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**We Did Not Retreat on Business License Bill**  
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# Operation Shepherd In High Gear



**All Police being Mobilized for the Christmas Season**

# Government Confirms 60/40 After Drafting Error

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands has issued a detailed clarification on the status of the Business Licensing (Amendment) Bill, responding to rising public concern over proposed changes to business ownership rules and firmly asserting that Cabinet “did not retreat” from its policy position.

Instead, the Government says it intervened to correct an unintended drafting error and restore consistency with Cabinet’s original direction. According to the statement from the Office of the Premier, the amendment emerged from a comprehensive review of the Business Licensing Framework, launched in 2023 to modernize the regime, close regulatory loopholes, encourage economic participation, and address long-standing issues such as fronting and unequal access to opportunities.

During public consultation, stakeholders provided substantial feedback, particularly on ownership thresholds and reserved business categories. However, the Government noted that participation tends to increase only after proposals reach the legislative debate stage, when stakeholders perceive their interests as most directly at risk.

During parliamentary scrutiny, officials discovered that the draft Bill had inadvertently imposed a blanket 100% Islander-ownership requirement for the Reserved Business Category. This provision, they stressed, was not in line with Cabinet’s instructions. Once the error was iden-



Premier Hon. Washington Misick

tified, the Bill was paused to allow for review, correction, and broader consultation to ensure that local entrepreneurs would not face unintended harm.

The Premier explained that although a 100% ownership rule might appear attractive in principle, it would be impractical in application, particularly in industries requiring significant capital investment or working capital.

Turks and Caicos Islanders often face high collateral requirements, limited access to credit, and elevated interest rates, conditions that can impede purely local ownership and potentially weaken business resilience.

A rigid ownership requirement, the Government cautioned, could there-

fore undermine the very empowerment objective it aimed to advance. Cabinet has now reaffirmed its commitment to a balanced 60/40 ownership framework, requiring a minimum of 60% Islander equity while allowing up to 40% non-Islander participation.

The Government argues this model secures meaningful local control while enabling businesses to benefit from external capital, expertise, and strategic partnerships essential for competitiveness and growth. Similar arrangements, they noted, are successfully used in other small-island economies such as Mauritius, Jamaica, and Barbados, where structured equity frameworks promote domestic empowerment without limiting

economic development.

To guard against fronting arrangements, where foreign actors retain effective control despite nominal local ownership, the Government outlined a series of strengthened safeguards. These include ensuring that voting rights and board control remain with Islander shareholders, granting locals the right of first refusal on share transfers, implementing mandatory rules for profit distribution, and enhancing oversight through the Inland Revenue Department.

The statement also emphasized that these corrective actions represent responsible governance, not a concession. “Cabinet did not ‘retreat,’” the Government declared. “It corrected an error; it restored policy integrity; and it strengthened the empowerment and investment framework in a way that withstands constitutional, economic, and political scrutiny.”

The Bill will now be redrafted to reflect Cabinet’s intent, including proper ownership rules, transitional protections, and anti-fronting measures. Once completed, it will return to the legislative process for further consideration.

The Premier reaffirmed the Administration’s commitment to transparency, fairness, and long-term stability, stating that the objective remains to establish a “fair and sustainable framework” that empowers Turks and Caicos Islanders, closes loopholes, and protects legitimate businesses while advancing national development priorities.

## Provo Water Company Reaffirms Disconnection Rules, Introduces New Fees

Provo Water Company (PWCo) is reminding customers of its long-standing disconnection and reconnection procedures as the utility announced a series new service fees that took effect on December 1.

The company says the updates are aimed at improving efficiency and ensuring customers are fully aware of the timelines and costs involved in managing their accounts.

### Clear Deadlines for Payment

According to PWCo, water bills must be paid within 15 days of the invoice date. Customers who fall behind may face disconnection, which takes place on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Once disconnected, the customer must settle the full outstanding balance before water

service can be restored.

### How Reconnection Works

The company also outlined its reconnection schedule. Payments made before 2:00 p.m. will result in a same-day reconnection later that afternoon. However, payments completed after 2:00 p.m. will push reconnection to the next business day. PWCo further cautions customers who rely on online banking that payments can take up to two business days to appear on their account, a delay that could affect the timing of reconnection.

### New Fees

Beginning December 1, several new charges will take effect. A \$100 Rushed Service Fee will apply when customers request same-day recon-

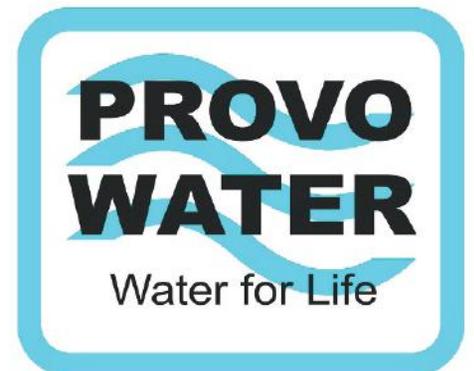
nection after 2:00 p.m. following a non-payment disconnection. This fee is in addition to the standard \$25 reconnection fee. The same rushed fee will apply for same-day service activation requests made after 2:00 p.m., as the normal activation window is 48 hours.

A \$25 Service Call Fee will be charged when a technician visits a property in response to a customer report but finds the issue is not related to PWCo equipment or service.

For customers seeking meter-related assistance, such as tracing or confirming a connection, a Meter Verification Fee of \$75 per hour will apply. PWCo says customers must acknowledge and agree to any applicable fees before a work order is issued.

### Support Available

The company stresses that support is always available for customers who have questions about their bill, service, or the new fees. Residents can call PWCo at (649) 946-5202 or email [Customerservice@provowater.com](mailto:Customerservice@provowater.com), for assistance.



# BE AWARE

**DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE**

LOVED ONES ARE AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL HOME



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

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





# 104 Illegal Structures Bulldozed From Private Land in Kew Town

The Informal Settlements Unit (ISU) supported the Planning Department and other government agencies in a two-phase reclamation exercise in Kew Town, Providenciales.

The operation, which was carried out at the request of the private landowner who engaged the services of a private contractor, involved the removal of illegal structures that had been erected without authorisation.

The landowner formally sought the assistance of the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands to reclaim the land. In response, the Planning Department led a coordinated, multi-agency effort supported by the ISU, the Crown Land Unit, the Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force and the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force who maintained security throughout both phases.

The first phase of reclamation occurred



on August 14, 2025, during which approximately ninety-eight structures were removed. The second and final phase took place on November 6, 2025 during which, six additional illegal structures were demolished, and all associated debris was cleared from the site.

The successful completion of this operation underscores the effectiveness of interagency cooperation and reaffirms the government's commitment to supporting lawful land use and responsible stewardship of property across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

# Acting Deputy Commissioner Kendall Grant Attends High Level Regional Security Meeting in Panama

Acting Deputy Commissioner Kendall Grant recently attended a two-day, high-level conference in Panama on empowering nations to strengthen cooperation on the illegal trafficking of firearms in the Caribbean. Senior law enforcement staff, international partners, and United Nations officials met to discuss the increasing threat posed by unauthorized firearms entering the region, especially through networks that are connected to the instability in Haiti. Deputy Commissioner Grant stated that

the trafficking of firearms remains one of the most significant sources of violent crime throughout the Caribbean region. "This meeting solidified our commitment to robust regional collaboration, intelligence sharing and coordinated enforcement to disrupt the supply chains bringing illegal weapons to our islands," he said. Participants reviewed the latest international initiatives to track down, interdict and investigate firearms trafficking. They agreed on practical measures to strength-

en border security and compliance with the UN Security Council Resolution 2653 embargo. Deputy Commissioner Grant added, "For the Turks and Caicos Islands, this work is vital as we are positioned between regional trafficking corridors. We continue to see the cost of illicit firearms to public safety. Strengthening these partnerships and incorporating evidence-based measures will go a long way in protecting our communities and supporting regional security."



# Operation Shepherd In High Gear

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Operation Shepherd, the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force's (RTCIPF) major seasonal crime-prevention initiative, is now in its second week, with Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey affirming that the Force is "fully mobilised" to protect residents, citizens, and visitors throughout the busy Yuletide and peak tourism period. Commissioner Bailey provided the update during a recent news conference held at Police Headquarters in Providenciales, where he outlined the country's current crime landscape and the strategic measures being deployed heading into the festive season.

He described Operation Shepherd as a comprehensive, all-hands-on-deck approach designed to heighten police presence and visibility across the Islands' busiest commercial and tourist zones.

The initiative officially launched on Friday, November 21, 2025, and calls for every available officer to be ready for island-wide deployment.

"This initiative will ensure increased police presence and visibility across business districts during this festive period. All officers will be called upon to make themselves available for deployment, reinforcing our commitment to safeguard the well-being of every citizen, resident and visitor," Commissioner Bailey said.

He added that the Force has strengthened partnerships with private security companies and key industry stakeholders.

"We have met and agreed with

major security companies and stakeholders to execute joint security initiatives during this period. Our goal is simple, to create an environment where people can enjoy this season of cheer and giving in safety and peace."

## Tourism Policing Takes Centre Stage

With the peak tourist season underway, Bailey outlined that the RTCIPF is shifting more resources toward tourism-focused policing. Commissioner Bailey underscored that the Islands' status as a premier global destination demands constant vigilance.

"We will see a stronger focus on tourism policing, with resources strategically realigned to protect and enhance our vibrant tourist destination, especially within the business district," he noted. "I am making a commitment to create a secure, enjoyable nightlife experience that leaves every citizen, resident and visitor feeling confident and welcome."

He further highlighted that while crime against tourists remains statistically low, the Force remains proactive.

"When we look at the annual visitor numbers of approximately two million per year, these reports represent approximately 0.0025% of tourists being victims of crime," Bailey said. "If we focus only on incidents where a person was likely present, that figure drops to 0.0009%." He stressed that these outcomes reflect a deliberate policing strategy that has "kept tourists safe" while preserving the nation's reputation.

## A Force in Transformation



Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey

Commissioner Bailey reiterated the RTCIPF's long-term mission of building a modern, accountable police organisation equipped for evolving security challenges.

