

**EXPLOSIVE
START**



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Electronic Monitoring System and Five-Year Strategic Plan Launched to Modernise Community Supervision

The Ministry of Public Safety and Utilities, through the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision (DRCS), has officially launched a national Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) alongside its Five-Year Strategic Plan, marking a major milestone in the modernisation of justice and public safety in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The launch took place on Thursday, January 22, at the Key West Village at Beaches Resort and Spa and brought together senior government officials, law enforcement leaders, justice sector partners, and community stakeholders.

The Electronic Monitoring System introduces modern GPS devices installed by trained probation officers using tamper-resistant ankle straps. Once activated, the devices transmit real-time location data to a central monitoring platform accessible to probation and police officers. The system issues alerts for curfew breaches, restricted-zone violations, or any attempt to tamper with the device.

A key feature of the system is a victim notification application, which allows victims to receive alerts if monitored individuals enter designated exclusion zones. These alerts are reviewed by law enforcement officers who can respond swiftly to ensure safety and compliance.

The EMS will be used for individuals on probation, parole, transitioning from custody, or released on bail, allowing them to remain in the community while continuing employment, caring for family members, and participating in rehabilitation programmes under strict supervision.

Minister of Public Safety and Utilities Hon. Otis Morris described the occasion as a defining moment for justice reform in the country, announcing the simultaneous launch of three interconnected initiatives: the Electronic Monitoring System, Vision 2030, the DRCS Five-Year Strategic Plan, and the Department's official website.

"These initiatives reflect a modern, accountable, and people-centric approach to justice and community supervision," Minister Morris said. "The Electronic Monitoring System represents a strategic shift toward smart justice, one that protects the public while promoting rehabilita-



Jaron Harvey (left), Director for the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision demonstrates how the Deputy Commissioner of Police Rodney Adams (right), Superintendent Dwight Gardiner (second right), and other individuals how the Electronic Monitoring System Works, during the launch of the device on Thursday.

tion and responsible reintegration." The Minister explained that the Five-Year Strategic Plan sets measurable goals, strengthens institutional capacity, and prioritises staff development, rehabilitation, and community safety. The new DRCS website, he added, enhances transparency and public engagement by providing access to information, services, and resources.

Minister Morris reaffirmed the Government's commitment to supporting the DRCS with the resources and policy direction necessary to uphold justice, human dignity, and public safety.

Speaking on behalf of Attorney General Hon. Rhondalee Braithwaite-Knowles, FSC Managing Director Kenisha Bacchus traced the long-standing development of the EMS, noting that the project originated in 2017 under the Wider Rehabilitation of Offenders Programme and received early Cabinet approval through funding from the National Forfeiture Fund in accordance with the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Bacchus commended DRCS Director Mr. Harvey for championing the initiative following his appoint-

ment, describing the EMS as a "key deliverable" in the establishment of an effective probation service. She noted that after years of coordination and funding efforts, the system is now fully operational nationwide.

"Today, we are not just unveiling products, we are opening the door to a new chapter in how technology shapes our lives," Bacchus said. "The Electronic Monitoring System empowers the DRCS to conduct real-time monitoring, strengthens compliance with court-ordered conditions, and provides a viable and economically sound alternative to traditional incarceration." She explained that the EMS, delivered by provider SCRAM, includes GPS-enabled devices, comprehensive training for probation officers and 911 dispatch personnel, and a secure monitoring platform designed to enhance public safety while supporting rehabilitation.

Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam described the launch as a strategic investment in national security, stability, and long-term resilience. She emphasised that electronic monitoring strengthens risk management and

enhances public protection without compromising accountability. "Electronic monitoring and the wider Five-Year Strategic Plan do not reduce our protective capability — they enhance it," the Governor said. "This system provides continuous oversight, immediate alerts, and rapid intervention, delivering stronger safeguards than traditional supervision alone." She acknowledged public concerns about community-based monitoring but assured that public safety and victim protection remain paramount. The Governor also highlighted the importance of inter-agency cooperation, noting that the strengthened partnership between the DRCS, the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, and national security agencies represents a more integrated and effective justice system.

The Electronic Monitoring System is now live across the Turks and Caicos Islands, signalling a decisive shift toward smart justice, enhanced accountability, and strengthened rehabilitation — a model aimed at creating safer communities while supporting meaningful reintegration.



2025 Real Estate Sale Grew 5

Chart showing the overall sales for 2025

Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty has released its 2025 Year in Review Market Report, revealing a real estate market that has transitioned from post-pandemic acceleration into a more balanced, disciplined, and opportunity-rich phase.

Following several years of unprecedented growth, the 2025 data confirm a clear

market recalibration, one defined by informed decision-making, selective buyers, and resilient long-term fundamentals rather than urgency-driven activity.

Total year-to-date sales volume reached \$510.5 million across 309 transactions, with an average sales price of \$1.65 million. While overall volume

2025 Real Estate Sale Grew 5.8 Percent - Turks & Caicos Sotheby's Report

declined 27.5% year over year, average selling prices increased 5.8%, underscoring the market's underlying strength and continued demand for high-quality product.

A Market Defined by Clarity After the Surge

"The era of pandemic-driven urgency is behind us," said Joe Zahm, President of Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty. "What we are seeing now is a healthier, more transparent market, one where pricing, value, and long-term confidence matter more than speed."

According to Zahm, from 2016-2020 to 2021-2025, total real estate sales volume grew from \$1.37 billion to more than \$3.36 billion, underscoring sustained global demand for lifestyle-driven ownership in Turks and Caicos. That expansion touched every segment, including condominiums, single-family homes,



ZAHM... What we are seeing now is a healthier, more transparent market...

and land.

Segment Performance Snapshot

Single-family home sales totaled \$295.1 million, with average prices rising 1.86% to \$2.98 million, reflecting resilience at the luxury end of the market. Condominium sales recorded \$148.8 million, while average pricing climbed 4.9% to \$1.64 million, supported by a strong forward pipeline of \$290 million in pending new-development sales.



Arc Sky Villa Penthouse at South Bank, Turks and Caicos

Turks&CaicosIslandsRedCross

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

DIRECTOR

The Turks and Caicos Islands Red Cross is dedicated to helping vulnerable people in crisis, wherever and whenever the need arises. The Director will provide strategic leadership and overall financial and operational oversight of the organization. This role is responsible for guiding the development and implementation of sustainable programmes, fundraising initiatives, and income-generation activities, while ensuring alignment with the Red Cross mandate and governance frameworks.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work with the Board to develop and implement the organization's strategic vision.
- Lead strategic and operational planning to ensure effective programme and service delivery.
- Oversee financial planning, budgeting, and controls to ensure accountability and sound financial management.
- Manage daily operations to improve organizational performance, efficiency, and impact.
- Develop and implement fundraising, partnership, and public relations initiatives to support sustainability.
- Supervise and support staff and volunteers, fostering an engaged and high-performing team.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with key stakeholders, partners, and donors.

Salary is in the range of \$45,000-\$55,000 per annum, commensurate with qualifications & experience.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Interested applicants are required to email secretary@redcross.org.tc to request an official Application Form. Once completed, the application form and all supporting documents must be submitted via email at secretary@redcross.org.tc.

The closing date for receipt of applications is
January 23, 2026.



JOLLY... These awards reinforce our position as one of the world's leading island destinations...

Experience Turks and Caicos is celebrating an exceptional year of international recognition, as the Turks and Caicos Islands earned multiple top-tier awards in 2025 across diving, beach, romance, honeymoon, and overall destination categories.

The accolades, many of which were reader-and traveller-voted, reflect the strength of the Turks and Caicos Islands' tourism product and the effectiveness of sustained public relations outreach and media engagement.

The awards span some of the world's most respected travel, lifestyle, and industry platforms, reinforcing the destination's reputation for pristine beaches, world-class marine experiences, romance, and authentic island charm.

Minister of Tourism, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, described the collective wins as validation of both the destination's appeal and the strategic work behind the scenes.

He said: "This level of international recognition speaks to the global strength of the Turks and Caicos Islands as a destination and the consistently high-quality experiences visitors are enjoying across our islands. When travellers, readers, and industry audiences vote for Turks and Caicos, they are responding to our people, our beaches, our marine environment, our romance product, and the authenticity that sets us apart. These awards reinforce our position as one of the world's leading island destinations and reflect the collective efforts of our tourism partners in delivering experiences that resonate long after visitors return home."

Among the standout recognitions were the PADI Scuba Magazine 2026 Readers' Choice Awards, where Turks and Caicos ranked:

- 2nd Place – Wall Diving
- 3rd Place – Big Animals
- Top 5 – Health of Marine Environment
- Top 10 – Best Overall Dive Destination
- Top 10 – Macro Life
- Top 10 – Underwater Photography
- Top 10 – Beginner Diving
- Top 10 – Advanced Diving
- One of the Best – Snorkeling
- One of the Best – Cave, Cavern & Grotto Diving
- One of the Best – Shore Diving

The destination also secured the #1 Island Destination title in the Condé Nast Readers' Choice Awards UK, further cementing its global appeal.

Additional 2025 honours include:

- World Travel Awards: Caribbean's Leading Beach Destination 2025 and Caribbean's Most Romantic Destination 2025
- Air Canada Vacations: Best Beach Destination
- Trazee Awards: Favourite Honeymoon Destination
- USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice Awards: #1 Best Beach – Bambarra Beach and #9 Best Beach – Grace Bay
- World's 50 Best Beaches: Grace Bay ranked #10
- Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Best of the Best Awards: Taylor Bay ranked #18

2025 - A year of Tourism Accolades for TCI

• Recommend Magazine Readers' Choice Awards: Gold – Best Destination in Caribbean/Bahamas/Bermuda Interim CEO Consultant of Experience Turks and Caicos, Mr. Paul Pennicook, emphasised that the recognition reflects years of consistent brand-building through storytelling, media relations, and immersive on-island experiences for travel journalists.

