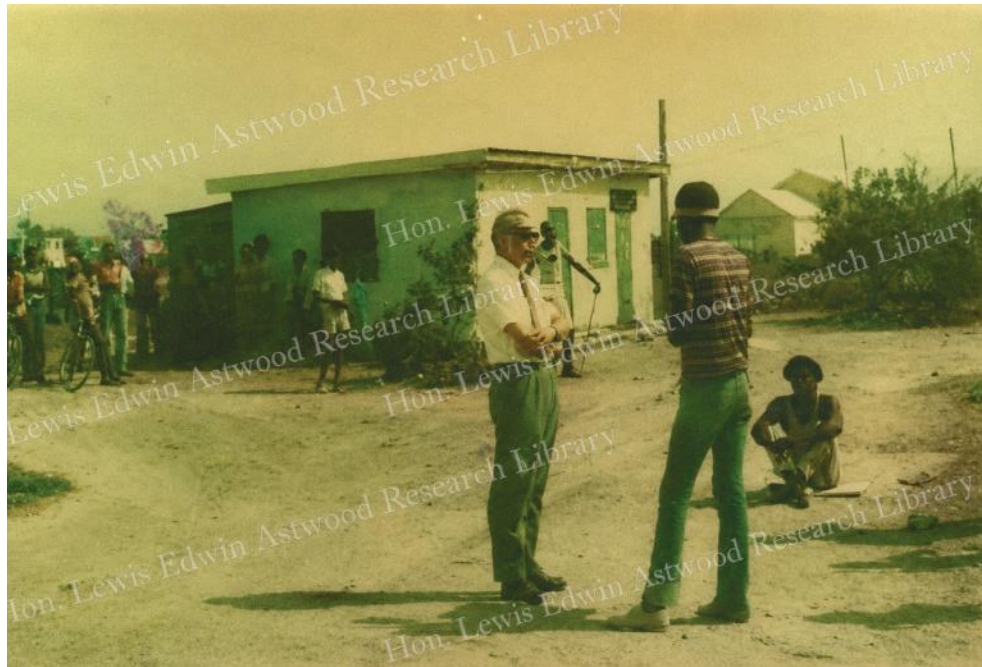
Not because every participant remembers every detail in the same way. Not because every interpretation remains identical. But because those events became a turning point in the political consciousness of a generation. They changed conversations. They changed perceptions. They changed confidence. And they helped change the political atmosphere of a nation.

A Country Already Changing

The events of June 1975 did not emerge suddenly. Nor did they occur in isolation. By the early 1970s, the Turks and Caicos Islands were already undergoing profound social and political change.

The decline of the salt industry continued to affect families throughout Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and South Caicos. Migration separated parents from children and families from one another. Educational opportunities remained limited for many young Islanders. Employment opportunities were scarce. Questions surrounding development, opportunity, representation, and the future of the country were increasingly being discussed in homes, churches, workplaces, waterfronts, and community gathering places.

Across the wider region, movements



associated with Black consciousness, Majority Rule, self-government, labour rights, and political participation were influencing a new generation.

The Bahamas had demonstrated that political transformation was possible. Elsewhere, colonial structures were being questioned.

Young Turks and Caicos Islanders returning from studies and work abroad brought with them broader perspectives, greater confidence, and new expectations for local leadership.

The political atmosphere was changing. The people were changing. The country was changing. And nowhere was that change more visible than among the younger generation.

The Awakening Before the Incident

One of the greatest misunderstandings surrounding the Junkanoo Club Incident is the belief that it created the political awakening. It did not. The awakening had already begun. Private conversations were taking place throughout the Islands. Trusted groups of friends were discussing the country's future.

Young people were becoming increasingly aware of issues surrounding equality, opportunity, dignity, constitutional development, and political participation. Community leaders were questioning long-standing assumptions about authority and governance.

The movement that would later transform the political landscape was already developing. As later recalled through oral histories, much of the

more sensitive organising occurred quietly among trusted individuals. Meetings often took place privately. Discussions frequently occurred away from public attention.

JAGS McCartney remained the emerging public voice.

Behind the scenes, Lewis "Louie" Edwin Astwood played an important organisational role in sustaining communication, coordination, and continuity within trusted circles.

Although JAGS McCartney and Lewis "Louie" Edwin Astwood were often associated with different aspects of the awakening, the two men worked closely together throughout the period. Those who knew them frequently described them as close as brothers, bound by friendship, trust, shared purpose, and family connections. Their partnership became one of the defining relationships of the political awakening.

When Astwood travelled abroad, his wife, Mildred Garland-Astwood, quietly helped maintain communication and organisational continuity. Much of this work occurred outside public view. Yet it formed part of the foundation of a movement that was steadily gaining confidence. The Junkanoo Club did not create the awakening. What it did was make the awakening visible.

More Than a Building

The Junkanoo Club occupied an important place in the lives of many young people.

Established by JAGS McCartney and

Edward "Eddie" Swann, the Junkanoo Club was created as a place for young people to gather, socialise, and participate in positive community activities. For many youths, it became an important meeting place and a focal point of social life in Grand Turk. It was a social gathering place. A community space.

A place where friendships were formed and ideas were exchanged.

Over time, however, the Club became associated in the public imagination with wider questions concerning youth participation, authority, fairness, and social change.

It is important to understand that the Junkanoo Club was not the movement itself.

The political awakening of the 1970s extended far beyond any single building. It existed in conversations. In communities. In churches. In homes. In workplaces. In friendships. In trusted networks spread throughout the Islands.

Yet it was through the events surrounding the Club that many of those wider tensions suddenly entered public view.

What had been building quietly beneath the surface became impossible to ignore.

The Nights That Changed Everything

As tensions escalated, the situation surrounding the Junkanoo Club attracted increasing attention from authorities, the public, and the media.

The issue rapidly evolved beyond the boundaries of a single building.

Questions concerning law and order became intertwined with questions concerning justice, fairness, participation, representation, and political expression.

Rumours spread. Communities watched developments closely. Families worried. Young people paid attention. Political discussion intensified. The issue was no longer simply the Club. The issue had become what the Club represented.

For many Islanders, the events raised difficult questions about how young people were viewed, how they were treated, and whether ordinary citizens truly possessed a meaningful voice in shaping the future of their own country.

The Presence of JAGS McCartney

Standing at the centre of the unfolding events was JAGS McCartney.

Already emerging as one of the most influential voices of his generation, JAGS came to be increasingly identified with the concerns and aspirations of many young Islanders.

For supporters, he represented courage. For critics, he represented challenge. For many ordinary people, he represented possibility. The events of June 1975 elevated his national profile dramatically.

What had previously been a growing political awakening now possessed a visible public face. JAGS became more than a political figure. He became a symbol of a generation increasingly unwilling to remain silent.

The Journalist Who Entered

Among the most remembered aspects of the incident was the presence of journalist John Houseman. Over the years, some accounts described the situation through the language of hostage narratives. Yet oral histories and recollections associated with participants present a more nuanced picture.

Accounts preserved through later recollections suggest that Houseman was allowed into the building by JAGS McCartney himself, enabling him to observe events firsthand and communicate information to the wider public. The distinction remains historically important because it reminds us that complex events are often remembered differently over time.

A Warship Before the Explosion

Before the events of 5-6 June reached their height, the atmosphere had already become serious enough for Britain to send HMS Minerva to Grand Turk. United Nations records indicate that the frigate was sent in late May 1975 with 21 police officers aboard. Their presence indicated that the authorities had already viewed the situation as deeply troubling before the Junkanoo Club Incident unfolded.

For many Islanders, the sight of a British warship and police officers from outside was unsettling. It suggested that local tensions had moved beyond ordinary policing and had become a matter of colonial concern.

By the time the confrontation at the Junkanoo Club occurred, the country was already living under heightened pressure. The incident did not begin the crisis. It exposed how serious the crisis had already become.

Following the events of 5-6 June 1975, the additional police officers brought to the Territory aboard HMS Minerva were withdrawn as part of the arrangements that followed the crisis. Their departure helped bring a tense chapter to a close, but the questions raised during the period would continue to shape political discussion throughout the Islands.