"Your Force is on the pathway of becoming the best it has ever been," he declared. "Whilst we understand that change invites discussion, we value every voice in our community."

He emphasised that the ongoing transformation prioritises professional standards, transparency, and stronger community partnerships.

"Our transformational journey is about building a police force that stands the test of time, professional, accountable and deeply connected to the peo-

ple it serves."

Looking ahead, the Commissioner voiced confidence in what he described as a shared national vision of harmony and safety.

"We are optimistic about what lies ahead, safer neighbourhoods, empowered families and a culture of trust and collaboration. With unity and shared purpose, we will create a safer tomorrow for all who call these Islands home."

As Operation Shepherd advances through the holiday period, the RTCIPF urges members of the public to remain vigilant, cooperate with officers, and prioritise personal safety, ensuring that the 2025 Christmas season remains both joyful and secure for all.

# How technology can transform Caribbean disaster response

In the face of a disaster, the difference between quick recovery and prolonged hardship often comes down to one thing: information. Who is affected? How severe are the damages? Who needs help first? In the Caribbean, where disasters are growing stronger and more frequent, technology can turn chaos into action.

The reality on the ground is that, too often, communities wait weeks for assessments before help arrives. A farmer loses not only her crops, but also stored seeds and irrigation equipment. A fisher is left without nets, fuel, or safe harbour access. A market vendor loses stock during a power outage but still owes rent and supplier fees. These delays aren't because governments don't care, but because the systems we rely on are slow and need improvement.

As we've seen with recent storms, like Hurricane Melissa, delays in assessment mean missed planting seasons, extended income loss, and avoidable setbacks across multiple sectors.

Can technology help? Only when it fits our realities.

Caribbean Policy Development Centre's (CPDC) research across five Caribbean countries shows that only 21 per cent of community organisations currently keep vulnerability data on their members. That means most cooperatives, credit unions, and civil society

organisations (CSO) simply don't have records ready and on hand about who is most at risk. Whether it's the elderly farmer without irrigation equipment, the young fisher still repaying a motor loan, or the market vendor dependent on refrigeration with no backup power, help is harder to target, and delays are sure to happen.

Digital tools like shared databases, mobile apps and surveys, and even SMS-based tools can help local organisations identify risks and track their members' needs in real time. Imagine a cooperative with an app showing which members are most exposed to flooding or a credit union instantly verifying who qualifies for an emergency payout after a storm. CPDC's research recommends testing digital tools across the region through cooperatives CSOs to help track member risk and deliver disaster support faster, starting with small-scale action rather than large technological overhauls.

#### Not Everyone Has Equal Access

Across the region, access to smart devices and stable Internet is not the same for everyone. Many women, rural families, and the elderly are not using apps. Power outages after storms make digital tools temporarily inaccessible. If technology is built without considering gender, age, connectivity, or socio-economic gaps, the people most at risk remain excluded and unprotected.



Photo shows a house completely destroyed during the passage of Hurricane Melissa, and its content lay bear in the elements

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That is why any move towards a smart Caribbean must consider who has digital access, who requires in-person support, and how to use technology to complement — not replace — human networks. It must help organise data and blend digital tools with long-standing traditional methods of support to determine what systems will truly work on the ground.

Technology and Community-led Finance Technology also strengthens meso-level climate and disaster risk finance and insurance (CDRFI). Parametric insurance, for example, relies on weather data triggers, like rainfall or wind speed, so payouts can happen automatically without lengthy inspections. Satellite imagery, weather stations, and mobile money transfers combine to ensure that affected families receive funds within days, not months.

For informal workers, technology can be the key to inclusion. Mobile payments mean fishers without bank accounts can still receive insurance payouts. Digital surveys allow market vendors to register with their associations quickly, building the databases needed to prove their vulnerability. Even WhatsApp groups can serve as rapid communication channels during emergencies, linking communities to trusted organisations.

Recovery Must Start Tools alone won't make us ready, but tools combined with trusted institutions can. With meso-level CDRFI and the right technology we can shorten recovery times, target assistance more fairly, and ensure that no one is left behind. A Caribbean powered

by smarter data, trusted institutions, and people-centred tools is one in which recovery happens faster and fewer families are forced to start over.

CPDC's research provides a roadmap for how technology and meso-level CDRFI can work hand in hand to make this possible. The next step is putting those tools in the hands of the people who know their communities best.

Climate change isn't waiting, and neither should we.

Chalsey Gill Anthony is an environmental communicator on behalf of Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC).



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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department



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Application forms can be found at the Crown Land Unit offices on Providenciales and Grand Turk, with your local district commissioner on the sister islands, and on our website at [www.gov.tc/crownland](http://www.gov.tc/crownland).

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**Providenciales:**  
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Downtown

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[www.gov.tc/crownland](http://www.gov.tc/crownland)





Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam (third from left – front row) and Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Kyle Knowles share in a photo moment with health, business and civic stakeholders at the National HIV Campaign Stakeholder Meeting at the Governor's Office.



Photo of the National HIV Stakeholders Meeting at the Governor's Office.

# Steady Rise in HIV Cases Alarms Turks and Caicos Islands, TCI Hospital Reports

The Turks and Caicos Islands is experiencing a steady and concerning rise in HIV cases, according to a news release from TCI Hospital, which cites recent data from the Ministry of Health and Human Services.

The release highlights that national HIV diagnoses, once recorded in low numbers, have shown a consistent upward trend. The country documented 22 cases in 2020, 20 in 2021, and 11 in 2022. Infections then began climbing again with 21 cases in 2023, followed by a sharp escalation to 79 new cases in 2024, the highest annual total in recent years.

According to TCI Hospital, the rise has continued into 2025. As of June, the Ministry has already confirmed 36 new HIV cases, suggesting the country may be on course for another elevated year if the trend persists. The hospital notes that this multi-year increase underscores growing gaps in prevention, testing, and awareness.

December 1 marks the worldwide observance of World AIDS Day. This year, it is observed under the theme: "Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response."

The release from the TCI Hospital emphasized the need to protect decades of progress while accelerating efforts to end AIDS by 2030. The release warns that rising case numbers highlight the urgency of strengthening the national HIV response.

According to TCI Hospital, addressing the steady rise in HIV cases will require immediate action on several fronts:

#### **Address Inequity**

The release notes that stigma and discrimination continue to deter many individuals from seeking testing or treatment, limiting access to essential HIV services.

#### **Strengthen and Integrate Services**

TCI Hospital highlights the need for easier access to prevention, testing, and treatment, emphasizing the importance of strong community-based support systems.

#### **Empower Communities**

The hospital stresses that community-led organizations are central to the HIV response and require sustained support and funding.

#### **Invest in Innovation**

The release calls for greater investment in modern, affordable tools, including digital health and AI-driven technologies, to improve prevention and care outcomes.

#### **Ensure Sustainable Funding**

According to the hospital, consistent local and international funding is needed to stabilize the HIV response and halt the upward trend in new infections.

#### **A Collaborative Path Forward**

The news release from TCI Hospital concludes that reversing the steady rise in HIV cases will require united efforts across government, healthcare systems, community groups, families, and individuals. With renewed commitment, the Turks and Caicos Islands can work toward strengthening prevention, reducing stigma, and improving access to life-saving services.

#### **Governor hosts National HIV Campaign Stakeholder Meeting**

Meanwhile, in response to the recorded increase in HIV cases and the possibility that some individuals may feel hesitant or fearful to seek care, Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam and the Minister of Health and Human Services, Hon. Kyle Knowles, recently hosted a national HIV Campaign Stakeholder Meeting at the Governor's Office.

The roundtable brought together key health professionals, government and

non-governmental partners and representatives from the private sector to strengthen the Turks and Caicos Islands' response to HIV. This meeting forms a central component of a renewed effort to improve HIV awareness, prevention and access to care. Discussions focused on aligning national messaging, identifying data needs to inform action and mapping out coordinated actions for a refreshed public education campaign. Participants included senior officials from the Ministry of Health and Human Services, public health clinicians from primary and secondary care, the Health and Wellness Foundation, Red Cross, community advocates, faith leaders and officials from HMP Grand Turk. The UK Health Security Agency also contributed to the dialogue, supporting evidence-based planning.

Attendees reviewed the current HIV situation across the Turks and Caicos Islands, examined factors driving transmission and outlined key areas for targeted interventions. The group also explored effective communication channels, including community outreach, cross-sector, social media and faith-based organisations.

Her Excellency emphasised the importance of collaboration, noting: "Our ability to strengthen HIV prevention and care relies on clear data, coordinated partnerships and a campaign that speaks to all communities with dignity, accuracy and compassion. Today's discussions ensure that our next steps are informed by those closest to the public health response."

Minister Knowles reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment, adding:

"We remain focused on ensuring that people across the Turks and Caicos Islands have access to testing, treatment and support. These discussions help us advance a unified, modern and proac-

tive national campaign."

The meeting concluded with agreement on key roles, responsibilities and priority actions to ensure strengthened support and the required outreach and education campaign.

The renewed campaign will complement ongoing public health initiatives and support the Turks and Caicos Islands continued efforts to reduce stigma, empower communities and sustain the goal of eliminating mother-to-child transmission and reducing new infections.

As the world observes World AIDS Day, the Governor's Office and the Ministry of Health reaffirm their commitment to a coordinated, evidence-led and inclusive national HIV response for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

If you would like more information, including options to get tested or receive treatment, please speak to your General Practitioner, visit the Health and Wellness Foundation, [www.tchealthandwellnessfoundation.org](http://www.tchealthandwellnessfoundation.org) or contact the Ministry of Health and Human Services at [www.gov.tv/moh](http://www.gov.tv/moh).

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# Highlights of the Return of Miss Universe Turks and Caicos Bereniece Dickenson

Bereniece Dickenson, the 2025 Miss Universe Turks and Caicos contestant returned home from Thailand to a jubilant welcome atmosphere, which began from her emergence at the Howard Hamilton International Airport to the Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort Villages and Spa, where a well-attended reception, by current and past politicians, and other movers and shakers, was held in her honour. On her way to the event at Beaches, she made a short stop at the Business Solutions store, here a brief reception was held in tribute to her. The following are photo highlights of the Beaches event.