"These awards are not accidental," said Mr. Pennicook. "They are the result of deliberate public relations pitching, strong relationships with international media, and impactful familiarisation trips that allow journalists and travel

advisors to experience the Turks and Caicos Islands firsthand. When travellers vote for us, they are voting based on real experiences, and that is the most powerful form of endorsement any destination can receive."

Experience Turks and Caicos remains committed to strengthening the destination's global presence through targeted promotion, media engagement, collaboration with content creators locally and from source markets as well as continued collaboration with tourism partners, while ensuring that growth is supported by quality, sustainability, and authentic experiences across all islands.



When travellers vote for us, they vote based on real experiences



From left – Acting Superintendent Kenville Charles, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports, and Culture Edgar Howell, Acting Superintendent Kemron Lowhar, Commissioner Fitz Bailey, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Innovation, Technology and Energy, Tamera Robinson, and Insurance Executive Colin Sterling.

POLICE PROMOTIONS SET FOR FEBRUARY FOLLOWING TRANSPARENT, COMMUNITY-LED INTERVIEW PROCESS

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey has confirmed that promotions within the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force will take place in February following the completion of an extensive and inclusive interview process involving community stakeholders.

The announcement was made on Friday, 23 January 2026, at the Providenciales Headquarters, during a review meeting with civilians and officials who participated in interviewing 112 officers shortlisted for promotion.

Of those interviewed, 68 were constables seeking promotion to sergeant, 30 were sergeants vying for elevation to inspector, and 14 inspectors competing for advancement to the rank of Assistant Superintendent. Commissioner Bailey did not disclose the number of vacancies available at each level.

"Promotion is going to happen not long from now," Commissioner Bailey confirmed. "The next step is executive review, followed by background checks to ensure that the right individuals, those with the appropriate integrity, are promoted. By next month, the promotions will be announced."

A FIRST FOR THE FORCE

Commissioner Bailey described the exercise as the first time the Police Force has adopted such a broad and transparent approach to promotions, deliberately involving civilians alongside police

officers.

"This is the first time we have taken this approach, where we have had a broad representation from across the Turks and Caicos Islands," he said. "The Police Force is not my police force; it is a people's force. We are servants of the public, and there is no better way to promote officers than to involve the community we serve."

Participants included permanent secretaries, members of the religious fraternity, private sector professionals, community leaders, and police officers. Bailey said the structure of the panels was intentional, noting that only one police officer was assigned to each panel to reduce the possibility of intimidation or undue influence.

"A police presence can be intimidating," he explained. "That is why there was only one police officer on each panel. I want the public to know that this was a transparent process."

HIGH-QUALITY CANDIDATES IDENTIFIED

Interviewers praised the quality of candidates who appeared before the panels, describing them as confident, capable, and deeply committed to the Force. Interviewers reported that at the sergeant level, there were more outstanding male candidates than female, while at the inspector level the quality of candidates was almost evenly split, with close to a 50-50 balance between men and women.

Several panelists noted that both sea-

soned officers and younger candidates demonstrated strong competence, dispelling the notion that length of service alone determines leadership potential.

EXAM PROCESS MOVED TO UWI

Commissioner Bailey also confirmed a significant reform to the promotion process, aimed at strengthening independence and credibility.

"One of the changes I made was to move the sergeant and inspector examinations to the University of the West Indies for administration," Bailey said. "The DSP examinations were already advanced, so those remained unchanged."

SUPPORT AND TRAINING A KEY THEME

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Innovation, Technology and Energy, Tamera Robinson, who served as an interviewer, welcomed the opportunity to participate and urged the Force to invest in continued development for successful candidates.

"Inspectors, particularly those entering middle management, should have access to coaching and support," Robinson said. "That coaching does not have to be limited to policing. These roles come with significant responsibility and stress."

She also highlighted the challenges facing new sergeants transitioning from operational duties to supervisory roles, recommending structured training and mentoring to ensure success.

FAST-TRACKING FUTURE LEADERS

Commissioner Bailey said the feedback aligned closely with his vision for the future of the Force, including the introduction of an accelerated promotion programme.

"As we build the Force, we must also intentionally develop future leaders," he said. "Some bright, dedicated, and committed individuals need to be fast-tracked if the organisation is to grow." He added that modern policing demands adaptability, continuous training, and exposure beyond traditional law-enforcement environments, noting his own experience receiving coaching both within and outside the Force.

CALL FOR TIMELY OUTCOMES

Insurance executive Collin Sterling, another interviewer, said delays in promotions can be demotivating and urged timely completion of the process.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, Edgar Howell, praised the professionalism displayed by candidates and the inclusion of civilians on interview panels.

"Many candidates expressed appreciation for seeing members of the community involved," Howell said. "It gave them confidence in the fairness of the process."

Commissioner Bailey concluded that the exercise reflects a broader shift toward partnership-based policing and greater public trust, stating that the model will inform future promotion and planning processes within the Force.

CARICOM at a Crossroads as U.S. Action in Venezuela Tests Regional Unity

CARICOM Faces a Unity-defining Moment

By Dr. Nand C. Bardouille

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is experiencing a difficult foreign policy-related moment, which variously impacts its 14 sovereign member states. America's use of military force in the Caribbean since September 2025 drew two disparate strands of reaction from these states, testing the bloc's unity.

At this juncture, CARICOM's leadership is taking steps to address this concern. In doing so, it is mindful *inter alia* of the seemingly implacable goals of the so-called "Donroe Doctrine" and pressure from concomitant U.S. policy toward the regional grouping's sovereign members.

The powers that be in CARICOM will have their work cut out to move the needle on what ostensibly amounts to a cohesive foreign policy response to Trump 2.0's take on American power, which leans into spheres of influence and strategic rivalry-related thinking.

The signals, so far, are that the associated interests of two sets of CARICOM member states diverge, having been framed in stark contrast to each other.

For that reason, public messaging-related restraint *qua* threading the needle has informed the bloc's collective reaction to date to the United States' recent targeted military strikes in Venezuela. (Instructively, several Latin American countries — such as Brazil — have not held back in condemning this U.S.-orchestrated development.)

Characterized by President Donald Trump as "a large scale strike against Venezuela and its leader," this U.S. intervention — to which U.S. authorities have also attached a law enforcement operation narrative — resulted in the ouster of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, with plans afoot for the United States to "run the country." (Secretary of State Marco Rubio qualified this Trumpian characterization, focusing instead on regime management in post-Maduro Venezuela.)

Of note, there is a stark difference in the respective responses of two leading CARICOM member states to this high-profile, consequential development. Those countries are Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, respectively.

In this moment, Barbados is emblematic of the set of member states that embraces the bloc's traditional foreign policy-related ethos. For its part, Trinidad and Tobago has pursued a radical break with many of its sister CARICOM member states' foreign policy-related dispositions.

Consider that with an eye to the associated risks both for small states and the international rules-based order, Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley did not pull any punches in her assessment of the implications of the January 3 U.S. military action in Venezuela.

Mottley's statement was not far removed from that of the spokesperson for United Nations (UN) Secretary General António Guterres in respect of the development in question. This is apt, considering the UN's outsized place in CARICOM's diplomatic playbook.

Guterres is said to view that military action as "a dangerous precedent." He has also cautioned that, stemming from this turn of events, there is a "risk of deepening instability, regional repercussions and a dangerous precedent for relations among States."

Guterres' viewpoint on these matters comports with Mottley's foreign policy ideals, which also resonate with those of virtually all CARICOM member states' leaders.

Yet Trinidad and Tobago sees the matter at hand differently, underscoring (yet again) "that the concept of real regional peace has been elusive within the Southern Caribbean." Moreover, in recent days, Port of Spain also reaffirmed its commitment to Washington's logic of intervention.

That said, Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar was quick to distance her country from the recent U.S. military operation against Venezuela.

Nonetheless, Trinidad and Tobago has come under the spotlight due to its prominent role in U.S. pressure brought to bear on Venezuela under the aegis of 'Operation Southern Spear'.

This role has raised concerns within CARICOM, not least because U.S. interventionism in Latin America and the Caribbean is seemingly making a comeback.

Much to the concern of CARICOM member states, too, the United

States — which stands as the world's pre-eminent superpower — is withdrawing from a number of international organizations, conventions and treaties. (Having largely brought about the liberal international order over 80 years ago, the U.S. is now seemingly turning its back on it and attendant international regimes.)

In the conduct of their international relations, these post-colonial small states rely on the UN, associated international organizations and norms and principles — all of which undergird processes of international cooperation and multilateralism. These processes help to amplify their voices and safeguard their interests in the anarchic international system, which the discipline of International Relations frames (for the most part) as hinging on "a lack of a common superior in an interaction domain." Under such systemic conditions, and as the historical record shows, large states may well resort to the power of war as a go-to agent for change and means of securing their interests *qua* security in international relations. Depending on the circumstances, such action may end up subordinating international law and, by extension, smaller states.

This is why CARICOM member states characteristically frame their interests in terms of the paramountcy of international law, which dovetails with their robust support for UN-anchored multilateralism. For example, in a statement published on January 4 on the 'present situation in Venezuela', The Bahamas emphasized the following sentiment: "Of particular importance to The Bahamas is that all parties involved act in accordance with international law."

Indeed, this view echoes Guterres' standpoint on the recent U.S. military action in Venezuela that affirms "respect for international law must remain the guiding principle." He has also voiced concern that "the rules governing the use of force have not been respected in the 3 January military action." The UN Charter, Guterres recalled, "explicitly prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State."

It is also noteworthy that at the UN Security Council meeting held shortly after the January 3 U.S. military action in Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago saw fit to call attention to its track

record as "a long-standing advocate for peaceful coexistence and the rule of law."