A Country Watching

Throughout Grand Turk, people waited for news. Families gathered in

homes. Conversations moved from front porches to street corners. Parents worried about their children. Friends worried about friends. Rumours travelled faster than facts. The uncertainty touched almost everyone. For many Islanders, it felt as though the entire country had paused to watch what would happen next.

The events surrounding the Junkanoo Club had become larger than those inside the building.

They had become a national conversation.

Ordinary people who had never attended a political meeting suddenly found themselves discussing politics, justice, representation, and the future of their country.

The political atmosphere of the Turks and Caicos Islands was changing before their eyes.

The Treatment of Youth

One of the most enduring legacies of the period was the widespread concern regarding the treatment of young people.

Questions circulated regarding arrests, detention, police conduct, and the broader handling of those involved.

Many Islanders believed that certain youths had been treated unfairly. Concerns surrounding justice, dignity, equality, and fair treatment became central to public discussion. For many people, the issue was no longer simply what had happened inside the Junkanoo Club.

The issue became whether ordinary young Islanders could expect fairness, respect, and equal treatment under the law. Those concerns would continue to resonate long after the immediate crisis ended.

From Grand Turk to the United Nations

The significance of the period did not remain confined to Grand Turk.

Nor did it remain confined to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

In the years that followed, questions concerning political development, constitutional advancement, public participation, and representation attracted international attention.

Discussions involving the United Nations Visiting Mission and the United Nations Decolonisation Committee would later examine the broader political atmosphere within the Territory. During those discussions, JAGS McCartney referred to activists associated with the awakening as being among the “few groups” attempting to make ordinary people aware of their rights. That observation remains significant. It demonstrates that the 1970s awakening was not simply a reaction to a single event.

It formed part of a broader effort to increase political awareness, public participation, and civic engagement throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Issues once discussed quietly in

homes and community gatherings had become part of a wider conversation concerning the political future of the Territory.

The Junkanoo Club Incident did not create those questions.

It exposed them.

And once exposed, they became impossible to ignore.

The Turning Point

The significance of the Junkanoo Club Incident lies not simply in what happened during those nights. Its significance lies in what happened afterward. More people became politically engaged. More people attended meetings. More people listened. More people questioned. More people participated. The awakening accelerated. The movement became visible. And once visible, it could no longer be ignored.

The Road to Waterloo

The events of June 1975 did not end the awakening. They accelerated it. The demand for representation continued to grow. The demand for a greater voice in shaping the country’s future became increasingly difficult to ignore.

Soon, that growing confidence would manifest itself in another defining moment. Waterloo. From Waterloo would come the 1976 Election. And from the 1976 Election would come Ministerial Government.

The road to 1976 did not begin at the ballot box. It began years earlier in conversations, communities, friendships, movements, and moments that changed the political atmosphere of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The nights of 5-6 June 1975 were among the most important of those moments.

Fifty Years Later

Half a century later, many of the young people who lived through June 1975 are now elders. Some have passed on. Others still remember the uncertainty of those nights and the moment when politics ceased to be something happening somewhere else and became something affecting their own lives, families, and future.

Today, fifty years later, the questions raised during that period concerning participation, representation, fairness, opportunity, and the future direction of the Turks and Caicos Islands continue to resonate within national discussions.

That is why the events of June 1975 remain important. Not because every participant remembers every detail in the same way. But because the period revealed something fundamental about the country. It revealed a generation searching for a voice.

It revealed a people increasingly unwilling to remain politically invisible. It revealed a growing demand for dignity, participation, representation, and constitutional advancement. And it revealed that the political atmosphere

of the Turks and Caicos Islands had fundamentally changed.

The nights of 5-6 June 1975 did not create the awakening. The awakening had already begun. But those nights helped make it impossible to ignore.

And in doing so, they became part of the road that would ultimately lead to Waterloo, the 1976 General Election, and the birth of Ministerial Government in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

AUTHOR’S NOTE

This Special Feature is published outside the regular Road to 1976 series to reflect upon the events of 5-6 June 1975, one of the most significant turning points in the political awakening of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Although these events occurred fifty-one years ago, their impact continued to shape the political atmosphere that ultimately led to the 1976 General Election and the introduction of Ministerial Government, the 50th Anniversary of which is being commemorated throughout this series.

The events surrounding the Junkanoo Club in June 1975 remain among the most discussed and consequential episodes in the modern history of the Turks and Caicos Islands. While participants, observers, and historians may differ on certain details, few would dispute the lasting influence these events had on public consciousness, political participation, and the wider movement for political change.

This commemorative feature is presented in recognition of the men and women who lived through that period and as part of the continuing effort to preserve, document, and better understand the history of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

About the Author

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

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



Items donated to the Community Christian Academy by the family

Beaches Turks and Caicos and Sandals Foundation share educational material with primary school in Providenciales

By Vivian Tyson
NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort and the Sandals Foundation, recently brought smiles and inspiration to students at the Community Christian Academy through a meaningful Reading Road Trip and educational material donation initiative.

The outreach effort, which forms part of the Sandals Foundation's ongoing commitment to education and community development across the Turks and Caicos Islands, saw team members and volunteers engaging directly with students while delivering a wide range of essential school supplies.

Among the donated items were books, footballs, volleyballs, pencils, rulers, sharpeners, Bibles, Christian literature, sun glasses, writing pads, educational cue cards, erasers, markers, crayons, glue, scissors, paper clips, coloured chalk, and pens. The contributions were carefully curated to support both academic learning and extracurricular development for students at the institution.

A highlight of the day's activities was an interactive reading session with the kindergarten and grade one classes, where volunteers shared stories and encouraged early literacy in a fun and engaging environment. The young students responded with enthusiasm, creating a lively and memorable experience for all involved.

Travel Advisor Renee Rice, who participated in the initiative alongside her family, expressed heartfelt appreciation for the opportunity to give back. "We are happy for this experience as we partnered with the Sandals Foundation and Beach-



Travel Advisor Renee Rice shares with students in the K4 class

es Turks and Caicos Resort in sharing in the development of education in the Turks and Caicos Islands," Rice said. Her family actively participated in reading sessions and interacting with the students, further enhancing the impact of the visit.

Principal Krystal Vincent welcomed the initiative and emphasized the importance of such partnerships in advancing the school's mission. "These educational materials will go a far way, and we are happy for this relationship that we have established with the Sandals Foundation and Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort in helping to support the growth of the students and the institution," Vincent noted.

Chairman of the School Board, Pastor Bradley Handfield, also expressed gratitude during the presentation of the items. He commended the donors for their continued investment in the community and their willingness to support the nation's youth. Pastor Handfield highlighted the significance of corporate and philanthropic partnerships in strengthen-

ing educational foundations across the islands.

The Reading Road Trip initiative is part of a broader effort by the Sandals Foundation to promote literacy and provide access to educational resources for children throughout the Caribbean.

Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort has long been an active partner in

community outreach, consistently supporting initiatives that uplift local communities and empower young people. Through collaborations such as this, the resort continues to demonstrate its commitment to social responsibility and sustainable development.

The visit to Community Christian Academy stands as a testament to the power of partnership and the positive impact that can be achieved when organizations and individuals come together with a shared purpose. For the students, the day was not only about receiving supplies but also about feeling encouraged, valued, and inspired to pursue their educational journeys with confidence.

As the Sandals Foundation and Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort continue to expand their outreach efforts, initiatives like the Reading Road Trip remain vital in shaping the future of education in the Turks and Caicos Islands—one child, one book, and one meaningful connection at a time.



Travel Advisor Renee Rice shares with students in the K4 class



United Way Executives, sponsors and volunteers join Ianthe Pratt Primary School students for a photo op, following a read-a-thon and a prize-giving ceremony on Wednesday, June 3.



A grade three Ianthe Pratt wows the room with her fluent reading ability

United Way Celebrates Reading Success as ‘Yes, I Can Read’ Students Show Remarkable Progress

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

United Way Turks and Caicos is celebrating another milestone in its flagship literacy initiative, the “Yes, I Can Read” programme, as students demonstrated remarkable reading improvements during a year-end event at the Ianthe Pratt Primary School on Wednesday, June 3.