Gabrielle Martin (left), led the TCI to second place overall in the Taste of the Caribbean Culinary Competition, by winning the Caribbean Junior Chef title.

# Gabrielle Martin Crowned Caribbean Junior Chef as Team TCI Takes Second Place Overall at Taste of the Caribbean

Turks and Caicos has once again proven its growing strength on the regional culinary stage, returning from the 2025 Taste of the Caribbean competition with multiple accolades, including the prestigious Caribbean Junior Chef title won by rising local talent Gabrielle Martin.

The TCI placed second overall.

Martin, representing Team TCI alongside senior chefs and mentors, spoke with pride and gratitude upon her return home.

"I feel very proud and I'm very grateful for this opportunity," she said. "I'm glad that all the hard work that me and my team put in paid off. We were able to reap what we sowed."

Despite being the final competitor of the delegation to enter the kitchen, giving her plenty of time to get nervous, Martin said the moment she began cooking, everything clicked.

"Once I got into the kitchen and I was actually starting to work on my dish with Chef Joe, I started to get into the flow. Everything became easy, almost like second nature."

**The Winning Dish**

Martin's award-winning plate showcased two assigned proteins, certified Angus beef and ground pork, transformed into a bold, creative expression of Turks and Caicos culinary flair. Her dish featured:

- Coconut sweet potato purée
- Jerk plantain
- Pork croquettes
- Spiced certified Angus beef glazed with watermelon and Bamarra Rum
- Watermelon and rind Escovitch

Judges praised both her technique and her ability to fuse Caribbean ingredients with modern execution.

Leading the Turks and Caicos delegation this year was Chef Charles Joseph, a private chef

and longstanding mentor within the local culinary community. Joseph said the team went in focused and well-prepared, relying on extensive practice sessions and adaptable "base dishes" to ensure athletes could handle any protein or twist thrown their way.

"You get a little adrenaline every year," he said. "Walking into a competition with 11 countries can be overwhelming, but we teach the team to stay focused. We stuck together, and we practiced a lot."

Joseph said Martin's win, along with Team TCI's strong second-place overall finish,

is evidence of the momentum building in Turks and Caicos' culinary scene.

"Culinary has come a long way, and there's still work to do, but look at Gabby, talent is growing," he said. "With the help of media, social platforms, and programs like the TCI Hospitality Adventure "Lit'l Chefs" Camp, we're seeing more young people get motivated."

He also pointed to the broader impact of culinary showcases and competitions on the local industry.

"There are so many talented chefs here who just need opportunities. When we first com-

peted in 2016, by the second-year other countries were already worried about us," he laughed. "That shows the impact Turks and Caicos is having. It's amazing to see the young people coming up."

Traditionally known worldwide for "sun, sand, and sea," Turks and Caicos is now carving out a place in the Caribbean's culinary map, something Joseph believes is long overdue.

**"To win accolades in culinary means a lot," he said. "There's so much talent here that hasn't been showcased. This is proof that we're going places."**



Members of the successful TCI Team are greeted at the Howard Hamilton International Airport in Providenciales, by local TCHTA members and well-wishers.

# Response to the Grant Thornton Report and Recent SUN Newspaper Articles

*An Op-Ed by Hon. Jameka Williams*

I have read the Grant Thornton economic assessment, Hayden Boyce's editorial titled "The Business Licence Amendment Bill 2025 is a Direct Assault on Economic Sense," and the additional article published in The SUN that claims the proposed Bill could cause widespread unemployment, recession, and constitutional issues. I want to be clear from the outset that I respect their views and their right to express them. Dialogue is essential in any democracy, however respecting someone's opinion does not mean accepting it as truth, particularly when it overlooks the longstanding inequalities endured by Turks and Caicos Islanders. Both articles, along with the report, examine the proposed Bill solely through the lens of foreign investment, external capital, and investor comfort. They highlight possible declines in GDP growth, legal disputes, and shifts in international perceptions. Yet none of these publications address the deeper, longstanding crisis that has been unfolding for years in our own communities. They do not reflect the lived realities of Turks and Caicos Islanders, especially our young people, who are too often forced to accept whatever job they can find because meaningful opportunities remain reserved for others. While the articles warn about hypothetical unemployment to come, not one provides a report on the many Turks and Caicos Islanders already unemployed or underemployed despite the booming economy around them. These publications warn about potential economic decline, but where are the reports documenting the many Turks and Caicos Islanders who have been leaving home because they feel displaced in their own country. Foreigners are increasingly recreating our culture and shaping our way of life while our own people are expected to conform to their norms rather than newcomers respecting and embracing ours. This cultural imbalance is happening alongside economic exclusion, yet it receives no analysis, no report, and no acknowledgment in the articles opposing this Bill. Development in the Turks and Caicos Islands has already begun to outgrow our people, leaving many of us behind. This is not a distant fear, it is our present reality. If we do not act decisively now, this gap between development and local empowerment will continue to widen, leaving future generations with far fewer opportunities than even those available today. There are numerous stories across our islands that never find their way into economic studies or editorials. One ex-

ample is the single mother who works long hours in hospitality, often leaving home before her children wake and returning long after they go to bed. She has given twenty years of service, knows the job better than anyone, and is relied upon to train new foreign workers. Yet she is consistently overlooked for advancement, and the very workers she trains often become her supervisors. Her contribution is indispensable, but her opportunities remain limited. Another example is the local contractor who has mastered his craft through years of hard work. He is qualified, resourced, and capable of delivering major resort projects and multimillion dollar builds. Yet when new development arrives, investors frequently import their own construction teams. The local contractor is given only minimal subcontracted work, and even then the payment amounts are dictated to him with no room for negotiation. He watches foreign companies receive the prime contracts for work being done on his own soil while he is left with small, restricted opportunities that prevent him from scaling his business or competing fairly. There is also the believer whose name is being used to front a business. On paper, he is the owner, but in reality he holds no power, no authority, and no real share of the profits. He receives a small monthly payment, often offered during a vulnerable moment in his life, while the investors behind the operation earn millions. He may not fully grasp the extent of the profits being generated under his name. His belongingness becomes a tool that others use for access, while he gains nothing of substance in return. No foreign investor is asked to operate under such conditions, yet this has become a familiar experience for too many of our people. Reports repeatedly warn about the possible harm this Bill could bring, but none of them acknowledge the harm that already exists. They warn of young workers losing jobs, yet for decades our young people have been boxed out of meaningful employment in the sectors that dominate our economy. They are forced to settle for whatever entry level positions they can secure because leadership roles, management positions, and skilled opportunities are given to foreign hires. Many of our young people leave the islands, not by choice, but because they have no real pathway to advancement here at home. Fronting continues to undermine the integrity of our economy. Many businesses that appear locally owned are in fact controlled by foreign investors who use believer names as a legal shield. These arrangements silence local ownership, dilute opportunity, and prevent true



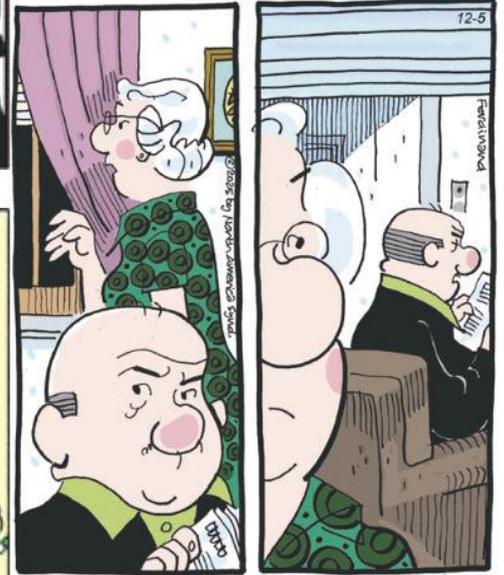
economic participation. Despite the severity of this issue, neither article nor the Grant Thornton report addresses it. The new SUN article warns about constitutional concerns, forced business closures, and legal liabilities, yet it overlooks the constitutional and moral concern of allowing a system to persist where Turks and Caicos Islanders cannot own, lead, or meaningfully participate in key areas of their own economy. It warns about possible international arbitration but fails to acknowledge the years of frustration felt by our citizens whose voices have long been silenced in their own country. It is also noticeable that some individuals and groups who previously did not engage in conversations about the struggles facing Turks and Caicos Islanders are now speaking loudly against measures intended to support our people. While their views are respected, it is clear that many of these concerns are rooted in how change may affect their interests or the interests of those they represent. These voices rarely express concern when locals are overlooked for promotions, when believers are excluded from leadership roles, or when young Turks and Caicos Islanders must train foreign workers who later outrank them. The government has a responsibility to prioritize the long term interests of

its people. Every sovereign nation in the world protects its citizens first and Turks and Caicos should be no different. The Business Licensing Amendment Bill is not designed to punish investors, it is designed to correct decades of imbalance that have placed Turks and Caicos Islanders at the margins of their own economy. Change may be uncomfortable, but meaningful progress requires decisive action. If we delay now, future generations will inherit an economy in which they have little access to ownership, leadership, or prosperity. This legislation is not anti investor. It is pro Islander. Foreign investment is welcome, but partnership must not overshadow local empowerment, equity, or opportunity. The Business Licensing Amendment Bill represents a necessary and timely step toward restoring fairness, protecting our national future, and ensuring that Turks and Caicos Islanders finally receive the opportunity, dignity, and ownership they deserve. I respect the views expressed in the reports and articles, but I stand firmly with the people of Turks and Caicos Islands. Our future depends on creating an economy where our people can flourish, participate fully, and thrive in the land that belongs to them.