Among CARICOM member states, as far as the Trump administration's roll-out of aspects of 'America First' foreign policy is concerned, there is a serious rift that adds urgency to the Fiftieth Regular Meeting of the Conference of CARICOM Heads of Government — carded for next month. (A proviso is in order here: CARICOM member states have found common ground on certain elements of the aforesaid foreign policy. For example, a growing number of them are at varying stages of talks with the U.S. to host deported migrants from third countries.)

Accordingly, and having regard to the disparate regional thinking on issues in the mix, the following question arises: Will this summit live up to such an expectation?

Only time will tell.

As CARICOM's leadership weighs how to see the way forward for the summit vis-à-vis the central insight of the foregoing analysis, it has likely already come to the realization that this high-level meeting is a test that the bloc cannot afford to fail.

This likely means that at this summit, given that the stakes are high, CARICOM faces a unity-defining moment.

Nand C. Bardouille, Ph.D., is the manager of The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean in the Institute of International Relations at The University of the West Indies (The UWI) St. Augustine Campus, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The views expressed here are his own.

NEWSLINE TCI
Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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

Our numbers are:
1649 348-9587
1649 242-6695

You can email us at
contact@newslinetci.com or
viviantyson@newslinetci.com

Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

BREADBASKET PRICE REPORT JANUARY 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

The Department of Trade, Industry and Fair Competition (DTIFC) presents the Breadbasket Price Report for January 2026, a monthly snapshot of staple goods prices covering data collected from January 2-9, 2026. We are task with implementing and enforcing the Consumer Protection Ordinance (CPO) which establishes provision for the protection of consumer interest in relation to the supply of goods and services in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI).

This report provides valuable insight into the current market price for essential household items, helping consumers make informed purchasing decisions.

Key highlights of the report:

Red cells represent the two (2) highest prices for the breadbasket item and associated brand.

Green cells represent the two (2) lowest prices for the

BREADBASKET ITEM, BRAND AND QUANTITY		QUANTITY	PROVIDENCIALES										NORTH CAICOS			GRAND TURK			SOUTH CAICOS		
BREADBASKET ITEM	BRANDS		GK Retail (Leeward Highway)	GK Wholesale (Leeward Highway)	Graceway Cash & Carry	Graceway Gourmet IGA	SMART	PK Spendless store	Quality Food World	Sunny Foods (Blue Hills)	Sunny Foods (Five Cays)	Dard's Grocery Store	KJ's Food Store	My Dee's Store	Nique's Supermarket	Graceway IGA	Grand Turk Grocery Store	Sunny Foods (Grand Turk)	Cham B Grocery Store	Seaview Market	Super Value Supermarket
RICE	Riceland - Enrich Long Grain Goya - Thai Jasmine Mahatma - Extra Long Rice	20 lbs	\$ 10.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16.75	\$ 16.75	\$ 21.95	\$ 23.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.70	\$ -	\$ 15.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16.00	
FLOUR	Robin Hood - All Purpose Flour Gold Medal Flour Masury Flour	5 lbs	\$ 6.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8.50	\$ 7.19	\$ 6.39	\$ 6.39	\$ 7.25	\$ 7.50	\$ -	\$ 6.75	\$ 7.22	\$ 6.99	\$ 6.69	\$ 8.50	\$ 8.95	
GRITS	Quaker - White Grits Jim Dandy - White Enriched Grits	5 lbs	\$ 7.41	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8.19	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
BREAD	Nature's Own - Butter Bread Nature's Own - Honey Wheat Nature's Own - Thick Slice White Bread	1 lb / 20oz	\$ 3.55	\$ 3.55	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.65	\$ -	\$ 3.69	\$ 3.69	\$ 3.69	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.99	\$ 3.99	\$ 3.99	
PASTA / INSTANT NOODLES	The Original Nissin Top Ramen Maruchan Ramen Noodles Soup	3oz	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.70	\$ 0.70	\$ 0.70	\$ 0.70	\$ 0.85	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.89	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.90	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	
MACARONI AND CHEESE	Kraft - Macaroni & Cheese Original Flavour Kraft - Macaroni & Cheese Original Flavour	7.25oz / 206g	\$ 1.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3.25	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.95	\$ 2.25	\$ 2.25	\$ 1.75	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2.09	\$ 1.99	\$ 1.99	\$ 3.15	
CORN FLAKES / CEREAL	Divinetta Original Shells & Cheese General Mills - Cereals	12oz	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.98	\$ -	\$ 4.80	\$ 4.25	\$ 4.25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
CHICKEN	Kellogg's - Corn Flakes Kellogg's - Fruit Loops	1 lb / 24oz	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14.53	\$ 12.65	\$ 10.50	\$ 12.50	\$ 12.50	\$ 10.29	\$ 5.25	\$ 10.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10.50	\$ 10.00	
CANNED SAUSAGE	Cheapest brand - Leg Quarters Cheapest brand - Chicken Party Wings Cheapest brand - Drumsticks	5 lbs	\$ 6.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9.79	\$ 3.00	\$ -	\$ 9.99	\$ 9.99	\$ 11.94	\$ 13.00	\$ 12.95	\$ 11.00	\$ 12.25	\$ 11.00	\$ 9.99	\$ 10.99	\$ 10.00	
CANNED MEATS	Goya - Vienna Sausage Amour - Vienna Sausage	4.6oz / 130g	\$ 1.69	\$ 1.69	\$ 1.69	\$ 1.69	\$ 1.85	\$ -	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.45	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.49	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.25	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.99	\$ 1.45	\$ 2.00	
EGGS	Goya - Corn Beef Hormel Spam Original/Classic	12oz / 340g	\$ 3.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3.99	\$ 3.94	\$ 3.90	\$ 4.99	\$ 4.99	\$ 3.99	\$ 3.39	\$ 3.70	\$ -	\$ 4.80	\$ -	\$ 4.14	\$ 3.99	\$ 4.39	
CHEESE	Kraft - American Singles Kraft - American Singles Cheapest Brand - Shredded Cheddar Cheese	12oz	\$ 5.29	\$ 5.29	\$ 5.05	\$ 6.25	\$ 5.05	\$ -	\$ 5.29	\$ 6.35	\$ -	\$ 6.29	\$ 5.59	\$ -	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.50	
EVAPORATED MILK	Distinction Nestle Carnation	410g	\$ 1.60	\$ 1.60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.65	\$ 1.90	\$ 1.89	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.75	\$ 2.25	\$ 3.00	\$ -	\$ 1.60	\$ 1.99	\$ 1.99	\$ 2.80	\$ 2.50	
EGGS	Cheapest 30 pack of eggs Cheapest 18 pack of eggs Cheapest 12 pack of eggs	30ct	\$ 7.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7.70	\$ 4.95	\$ -	\$ 5.80	\$ -	\$ 7.99	\$ 5.80	\$ 5.75	\$ -	\$ 6.85	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ 21.00	\$ -	
COOKING OIL	Wesson - Pure Vegetable Oil Shopper's Value - Vegetable Oil	18ct	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4.15	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12.00	
FRUITS	Mazola - Corn Plus Oil	12flz / 354ml	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1.65	\$ -	\$ 1.75	\$ -	\$ 2.00	\$ -	\$ 1.89	\$ -	\$ -	
SUGAR	Bananas Domino - Granulated Sugar Sugar Crysanth - Pure Cane Granulated	5 lbs	\$ 4.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5.15	\$ 5.50	\$ -	\$ 4.79	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8.95	\$ 5.95	\$ -	\$ 6.50	\$ -	\$ 27.99	\$ 22.99	\$ -	
INSTANT BABY FOOD / JUICE	Shopper's Value - Granulated Sugar Gerber - Pear 2pack each 4oz	40 flz / 1.18l	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9.35	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6.99	\$ 11.50	\$ 8.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
BOTTLED WATER	Member's Mark - Purified Water Aquafina - Purified Water Pure Life - Purified Water	40ct / 16.9 flz	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1.15	\$ -	\$ 1.15	\$ 1.15	\$ 1.15	\$ -	\$ 1.50	\$ 2.80	\$ 1.40	\$ 1.10	\$ 1.29	
CLEANING SUPPLIES	Clorex - Bleach Roma - Laundry Detergent	121 floz	\$ 10.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14.50	\$ 14.50	\$ 14.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11.95	\$ 13.95	\$ 11.50	\$ 14.75	\$ 11.99	\$ 10.99	\$ 16.50	\$ 19.00	
DISINFECTANTS	Joy Ultra Lysol disinfectant eliminates odors	12.6 flz / 375ml	\$ 13.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1.90	\$ -	\$ 17.65	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7.95	\$ -	\$ 4.00	\$ 3.50	\$ 3.50	\$ 3.50	\$ 4.75	\$ -	
ADULT & BABY DIAPERS	Fabuloso - Refreshing Lemon Pine Sol - Lemon Fresh	33 flz / 354g	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3.99	\$ 6.75	\$ 4.99	\$ 6.99	\$ 7.95	\$ 6.95	\$ -	\$ 8.40	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
PROTEIN NUTRITIONAL SHAKES	Depends Women Dry Shield - Adult Diapers Pampers - Baby Diapers Size 2	cheapest 30ct	\$ 21.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17.00	\$ -	\$ 16.65	\$ -	\$ 21.39	\$ -	\$ 18.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20.25	\$ -	\$ 18.99	\$ -	\$ 25.00	
TEA & COFFEE	Ensure - Original Nutrition Shake Boost Glucose Control - 6 pack Nestle - Boost Balanced Nutritional Drink	8 floz / 237ml	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17.49	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14.49	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18.62	\$ -	\$ 14.99	\$ -	\$ -	
	Lipton Black Tea 100ct Milo	Boz / 400g	\$ 9.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8.00	\$ 7.15	\$ 8.49	\$ 8.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7.39	\$ 4.45	\$ -	\$ 11.00	\$ -	\$ 3.91	\$ 2.79	\$ 4.00	
	Nescafe Classic	7oz / 200g	\$ 16.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2.00	\$ 13.95	\$ 13.95	\$ -	\$ 13.99	\$ -	\$ 12.40	\$ -	\$ 15.99	\$ 13.29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11.50	\$ -	

breadbasket item and associated brand.