The event brought together students, parents, educators, sponsors, and United Way representatives to showcase the achievements of children enrolled in the intervention reading programme and to equip parents with tools to continue supporting literacy development during the summer break.

Chief Executive Officer of United Way Turks and Caicos, Claudine Ewing, said the organisation wanted to ensure that children remain engaged in reading activities throughout the two-month vacation period.

“We don’t want to have brain drain. We don’t want them on the internet all day TikToking and all those things,” Ewing said. “We wanted to share information with parents on how they can help their children over the summer, even if it’s just 15 minutes a day.”

Parents participated in a workshop where they received practical tips on encouraging reading at home and in everyday settings, such as grocery shopping, reading product labels, T-shirts, and signs.

The programme’s impact was evident through parent testimonials. One father shared how his daughter, who comes from a French-speaking household, has become a reading leader in her neighbourhood, helping other children, and even adult, improve their English reading skills.

“She’s now the teacher,” Ewing said. “Those are the things that we want to see manifest from our programmes.”

Parents also received books, workbooks, and reading logs to help track their children’s progress during the summer months.

Significant Growth in Reading Skills

The students’ reading performance was the highlight of the morning’s activities. Ewing revealed that the 64 students enrolled at Ianthe Pratt since March 2025 have made extraordinary progress.

“When they started with us, they were learning the alphabet and letter sounds,” she explained. “Today they were reading with expression. They were reading words naturally. It wasn’t rehearsed. You can pick up any book in here, and those kids will be able to read.”

Although the students have shown significant improvement, United Way plans to continue supporting them as they transition into Grade Four.

“We still think they need a little more hand-holding,” Ewing said. “We’ll do fewer classes with them, but we want to continue until they feel confident enough to handle it on their own.”

The programme currently serves approximately 230 students across three schools - Ianthe Pratt Primary School, Enid Capron Primary School, and Thelma Lightbourne Primary School.

The largest enrolment is at Thelma Lightbourne Primary School, where 124 students participate in the literacy programme.

Since its inception, 68 students have successfully transitioned out of the programme after achieving the required literacy benchmarks, with another 40 students expected to graduate from the intervention programme in the coming weeks.

United Way is also providing one-on-one after-school tutoring for 10 students in Grades Five and Six and hopes to eventually expand support into the secondary school years.

Sponsor’s Commitment Making a Dif-

ference

A key contributor to the programme’s success has been Donna Schechter, whose family foundation fully sponsors the Ianthe Pratt literacy initiative.

Schechter said her lifelong love of reading inspired her family’s decision to support the programme.

“As a lifelong reader, books have always been very important to me,” she said. “I met Claudine, and when she explained the programme, it resonated with me. We love spending time in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and we wanted to give back to the community in a meaningful way.”

Her family’s annual contribution of approximately \$60,000 covers teachers, educational supplies, programme activities, and operational costs for the literacy programme at Ianthe Pratt.

Reflecting on the students’ progress, Schechter said she was deeply moved by what she witnessed.

“I’m just blown away by the progress,” she said. “It’s a culmination of so many people coming together as a community to support these children. They enjoy reading, their personalities are coming through, and they are becoming more confident every day.”

Literacy as a Tool for Social Change

Chairman of United Way Turks and Caicos, Mark Fulford, said the organisation launched the programme after recognising a strong connection between literacy challenges and broader social issues.

“We recognised there was a need within the community to fill a void,” Fulford said. “Statistics show that children who are unable to read become frustrated with the education system and can find themselves heading down the wrong path.”

He described the literacy programme as an innovative approach to crime prevention and youth empowerment.

“Reading opens so many doors,” Fulford said. “You can’t even move through an airport or travel without being able to read signs. This is a critical life skill that we’re teaching from day one.”

Fulford praised the dedication of programme facilitators and expressed gratitude to the Schechter Family Foundation for making the Ianthe Pratt programme possible.

Looking ahead, United Way hopes to expand the “Yes, I Can Read” programme beyond Providenciales to schools in North Caicos, Middle Caicos, South Caicos, and Grand Turk.

“We’re looking forward to expanding to other schools,” Fulford said. “Seeing these children read with confidence and excitement reminds us why this programme is so important.”



United Way Chairman Mark Fulford and donor Donna Schechter could not hold back their amusement after this student strikes a model-like pose, while accepting her gift at the Yes, I Can Read Programme ‘Spotlight Reading event’ on Wednesday at the Ianthe Pratt Primary School

One in three adults lives with high blood pressure - How to prevent and detect it early

In Jamaica, around one in three adults lives with high blood pressure, according to data from the Ministry of Health and Wellness. The authorities also note that a significant proportion of people with hypertension are unaware they have the condition, increasing the risk of cardiovascular complications. High blood pressure is one of the leading causes of heart disease and stroke in the country, which is why early diagnosis and proper management are considered priorities within the national non-communicable diseases strategy.

High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, can occur at any age. Its prevalence in people in early to mid-adulthood has been rising globally. Bianca Bandarra, MBBS, a general practitioner and executive health physician at Mayo Clinic Healthcare in London, describes lifestyle factors that can influence risk and explains why treating high blood pressure early matters.

High blood pressure is a common condition that affects the body's arteries. If you have high blood pressure, the force of blood pushing against the artery walls is consistently too high. The heart has to work harder to pump blood, according to Mayo Clinic Healthcare.

If untreated, high blood pressure raises the risk of heart attack, heart failure, stroke and other serious health problems, including kidney and eye problems, dementia, and metabolic syndrome, a group of conditions that increases the risk of diabetes, it added.

NO SYMPTOMS

High blood pressure can be a silent disease; people can have it without realising it, Dr



Bandarra says.

"If high blood pressure isn't treated, it can damage blood vessels and organs over many years," she explains. "Because of that, we need to be proactive about prevention and early diagnosis. A simple blood pressure check is an important screening tool. People with conditions such as diabetes, kidney disease or a family history of hypertension may need more frequent monitoring."

If you have a family history of hypertension — for example, if one or both of your parents have it — it is sensible to be proactive and discuss with your healthcare team whether additional steps, such as monitoring your blood pressure at home, are appropriate.

While hypertension usually develops without symptoms, some people may notice

warning signs if blood pressure becomes severely elevated, Dr Bandarra says.

"Very high readings can sometimes be associated with headaches, especially in a hypertensive crisis," she says. "Some people may also feel pressure or discomfort behind their eyes."

Blurred vision, chest pain, palpitations, nosebleeds, shortness of breath and feeling tired and generally unwell can also occur, though these symptoms are not specific to hypertension and can have other causes. If you experience these symptoms, especially if they are new or severe, seek medical attention promptly, Dr Bandarra says.

Several lifestyle factors can influence the risk of developing hypertension, Dr Bandarra says.

Factors that can raise the risk include obesity or being overweight, tobacco use, alco-

hol use, high stress levels, eating too much salt, not consuming enough potassium, and not moving enough.

Factors that can lower the risk include exercising, achieving a healthy weight; following a heart-healthy diet with fruits, vegetables and whole grains; exercising regularly; managing stress; avoiding tobacco and alcohol; and getting enough sleep.

"Some people may do all the right things and still develop hypertension," Dr Bandarra notes. "That's because genetics also play a role. We can take steps to prevent it from getting worse."

HALTING PROGRESSION

Treatment typically includes following a healthy lifestyle — even for people whose hypertension has a genetic component — and medication. Tests such as blood tests, urine tests and an electrocardiogram may be needed to assess overall health and to look for organ damage or related conditions.

Whatever your risk level, checking your blood pressure at home, in addition to routine health check-ups, can be a safe and useful way to track your cardiovascular health.

"Use a validated device with the correct cuff size and follow proper technique," Dr Bandarra stresses. "Raising awareness about high blood pressure for yourself, your friends and your family can make a real difference."

Source - Mayo Clinic Healthcare, located in London, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Mayo Clinic, a non-profit academic medical centre.