**Hon. Jameka Williams**  
**Deputy All Island Elected Member**  
**Speaker**

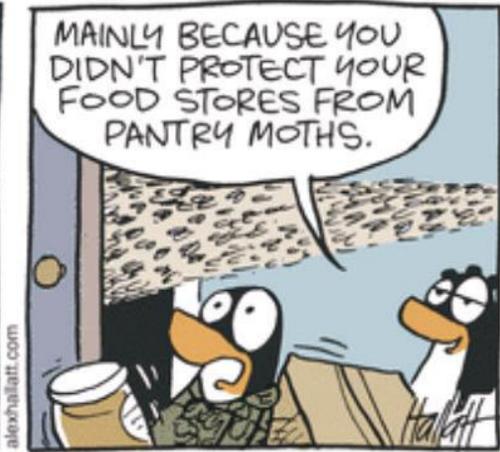


# NEWSLINE TGI COMICS

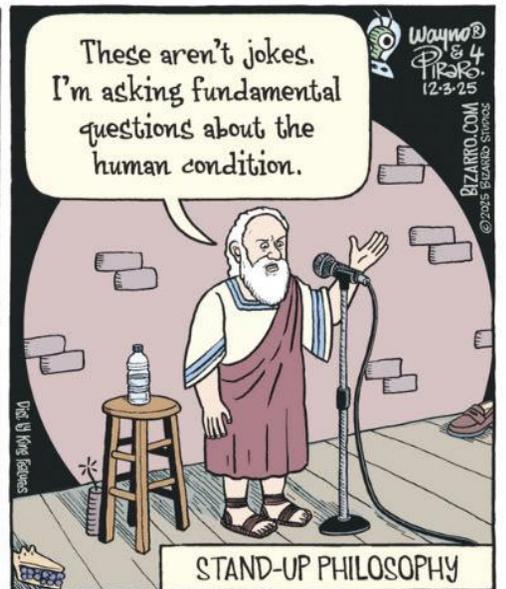
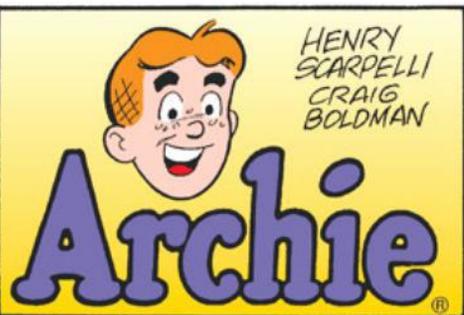


"DENNIS DIDN'T COME OVER TODAY."

"JUST BECAUSE IT'S DARK OUT DOESN'T MEAN THE DAY IS OVER."



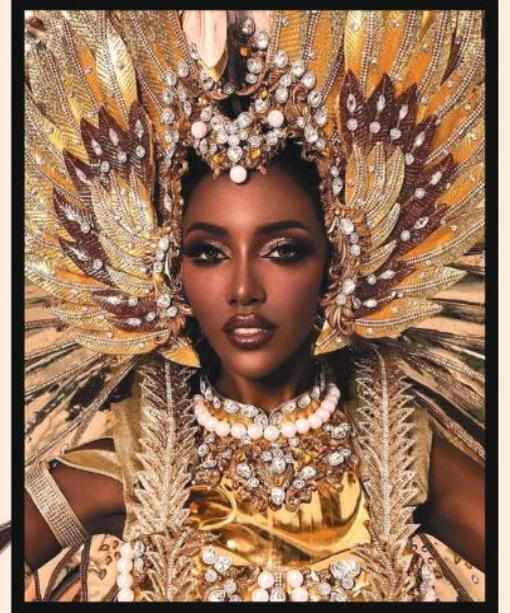
Based on the look on your face, I assume I THOUGHT OUT LOUD AGAIN.



"I need a room, with several people in an uncomfortable situation."

# The Brown Pelican Takes the Miss Universe Stage

NEWSLINE  
Heritage



**References:**

*Turks and Caicos Islands Government – National Symbols of the Turks and Caicos Islands*

*Turks and Caicos National Museum – Native and Migratory Bird Species of TCI*

*Bereniece Dickenson, 2025 Instagram Statement – Official remarks on the symbolism and inspiration behind the national costume.*

*All images courtesy of:*

*Bereniece Dickenson (@berenice\_dm)/Miss Universe TCI (@missuniversetci\_)*

*Miss Universe Turks & Caicos Organisation*

At the Miss Universe competition in Thailand, Bereniece Dickenson paid tribute to the Turks and Caicos Islands through a national costume inspired by the Brown Pelican, the country's national bird. The design featured two sculpted pelican heads, sweeping layered wings, and gold-and-brown detailing reflecting the bird's natural plumage and the islands' coastal heritage.

Bringing the concept to life was an international creative team led by designer Annisa Banyuwangi, with creative direction by Linette D. and styling by Ismac M., under the leadership of National Director Gabriela Clesca and Vice President Genuinely Trice. Together, the team translated the natural elegance of the pelican into high-impact stage design rooted in national symbolism.

Commonly seen along the shores and cays of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Brown Pelican has long symbolised resilience, maritime life, and survival by the sea. Through artistry and visual storytelling, this familiar national emblem was transformed into a moment of cultural representation on the global stage—bridging nature, national identity, and modern design.



## Highlights of Miss International Americas Queen, Farrah Grant's Return

Farrah Grant, who was crowned Miss International Americas at the Miss International Pageant in Japan last week, returned to the TCI on Wednesday, December 3. In the company of a Junkanoo Band, Farrah was met at the Howard Hamilton International Airport by First Lady, Mrs. Delthia Russell-Misick, Government Members of Parliament Hon. Wilin Belliard and Hon. Randy Howell. A host of well-wishers, including school children, presented her with flowers. Following the airport greeting, a private session was hosted in her honour at the Crackpot Kitchen Restaurant in Grace Bay. The following are photo highlights of the event.



# Life Line

## FEATURED CHURCH

### All Saints Mission Church

This week on Newsline Featured Church, we turn the spotlight on All Saints Mission Church, located along the Leeward Highway in Providenciales. The minister for that body of Christ is Pastor James Prospere. All Saints Church, which has one of the largest memberships of the any such body in the Turks and Caicos Islands, conducts two services on Sunday – the Sunday Morning Service and the Sunday Night Service. On Wednesday Night is Prayer Meeting and on Friday its their Youth Service.



## 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 Grand Turk,**  
Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289

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

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

**Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk**  
Tel:946-1866

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

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

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

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

**Roman Catholic Church,**  
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

**Methodist Church,**  
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# UNITED WAY “YES, I CAN READ” FAIR

The National Stadium, on Tuesday evening, was abuzz with excitement as the Annual United Way Turks and Caicos Islands’ annual ‘Yes, I Can Read’ Fair took center stage. The event saw dozens of pre-school and primary-age children flocking the various booths to eagerly read through the story books. The reading fair has become an eagerly anticipated event for the past three years for children across Providenciales. The event garnered a number of sponsors this year.





# WHY YOUR NERVOUS SYSTEM CRAVES ANCHORS

*Tiny, consistent daily choices that help your body feel safe*

By Monica Uttamchandani

Holistic Health Coach - Turks and Caicos

Your nervous system is always scanning for safety, and what you do repeatedly becomes your body's reference point. When your routines shift constantly, your system works harder to stay regulated. For the busy professional, consistency doesn't mean rigidity; it means creating reliable anchors that offer grounding and calm. Small, steady signals help lower cortisol and support digestion and emotional regulation. When your body knows what to expect, it can soften and operate from a calm baseline, giving you more energy to handle the day's stress.

Consistency is a Time-Saver, Not a Time Sink

Many busy people feel they can't afford a routine, but a predictable rhythm saves mental energy by reducing the daily chaos of decision-making. If you feel scattered or overstimulated, look at your daily anchors... the few moments you can make steady.

The nervous system learns safety through repetition. It doesn't need dramatic rituals. It needs steady, small cues that keep your body from guessing.

Here are Tiny Anchors your nervous system recognizes as safety:

- **The Same Wake Window (Even on Weekends):** Instead of aiming for the exact same time, aim for a 30-minute window for waking and sleeping. This gives your brain a reliable pattern without sacrificing flexibility.

- **The Hydration Habit:** Make your very first action of the day (before coffee) drinking a full glass of water. This single, easy habit signals nourishment and routine.

- **Protein-First Meals:** Prioritize protein, fiber, and healthy fats at meals. This consistency prevents wild energy dips that stress your system and lead to emotional fatigue.



Monica Uttamchandani

- **A "Closed" Signal:** Set a simple, predictable cue to end your work day. This could be a 5-minute boundary walk or simply

closing your laptop and leaving it closed. This signals to your brain that the "work is done" alert system can power down.

- **Pausing Before Reacting:** When faced with an unexpected email or stressor, physically wait three seconds before responding. You give your brain permission to choose a response instead of just reacting in survival mode.

Your habits tell your body what kind of world you live in. Fast, chaotic patterns tell it one thing. Calm, steady, predictable anchors tell it another. You teach your nervous system slowly, kindly, and with repetition that feels realistic for your busy life. For more simple practices that nourish your nervous system, follow @balancedbymonica on Instagram.

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

# THE STRAND TURKS AND CAICOS COMPLETES CORE CONSTRUCTION AND UNVEILS NEW ENHANCEMENTS ON FIRST ANNIVERSARY

The Strand Turks and Caicos, a luxury resort community in Providenciales part of The Leading Hotels of the World, Ltd, is celebrating its one-year anniversary with additional property enhancements, including the debut of an exclusive marina and private boating excursions, new culinary concepts, a Kids Club and teen Adventure Club with new daily programming, and a new villa building.

The third accommodations building expands inventory from 27 to 68 keys, which signifies the completion of the property's core.

Nestled on 2,230 feet of pristine oceanfront on secluded shores of Cooper Jack Bay, The Strand features luxury suites, multi-bedroom villas and expansive private residences that blend modern architecture with light-filled interiors, expansive terraces, and refined natural materials that reflect the beauty of the surrounding landscape.

The property is one of the most sustainable luxury resorts in the Caribbean with solar integration providing more than 70% of the resort's power and is a designated "Pollinator Sanctuary" in partnership with renowned Denver-based Butterfly Pavilion.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the official completion of The Strand's core, along with exciting new enhancements that further distinguish the property as one of the leading luxury resorts in the Caribbean," says John Fair, managing director of The Strand. "The Strand offers an unparalleled opportunity for guests to enjoy a serene and private escape along the shores of Cooper Jack Bay, complemented by world-class service, unmatched dining, and thoughtfully curated experiences that immerse guests in the island's natural beauty and vibrant local culture."