Find out what your essential grocery prices are for this month; from flour and rice to chicken and oil. Stay informed and plan ahead.

For more details of the breadbasket price collection reports, please visit www.gov.tc/trade or contact the Department of Trade, Industry & Fair Competition by email at: con-

sumeraffairs@gov.tc or by telephone at: 338-3703. The department continues to monitor consumer goods prices to promote transparency and fair competition in the marketplace.

Man Charged with Two Counts of Burglary in Providenciales

The Serious Crime Unit (SCU) of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force has charged a Providenciales man in connection with two separate burglary incidents.

Wolbert Ferguson, 33, of Kew Town, was formally charged with two counts of burglary on Tuesday, Janu-

mately US\$3,000 were stolen. The second burglary reportedly took place in the Turtle Cove area, during which a quantity of cash was taken.

Ferguson remains in police custody and is expected to make his first court appearance at the earliest available opportunity.



Wolbert Ferguson

Pelican Energy Withdraws Its 6 Percent Rate Increase

Pelican Energy TCI, formerly FortisTCI has withdrawn its six percent rate increase asking from the Washington Misick Administration. The company issued the notice via news release, and also dispatched the information to its customers.

The following is the news release:

Pelican Energy TCI, the electricity utility company serving the Turks and Caicos Islands ("TCI"), and the Turks and Caicos Islands Government, hereby notifies the public that the Company has withdrawn its February 14, 2024, rate variation application submitted to Her Excellency the Governor for a 6% increase in electricity rates across the TCI.

Devon Cox, President of Pelican Energy TCI, said, "Our decision to withdraw our proposal came after careful consideration of our customers' needs for energy that is safe, reliable, affordable and

sustainable as well as our strong desire to work collaboratively with TCI's government, regulator and key stakeholders to achieve this goal."

He added, "Investments in new long-term infrastructure across TCI remain critical. We are confident that Pelican Energy TCI is well-positioned to invest in the infrastructure required to keep pace with TCI's rapid economic growth and rising energy demand. We look forward to advancing our strategic plans focused on a more modern generation mix and enhanced service."

The application, submitted by FortisTCI



COX... Our decision to withdraw our proposal came after careful consideration of our customers' needs for energy that is safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable...

(prior to Pelican Energy TCI's takeover), sought approval for a rate increase to expand the electricity system in response to economic growth and higher operating costs driven by rising inflation. Minister of Innovation, Technology and Energy, Hon. E. Jay Saunders, stated, "Wherever and whenever we can, our Government works to keep the cost of living low for our citizens. In that spirit, we welcome Pelican Energy TCI's decision to withdraw its application for a 6% rate increase. This decision reflects our shared understanding that affordable electricity is essential to building a healthy, reliable energy sector that

serves all stakeholders."

Pelican Energy TCI and the TCI Government are advancing discussions on key priorities, including reforming utility-sector regulations and future investment strategies to address the nation's growing energy needs.

Should a revision of electric rates become necessary in the future to help ensure TCI's energy infrastructure continues to be well-maintained and scales commensurate with demand, Pelican Energy TCI's application will be based on careful consideration, detailed analysis, and follow the standard rate review process outlined in the Electricity Act.

Invest TCI Launches Fisheries Pilot to Strengthen the Local Fishing Industry

Invest Turks and Caicos has officially launched its Fisheries Pilot Programme, an initiative designed to transform local fishing from a subsistence activity into a sustainable, growth-oriented business sector.

The pilot supports 18 fisherfolk across the islands, providing each with funding of up to \$50,000 to purchase vessels, engines, fishing gear, and other essential equipment. In addition to financial assistance, each participant receives business coaching and technical support to help them establish record-keeping systems and strengthen their financial management.

The programme, developed in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Environment, Fisheries, and Marine Affairs, was created in response to the increasing number of fishing-related applications under the MSME Programme. To address this surge and support the development of the sector, in FY 2024/2025 Cabinet approved \$1 million in special funding dedicated specifically to commercial fishing activities.

The initiative officially kicked off in South Caicos on the 9th October 2025, where Invest TCI's VP of SME Development, Alexa Cooper, and Business Advisor/Programme Manager, Lasheena Simmons, joined by Director of Fisheries Mr. Ponteen and Dr. Alvarez, engaged participants in a roundtable discussion on progress, challenges, and next steps.

"This Fisheries Pilot is about helping our local fisherfolk move from survival to sustainability. Through our partnership with the Ministry, we are providing not only equipment and funding, but the business support needed to help them grow strong, viable enterprises. The island meetings ensure that participants remain supported and on track as the programme continues." - Alexa Cooper, VP of SME Development, Invest Turks and Caicos.

"I know firsthand how important this industry is to our future, not only environmentally, but in how it provides for local families and sustains entire communities. This Fisheries Pilot is

about giving our fisherfolk the tools to operate more efficiently, earn more from their work, and build businesses that can last. Through this partnership with Invest Turks and Caicos, we are strengthening food security while ensuring the sector grows in a responsible and sustainable way." - Hon. Zavargo Jolly- Minister of Tourism, Environment, Fisheries and Marine Affairs.

Meetings will continue across the islands, with upcoming sessions planned for Grand Turk and Providenciales in February. Through this pilot, Invest TCI aims to build a model for future sectoral support, ensuring that local fisherfolk can operate more efficiently, profitably, and sustainably while contributing to national food security and economic resilience.



Hon. E. Jay Saunders invited to participate in Bermuda Parliament Post-Election Seminar

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK (CPA UK), in partnership with the Parliament of Bermuda, has invited Hon. E. Jay Saunders, Minister of Innovation, Technology and Energy, to participate in Bermuda's Post-Election Seminar (26–28 January 2026) — a three-day programme designed to strengthen parliamentary practice, scrutiny and effective representation following Bermuda's recent General Election.

Hon. Saunders will deliver opening remarks at the official Opening Ceremony and will give presentations during several high-profile sessions including: Comparing Parliamentary Systems; Ethics, Behaviour and Standards in Parliament; Cross-Party Collaboration; Exploring the use

of AI and technology in Parliaments; The Role and Remit of Scrutiny Committees; and Outreach & Engagement with the Public.

The programme will bring together parliamentarians and parliamentary officials from across the Overseas Territories and beyond, including representatives from the UK Parliament, Isle of Man, the States Assembly of Jersey, and the Anguilla House of Assembly, enabling participants to exchange best practice and deepen practical skills in parliamentary procedure and oversight.

Notably, Hon. Saunders has been asked to chair the session on Cross-Party Collaboration, which will look at the times "... when cross-party cooperation

can be valuable in different areas of parliamentary work."

Hon. Saunders stated that the: "CPA UK's Post-Election Seminars are practical, solutions-focused programmes that help legislatures sharpen the fundamentals while also preparing for the future, including the responsible use of AI. I am honoured to support the Parliament of Bermuda at their invitation, and I look forward to sharing lessons from the Turks and Caicos Islands and learning from colleagues across the Overseas Territories and the wider Commonwealth."

He further added, "My participation reflects my continued interest and commitment to improving legislature effectiveness and good governance — not just through good intentions, but

through better systems, effective oversight, and better outcomes for the people we serve."



Saunders will deliver opening remarks at the official Opening Ceremony and will give presentations during several high-profile sessions including



Villa Manager

Job Specification:

The Villa Manager is responsible for overseeing the management, maintenance, and guest relations of our luxurious villa and residence properties.

- Serve as the primary point of contact for villa owners and guests at The Strand, delivering personalized service and addressing inquiries and concerns with promptness and professionalism.
- Oversee daily operations of designated villas and residences at The Strand, ensuring they are impeccably maintained and presented to the highest standards of luxury.
- Coordinate and manage housekeeping, maintenance, and landscaping services to uphold the aesthetic and functional integrity of the properties.
- Develop and manage budgets for villa operations, including maintenance, staffing, and amenities, ensuring fiscal responsibility while delivering high-quality services.
- Ensure that all departments within The Strand consistently adhere to Leading Hotels of the World (LHW) standards, maintaining the prestigious reputation of the property.
- Work with F&B and assist in planning and executing events held at the villas, ensuring that all details align with the expectations of both owners and guests, while showcasing The Strand's luxurious offerings.
- Collaborate and oversee the Rooms Division and Property Management Department to ensure seamless operations across all properties within The Strand.
- Recruit, train, and manage a dedicated team of villa staff, fostering a culture of excellence in hospitality that aligns with the values of The Strand.

Job Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Hospitality Management, Business Administration, or certification in related field preferred.
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in luxury villa management, hotel management, or similar hospitality roles.
- Proficiency in budget management and financial reporting tailored to luxury hospitality.

Salary expectations - \$55,000 - \$75,000 per annum

Join our team

Housekeeping Supervisor

Job Specification:

- Manage the housekeeping department, employees, and operations within the facility
- Manage department budget and resources
- Manage inventory supplies and equipment
- Maintain high standards of cleanliness, hygiene, and sanitation within the facility
- Ensure all housekeeping employees follow the appropriate protocols
- Delegate housekeeping tasks to employees as needed
- Provide feedback to employees to improve performance
- Provide feedback to management on employee performance
- Supervise and oversee the performance of housekeeping employees
- Provide feedback to management on employee performance
- Oversee daily operation of the housekeeping department

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 2+ years experience as a Supervisor
- Certificates and advancement qualifications
- Must be able to work in a restaurant environment, stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.