AI detects pancreatic cancer up to 3 years before diagnosis

An artificial intelligence model from the Mayo Clinic detected abnormalities on scans up to three years before patients were diagnosed. It's being evaluated in a clinical trial.

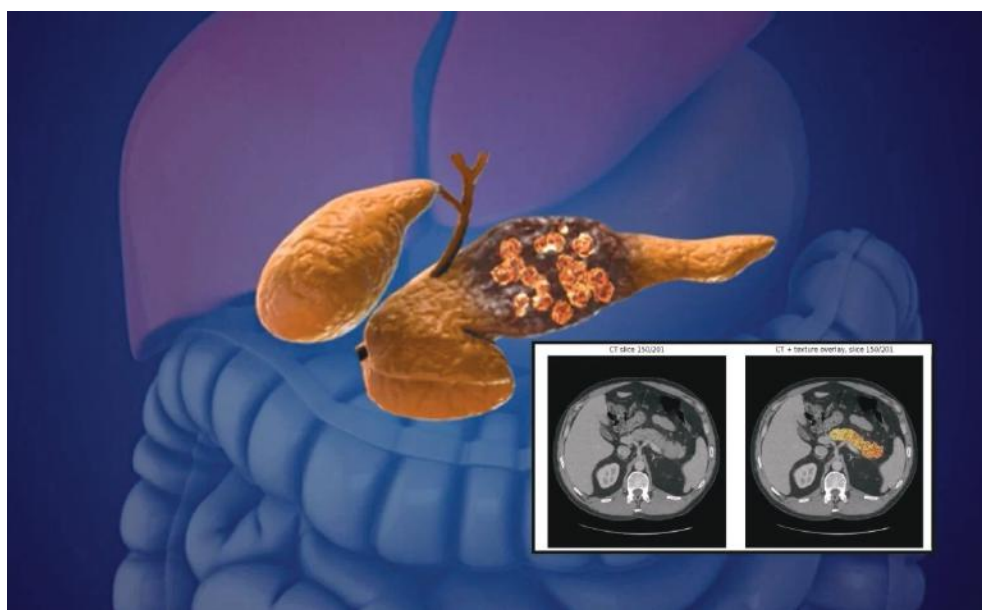
A Mayo Clinic-developed artificial intelligence (AI) model can help specialists detect pancreatic cancer on routine abdominal CT scans up to three years before clinical diagnosis. It identifies subtle signs of disease before tumors are visible, when curative treatment may still be possible. The findings, published in *Gut*, mark a milestone in Mayo Clinic's multiyear research effort to enable earlier detection of one of the deadliest cancers.

The study validates this next-generation AI model using data and workflows that mirror clinical practice, including CT scans from multiple institutions, imaging systems and protocols.

Researchers used the AI model to analyze nearly 2,000 CT scans, including scans from patients later diagnosed with pancreatic cancer — all originally interpreted as normal. The system, called the Radiomics-based Early Detection Model (REDMOD), identified 73% of those prediagnostic cancers at a median of about 16 months before diagnosis — nearly double the detection rate of specialists reviewing the same scans without AI assistance.

The advantage was even greater at earlier time points. In scans obtained more than two years before diagnosis, the AI identified nearly three times as many early cancers that would otherwise go undetected.

Pancreatic cancer remains one of the deadliest cancers because it rarely causes detectable signs in its earliest stages. More than 85% of patients are diagnosed after the dis-



ease has spread, and five-year survival rates remain below 15%, according to the National Cancer Institute. By 2030, it is projected to become the second-leading cause of cancer-related death in the U.S.

"The greatest barrier to saving lives from pancreatic cancer has been our inability to see the disease when it is still curable," says senior author Ajit Goenka, M.D., a Mayo Clinic radiologist and nuclear medicine specialist. "This AI can now identify the signature of cancer from a normal-appearing

pancreas, and it can do so reliably over time and across diverse clinical settings."

REDMOD measures hundreds of quantitative imaging features that describe tissue texture and structure, capturing faint biological changes as cancer begins to develop. The model is designed to analyze CT scans already obtained for other reasons — particularly in high-risk patients, such as those with new-onset diabetes — and flag elevated risk before any visible mass appears. The model runs automatically without

time-intensive manual preparation. The team validated the model across CT scans from multiple institutions, imaging systems and protocols, demonstrating consistent performance beyond a single dataset.

The model's predictions also remained stable over time. In patients with multiple scans, the AI produced consistent results months apart, supporting its use for longitudinal monitoring and early detection.

Researchers are advancing this work into clinical testing through Artificial Intelligence for Pancreatic Cancer Early Detection, or AI-PACED. This prospective study evaluates how clinicians can integrate AI-guided detection into care for patients at elevated risk. The study combines AI analysis of routine imaging with longitudinal follow-up to assess performance, including early detection, false positives and clinical outcomes.

This research is part of Mayo Clinic's Precure initiative, which aims to predict and prevent disease by identifying the earliest biological changes in the body before symptoms begin. It also reflects Mayo Clinic's Clinical Impact strategy, accelerating the translation of discovery into patient care.

The study was supported by the National Institutes of Health, the Hoveida Family Foundation, the Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Champions for Hope Pancreas Cancer Research Program of the Funk-Zitiello Foundation.

collaboration is driving research breakthroughs in cancer detection, prevention and treatment to change lives.

Myrna-Lisa Pageant and Entertainment Launches Search for Women Leaders Through Miss One Nation International

Myrna-Lisa Pageant and Entertainment has officially launched Miss One Nation International, a new platform designed to empower women through leadership, advocacy, cultural representation, and international collaboration.

The initiative, which is now accepting applications for its 2026 edition, seeks to unite women from around the world under the banner of purpose-driven leadership and positive social impact. More than a traditional beauty pageant, Miss One Nation International is being promoted as a movement that celebrates the power of women to influence change within their

communities and beyond.

Founded on the principles of global exposure, leadership development, advocacy amplification, brand ambassadorship, and cultural unity, the program aims to provide participants with opportunities to elevate their voices while representing their countries, cultures, and personal causes on an international stage.

"We believe every woman has a story, a purpose, and a platform that can inspire change," the organization stated in its promotional campaign. "Miss One Nation International is about creating opportunities for women to be seen, heard,

and empowered."

The competition is open to women between the ages of 18 and 40, including single women, married women, and mothers. Applicants are expected to demonstrate a passion for advocacy, a commitment to serving as brand ambassadors, and a desire to strengthen their personal platforms while inspiring others.

Selected contestants will embark on a journey of personal and professional development, gaining exposure to international audiences while building meaningful connections with women from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

With the slogan "Be the voice. Be the change. Be One Nation," the organization is encouraging women worldwide to step forward and become part of a growing network dedicated to unity, empowerment, and representation.

Applications are now open, and interested participants are encouraged to submit their entries before the June 14, 2026 deadline.

According to organizers, the search is now underway for women who are ready to make history, champion important causes, and represent the spirit of One World, One Nation, One Purpose on the international stage.



Celine Dion and Peabo Bryson won a string of awards for their version of the title song from *Beauty and the Beast*

Celine Dion has said she is "heartbroken" by the death of R&B singer Peabo Bryson, with whom she sang the hit theme from 1991 Disney film *Beauty and the Beast*.

"His incredible voice and his kind spirit embodied the beauty of song and performance," Dion said.

The pair won a Grammy Award for their duet on the beloved movie's title song, and Bryson repeated that feat the following year for his performance of another classic Disney theme, *A Whole New World* from *Aladdin* with Regina Belle.

Bryson died at the age of 75 on Tuesday surrounded by family and loved ones, his family said.

A cause of death has not been released publicly, but Bryson suffered

a stroke over the weekend and had been receiving medical care.

The veteran R&B singer was the voice behind hits that spanned from the 1970s to 2010s, including *Feel the Fire*, *I'm So Into You*, *Can You Stop the Rain*, *If Ever You're In My Arms Again* and *Reaching for the Sky*.

Bryson helped launch Dion to stardom, with *Beauty and the Beast* earning the Canadian singer her first US and UK top 10 hit.