## Exclusive Marina Debut

The Strand's exclusive marina and dedicated crew will now offer guests even more opportunities for private boating adventures – from quiet mornings at sea to snorkeling the vibrant reefs – to enjoy Providenciales from the crystal-clear, turquoise waters. The marina will also offer locals, travelers and visiting boaters the unique opportunity to dock and dine at The Strand



Photo: The Strand Turks and Caicos

– one of only two resorts in Providenciales to offer this.

New boating excursions from The Strand's marina include Luxury Boat Trips to snorkel the turquoise waters, cruise along the shoreline, fish, swim, and explore the hidden Caicos Cays; Private Sunset Cruises; and a bespoke Catch & Cook experience inviting guests to join The Strand's captain for a day of catching lobster, conch and fish which are then grilled and served alongside delicious side dishes and wine on a secluded beach for a truly unforgettable experience.

Setting the Standard for Dining in Turks & Caicos

The DelMar Restaurant + Beach Club has launched a second culinary concept next to its signature oceanfront fine dining experience, The DelMar Restaurant.

The DelMar Lounge offers a more casual, beachfront evening menu featuring a curated selection of shared small plates inspired by the world's most celebrated coastal cuisines and integrating local seafood and ingredients. Menu highlights include Anticuchos, marinated and grilled skewers of meats, fish, and chicken, seasoned with Peruvian spices and served with sweet peppers; sweet chili, and wasabi mayo; and a selection of Al Pastor Pork or Octopus Tacos, and Lobster, Brisket or Fish Sliders.

At The DelMar Restaurant, their new menu offers a refreshed,

oceanfront fine dining experience highlighting the artistry of Executive Chef Alvaro Zepeda and his commitment to exceptional, locally inspired cuisine that fuses flavors from Asia, Latin America, and the Mediterranean.

The restaurant specializes in the freshest fish, seafood, prime steaks, and chops, cooked on an exhibition wood fired Parrilla or smoked in-house, alongside a nightly tasting menu with wine pairings.

Dinner menu highlights include Fresh Catch Tiradito, thinly sliced catch-of-the-day, sashimi-style, bathed in a tangy citrus leche de tigre, with Peruvian chili, passion-fruit, and pickled shallots; Kataifi Jumbo Prawns rolled in crispy kataifi pastry, served over a silky house-made hummus, finished with chili oil, sumac honey relish; 12 Hour Braised Short Rib in a rich reduction of local dark beer, paired with buttery potato purée, charred scallions, and sweet roasted drop peppers; and daily catches of the day.

The DelMar Restaurant is one of the only fine dining restaurants in Providenciales to offer toes in the sand dining and continues to set the new standard for dining in Turks and Caicos.

## Looking Ahead

Heading into the holiday season, The Strand will be offering festive fun for the whole family, including visits with Santa on the beach,

fireworks, and family-friendly daily programming. In addition, The DelMar Restaurant will be offering a three-course Christmas dinner and a four-course New Year's Eve dinner and gala to ring in 2026.

## New 2026 promotions include:

- Early Bird: Residence Escape: includes a 20% discount on five night stays, a private butler, champagne welcome amenity, a \$500 credit for either a private chef's tasting dinner at the residence or a half-day private boat tour exploring the hidden Caicos Cays, and more. For January 10 – March 20, 2026 stays; must book by December 31, 2025.
  - Early Bird: Escape Together Suites: includes a 25% discount on four night stays, daily breakfast, and a resort credit that can be applied to dining, The Strand Boutique, or boat excursions, and more for January 10 – March 20, 2026 stays; must book by December 31, 2025.
  - Book a one-bedroom Pool Suite, receive a \$100 resort credit.
  - Book two suites, receive an additional 5% off and a \$200 resort credit
  - Book three or more suites, receive an additional 10% off, a \$300 resort credit, and a private sunset champagne welcome for the group
- For reservations and to learn more about The Strand Turks & Caicos, please visit [www.thestrandtci.com](http://www.thestrandtci.com) or follow @thestrandtci.



# TCI Integrity Commission Hosts Inspiring 2025 Integrity Speak-Off

The Turks and Caicos Islands Integrity Commission successfully hosted the 2025 Integrity Speak-Off Competition on Monday, November 24th, 2025, at Beaches Resort, East Caicos Boardroom.

From 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., the event delivered an energizing display of intelligence, moral conviction, and youth leadership. Students showcased not only their academic strength but their commitment to ethical principles that shape strong nations.

Round 1 featured the powerful moot: "Be it resolved, this House believes that youth involvement in integrity initiatives can transform the Commission's effectiveness."



Participants delivered compelling, well-researched arguments. Their statements demonstrated exceptional insight, including:

- "Laws command obedience, awareness commands commitment."
- "Laws are powerless without understanding."
- "Laws punish corruption, but awareness prevents it."
- "Laws without awareness feel imposed, not embraced."
- "Awareness is not a luxury but a bridge that connects."
- "The fight against corruption begins at home and in the heart."

Round 2 intensified the competition with a 5-minute impromptu speech segment, challenging students to respond thoughtfully and confidently to real-world integrity issues. Their poise and quick reasoning demonstrated the strength of ethical thinking under pressure.

Judges included Ms. Selena Grant (Apprenticeship Program Representative), Ms. Samadia Lightbourne (Senior Investigation Officer, Complaints Commission), Captain Dixie Smith (Maritime Operations Commander & Multi-Agency Task Force Member, TCI Regiment), and Mr. Kauome Smith (Lawyer, National Health Insurance Board).

Aligned with the International An-



ti-Corruption Day theme, the Speak-Off reinforced a vital message: Knowledge without character is incomplete—and character without integrity cannot lead. Integrity remains the foundation of leadership across every field of study and every position of trust.

Outstanding Performances  
 1st Place / Best Speaker: Mr. Xavier Malcolm  
 2nd Place: Ms. Jade Rigby  
 3rd Place: Kenderdine Jean

4th Place: Seth Carter  
 5th Place: Annette Fulford

All students performed exceptionally well. Winners received trophies, certificates, and cash prizes. The Grand Turk Campus also received a cash contribution toward a new or ongoing project. The Commission extends appreciation to the Acting Premier Honourable Jamel Robinson, the Minister of Religious Liberty Honourable Sean Malcolm, and the Minister of Health, Honourable Kyle Knowles for attending and

supporting the event, including representatives from the Department of Education along with Mr. Mark Garland (Director) and TCICC President Ms. Candice Williams, Faculty and team—reinforcing the national importance of empowering youth as ethical leaders and champions of good governance. The passion, confidence, and vision displayed by the students proved that the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands is bright and filled with emerging leaders ready to rise with integrity.

# InvestTCI Celebrates Outstanding Local Entrepreneurs at the 2025 MSMEs

The 2nd staging of The MSMEs under the theme “A Celebration of Excellence” brought brilliance, pride, and national inspiration to the Beaches Resort Main Stage as Invest Turks and Caicos honoured a remarkable group of entrepreneurs whose work continues to elevate the business landscape of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The invitation-only, black-tie event, anchored by the rich glow of gem-coloured attire, attracted industry partners, supporters, and distinguished guests, including Acting Premier Honourable Jamell Robinson, who brought official remarks.

From the moment co-emcees Super P the Entertainer and Levenia Bishop took the stage, the night unfolded with a sense of excitement and significance. A series of captivating performances, including Raj the Entertainer, Moe’Ments of Sax, The Dragoness, and a dynamic close-out by the ProVision Band Boyz, kept the audience energized throughout the night, making the awards feel not only prestigious but deeply rooted in the rhythm and creativity of the Islands.

The Awards celebrated outstanding entrepreneurs across the islands, including:

- Ride Da Rhythms – Family Islands Award
- D’s Native Gift Shop- Champion of Cause Award
- Nikki’s Trinkets - Innovative Business Award
- Ron’s Mystery Tours- Marine Enterprise Award
- Sky Poultry Farm Ltd.- Digital Transformer Award
- Native By Island Organics- NextGen Icon Award
- Fiesta Balloons & Décor- Wonder-

## Woman Award

- Exclusive Accessories / The Wellington Collection- Beyond Borders and Entrepreneur of the Year Awards.

- The People’s Choice honour went to Nae’s Luxury Transfer, a standout favourite among the public.

Reflecting on the evening, Vice President of SME Development Alexa Cooper spoke to the calibre of this year’s awardees, noting, “We are extremely proud of the growth, discipline, and creativity we have witnessed among our MSMEs. It signals to us that the Turks and Caicos business community is headed toward stronger innovation, deeper industry linkages, and the kind of bold thinking that strengthens our economy from the inside out.”

Invest TCI CEO, Angela Musgrove, emphasized the broader vision behind the Agency’s work, stating, “Our MSMEs are an essential pillar of national development which builds wealth, shapes communities, and creates opportunities for future generations.”

She added, “Seeing entrepreneurs make meaningful strides in both traditional and emerging sectors reminds us why this program exists, and why Invest TCI remains committed to expanding the pathways for local business success.”

A timely highlight of the evening included a heartfelt feature on Arlene Hall, whose journey from MSME recipient to emerging manufacturer served as a reminder of the power and success of the MSME programme to all in attendance.

Director of the Business Support & Development Unit Dawn Higgs highlighted the significance of Family Island representation and the growing presence of youth and



digitally forward entrepreneurs. She noted that “Witnessing businesses stretch across industries and, in some cases, across borders, is evidence of a thriving program and a growing entrepreneurial culture that continues to change the way our islands do business.”

Invest Turks and Caicos extended sincere appreciation to its 2025 sponsors, with special recognition for Gold Sponsors Amanyara Resort/Caicos Resorts Ltd (Champion of Cause Award) and Hartling Group (Entrepreneur of the Year Award).

Additional gratitude was shared for Silver and Bronze supporters, including Grace Bay Resorts/The Point, Graceway Supermarkets, Grant Thornton, The Strand, Windward Development, Wymara Resorts & Villas, The Andaz, Griffith & Partners/Dentons, and Miller’s, Simons & O’Sullivan.

The Agency also acknowledged its vendors

and service partners, and the dedicated team at Invest TCI, whose efforts ensured a high-quality celebration of national achievement. The full ceremony, including all performances and presentations, is available for public viewing on the Invest Turks and Caicos Facebook page.