Salary expectation - \$35,000 - \$41,100 per annum

APPLY NOW!

Send your resume to: careers@thestrandtci.com

Interested applicants for this position listed on this ad, should also send a copy of your resume to the Labour Department located Downtown, Airport Road, Providenciales

Rooms Division Manager

Job Specification:

- Lead and manage the front office and housekeeping teams ensuring these departments are provided with support as needed.
- Assist the reservation department, ensuring accurate and efficient handling of room reservations, group bookings, and guest inquiries, and implementing strategies to optimize room revenue and occupancy levels.
- Guest services enhancement
- Develop and implement guest service initiatives and standards to enhance the overall guest experience, including personalized service, VIP amenities, and special touches that exceed guest expectations.
- Housekeeping management
- Manage the housekeeping department, including room attendants, supervisors, and laundry staff, to ensure cleanliness, hygiene, and maintenance of guest rooms, public areas, and back-of-house facilities.
- Quality assurance
- Implement and maintain quality assurance standards for guest accommodations, including room cleanliness, maintenance, and amenities, conducting regular inspections and audits to ensure compliance with brand standards and guest satisfaction.
- Revenue optimization
- Develop and implement strategies to maximize room revenue and occupancy levels, including pricing strategies, distribution channel management, and upselling initiatives, to achieve revenue targets and profitability goals.
- Provide training, coaching, and professional development opportunities to front office and housekeeping staff, ensuring they have the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to deliver exceptional service and meet performance standards.
- Budget management
- Prepare and manage departmental budgets, including staffing, operating expenses, and capital expenditures, to achieve financial targets and control costs while maintaining service quality and standards.

Job Requirements:

- Must have 3-5 years experience as an Rooms Division Manager/Executive Housekeeper/Rooms Operator
- Certificates and advancement qualifications within the Rooms remit
- Must be able to meet deadlines and work under pressure

Salary expectation - \$60,000- \$70,000 per annum

National Youth Awards 2025–2026 to Celebrate Excellence in Youth Leadership and Service

The Department of Youth Affairs has announced the staging of the National Youth Awards 2025–2026, which will be held on Saturday, 7 February 2026.

This prestigious event represents the second biannual hosting of the National Youth Awards in the Turks and Caicos Islands and will celebrate outstanding young people and youth groups who are making meaningful contributions to national development.

Held under the theme "Youth with Purpose: Building a Sustainable TCI," the National Youth Awards are designed to recognise and honour leaders, achievers, innovators, and change makers between the ages of 12 and 35 who have demonstrated excellence, commitment, and positive impact within their communities and across the nation.

The awards celebrate both individuals and youth groups whose efforts reflect strong leadership, service, creativity, resilience, and a dedication to uplifting others. Through these awards, the Department of Youth Affairs continues to highlight the critical role young people play in shaping a sustainable and prosperous future for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Nominations for the National Youth

Awards opened on 26 September 2025 and closed on 19 November 2025. The response from the public was strong, reflecting the breadth of youth talent and leadership present throughout the islands. A rigorous selection process has identified exceptional individuals and groups whose contributions exemplify the spirit of youth excellence and community service. The National Youth Awards Ceremony is an invitation-only event, bringing together nominees, award recipients, community leaders, partners, and stakeholders to celebrate excellence in youth development and service. The ceremony will feature the presentation of awards recognising outstanding achievement across multiple categories, honouring those young people who are actively shaping the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Department of Youth Affairs extends its gratitude to all nominators, nominees, partners, and supporters who continue to invest in and champion the growth and success of our young people.

The National Youth Awards remain a powerful platform for recognising youth who are purpose-driven and actively contributing to building a sustainable Turks and Caicos Islands.



Minister of Education Youth, Sport and Culture Hon. Rachell Taylor

An advertisement for The Strand Turks & Caicos. It features a photograph of a swimming pool with a white curved structure and a stone wall in the background. The text "THE STRAND" is in large gold letters, with "TURKS & CAICOS" in smaller letters below it. A speech bubble contains the text "Join our team".

Rooms Operations Specialist/Supervisor

Job Specification:

- Assist management in hiring, training, scheduling, evaluating, counseling, disciplining, and motivating and coaching employees; and serve as a role model and first point of contact of the Guarantee of Fair Treatment/Open Door Policy process.
- Follow all company and safety and security policies and procedures; report accidents, injuries, and unsafe work conditions to manager; and complete safety training and certifications.
- Welcome and acknowledge all guests according to company standards, anticipate and address guests' service needs, assist individuals with disabilities, and thank guests with genuine appreciation.
- Speak with others using clear and professional language.
- Develop and maintain positive working relationships with others, support team to reach common goals, and listen and respond appropriately to the concerns of other employees.
- Ensure adherence to quality expectations and standards; and identify, recommend, develop, and implement new ways to increase organizational efficiency, productivity, quality, safety, and/or cost-savings.
- Enter and locate work-related information using computers and/or point of sale systems.
- Stand, sit, or walk for an extended period of time or for an entire work shift. Move, lift, carry, push, pull, and place objects weighing less than or equal to 25 pounds without assistance.

Job Requirements:

- Must have 2- 3 years experience in related field
- Must be able to move over sloping, uneven, or slippery surfaces. Reach overhead and below the knees, including bending, twisting, pulling, and stooping. Perform other reasonable job duties as requested.

Salary expectation - \$20,596 - \$25,167 per annum

Great Benefits of a Bridge That Links North Caicos to Providenciales

An Op-Ed by Paladin

Why is there no bridge that links North Caicos to Providenciales? Yes, many years ago this idea would have been cost-prohibitive, but today it can be discussed with all seriousness, and a cost-benefit analysis can be mapped and given genuine consideration.

How is this a viable idea, you ask? The answer lies in the total amount of "wasted" funds over the last 20 years and the total amount of government tax monies that were forgiven and not paid into the treasury by resident hotels.

Does anyone know how much this amounts to over twenty years? If the bridge project costs \$300 million over five years, I would bet residents that about 60 percent of this cost could have been covered by all of the wasteful spending by the Turks and Caicos Islands Government (TCIG) over the last twenty years. There is a very simple way to check this. Since the Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Commission promotes "transparency," let them conduct an audit covering the period from 2000 to 2025.

There are also other ways of financing this build-out. TCIG would simply have to be committed—across both political parties—to a five-year plan and a clear financial method. This could include loans from agencies that specialize in infrastructure projects, as well as public-private partnerships. My preference would be an interesting hybrid model, one that allows for public investment.

Provo-North Caicos Bridge Investment Fund

30% funded by TCIG

25% funded by a private company

45% exclusive to TCI residents (resident cardholders purchase shares).

Under this structure, the offering should be oversubscribed. Once the project is completed, Turks and Caicos Islanders can expect dividend payments from owning a portion of the project.

These pieces are written to spark imagination among the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, especially the government, because we cannot expect them to think of everything.

Rudimentary Structured Plan: Provo-North Caicos Bridge

1. Site and Alignment

Coordinates provided:

21.812022,-72.137132

21.828994,-72.088359

21.868469,-72.033319

21.906737,-72.029886

Span length: approximately 6–8 km, depending on alignment chosen

Bathymetry: 20 feet water depth; seabed of sand/mud to 10 feet, suitable for pile foundations

2. Environmental and Resilience

Coral reefs: none present

Marine life: none significant

Hurricane resilience: design must withstand Category 5 wind and storm surge loads

Impact mitigation: minimal, but salt-water corrosion protection required

3. Traffic Demand

Daily volumes:

Cars: approximately 100

Trucks: approximately 50

Pedestrians and bicycles: approximately 200

Design implications:

- Single carriageway with passing bays may suffice
- Dedicated pedestrian and bicycle lane recommended
- Load capacity designed for heavy trucks

4. Bridge Type and Design

- Pile-supported bridge
- Driven piles into sand/mud seabed
- Reinforced concrete deck with cable guardrails
- Clearance height: 15–20 feet (if small boats are expected)
- Advantages: durable, hurricane-resistant, and lower environmental impact than a causeway

5. Regulatory and Approvals

- Turks and Caicos Government: planning authority and Ministry of Infrastructure
- Environmental agencies: approvals required, but simplified due to absence of reefs or significant marine life
- Timeline: maximum of three months for approvals (per your input).

6. Construction Logistics

- Access roads: already present; no temporary roads required
- Staging areas: required for piling rigs and concrete batching
- Materials: reinforced concrete and corrosion-resistant steel
- Labor: mix of local and imported skilled workforce

7. Cost and Timeline (Rough Benchmarks)

- Feasibility and surveys: \$2–5 million (6–12 months)
- Design and approvals: \$10–20 million (up to one year)
- Construction: \$200–400 million (5–7 years, depending on alignment and design)
- Maintenance: 1–2% of capital cost annually (approximately \$2–8 million)

8. Next Steps

- Commission detailed bathymetric and geotechnical surveys
- Develop conceptual engineering drawings for government submis-



sion

- Launch a feasibility study with cost-benefit analysis
- Begin stakeholder engagement (government, tourism, transport)
- Prepare tender documents for contractors with Caribbean bridge experience

Proposed Financing Model

What would a financing model for this bridge look like? Let me propose one simple structure. I am sure that the brilliant minds at the Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission can develop several improved variations on this model.