"He was so wonderful and generous to me all those years ago, when we recorded *Beauty and the Beast*," her tribute said.

"He made me so comfortable, as I was just learning to sing in English.

"He will remain for me always as a real symbol of the joy that music has brought to my life. His voice and his talent will be missed..."

"My heart is with your family, and

Celine Dion 'heartbroken' by death of *Beauty and the Beast* singer Peabo Bryson

may you rest in peace, Peabo."

Bryson also collaborated with Roberta Flack on recordings including 1983 hit single *Tonight, I Celebrate My Love*.

In a statement, his family said: "For more than five decades, Peabo's extraordinary voice served as the soundtrack to some of life's most cherished moments.

"His music carried generations through joyful celebrations, great love stories and enduring moments of comfort and inspiration, creating a legacy that will forever live in the hearts of those who loved him and the countless lives he touched through song.

"While our hearts are broken, we find comfort in knowing how deeply Peabo was loved and how many lives were touched by his voice and his generous spirit," his family shared. "His legacy and music will live on for generations to come."

Bryson recently performed in a concert with Jeffrey Osborne in the US state of Georgia in May.

He was set to perform several shows for his *Golden Touch* tour later this year, in celebration of his five decades in the music industry. Back in April, Bryson celebrated his 75th birthday and shared photos of his celebration with his family and friends on social media.

Israel to Host Biggest LGBT Pride Parade in Middle East History

According to the Jerusalem Post, Israel is set to host the Middle East's largest ever LGBT festival at the Dead Sea in June 2026.

The new festival, 'Pride Land', intends to transform the middle of the Judean Desert into a colorful pride city from June 1 to June 4. The event intends to create an experience broader than parties or performances, instead aiming for a space that is alive 24 hours a day, with 15 hotels, beach complexes, parties, and a central performance arena all operating around the clock.

Alongside the nightlife, Pride Land will have cultural and art complexes, relaxation and scenic areas, and family-friendly areas with children's activities, family-friendly work-

shops, and customized events.

The organizers hope to create a multigenerational "Pride City," not just a party celebrating pride. "This is not just another festival, it's the biggest thing we've done here," explained Aaron Cohen, main producer and initiator of the festival. "We chose to grow," Cohen added. "To take an investment of millions, purchase entire hotels for 4 days, and build a city from scratch in the middle of the desert. It's an experience that lives 24/7, from quiet visits to nights of pride, with a living envelope of music and people."

This is not just a pride event; it also aims to highlight the Dead Sea region as a permanent destination for LGBT tourists, emphasizing that Pride in Israel extends beyond the



View of the Dead Sea and its surroundings, February 6, 2026.

key hub of Tel Aviv.

Artists within the community

Pride Land's main stage will host Harel Skaat, Dana International, Ran Danker, Shahar Tabuch, and Ivri Lider, alongside DJs from the Israeli LGBT community. "Pride Land does not come to replace Tel Aviv's traditional Pride Parade, but rather to add to the community an event that is tailored to its development and is crafted from within the community with the community's people," explained

Jonathan Gadol, CEO of X Production.

The event comes at a challenging time for Israel on the international stage, with tourism affected by the country's security situation.

The organizers aim to present a message of openness, acceptance, and community.

Ticket and package sales are expected to open soon and will include hotel accommodations in the area, daily admission, and premium packages.



Mica Harris

A young Barbadian is preparing to step into one of television's most talked-about villas.

Twenty-one-year-old Mica Harris, a Barbadian student now living in London, has officially been an-

Barbadian student Mica Harris joins cast of Love Island UK 2026

nounced as a contestant on the upcoming season of Love Island.

The popular programme returns to screens this week, and many Barbadians are already rallying behind the island beauty as she searches for romance on international television.

Harris has been confirmed as one of the newest contestants on ITV's Love Island 2026 season.

The London-based student, who hails from Barbados, is among the fresh faces entering the famous villa when the new season premieres on ITV's ITV2 and ITVX.

Known for its mix of romance, drama and competition, Love Island has become one of the United Kingdom's most-watched reality

programmes, attracting millions of viewers globally each season.

In promotional interviews released by ITV, Harris described her ideal partner as someone tall, funny and confident, but not overly egotistical.

She also hinted that while her main goal is finding love, viewers can still expect her to keep an eye on villa drama.

Harris joins contestants from across the UK and beyond as they compete to form romantic connections and ultimately win the public's support. Excitement is already building on social media, with many Barbadians expressing pride at seeing local representation on the internationally popular series.



Minister of Home Affairs Hon. Akierra Missick shares a photo with Member of Parliament for South Caicos Hon. Tamell Seymour

Minister of Home Affairs Hon. Akierra Missick Drives Reform Agenda Through Targeted Stakeholder Engagements

ministration in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Advancing Transportation Sector Reform

Hon. Missick also met with the President, Vice President, and Secretary of the TCI Taxi Union for a substantive discussion on the challenges and opportunities facing the public transportation sector. Key concerns were examined alongside legislative reforms being advanced to modernise the regulatory framework governing the sector. The meeting identified several areas of opportunity for cross-sector collaboration and concluded with tangible recommendations that will inform the Ministry's next steps.

The Taxi Union raised a range of sector-specific concerns for the Minister's consideration, including hotel contracting arrangements, the saturation of public service vehicles, compliance with airport pickup protocols, and matters relating to illegal public service operators.

The Taxi Union President welcomed the Minister's early engagement, expressing enthusiasm for the open and collaborative approach and opti-

mism about the path forward for the sector.

Commenting on both engagements, Hon. Missick stated:

"Good governance is not an abstract concept; it must be experienced by people in their daily lives. Our responsibility is to ensure that the legislative frameworks, policies and systems falling within this Ministry are modern, responsive and genuinely fit for purpose. Government must work for the people it serves.

"When residents can access services efficiently and with dignity, when our laws and regulatory structures are forward-looking and effective, and when communities feel listened to and see meaningful action in response to their concerns, then we can say with confidence that we are fulfilling the mandate entrusted to us."

Through meaningful engagement, modern frameworks, and a commitment to institutional excellence, the Ministry of Home Affairs will continue working to deliver responsive, trusted, and accessible public services for all who call the Turks and Caicos Islands home.

Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Akierra Missick, has continued her series of stakeholder engagements, meeting with the Member of Parliament for South Caicos, Hon. Tamell Seymour, and representatives of the Turks and Caicos Islands Taxi Union as part of her commitment to responsive, inclusive, and people-centred governance.

Strengthening District Administration and Local Governance

Hon. Missick met with Hon. Tamell Seymour, Member of Parliament for South Caicos, for a timely and purposeful discussion on the Ministry's work to strengthen local governance and district administration across the family islands.

The District Boards, established last year and now embedded within the Ministry's key performance framework, have begun to demonstrate their value as formal bridges between central Government and island communities, identifying priorities, channelling community concerns, and supporting locally driven development.

As the Ministry prepares to embark on a series of engagements across the family islands to conduct a post-implementation assessment of the Boards, the meeting with Hon. Seymour provided valuable early insight. The Ministry is actively reviewing both the legislative framework and the operationalisation of the Boards, drawing on lessons learned

and identifying opportunities to strengthen their effectiveness, accountability, and impact.

The conversation with Hon. Seymour was an important part of that process, informing the Ministry's approach as it works to refine and modernise the governance structures that underpin community ad-



Minister Akierra Missick (centre) and her team meets with members of the representatives of the Turks and Caicos Islands Taxi Union



Antigua Prime Minister Gaston Browne

PM Assures No Job Losses in Butterfield's Acquisition of CIBC Caribbean

The union, which serves as the legally recognised bargaining agent for CIBC Caribbean employees in Antigua and Barbuda, said it has taken careful note of the announcement that Butterfield intends to acquire CIBC's 91.7 percent interest in CIBC Caribbean Bank Limited.

But speaking on his weekly Browne and Browne Show on Pointe FM on Saturday, Browne addressed growing public concern surrounding the future of staff employed across CIBC Caribbean's regional operations, including Antigua and Barbuda.

According to the Prime Minister, discussions about employee welfare were part of the broader conversations linked to the acquisition, and he has been assured that the transition will not result in retrenchment.