As the MSME Programme continues to evolve, Invest Turks and Caicos remains committed to championing business owners who demonstrate excellence, accountability, and vision. By spotlighting growth and celebrating success, the Agency hopes to encourage future entrepreneurs to take full advantage of the programme’s expanding opportunities.

Entrepreneurs wishing to learn more about the MSME Programme may visit [www.investturksandcaicos.tc](http://www.investturksandcaicos.tc) or contact the Business Support & Development Unit for guidance.



# How to look, feel and function younger as you age

AS THE world population continues to live longer, the quest for the fountain of youth is at the forefront of many people's minds. From anti-ageing supplements to plastic surgery, people will try just about anything.

The problem with many of these methods is that they are either expensive or have potentially dangerous side effects. Anti-ageing supplements, for example, can be very costly and may not even be effective. Certain plastic surgeries carry their own risks. Fortunately, there are alternative things you can do to look and feel younger.

According to Dr Orlando Thomas, medical doctor and functional medicine practitioner at Thomas Medical and Shockwave Centre in Old Harbour, the average life-span of an individual

is 70 years old, but people have the potential to live longer if they change their lifestyle and live healthy.

"Age is not just chronological; it is biological and reversible. If you focus on lifestyle, nutrition, detoxification and cellular health, you can help to improve your health, and in return feel younger, and function better," Thomas said.

The biology of ageing he said, includes inflamm-ageing, chronic low-grade inflammation, oxidative stress and mitochondrial decline. Also included are hormonal shifts, insulin resistance and lifestyle influence.

One of the first places people usually notice ageing is on their skin. Fine lines and wrinkles begin to appear, and the skin can start to look dull and



lacklustre. However, there are various things you can do to take care of your skin.

"Make sure to include Vitamin C, zinc, omega-3s and antioxidants. Avoid sugar and seed oils, and include aloe vera, rosehip oil, and green tea extract," Thomas said.

What you put into your body can have a significant impact on the way you look and feel. Anti-ageing nutrients in healthy foods mainly relieve skin ageing in three ways including nutrients, such as protein peptides and essential fatty acids, enter the body after digestion and absorption. They help relieve skin oxidative damage by getting rid of harmful cells and by regulating the expression of enzymes. This helps to maintain the integrity of the skin structure.

The best way to take advantage of anti-ageing nutrients is to create a diet rich in fresh fruits, fibre-filled legumes, vegetables, and healthy proteins that can help you look and feel your best.

"Following a healthy eating pattern, you can shift to more nutritious food and beverage choices. Focus on variety, nutrient density, and amount. Limit added sugars and saturated fats, and sodium intake," Thomas said.

"Cutting out processed foods and eating more nutrient-rich foods is not only good for your body but can also be good for your mind. A healthy diet has been linked with improved cognitive function and a lower risk of developing dementia. So, not only will eating healthy make you look younger, but it can also help you to stay sharp as you age," he added.

Fasting he said, activates autophagy, which helps slow down the ageing process and has a positive impact on cell renewal. "During fasting, cells break down proteins and other cell components and use them for energy. During autophagy, cells destroy viruses and bacteria and get rid of damaged structures. It's a process that is critical for cell health, renewal, and survival," Thomas said.

In addition to taking care of your skin, exercising regularly is another way to look and feel younger. Exercise helps

improve muscle tone, giving your skin a more youthful appearance. It also helps to boost circulation by enhancing blood flow, which aids in the removal of cellular debris in an internal cleanse. This gives your skin a glow that can make you look years younger. "Not only does exercise help you to look younger, but it can also help you to feel younger. Exercise releases endorphins, which have mood-boosting effects. It can also help to improve sleep and reduce stress, both of which can make you feel more youthful," Thomas said.

Getting enough sleep is vital for both your physical and mental health. When you do not get enough sleep, it can take a toll on your appearance. You may look tired and run down, and your skin may even take on a pale hue. Not getting enough sleep can also impact your mood and energy levels.

"To help ensure that you are getting enough sleep, aim for seven to eight hours of sleep each night. If you have trouble sleeping, there are several things you can try, such as cutting back on caffeine, avoiding screen time before bed, and establishing a regular sleep routine," Thomas said.

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health, and dealing with stress, anxiety, or depression takes a toll on your body physically and mentally.

"It is essential to take steps to manage your mental health, as it can have a major impact on your overall well-being. Talk to your doctor or mental health professional if you are feeling overwhelmed or down. There are also many helpful self-care activities that you can do on your own, such as practising meditation or mindfulness, spending time in nature, and getting regular exercise," Thomas said.

**YOUR FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH PROTOCOL:**

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  - Move daily and build muscle
  - Fast strategically and detox seasonally
  - Sleep deeply and manage stress
  - Supplement wisely and stay curious
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# Carlene Davis joins 'One Love Jamaica Rebuild' line-up

The entertainment fraternity continues to band together to support Jamaicans who have been severely affected by Hurricane Melissa. Among them has been well-known recording artiste Dr Carlene Davis, who will be one of the acts at the 'One Love Jamaica Rebuild' concert at The Faith Center, Sunrise, Florida, on December 6.

"It is a privilege to be called on for this initiative and, once the date was clear, I never hesitated to participate. This is what we are called to do as a child of God. In this case the reality is as real as it gets, having gone to some of the areas of devastation caused by the hurricane.

"We have a responsibility to give, to serve, to encourage in whatever way we can. I keep hearing in my heart, no matter how small, let each one reach one, let each one reach a family, a community, a parish, a nation in what-

ever way one can afford," Davis told the Jamaica Observer.

Other guests billed for the show include Marion Hall, Papa San, Kevin Downswell, Omari, Sharon Wiles, and Radarius Legacy.

Davis is looking forward to combining efforts to benefit those in need.

"It's about putting God first... [and] this initiative gives us an opportunity to come together in one accord... lifting up the name of Jesus, committing this event and purpose for this event to God. And, as we touch and agree, [it will] enable us to have the necessary resources to rebuild far above what we've lost. From what we are seeing this rebuilding is bigger than what man can do," she said.

In the meantime, through Glory Music, Davis and her family have been working in New Market and adjoining communities of Lewisville and Nightingale Grove, St Elizabeth. Her husband,



Both Marion Hall (left) and Carlene Davis are billed to lend support to the 'One Love Jamaica Rebuild' concert in Sunrise, Florida, on December 6.

Tommy Cowan's family hails from the area, and they have been helping to create a central place through the church at Nightingale Grove as a hub to inspire, motivate, and serve the surrounding communities.

The singer is also set to appear at the Omega Church's Christmas toy drive and concert on December 12 in Coral Springs, Florida.

"As always we are seeking the Lord as to how He would want us to present in the choice of songs that will engage the people to participate; and in so doing touch the hearts of everyone...

It's all that God be glorified as He uses us," Davis added.

"Restoration is possible because the gifts and calling that is upon us, as a people, have not changed, the hurricane clearly has put a huge dent in the vision for Jamaica, but God's assignment for the future of Jamaica remains. It is our responsibility, as a community, as a nation to rise up with all hands on deck and be part of the rebuilding process, using the gifts and talent for the growth and development of our people and ultimately our island Jamaica, land we love," she said.



SAVADIA...we are entering an era where AI systems will resemble humans in both appearance and interaction

"AI will never replicate the emotional intelligence or intuition of human storytellers," declared Dushyant Savadia, founder and CEO of Amber Group, during his keynote address at World Television Day celebration hosted at the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC), The University

of the West Indies, Mona, last Thursday. Final-year public relations students hosted this year's virtual event under the theme 'AI TV: The Future or The End?', bringing together media professionals, students, and television enthusiasts to explore the evolving role of television in the age of artificial intelli-

# 'AI can't replace human storytelling

gence.

Savadia encouraged students to view AI not as a threat but as a powerful tool for innovation, one that can automate repetitive processes while freeing media professionals to focus on deeper, more meaningful storytelling.

In his presentation, Savadia underscored the rapid global expansion of AI, noting that by March 2026 AI chatbots will be even more advanced, ushering in the next major shift — physical AI.

"We are entering an era where AI systems will resemble humans in both appearance and interaction," he explained, adding that television is now experiencing its most profound transformation since the move from black-and-white to colour.

He explained the pace of change with the launch of Revonews.ai, a platform redefining what a modern newsroom can be. The site allows audiences to speak directly to the news through an AI assistant using media veteran Cliff

Hughes' voice; explore decades of archives instantly; and curate the stories, sports and entertainment they want in real time.

"Whatever you imagine, you can now create," he told the audience, describing a future in which viewers can pause a programme and interact with their TV in the moment.

During a lively Q&A segment, attendees discussed ethics challenges, cultural preservation, and the future of Jamaican content creation.

Dr Patrick Prendergast, director of CARIMAC, reflected on the significance of the occasion, noting: "As a school, we continuously seek ways to make ever-changing technologies work for the advancement of our industry and our society. This event allows us to reflect on what television means as a cultural force and consider how we can innovate while maintaining the values, standards, and creativity that define strong media practice."



THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH, SPORTS & CULTURE

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Meeting participants and CARPHA Technical team.



Meeting participants and CARPHA Technical team during field exercises

# CARPHA Strengthens Antigua and Barbuda's Capacity for Pesticide Monitoring and Environmental Health Surveillance

St. John's, Antigua. November 27, 2025. The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, successfully hosted a four-day training workshop on the Development of a Pesticide Monitoring Plan and the Collection and Shipping of Environmental Samples, held from November 24th–27th, 2025 in St. John's, Antigua.

The workshop, funded by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) supports the regional objective of strengthening Member States' capacity to detect, monitor, and respond to environmental threats to health. The training forms part of CARPHA's broader mandate to build resilient, evidence-based environmental public health surveillance systems across the Caribbean.

Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Antigua and Barbuda Dr Terri-Ann Joseph – "Through collaboration across many sectors including agricultural and environmental health, we are able to detect early and reduce the negative impact these chemicals can have on human, animal and plant health."