Provo-North Caicos Bridge: Hybrid Financing and Toll Model

- Financing Structure (Total Cost: \$300 million)
- TCI Government: 30% (\$90 million) – anchor investor ensuring state commitment
- Global partner: 25% (\$75 million) – infrastructure fund, development bank, or PPP partner
- TCI residents (shares): 45% (\$135 million) – common shares offered exclusively to residents, tradeable with TCIG retaining first right of refusal

Toll and Weigh Station System

Tolls:

- Cars: \$2
- Light trucks: \$3
- Heavy trucks and machinery (< 5 tonnes): \$10
- Heavy trucks and machinery (> 5 tonnes): \$20
- Bicycles and pedestrians: \$1

Weigh Stations

- Installed at both ends of the bridge
- Automated weigh-in-motion systems for trucks
- Protects bridge structure and ensures fair tolling
- Revenue Model (Annual Projection)

Traffic assumptions (daily):

- Cars: 150–200
- Light trucks: 75
- Heavy trucks: 50–60
- Bicycles and pedestrians: 300
- Estimated Annual Toll Revenue (mid-range):
- Cars: approximately \$127,750
- Light trucks: approximately \$82,125
- Heavy trucks: approximately \$301,125
- Bicycles and pedestrians: approximately \$109,500
- Total estimated annual revenue: approximately \$620,500

Shareholder Benefits

- Dividends paid from toll revenues after maintenance and debt service
- Shares tradeable among residents
- TCIG retains first right of refusal
- With tourism and freight expansion, traffic could double within 10–15 years, pushing annual revenue toward \$1.2–1.5 million

Governance and Oversight

- Independent Bridge Investment Fund Board with representation from TCIG, residents, and global partners
- Annual audits and transparent toll revenue reporting
- Clear dividend policy to avoid political interference

Strategic Impact

Economic: strengthens logistics, tourism, and inter-island commerce

Social: residents own infrastructure, fostering pride and financial participation

Political: balances state, private, and citizen interests

Resilience: toll system ensures sustainable maintenance funding

Ten-Year Dividend Simulation (10% Annual Traffic Growth)

Year	Gross Toll Revenue	Net Revenue After \$6M Maintenance
	Dividend per \$1,000 Share	
1	\$19,321,250;	\$13,321,250;
	\$98.67	
2	\$21,253,375;	\$15,253,375;
	\$112.99	
3	\$23,378,713;	\$17,378,713
	\$128.73	
4	\$25,716,584;	\$145.30
	\$19,716,584;	
5	\$28,288,242;	\$22,288,242
	\$163.62	
6	\$31,117,066;	\$25,117,066;
	\$184.57	
7	\$34,228,773;	\$28,228,773;
	\$207.62	
8	\$37,651,650;	\$31,651,650;
	\$232.97	
9	\$41,416,815;	\$35,416,815;
	\$260.86	
10	\$45,559,497;	\$39,559,497;
	\$291.55	

Key Insights

Year 1 net revenue of approximately \$13.3 million after maintenance

Dividends rise from approximately \$99 per share in Year 1 to \$292 by Year 10. Maintenance fully covered annually, with strong surplus for dividends

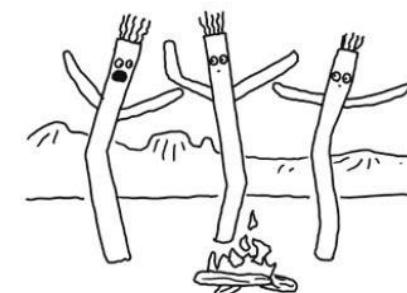
Electricity Generation

One of the greatest additional benefits of this bridge is that technology can be added to the pylons to generate electricity for North and Middle Caicos.



NEWSLINE TCI COMICS

DO PEOPLE WHO RUN MARATHONS KNOW THEY DON'T HAVE TO?



Eric Scott



"If we're gonna hide from the law, we gotta stop advertising our position."



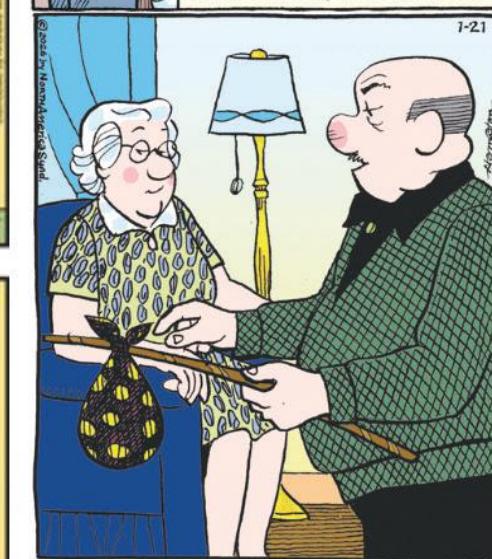
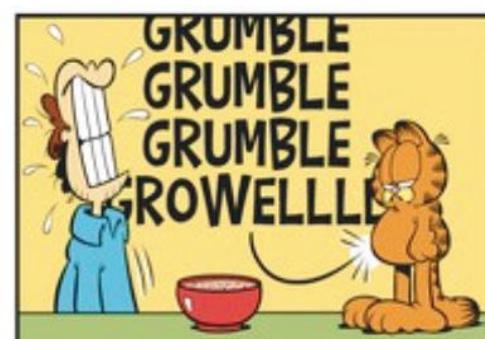
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Plat 18 King Features

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



1-21



"THIS IS FOR WHEN DENNIS RUNS AWAY FROM HOME... SO I KNOW I'VE GOT A PLACE TO STAY!"

THE MAN WHO DARED TO DREAM

for Turks and Caicos:

**JAMES ALEXANDER
GEORGE SMITH
MCCARTNEY**

James Alexander George Smith McCartney, more widely known as J.A.G.S. McCartney, stands as the only officially recognized National Hero of the Turks and Caicos Islands—a distinction earned through courage, vision, and an unrelenting devotion to the people of these islands.

Born on June 30, 1945, in Grand Turk, McCartney was a man ahead of his time. He possessed a deep awareness of the political and social limitations faced by Turks and Caicos Islanders during the colonial era. Inspired by movements for self-governance across the Caribbean and beyond, McCartney returned to the islands in the 1970s with a burning desire to bring about change.

In 1975, he founded the People's Democratic Movement (PDM), a political party rooted in empowerment, education, and local leadership. Just one year later, in 1976, he made history by becoming the first Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands at only 31 years old—the youngest person to ever hold that position. His rise symbolized a generational shift and a bold new direction for the islands' political future.

J.A.G.S. McCartney was known not only for his passionate speeches and grassroots organizing but also for his deep concern for young people. He believed that education, national pride, and civic responsibility were essential ingredients for building a strong and self-reliant Turks and Caicos. His administration worked tirelessly to uplift communities, inspire national unity, and challenge systems that held the islands back.



Sadly, McCartney's groundbreaking leadership was cut short. On May 9, 1980, he died in a tragic plane crash in New Jersey, USA. He was only 34 years old. His sudden death shocked the nation and left a void in the heart of a movement that was just beginning to realize its potential.

Despite his brief time in office, McCartney's legacy has stood the test of time. In recognition of his immense contributions, the Turks and Caicos Islands declared the last Monday in May as JAGS McCartney day, a public holiday in his honor. Additionally, the international airport in Grand Turk proudly bears his name: the JAGS McCartney International Airport.

To this day, J.A.G.S. McCartney represents the spirit of hope, transformation, and national pride. His image is etched into the collective memory of the TCI people—not just as a political figure, but as a hero who dared to dream and act boldly for a better Turks and Caicos.





L-R: Honorable Premier Charles Washington Missick, H E Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, PS Alexandria Missick and the National Land Secretariat Team.

The TCI Crown Land Unit, operating under the National Land Secretariat, brought strong momentum and public engagement to the launch of the first Outreach Event of the Crown Land Access Support Programme (CLASP) Initiative on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at the Gustarvus Lightbourne Sports Complex, with senior government leaders and members of the public in attendance.

The event recorded a strong turnout across both the Open Day, held during the afternoon, and the Town Hall session held in the evening. Attendees included Her Excellency the Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, the Honourable Premier Charles Washington Missick, several Members of Parliament, Permanent Secretaries, senior government officials, key stakeholders, and residents from across the islands, all of whom gathered to learn more about the program and its role in reshaping land management in the TCI.

CLASP is a national initiative designed to modernize how Crown Land is managed, allocated, and accessed across the Turks and Caicos Islands. The programme brings together multiple government departments to establish clear rules and procedures, improve coordination, strengthen systems and data, and promote better transparency and fairness in the use of public land. A central focus of CLASP is improving public communication, including clarity around what Crown Land is used for, who can apply, and how decisions are made.

In her remarks, Her Excellency the Governor, Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, emphasized the national importance of land reform, stating: "Crown Land is far more than a matter of policy; it speaks to iden-

tity, heritage, opportunity, and belonging. For generations, land has represented security, independence, and the foundation on which families build homes, livelihoods, and generational legacies. I encourage everyone to engage in the CLASP outreach programme, share your perspectives, and contribute to a system that reflects the needs and aspirations of the Turks and Caicos Islands."

The Open Day allowed attendees to engage directly with representatives from the various government departments involved in CLASP, providing information on Crown Land programmes, housing and homeownership opportunities, beach and coastal accessways, and other key components of the initiative.

Addressing attendees at the event, Premier Charles Washington Missick highlighted the scale and significance of the reform, noting: "CLASP represents the result of years of careful work, collaboration, and a clear decision by this government to confront long-standing legacy challenges. For far too long, many Islanders have experienced frustration, uncertainty, and delays when navigating land access and housing pathways.

Through CLASP, we are responding with real structural change across government. This is about building trust, improving service delivery, and ensuring public land is used responsibly for current and future generations."

The Town Hall session saw a large and engaged crowd, with residents actively participating, asking questions, and seeking insight into how CLASP will impact land access, housing development, and community planning. The session provided an open forum for dialogue and feedback, reinforcing

CLASP Officially Launched, Marking Major Reform in Crown Land Management



Alexandria Missick, Permanent Secretary of the National Land Secretariat



A section of the audience

the programme's people-centered approach.