"The staff will be fine," Browne stated, while emphasizing that the interests of workers remain a priority. He also sought to reassure bargaining agents and unions representing bank employees, noting that any matters relating to staffing costs or employment obligations arising from the deal would be handled responsibly and appropriately.

The acquisition, one of the largest

banking transactions in the Caribbean in recent years, will see Butterfield acquire CIBC's 91.7 percent stake in CIBC Caribbean Bank Limited in a deal valued at approximately US\$1.8 billion.

Under the agreement, Butterfield will pay US\$1.091 billion in cash along with US\$703 million in Butterfield shares.

Butterfield, which manages approximately US\$29 billion in assets, has already signalled that it intends to maintain CIBC Caribbean's existing regional footprint, including its Barbados-based headquarters, in an effort to ensure stability and continuity for both customers and staff.

The transaction is expected to significantly reshape the regional banking landscape, creating what Butterfield describes as a stronger island-focused financial institution with expanded digital, wealth management and corporate banking capabilities across the Caribbean.

Despite the scale of the acquisition, Browne's comments are likely to bring relief to employees and families concerned about the possibility of layoffs or restructuring in the aftermath of the deal.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Gaston Browne says employees of CIBC Caribbean have nothing to fear following the bank's multi-billion-dollar acquisition by the Bank of N.T. Butterfield & Son Limited, revealing that assurances have already been given that no workers will lose their jobs as a result of the

transaction.

When the news broke, the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union (ABWU) called for full protection of employees' rights as discussions continue regarding the proposed acquisition of CIBC Caribbean by The Bank of N.T. Butterfield & Son Limited.

Jamaica's Broadcasting Commission raps Flow and Digicel for 'substandard customer service' arising from channel changes

The Broadcasting Commission has found Flow and Digicel in breach of their subscription television licences after concluding that their handling of channel and programming changes in late 2025 amounted to substandard customer service.

According to a release on Tuesday, the commission completed its review of the programming changes and determined that the operators' treatment of subscribers demonstrated significant shortcomings that constituted substandard customer service.

The commission found that Flow relied almost exclusively on email to communicate the changes, despite its own engagement data showing that the majority of customers did

not open the messages. In November 2025, 68.5 per cent of delivered emails were unopened, while 64.1 per cent were unopened in December. Some emails were also undelivered because of inactive or incorrect addresses.

It further noted that website postings were passive and unreliable in a post-hurricane environment, and that Flow provided no traffic data to show that subscribers had actually viewed the notices.

Digicel, meanwhile, reportedly failed to provide any prior notice regarding the removal of some channels. The company acknowledged the lapse in an apology issued to customers after the commission began its investigation.

While both operators introduced new and repurposed channels, the commission said the information provided to subscribers lacked sufficient detail and objective criteria to determine whether the replacement channels were genuinely comparable and whether customer value had been preserved.

As a result, Flow and Digicel have been directed to adopt robust, multi-channel communication protocols to ensure subscribers are meaningfully informed of future changes. The commission said notices must be effective rather than perfunctory and must be reasonably calculated to reach the majority of subscribers, including older people and those who are less digitally con-

nected.

The commission said the findings are significant because customer service breaches form part of each operator's compliance record and will be taken into account in future relicensing decisions, including the terms and conditions of licences.

Emphasising that operators are free to make commercial decisions about packages and channels, the Broadcasting Commission said, "The issue is not the changes themselves, but the manner in which subscribers are treated. They are entitled to clear, timely and effective communication whenever their services are altered. Subscription television operators are accountable for meeting this standard."



Jatavia Howell, (third from left) representing the TCI Cadet Corps, accepts the cheque from the Hamilton Foundation. Sharing in moment from left are members of the Hamilton Foundation: Antwon Walkin, Tiffany Minnis, Dr. Rufus Ewing, Claudine Ewing and Ramon Andrews.



Claudine Ewing (centre), CEO of United Way, accepts the cheque from the Hamilton Foundation. Sharing in the moment are members of the Hamilton Foundation's Board, from left: Antwon Walkin, Tiffany Minnis, Dr. Rufus Ewing and Ramon Andrews

Three Charities Benefit from Hamilton Education Golf Classic Fundraiser

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Three charitable organizations have been named beneficiaries of proceeds from the inaugural Hamilton Education Golf Classic, with donations recently presented during a ceremony at the Hamilton Education Foundation's office in Grace Bay, Providenciales.

The fundraiser, organized by the Hamilton Education Community Foundation, raised approximately \$40,000 to support initiatives focused on education, youth development and community empowerment throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Hamilton Education Community Foundation serves as the philanthropic arm of the Hamilton Education Foundation and was established to support charitable causes across the country.

Speaking during the cheque presentation ceremony, Dr. Rufus Ewing said the golf tournament was designed not only to raise funds but also to bring greater awareness to organizations making a meaningful impact within the community.

"We had selected two of our prominent charities here in Turks and Caicos, the United Way TCI and the Cadet Corps as our preferred charities. The Youth Health Foundation was also one of those charities," Dr. Ewing said.

He explained that the Youth Health Foundation, an affiliate of the Ham-

ilton Education Community Foundation, has successfully hosted golf tournaments in the United States for several years. The foundation decided to bring the concept home to the Turks and Caicos Islands by merging those efforts with its own inaugural golf classic.

Although organizers initially hoped to raise \$60,000, Dr. Ewing said the tournament secured commitments totaling approximately \$40,000. He noted that the original plan was to distribute proceeds among the three selected charities. During the ceremony, donations were formally presented to United Way Turks and Caicos and the Turks and Caicos Islands Cadet Corps, while the Youth Health Foundation was also identified as a beneficiary of the fundraising initiative.

Accepting the donation on behalf of United Way Turks and Caicos, Claudine Ewing highlighted the organization's literacy programme, which has served more than 500 children since its launch in 2019.

"Currently, we are in three of the government primary schools, and in September we will be in our fourth school, thanks to donations such as this," she said. "It helps us to pay our teachers."

Ewing explained that the literacy intervention programme places specialized teachers in government schools to assist struggling readers and works closely with parents

and educators to improve learning outcomes. She said the organization plans to expand into a fourth school this September and eventually extend its services to Grand Turk, North Caicos, Middle Caicos and South Caicos.

Representing the Turks and Caicos Islands Cadet Corps, Jatavia Howell thanked the foundation for its support and outlined the programme's growing national reach.

She noted that the Cadet Corps currently serves 223 young people through units in Providenciales, Grand Turk, North Caicos and South Caicos, providing mentorship, leadership training and opportunities for civic engagement.

"This donation is going towards something that is bigger than all of us. It is going towards the youth of the Turks and Caicos Islands and ensuring that they have safe places to be and effective things to do with their time," Howell said.

The Cadet Corps has also expanded its offerings to include a marine branch in partnership with the TCI Regiment and Marine Police Unit and plans to launch an aviation branch later this year.

In the meantime, Dr. Ewing thanked members of the organizing committee for helping make the inaugural event a success and announced that the next Hamilton Education Foundation tournament will be held on Youth Day 2026 in memory

of the late Lieutenant Colonel Nimrol Beckles, former Head of the Cadet Corps.

Zoe Linares Garcia

Is Seeking to employ a

DOMESTIC WORKER

Responsibilities of this position include:

- To perform household chores, Daily cooking, cleaning, washing, folding clothes and ironing.

SALARY: \$8.00 per hour, Monday – Saturday

Please submit an application no later than Friday, June 18th, 2026 to: kornelcarter@gmail.com

Abundant Life Ministries International

is seeking to employ a

PLUMBER

Responsibilities include - Plumber fixes broken pipes and drains, upgrades existing plumbing. Their duties include measuring and cutting pipe to length, welding joints for a leak-free junction and using the correct type.

SALARY: \$10.00 per hour, Monday – Saturday.

Please apply no later than Friday, June 18, 2026, to: kornelcarter@gmail.com

SHARKS ARE KO CHAMPS



Hope laments 'all three areas' as West Indies lose ODI opener by 41 runs

Captain Shai Hope said West Indies must "tighten up in all three areas" after they fell 41 runs short against Sri Lanka in the opening One-Day International (ODI) at Sabina Park on Wednesday.