CARPHA Executive Director, Dr. Lisa Indar – "This workshop is

key to ultimately reducing risks to human health: By understanding how pesticides move through the environment and accumulate, surveillance can help reduce human exposure through contaminated food, water, and air, which is linked to serious health problems"

Environmental health surveillance is a core function of CARPHA and is critical for identifying and managing threats posed by contaminants, including pesticides, in natural and built environments. Through this workshop, CARPHA's Environmental Health and Sustainable Development Department (EHSD) provided structured training to officers of the Antigua and Barbuda Environmental Health Department and key national partners. Over the four days, participants were trained to:

- Assess Antigua and Barbuda's current and future capacity for pesticide monitoring
- Develop a national pesticide monitoring programme tailored to the country's context
- Design comprehensive sampling plans
- Collect, preserve, prepare, and ship environmental samples for laboratory analysis
- Strengthen chain-of-custody and data integrity proce-

dures

- Conduct field surveys to apply concepts learned during the workshop
- Preparing Antigua and Barbuda for Emerging Environmental Health Risks

Once implemented, Antigua and Barbuda's pesticide monitoring programme will support a more proactive and systematic approach to detecting pesticide contamination in water, soil, and other environmental media. This will translate into; enhanced early warning and detection of environmental hazards, strengthened capacity to prevent pesticide related illness, protection of vulnerable populations, safer agricultural practices that safeguard food security and improved public health readiness in the face of natural climate-related hazards such as flooding which can increase pesticide runoff.

The strengthened system will also contribute to regional efforts to reduce exposure to environmental contaminants and improve environmental governance across CARPHA Member States. Collaboration was central to the workshop's success. Participants included representatives from the Environmental Health Unit,

the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board, the Ministry of Agriculture, local laboratories, and other relevant agencies involved in environmental monitoring and public health protection.

As part of the post-workshop actions, CARPHA will provide a training package to the Ministry of Health Wellness and the Environment to support continued national capacity building, while also offering ongoing technical assistance for the implementation of the national pesticide monitoring programme. The Agency will also explore opportunities to integrate pesticide monitoring data into the CARPHA-developed DHIS2 Environmental Health Module to enhance and strengthen overall environmental health surveillance.

This initiative reaffirms CARPHA's commitment to assisting Member States in building sustainable, resilient systems that protect the health of Caribbean people. The development of national pesticide monitoring capacity in Antigua and Barbuda represents a key advancement in environmental health surveillance—one that will benefit not only the country but also the wider region.

# The Sound That Helped Shape a Nation

An Op-Ed by Audley Astwood

Keno Hall earned his place in Turks and Caicos music by doing what the greats do. He made the islands sound like themselves. News of his recent passing struck with a clarity that left no space for doubt. The country lost more than a musician. It lost one of the voices that shaped its cultural spine. Keno and Kaz built their sound together from the first note. They shaped a path that gave the islands a music rooted in instinct and trust. Together they proved that modern island music doesn't need to erase its roots. "In Da Mood" showed how to be cur-

rent without surrendering identity. Keno understood the islands from the inside. He played with the confidence of someone who didn't need a template. Before resorts tried to curate island ambience, he was already in the heart of local spaces lifting familiar rhythms into something richer. His passion carried that warm rise that made people pause mid conversation. You could hear it in "Da Money Can" where he turned a simple groove into something with weight. You could hear it again in "On Da Wagon" where he kept the island pulse steady without chasing trends. His vocal tracks carried their own truth. They

showed a man who trusted the pulse beneath every lyric. "Man in Law" landed with cleaner bite and the confidence of someone who understood his lane. Somebody Got Ya lifted any room before people realised, they were moving. These songs held the value of oral history because they carried TCI mood, TCI rhythm and TCI truth.

He and Kaz revived what many thought was gone. Their partnership pulled the old TCI dance known as Sculling into the present. The rhythm and the movement returned to community life with fresh energy and reminded young people that culture bends but never breaks.

I saw the rise long before the wider public did. I was one of the first he previewed Are You Ready for, his first release with Kaz. I knew it was an instant hit and future classic. I told him if he kept releasing songs at that level he'd stand among the musical greats. Today I can say with certainty that Keno and Kaz achieved exactly that. I'm honoured to salute Keno and Kaz publicly the same way I saluted Keno and Kaz in person. In the physical Keno may be gone, but his music lives on.

Keno's legacy will not stay trapped in recordings. It will continue to move through every space where people gather. You will feel it in beachfront sets where visitors will recognise the difference between generic Caribbean playlists and the sound of a real place. You will see it in community gatherings where



his instinct for melody shaped the moments families return to year after year. It will live on in young musicians who study him and finally trust the strength of an authentic TCI sound.

A country doesn't always feel the shift until it already happened. Today the shift is unmistakable. Keno Hall held part of the islands steady. His influence will keep moving through the next generation because he never played for applause. He played to remind TCI who it is.

The country lost more than a musician and a keeper of the islands tone. The culture he carried won't fade. Keno Hall proved that the Turks and Caicos Islands don't need permission to sound like themselves. And no one will forget it now.

## Some migrants to face 20 year wait for settled status

Migrants who are in the UK legally could have to wait up to 20 years before they can settle permanently, under government proposals.

The Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood has announced the qualifying period for indefinite leave to remain will be extended from five to 10 years, and will apply to the estimated 2.6 million who arrived since 2021. The changes will not apply to people who had already obtained settlement. Mahmood said becoming part of the UK was "not a right but a privilege - and one that must be earned".

The package is the latest in a string of changes to the immigration system announced by Mahmood over the past week.

Mahmood demands migrants earn right to settlement in UK

Settlement, also known as Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR), allows someone to live in the UK permanently, work without restrictions and access public services. It is also a key step towards British citizenship.

Currently, most work and family visa holders can apply for settlement after five years. Under the proposed changes the standard wait will be 10 years- with a range of criteria that would lengthen or shorten that period.

- Legal migrants who claim benefits for less than 12 months will have to wait 15 years
  - People who arrived on post-Brexit health and social care visas would have to wait 15 years, up from five year currently
  - Migrants reliant on benefits for more than 12 months face a 20-year wait for settlement, four times more than the current period and the longest in Europe
- There is also a reduction to three years for applicants who earn £125,140 in the three years prior to applying for settlement, with

this reduced to five years for anyone earning £50,270.

Time spent volunteering and competency in the English language are also factors which could reduce the wait.

Announcing the changes in the Commons, Mahmood said: "Migration will always be a vital part of Britain's story.

"But the scale of arrivals in recent years has been unprecedented."

Conservative shadow home secretary Chris Philp accused Labour of "copying and pasting" policies from his party that it had previously "voted against".

Philp said his part would support the changes, but warned the new system could create loopholes and urged ministers to adopt a migration cap.

Reform UK did not respond to the statement in the Commons. But the party has previously announced it would abolish ILR- replacing it with visas that migrants must reapply for every five years.

That includes hundreds of thousands of migrants currently in the UK.

Home Office figures show net migration added 2.6 million people to UK population between 2021 and 2024.

Because of this, settlement grants are also expected to spike over the next five years, with around 1.6 million people forecast to settle between 2026 and 2030.

Ministers plan to introduce an "earned settlement" system, requiring migrants to demonstrate social integration, economic contribution and good "character" before being granted settled status.

Applicants will need to meet stricter minimum requirements including the equivalent to A-level standard English language, a clean criminal record and earning above £12,570 a year for at least three years.

There will be accelerated routes for those who make an "outsized contribution" to the UK.

Doctors and nurses working in the NHS will be able to settle after five years. The "brightest and best" international talent could have settlement fast-tracked, with high earners and entrepreneurs able to stay after just three years.

Family members will not gain automatic status when the main applicant qualifies. Children who came to the UK under the age of 18 may settle with parents, but older dependants could face separate requirements. Existing fast-track routes for victims of domestic abuse, bereaved partners and resettled refugees will remain.

Public service union Unison said the changes would be "devastating to thousands of essential workers" and put services at risk.

Christina McAnea, Unison's general secretary, said: "Forcing staff, many of whom stepped up during Covid, to wait 15 years for certainty about their futures betrays the promises they were made."

Ms McAnea warned the government not to "overlook the care workers, nursing assistants and school support staff from overseas" as without them "care services would collapse".

The changes build on measures first set out in the government's May white paper.

The government plan to roll out changes from spring 2026, after a consultation ends on 12 February.

On Monday, Mahmood announced a sweeping overhaul of the UK's asylum system - including plans to end permanent refugee status and replace it with temporary status subject to review every 30 months.



# Bahamas Builds Desalination Plant in Jamaica

Jamaicans are being urged to take advantage of free, desalinated, potable water now being produced and distributed at Falmouth Pier, courtesy of the Bahamian Government, in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

Consul General for the Commonwealth of The Bahamas assigned to Jamaica, Alveta Knight, explained that reverse osmosis is being used to convert seawater into potable water on the pier, which is then connected to 10 standpipes on the grounds of a nearby church.

"The piping goes down quite a bit into the ocean, and we take that water, we put it through the reverse osmosis plant, and we set up 10 spigots of water in the Church of the Assemblies of God parking lot so people can come at their leisure throughout the day to collect potable water. We are churning out 1,000 gallons an hour so we are inviting everybody. If you have a truck, we can actually connect the truck directly to our system," Knight explained.

For those sceptical that seawater can be transformed into potable water, her response was simple.

"I would say come and try it before you knock it. Even if you don't want to try it for drinking, come and try it because you may not have water for bathing, you may not have water for washing..." the diplomat implored.

"I can confidently say as a Bahamian that this is how we survive on some of our islands because we have to use other means of getting access to fresh water. One of the means we have to

use is the saltwater that surrounds the island to produce the fresh water that we need. So, do not knock it until you have tried it. It's worth the try," Knight added.

Speaking with the Jamaica Observer on the pier Monday, she explained that the gesture is rooted in regional reciprocity. "When [Hurricane] Dorian hit The Bahamas, first on the ground to assist us was the Jamaican Government through the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF), so in times like this we had to do the same [and] just step up to assist our brothers and sisters of the Jamaican island," she declared.

Dorian slammed into The Bahamas as a massive Category 5 storm on September 1, 2019, causing catastrophic damage on Abaco and Grand Bahama Island.

It stalled over the islands for nearly two days, leading to severe flooding, destroying more than 13,000 homes, leaving tens of thousands homeless and 74 people dead. Damage was estimated at US\$3.4 billion.