Alexandria Missick, Permanent Secretary of the National Land Secretariat, added: CLASP is not just about policy; it is about people. This programme strengthens and equips the National Land Secretariat with the systems, tools, and inter-agency coordination needed to better support residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands as they navigate the Crown Land process. For more information on the CLASP Initiative, members of the public are encouraged to contact the Crown Land Unit at 946-1145 or 338-2645, visit www.gov.tc/crown-land, or follow @tcicrownlandunit on social media.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Crown Land Unit is dedicated to manag-

ing Crown land holdings to ensure sustainable long-term benefits for all TC Islanders, fostering prosperity and development across the islands. Crown Land Unit Vision Statement: To operate a Crown land management system that ensures transparency and sustainable use of government lands.

The Crown Land Access Support Programme (CLASP) is a national initiative designed to modernize how Crown Land is managed, allocated, and accessed across the Turks and Caicos Islands. CLASP brings together multiple government departments to create clearer rules and procedures, improve coordination, strengthen systems and data, and ensure greater transparency and fairness in how public land is used.

Life Line

The Community Fellowship Centre

This week in Newsline Featured Church, we shine the spotlight on the Community Fellowship Centre church, located along the Leeward Highway in Providenciales. The Community Fellowship Centre, which also operates a school – the Community Christian Academy – is led by Pastor Bradley Handfield, who is also a trained teacher. Community Fellowship Centre conducts a series of engagements during the course of each week, starting with divine service on Sunday at 9a.m. On Thursday between 5a.m. and 6a.m. is early morning prayer meeting. Between Monday and Friday at 12noon is midday prayer meeting. Monday to Friday between 7p.m. and 9pm.m, is Bible study, while Youth Meeting is held on Friday.

FEATURED CHURCH



Life line Church Directory

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

Firm Foundation Ministries International

Lee Street, South Caicos.
Telephone: 649-348-3581

Christ is the Answer Ministry, George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales

Tel: 241-8030

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

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

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

Firm Foundation Ministries International

19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket ,
Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240

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

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

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

Firm Foundation Ministries International

Waterloo Road, Grand Turk.
Telephone: 649-332-624

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEM LAUNCH

The Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision (DRCS) has launched its Electronic Monitoring System on Thursday, 22 January 2026, at the Key West Village, Beaches Turks and Caicos Resorts and Spa. The event also saw a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, and the launch of the DRCS Website. The following are photo Highlights of the event.





THE POWER OF A 5-MINUTE MORNING HACK

How Easing into Your Day Regulates Your Hormones, Even When You're Rushed

By Monica Uttamchandani
Holistic Health Coach, Turks and Caicos

Rushing first thing in the morning sets a stressed tone for the entire day. Your stress hormone, cortisol, naturally rises upon waking. If you immediately grab your phone or sprint into tasks, you hyper-activate your nervous system. You end up feeling frazzled and mentally exhausted before the day has even properly begun.

You don't need a two-hour routine. You just need to interrupt the rush. Slow mornings simply mean beginning your day with intention, not speed.

The Busy Person's Strategy: How to Steal 5 Minutes Back

We hear you: asking for 10 minutes of quiet reflection sounds impossible when you're already behind schedule. These aren't additions to your day. They are intentional swaps and micro-pauses designed to fit into the

small pockets of time you already have.

Here are Zero-Friction Practices you can do right away:

- The Two-Minute Mind Dump: Instead of immediately checking texts, spend 120 seconds before you stand up jotting down the day's tasks or anxieties onto a notepad or phone app. This clears mental clutter before the day floods in.
- The Kettle-Boil Stretch: While you wait for your coffee or tea to brew (or for the shower water to heat up), do a quick 90-second stretch sequence (neck rolls, shoulder shrugs, toe touches). Use "wasted" time productively.
- Sunlight on the Go: Make your first task outside. Step into natural sunlight (or look out a window) while drinking your first glass of water. 60 seconds of light exposure helps reset your internal clock more effectively



than rushing in the dark.

- The Breath Anchor: Before you open your email or pick up your phone, take three deep, slow breaths. This quick pause signals to your nervous system that it is safe to proceed calmly. Your hormonal rhythms thrive on a gentle start. Focus, clarity, and decision-making all improve when you

allow your mind time to transition. Even a few mindful minutes transforms how you feel, think, and move through your busy world.

For more supportive morning practices, grounding tools, and strategies to start your day with calm, 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.



FSC STANDS FOR HOPE: COMMISSION DONATES TO MAHALA WYNNS EMPOWERMENT HOME

Financial Services Commission (FSC) has made a meaningful donation of essential goods to the Mahala Wynns Empowerment Home, reaffirming its commitment to corporate social responsibility and to supporting the protection, care, and empowerment of vulnerable youth across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Mahala Wynns Empowerment Home is a government-operated safe house located in Grand Turk that provides a secure, structured, and nurturing environment for at-risk teenage girls who have been removed from harmful or neglectful situations.

Formerly operated as a general safe house, the facility was officially renamed in May 2023 in honour of Hon Mahala Wynns, the first appointed Deputy Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands (9 August 2006 – 15 October 2013) and the second woman to serve as Governor of the Islands.

Today, the home focuses specifically on trauma-informed care, personal development, and long-term empowerment for young girls.

The FSC's donation included a range of practical items aimed at supporting the residents' daily needs, comfort, and overall well-being. These contributions complement the Home's mission to ensure residents can attend school, receive counselling and therapeutic support, maintain appropriate family contact, and participate in positive extracurricular and social activities that foster confi-

dence, resilience, and healthy development.

Speaking on the initiative, Kenisha Bacchus, Managing Director (Ag.) of the Financial Services Commission, emphasised the importance of meaningful engagement beyond regulation.

"At the FSC, our responsibility extends beyond overseeing the financial services sector. We recognise our role as a corporate citizen and the positive impact we can have when we invest in people, especially our most vulnerable. Supporting the Mahala Wynns Empowerment Home aligns with our values of integrity, care, and national development. These young girls deserve not only safety, but also encouragement, dignity, and the tools to envision and build a brighter future."

During the visit on Wednesday, 14 January, Ms Bacchus was given the opportunity to tour the Home with Francis Arthur, a caregiver. There, she observed the living conditions firsthand and gained insight into the daily routines and experiences of the residents.

The Empowerment Home is staffed by a dedicated team of caregivers trained in trauma-informed care, trust-building, and self-care practices. The facility is led by a Manager and Assistant Manager, Nichelle Durham-Simons, and supported by experienced professionals who work collaboratively to provide compassionate and consistent care as residents heal, grow, and regain stability.

The Home currently accommodates girls between the ages of 12 and 17, with the expectation that residents transition out of the system at 18 years of age. The facility has a capacity for ten residents and is presently home to nine girls.

To promote normalcy and dignity, residents receive a monthly allowance, have their hair professionally done, and are permitted to purchase clothing and personal items. Facility managers conduct monthly shopping to ensure all necessities are met, including food, toiletries, clothing, and other essential supplies. The girls maintain scheduled contact with their birth parents, speaking with them twice per week, and parents are encouraged to provide support where possible. The ultimate goal remains family reunification once behaviour patterns or home environments have improved.

Commenting on the importance of partnerships and support for the Home, Ashley Adams, Director of Social Development said: "Support from organisations like the Financial Services Commission makes a meaningful difference in the lives of the girls at the Mahala Wynns Empowerment Home. These contributions help ensure that our residents feel valued, supported, and empowered as they work toward brighter, more stable futures. We are grateful for the FSC's partnership and shared commitment to protecting our young people."

Through initiatives such as this dona-

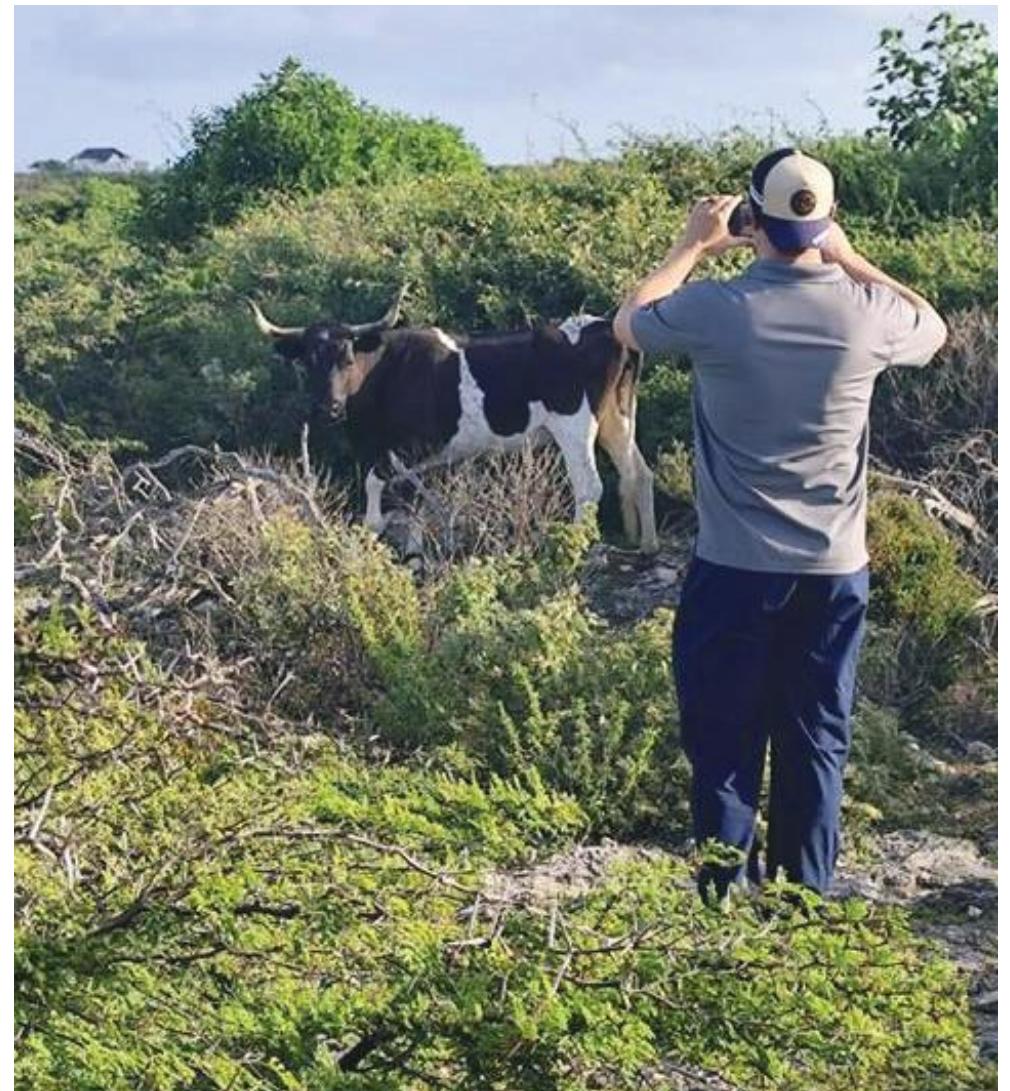
tion, the Financial Services Commission continues to demonstrate that strong institutions are built not only on sound governance and regulation, but also on empathy, partnership, and service to the wider community. The FSC encourages other organisations, corporate partners, and community members to support programmes and initiatives that uplift and protect children and young people throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Kenisha Bacchus (right), Managing Director (Ag.) of the Financial Services Commission share a photo moment with Francis Arthur, a caregiver at the Mahayla Wynns Empowerment Home.