Chasing 304 for victory, the hosts were bowled out for 262 in 49.2 overs, handing Sri Lanka a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

"Obviously not the way we wanted to start the series. Just reflect on where things went wrong and where we can tighten up going forward. I can point to a few areas, not necessarily one in particular. All three areas of the game could have been a lot stronger, especially in the fielding department," Hope said after the defeat.

Sent in to bat, Sri Lanka posted 303-7 from their 50 overs, powered by half-centuries from Pathum Nissanka and Kusal Mendis. Nissanka top-scored with 79 runs, while Mendis added a brisk 72 runs, the pair sharing a 136-run second-wicket stand that laid the platform. Charith Asalanka's 45 off 44 balls and Janith Liyanage's unbeaten 42 from 28 balls

provided the late surge for the Sri Lankans.

"The bowlers probably could have bowled a lot tighter lines, especially at the start of the innings. We know that Sri Lankan batters tend to prey on the width that we give them, so we've got to tighten up the lines in the next game," Hope said.

For West Indies, the wickets were shared. Jayden Seales took two for 67 runs from his 10 overs, Matthew Forde impressed with two for 44 runs from nine overs, and Roston Chase claimed two for 47 runs from his 10 overs. They were the only wicket-takers for the hosts.

Hope was also critical of his side's work in the field after a missed chance off the very first ball of the match.

"In the field, we gave up a chance on the first ball of the game. When you give great players the opportunity to go again, it's always going to be difficult. You put yourself on the back foot every time and you're playing catch-up," he said.

West Indies' reply started brightly as openers John Campbell and

Justin Greaves put on 50 runs. Campbell was run out for 17 before Greaves was bowled by Maheesh Theekshana for 45 off 38 balls, leaving the score at 73-2.

Hope and Keacy Carty steadied the innings with a 52-run third-wicket stand, but Carty fell for 27 to Asitha Fernando, and the required rate began to climb. Hope brought up a composed 54 from 66 balls, striking two fours and two sixes before he was dismissed by Dushmantha Chameera at 166-5 in the 31st over.

"With the bat, there are certain areas where we could have been a lot more clinical. The openers got off to a great start once again, and then we just keep finding ways to get out. We've got to take more responsibility as batters, take the game as deep as we can, and find ways to win from any position," Hope urged. A 46-run partnership between Chase and Gudakesh Motie briefly kept West Indies in the hunt, but Chameera returned to end with four wickets for 67 runs from 10 overs. Theekshana was equally effective, taking two wickets for 26 from his 10 overs.

The match was briefly halted with West Indies 261-9 after 48.4 overs, still needing 43 from eight balls when the floodlights went out at Sabina Park. Play resumed once the lights came back on, but the hosts added just one run before being bowled out for 262. Despite the loss, Hope defended his decision to bowl first.

"Playing in Jamaica, you usually get a bit more moisture in the morning. The last few ODIs I've played here, every time you start at 9:30 am, it's always in the bowlers' favour. So I wouldn't change that decision," he said.



Tina Clayton leads Jamaican 100m sweep with season's best in Morocco

World Athletics Championship silver medalist Tina Clayton produced a season's best performance of 10.85 seconds to lead a Jamaican sweep of the medals in the women's 100m at Sunday's Meeting International Mohammed VI d'Athlétisme de Rabat in Morocco, the third stop on the Wanda Diamond League circuit.

Clayton, who got out quickly and controlled the race from the start, finished just shy of the meeting record 10.83 seconds set by Elaine Thompson-Herah in 2022.

Lavanya Williams placed second

in a personal best 10.95 seconds, while Jonielle Smith took third in 11.00 seconds, with both athletes making their Diamond League debuts.

Jamaica also picked up a podium finish in the women's 400m hurdles, where Rushell Clayton finished third in 53.75 seconds. Andrenette Knight placed eighth in 55.37 seconds.

The event was won by Slovakia's Emma Zapletalova, who set a national record and world-leading time of 52.82 seconds. American Anna Cockrell was second in 53.18 seconds.

In the women's high jump, La-

mara Distin finished joint fourth with a best clearance of 1.91m, while Kerrica Hill was ninth in the 100m hurdles in a season's best 12.71 seconds (1.2m/s) in her Diamond League debut. Nigeria's Tobi Amusan won in 12.28 seconds, breaking her own meet record of 12.45 seconds.

In the field events, Rajindra Campbell placed seventh in the men's shot put with 21.04m, after setting a national record of 22.34m in China last week. The event was won by American Joe Kovacs with a world-leading and meet record 22.58m.





The GK Foods Team

GK Foods booked their place in the final of the Turks and Caicos Islands Cricket Association (TCICA) Senior Men's Cricket Competition after defeating Omars by 15 runs in an entertaining semifinal encounter at the Downtown Ball Park on Sunday afternoon.

After winning the toss and electing to bat first, GK Foods posted a competitive 149 for 9 from their allotted 20 overs, thanks largely to a powerful innings from Rajakumar Kasi, who top-scored with 45 runs off 36 balls, striking two fours and four sixes.

Opening batsman Ganesan Kuthalingam provided an aggressive start, smashing 29 runs from just 18 deliveries, including five boundaries and one six. His attacking approach helped GK Foods gain early momentum before Omars fought

back with regular wickets.

Despite losing wickets at key intervals, GK Foods were able to maintain a healthy scoring rate of 7.5 runs per over, aided by a remarkable 43 extras, which proved crucial in the final outcome.

For Omars, Xavier Scott was the stand-out bowler, claiming 3 wickets for 36 runs from four overs. He received strong support from Ramauni Chang, who picked up 2 for 25, and Daleovaun Hardware, whose economical spell of 2 for 8 from two overs kept the pressure on the batting side.

Omars Fall Short in Run Chase

Chasing a target of 150, Omars got off to a promising start through Rohan Hines, who blasted 37 runs from 28 balls, including one four and four sixes. His aggressive stroke play kept Omars in con-

GK Foods Advance to TCICA Senior Men's Cricket Final with Hard-Fought Victory Over Omars

tention during the early stages of the innings.

Xavier Scott continued his all-round contribution with a brisk 29 off 23 balls, striking five fours and one six, while Daleovaun Hardware added 15 runs. However, the middle and lower order struggled to build meaningful partnerships as wickets continued to tumble.

The turning point came through the exceptional bowling of Akhilesh Chaturakinarulla, who produced a match-winning spell of 4 wickets for just 6 runs from three overs. His accuracy and discipline dismantled the Omars batting lineup and effectively ended their hopes of reaching the target.

He was well supported by Ariharan Kuthalingam, who claimed 2 wickets for 30 runs, while Ashok Kumar and Rajakumar Kasi each collected a wicket.

At the end of their 20 overs, Omars finished on 134 for 8, falling short of the target as GK Foods secured victory and a place in the championship match.

Player of the Match

For his outstanding bowling perfor-

mance, Akhilesh Chaturakinarulla was named Player of the Match after his decisive figures of 4 wickets for 6 runs, which proved instrumental in GK Foods' triumph.

Road to the Final

The victory sends GK Foods into the TCICA Senior Men's Cricket Competition Final, where they await the winner of the second semifinal between Beaches and Police, scheduled for June 7, 2026. The championship final is set for June 21, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. according to the TCICA playoff schedule.

Match Summary

GK Foods 149/9 (20 overs)

Rajakumar Kasi 45, Ganesan Kuthalingam 29

Xavier Scott 3/36, Ramauni Chang 2/25, Daleovaun Hardware 2/8

Omars 134/8 (20 overs)

Rohan Hines 37, Xavier Scott 29

Akhilesh Chaturakinarulla 4/6, Ariharan Kuthalingam 2/30

Result: GK Foods won by 15 runs and advanced to the TCICA Senior Men's Cricket Final.

Salt Rakers Showcases Grand Prize Kia K3 in Major Fundraising Raffle

The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club proudly displayed the brand-new 2026 Kia K3, the grand prize in its upcoming fundraising raffle, during a promotional event held at Graceway Gourmet on Saturday, May 30.