Meteorologists have tied Dorian with the 1935 Labor Day hurricane in the Florida Keys and Hurricane Melissa, which hit Jamaica on October 28, 2025, as the strongest landfalling Atlantic hurricanes by both winds and pressure.

The Melissa relief effort at Falmouth Pier is being coordinated through the Bahamian Government, including minister of state in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for disaster risk management, Leon Lundy, who is

also the current chair of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency.

"This is our second tranche of aid, and this tranche of aid comes through the Royal Bahamas Defence Force via His Majesty's Bahamas Ship Lawrence Major," Knight said.

"We came with supplies for the JDF, and then we came with a reverse osmosis system. We came with a field hospital that we lent to the JDF so that they can supply meals to their officers who are stationed at the Trelawny stadium, and we came with a medical supply tent container that is dispatched to an area in Westmoreland to facilitate medical services there," she added.

But she underscored that the most significant element of the support being provided by her Government is the water project.

Knight encouraged residents to contact Custos of Trelawny Hugh Gentles for trucking arrangements, due to pier access restrictions.

He praised the work the Bahamian team has done.

"It's amazing. And this is not the only gift they have given to us; they gave us

some supplies for the Falmouth hospital as well and they have given us tools and wheelbarrows. They have really been outstanding, and we really appreciate it," he said.

He urged residents to use the water. "I have had it and it is very, very drinkable, and we need to make sure that it is known so that the citizens of the parish can come and access it," Gentles said.

Well known family physician Dr Alverston Bailey, who also visited the site Monday, said the system arrived just in time.

"I just passed by and saw this wonderful engineering that is now being implemented in Falmouth. This is going to be of tremendous assistance to the people because, up to a week ago, they were drinking water from the swamp. I had objected strongly to it since this was highly dangerous," he said.

Knight said the operation has been running for roughly a week and a half, and the team expects to remain for "about another week, week and a half", depending on cruise ship schedules.

"This is free. This is accessible. This is plentiful. Please, take advantage of it while it is here," she reiterated.



Standpipes at the Church of the Assemblies of God leading from the reverse osmosis plant at the Falmouth Pier.



Chief Petty Officer Shavargo Green of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force operating the reverse osmosis plant at the Falmouth Pier Monday.



Consul General for the Commonwealth of The Bahamas assigned to Jamaica Alveta Knight (left), Custos of Trelawny Hugh Gentles (centre) and Desiree Vernon Goburn enjoy a drink of desalinated water on the property of the Church of the Assemblies of God in Falmouth Monday.

# EXCITING WOMEN'S FOOTBALL FESTIVAL DEC. 11-14



# Championship Day Highlights of the TCIFA Primary School Football League

Elite Primary retained their Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) Primary School competition, defeating Eliza Simons in the final at the TCIFA field, Venetian Road, November 20, 2025. The following are photos from the third play place playoff between Enid Capron (Green) and Community Christian (Red), and the final between Eliza Simons (in red bibs) and Elite.





# Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Club Chases Fifth Straight USA TODAY “Best Caribbean Golf Course” Title

The Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Club is once again in the international spotlight, and the destination’s premier course is calling on supporters to help secure a historic achievement.

The award-winning facility has been nominated yet again for USA TODAY’s Top 10 Best Caribbean Golf Course, and public voting is now open through December 31st. A win this year would mark an unprecedented five consecutive victories for the Turks and Caicos’ flagship course, a milestone that would further cement its reputation as the region’s elite golfing destination.

Known for its pristine fairways, world-class layout and consistently high rankings from global golf publications, Royal Turks and Caicos has built a loyal following among residents, visitors,

and golf enthusiasts worldwide. The club says the competition is tighter than ever, making daily votes crucial.

“We’re going for five in a row, and your daily vote can make all the difference,” the club said in its call to action, encouraging supporters to cast one vote every day until the deadline.

The course proudly holds the title of #1 in the Caribbean, often described by players as a “must-play” experience thanks to its immaculate conditions and scenic design.

Voters can participate once per day until December 31st, giving fans a full month to help push Royal Turks and Caicos to the top once again.

The club urges golf lovers and community supporters alike: mark your calendars, vote daily, and help bring home another win for Turks and Caicos.



The award-winning Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Golf Course

## Cheshire Hall, Flamingo in Exciting 2-2 Draw

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos football calendar delivered a thrilling stretch of matches over the weekend and into Tuesday night, with late equalizers, commanding victories, and hard-fought defensive battles capturing the attention of fans at the TCIFA Field.

On Tuesday, December 2, Cheshire Hall FC and Flamingo FC played to a dramatic 2–2 draw after a match filled with twists. Flamingo struck first just before halftime when Cheshire Hall’s #17 Jocelyn Pierre accidentally redirected the ball into his own net in the third minute of first-half stoppage time, giving Flamingo a 1–0 lead at the break.

Cheshire Hall found their way back into the match in the 75th minute when Flamingo’s #8 Ralph Sylvestre scored an own goal to level the score at 1–1. Flamingo answered almost immediately as #14 Schneider Jean Frantz Louis fired home in the 77th minute to restore their advantage.

But Cheshire Hall refused to surrender, pushing forward relentlessly until #9 Stanley Isreal delivered a clutch equaliser in the 90+2 minute, securing the draw and earning Player of the Match honours for his team. The match included six yellow



Teachers FC scored the biggest win of the round, hammering Provo United SC 7–0.

low cards: three for Cheshire Hall’s #6 Joseph Linardo (25’), #7 Darrion Campbell (40’), and Isreal himself (82’); and three for Flamingo’s #17 Jocelyn Pierre (51’) and #14 Alandy Joseph (90+3’). The game was supervised by Match Commissioner Tamara Hall.

The action-packed weekend began on Saturday, November 29, with a dominant showing from Teachers FC, who overwhelmed Provo United

SC 7–0 in the opening match of a double-header. Teachers FC raced to a 4–0 lead at halftime through goals from #14 Ishmael Athis in the 13th minute and again deep in stoppage time at 45+2, #20 Dorbengy Cherido in the 23rd minute, and #9 Henry Jean Pierre, who calmly converted a penalty in the 40th minute.

The scoring continued in the second half with a brace from #10 Rolin

Mompremier in the 57th and 86th minutes, and a powerful late strike from #11 Diesney Charles in the 90+2 minute. The match featured several cautions for Teachers FC, issued to #27 Snell Charles (34’), #20 Dorbengy Cherido (35’), #2 Jhafflyn Smith (60’), #11 Diesney Charles (73’), #26 Fredlin Alex’s (77’), and #10 Rolin Mompremier (90’), while Provo United SC’s only booking went to #30 Edwin Rodriguez in the first minute.

Saturday’s second match saw a more tightly contested affair, as Academy Eagles FC and SWA Sharks FC remained deadlocked 0–0 at halftime. The breakthrough finally came in the 54th minute when SWA Sharks’ #10 Brian Gregg found the back of the net, securing a hard-earned 1–0 victory.

Academy Eagles FC finished the match with yellow cards to #23 Renaldo Marcellin (80’) and #9 Innocent Jean (90+2’), while SWA Sharks collected cautions for #22 Elbaillet Eugene (14’) and #6 Junior Belizaire (31’).

The weekend showcased the full range of football in the Turks and Caicos Islands, from dominant attacking performances to narrow tactical clashes and heart-stopping late goals, setting the stage for an exciting continuation to the season.

# TCI Set to Host Exciting Women's Football Festival December 11-14

The Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) is gearing up to host an action-packed Women's Football Festival from December 11-14 at the TCIFA National Academy, bringing together regional talent in a vibrant showcase of women's football.

This year's festival features a thrilling three-day series of matches leading into a championship final on December 14. The event will see the Turks

and Caicos Islands Women's National Team, Antigua and Barbuda, and the visiting WSC Renegades Football Club go head-to-head in evening kick-offs scheduled for 6:00 p.m.

The competition opens on December 11, with TCI facing the WSC Renegades in what promises to be a dynamic opener that sets the tone for the festival. On December 12, TCI returns to the pitch for a highly anticipated clash against Antigua and Barbuda,

a matchup that showcases rising Caribbean rivalry and growing talent in the region's women's game.

Antigua and Barbuda will then take on the Renegades on December 13, a match that could determine crucial momentum heading into the knockout stage.

All roads lead to Finals Day on December 14, where the top teams from the round-robin series will battle for the championship title. With a

focus on promoting women's football, empowering young athletes, and celebrating regional collaboration, the festival is poised to draw strong community support and deliver four days of spirited competition.

Organizers are encouraging fans to "save the date" and come out to support the athletes as the TCIFA continues its commitment to elevating women's football across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

# GK Foods Score One-Wicket Win Over Red Strikers

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

GK Foods claimed a thrilling one-wicket victory over the Red Strikers on Sunday, November 30, in Turks and Caicos Islands Cricket Association League action at the Downtown Ball Park. The match went down to the final ball, delivering one of the season's most dramatic finishes.

Batting first, the Red Strikers posted 103/6 from their 12 overs. After early wickets fell, Levaughn Mathurin steadied the innings with a well-played 30 not out off 20 balls. Chabie Charlerly added vital momentum with 25 off 17, while Damion St Ange chipped in with 10. Tight bowling from Rajakumar Kasi (1/13) and Ashok Kumar (1/14) restricted the Strikers from pushing the total further despite 23 extras.

GK Foods began their chase poorly, slipping to 8/2 before

a stunning counterattack from Bharandidharan Thirunavukkarasu transformed the innings. His explosive 63 off 33 balls, featuring six towering sixes, swung the advantage sharply toward GK Foods and kept the chase alive.

When Bharandidharan fell late in the innings, momentum swung again. A flurry of wickets from the Strikers, led by Damion St Ange (3/25) and Damion Tape (2/13), brought the match to a knife-edge at 101/9.

With just three runs needed from the final two deliveries, Pravin Thanganpandi and Sivakaran Chelladurai held their composure, guiding GK Foods to victory with one ball remaining.

Thirunavukkarasu was adjudged Man of the Match for his match-winning 63 that proved decisive in the narrowest of victories.



Bharandidharan Thirunavukkarasu of GK Foods collects his man of the match award