The raffle marks the official launch of a major fundraising initiative aimed at supporting the development of young swimmers and strengthening the club's aquatic programs throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Sponsored through Connolly Motors, the sleek 2026 Kia K3 serves as the headline prize and has already generated considerable excitement among residents. Club officials say the raffle is designed not only to raise essential funds but also to encourage community involvement in youth sports and athlete development.

In addition to the grand prize vehicle, participants will have the chance to win an impressive range of prizes donated by local businesses and tourism partners. These include luxury resort stays, private excursions, dining experiences, shopping vouchers, transportation services, and swimming-related opportunities.

The prize lineup includes:

1st Prize: 2026 Kia K3 courtesy of Con-



A female supporter, who purchased a raffle ticket for a chance to win the 2026 Kia K3 motorcar joined Bennett Williams, President of the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club in taking a photograph beside the car on Saturday, May 30, in the Graceway Gourmet Parking Lot.

nolly Motors

2nd Prize: Private yacht excursion voucher for eight guests, including food, beverages, and snorkeling equipment

3rd Prize: Two-night stay in a two-bedroom suite at Ocean Club Resorts

4th Prize: Two-night oceanfront suite stay at Grace Bay Club with daily breakfast

5th Prize: Beaches Turks and Caicos day pass for two adults and two children

6th Prize: Dinner-for-two gift certificate

from West Bay Club

7th Prize: Stand-up paddle eco-tour gift certificate from Big Blue Collective

8th Prize: US\$500 IGA Supermarket gift certificate

9th Prize: US\$250 Pegasus VIP Transport gift certificate

10th Prize: One month of free-swimming lessons for one child through Salt Rakers Aquatic Club

Club representatives are encouraging residents, supporters, and members of the wider community to purchase tickets and contribute to the continued growth of swimming and aquatic sports in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Operating under the campaign theme, "Support Our Club. Make a Splash. Change Lives!", the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club hopes to rally widespread support for its mission of providing young athletes with opportunities to excel both in and out of the pool.

For many years, Salt Rakers has played a vital role in nurturing local swimming talent, helping young people develop competitive skills, confidence, discipline, and a lifelong appreciation for aquatic sports.

Organizers say additional details regarding ticket sales and the official raffle draw date will be announced soon.

SONIA FULFORD RE-ELECTED UNOPPOSED TO LEAD TCIFA FOR ANOTHER FOUR YEARS

Sonia Fulford has secured another four-year term as President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) after being re-elected unopposed during the Association's Congress held on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at the TCIFA National Academy.

Fulford's re-election was accompanied by the unopposed return of four Council Members, Paula Garland, Patrick Baptist, Kenneth Adams and Jamaine Malcolm, as delegates unanimously endorsed the leadership team to continue guiding football development across the Turks and Caicos Islands through 2030.

The uncontested elections reflected the confidence TCIFA members have in the current administration, which has overseen significant progress in youth football, coaching and referee education, competition management, governance, and infrastructure development over the past four years.

Addressing delegates following her re-election, Fulford expressed gratitude for the continued support shown by the football community.

"It is a privilege to continue serving the football community of the Turks and Caicos Islands," she said. "I am grateful for the confidence placed in us by our



L-R Front, Seated: Lisa Garland (2nd VP), Sonia Fulford (President), Michael McDonald (1st VP). The L-R Back: Kenneth Adams, Ryan Blain (Director of Finance), Jamaine Malcolm, Paula Garland, Patrick Baptist, Patrice Senior, Steve Kendrew

members and stakeholders. Together, we will continue to build on the progress achieved over recent years and work toward creating even greater opportunities for our players, coaches, referees, administrators, clubs and football families throughout the islands." The annual Congress brought together delegates, stakeholders and members of the local football fraternity to review

the Association's accomplishments over the past year and discuss priorities for the future. Reports presented during the meeting highlighted continued growth in grassroots and youth football programmes, advancements in technical education, improvements in governance, and ongoing efforts to strengthen football infrastructure nationwide. Delegates also discussed strategic initia-

tives aimed at expanding participation, enhancing player development pathways, improving technical standards, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of football throughout the country. With a renewed mandate, the re-elected Council has pledged to continue strengthening football at all levels while maintaining a focus on good governance, member support and creating opportunities for athletes to reach their full potential.

Delegates acknowledged the progress made under the outgoing term and expressed optimism about the future direction of the Association under Fulford's continued leadership.

TCIFA Council (2026-2030)
President

- Sonia Fulford
- Council Members
- Paula Garland
- Patrick Baptist
- Kenneth Adams
- Jamaine Malcolm

The successful conclusion of the 2026 Congress marks the beginning of a new chapter for the TCIFA as it continues its mission to grow the sport, increase participation, and foster national pride through football across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Boating Changes to Facilitate Race for the Conch Eco-Sea Swim

The Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) is notifying the public that a large area of Grace Bay will be closed to boat traffic all morning Saturday, 27 June 2026 until noon for the upcoming "Race for the Conch" Eco-Sea Swim.

Specifically, per attached map, the swim race area includes the boat channel by the Club Med dock in front of Rickie's Flamingo Cafe, as well as the water 100 meters offshore from the Club Med beach and 100 meters off the beach in front of Ocean Club East, Tuscany, and Venetian all the way out

to Coral House.

Swimmers should be finished in the section west of the Club Med dock by 10 am. However, the section of the race east of the Club Med dock, including the boat channel, and out to the Coral House will continue to be in use until noon for other races.

It is imperative that boats keep out of the swim race areas during the entire event lest swimmers be put in serious danger.

This non-profit activity has been approved by the TCI Sports Commission and the DECR.



The diagram airmarked for restriction during the Race for the Conch

SWA Sharks Crowned TCIFA Provo Premier League Knock-Out Champions

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

SWA Sharks FC staged an impressive second-half comeback to defeat Cheshire Hall FC 4-1 and capture the Beaches-sponsored Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) Provo Premier League (PPL) Knock-Out Championship at the TCIFA National Academy Field on Saturday.

Cheshire Hall FC appeared to be on course for victory after taking a 1-0 lead into the half-time break. Midfielder Idelin Gardiner opened the scoring in the 21st minute, giving Cheshire Hall the advantage after a tightly contested first half. However, the Sharks emerged from the interval with renewed energy and quickly turned the match around. Junior Paul leveled the score in the 48th minute before Marc-Edy Longchamp put SWA Sharks ahead five minutes later with a well-taken goal in the 53rd minute.

The pressure continued to mount on Cheshire Hall, and the Sharks extended their lead in the 57th minute when Jadon Montilus inadvertently turned the ball into his own net for an own goal. Junior Paul then sealed the championship victory with his second goal of the match in the 79th minute, completing a dominant second-half performance and securing a 4-1 triumph.

Paul's outstanding two-goal display earned him the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award for SWA Sharks, while Ralph Sylvestre was named MVP for Cheshire Hall FC.

The only caution of the final was issued to SWA Sharks' El-balet Eugene in first-half stoppage time (45+2).

The championship match was officiated by referee Orville



The Sharks Team in a celebratory mood

Morgan, assisted by Xavier Scott and Paul McDonald, with Dane Richie serving as fourth official.

Academy Eagles Secure Third Place

Earlier in the day, Academy Eagles FC claimed third place in the PPL Knock-Out competition with an emphatic 4-0 victory over Beaches FC.

After a scoreless first half, Academy Eagles exploded offensively in the closing stages of the match. Jean Innocent broke the deadlock in the 78th minute before adding his second goal five minutes later in the 83rd minute. Juvensle Romeus made it 3-0 in the 84th minute, and Renaldo Santil completed the scoring in the 87th minute.

There were no cautions issued in the third-place playoff.

Tray Ferguson was named Beaches FC's Player of the Match, while Academy Eagles striker Jean Innocent earned Player of the Match honors for his two-goal performance.

Andrea Cope served as Match Commissioner for the fixture.



Paul's outstanding two-goal display earned him the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award for SWA Sharks