Honourable Zhavargo Jolly, Minister for Tourism, Environment, Fisheries, Maritime, Heritage, Agriculture and Gaming and PJ Budler, internationally respected cattle expert and genetics authority.



Budler documenting cattle

TCI's Cattle Lauded by World-Renowned Expert

Over the past two days, the Department of Agriculture has had the distinct privilege of hosting PJ Budler, an internationally respected cattle expert and genetics authority originally from South Africa, whose global experience spans decades and more than 50 countries.

Mr. Budler was invited by the Department to conduct a preliminary assessment of the cattle populations on Salt Cay and Grand Turk. With extensive credentials that include founding BonHaven Beef Cattle at age 15, serving as International Business Manager for Trans Ova Genetics, and judging over 100 different cattle breeds — including on all six continents — Mr. Budler brings an unmatched perspective on cattle breeding, genetics, adaptability, and functional efficiency.

During his visit, Mr. Budler was consistently impressed with the condition, character, and adaptation of the local cattle stock. In his official observations, he noted that the animals are extraordinarily healthy, uniquely adapted to small island, saline conditions, and demonstrably resilient in an environment that challenges many breeds.

"I have not seen cattle this well-adapted and robust in such a

harsh climate anywhere else," Mr. Budler remarked, noting the animals' functional efficiency, natural hardiness and environmental adaptation.

At a meeting with the Hon Minister Zhavargo Jolly today Friday, 16th January, he shared his professional perspective:

The cattle of Salt Cay and Grand Turk represent a natural genetic asset worthy of preservation.

There exists an opportunity to develop the population further with minimal human intervention, preserving natural resilience and health traits valued worldwide.

The global agricultural community and tourist would be interested in visiting the Turks and Caicos Islands to learn from and witness a breed that has evolved organically in environmentally sustainable, free-roaming conditions.

Mr. Budler also highlighted that, visually and genetically, the animals show evidence of evolution through the historical crossing of multiple breeds, resulting in a population now uniquely adapted to Salt Cay and Grand Turk. Photographic documentation supports the view that this evolving genetic profile contributes to their distinctiveness and

ecological fitness.

Hon Minister Jolly indicated that he would like to see the development of a structured programme to:

- Document the history and phenotypic characteristics of the Salt Cay and Grand Turk cattle populations;
- Develop a preservation strategy that ensures the long-term sustainability of this unique genetic resource;

- Explore opportunities to showcase this asset for Agro-tourism initiatives.

The Department recognises this as a significant opportunity for biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, and global recognition of the Turks and Caicos Islands' unique livestock heritage and would like to thank the residents of Salt Cay for facilitating this visit.

minister and budler.jpg.jpeg



Some of the cattle of the TCI



University of Miami Frost School of Music Septet Connects Performance and Community in Turks and Caicos

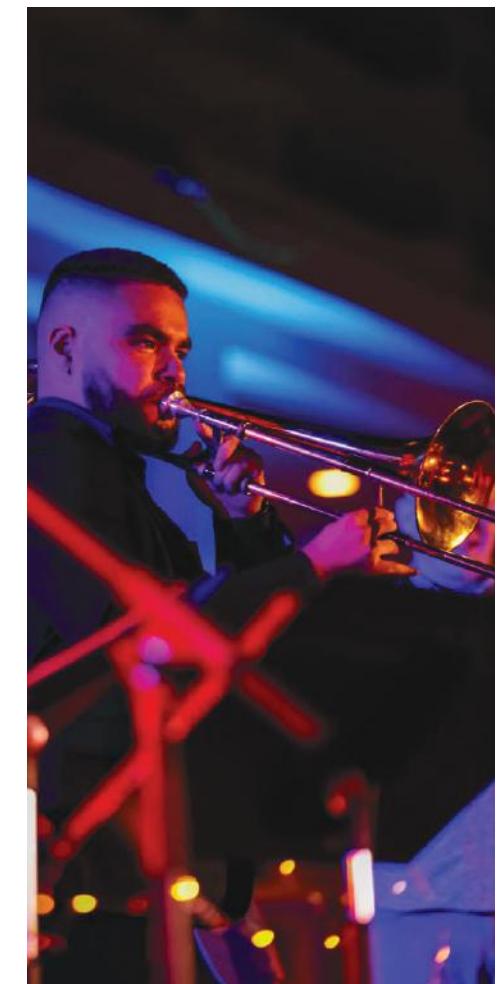
On Friday, January 9, a septet from the University of Miami's Frost School of Music visited Turks and Caicos as part of a community-focused initiative aimed at enriching local arts and Music Education.

Invited to the island by Brenten Handfield, a well known local musician currently studying Music at the University of Miami, the group performed at The Ritz-Carlton, sharing an evening of live music that celebrated creativity, culture, and connection.

Beyond the stage, the visiting musicians made a lasting impact within the community by hosting a music clinic at the British West Indies Collegiate for high school students. This session created a space for learning, dialogue, and inspiration, allowing students to engage directly with talented young musicians who are actively pursuing careers in music.

Through interactive demonstrations and discussions, students gained valuable insight into various musical techniques and the discipline required to succeed in the arts. Just as importantly, the clinic encouraged students to see music as a powerful tool for self-expression.

When asked about how he felt the weekend went, Brenten said, "The weekend went smoothly and was very successful. The musicians enjoyed themselves immensely—both while performing for the students at the school and while playing at The Ritz-Carlton. For me, it was especially meaningful to return to my former high school stage after six years to showcase the growth, discipline, and skills I have developed during my time at university."



He went on to explained what the visit meant to him: "Being able to inspire members of the younger generation to see music not just as a high school activity, but as a viable and fulfilling career path, was one of the most rewarding parts of the experience."

"This visit is hopefully just the first of many. I see this as the beginning of something special—new opportunities, new collaborations, and an upward trajectory in both the style and

level of music on the island." This exchange highlighted the importance of investing in youth and the arts, while strengthening ties between international institutions and the Turks and Caicos community. The visit by the University of Miami Frost School of Music Septet stands as a meaningful example of how music can bridge worlds, inspire young people, and bring communities together. This visit was made possible because

of the amazing Staff at The Ritz Carlton, the Minister of Education, Hon. Rachel Taylor, and the Department of Education and Castaways Conch Bar & Island Grill. We extend profound gratitude to the Turks and Caicos Education Foundation and British West Indies Collegiate for the use of Brayton Hall and hosting for the students, Music Teachers from all the other schools who brought students and of course, to the community for their support.



ABUNDANT LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Abundant Life Ministries International Church celebrates its 25th year of existence in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The event was marked by three nights of services, from Wednesday, January 22 to Friday, 24. Among the speakers was Bishop Carlos Malone. The following are highlights of the event.



Wellness in winter matters more for black communities

Winter in the UK is often described as a time to slow down. The long nights, grey skies, cold winds, and constant drizzle create a natural pull towards staying indoors and becoming less socially active.

For many, it is simply an inconvenience. But for black and Caribbean communities, winter brings a specific set of health challenges that require intentional attention, informed awareness, and culturally relevant strategies.

While the festive season provides warmth through food, music and togetherness the period immediately after can leave many feeling emotionally flat, physically tired and mentally depleted. Understanding why this happens; and how to protect our health has never been more important.

THE HEALTH GAPS WINTER EXPOSES

The first issue is reduced sunlight. Melanin-rich skin naturally requires more sun exposure to produce adequate Vitamin D. But during a UK winter, daylight is limited, and sunlight intensity is low. As a result, black and Caribbean communities are at higher risk of Vitamin D deficiency, which is associated with low mood, fatigue, weakened immunity, bone pain, and increased vulnerability to respiratory illnesses.

Winter also increases the risk of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)- a form of depression triggered by reduced daylight. While SAD can affect anyone, evidence shows that people with existing stressors—including racialised stress, financial pressures, and demanding work environments—may experience its symptoms more intensely. Low energy, irritability, oversleeping, loss of motivation, and emotional heaviness can significantly affect day-to-day functioning.

Winter therefore becomes not just a climate shift, but a health equity issue. The intersection of biological factors, structural

inequalities, and cultural lifestyle patterns means the season can disproportionately affect black people's physical and mental wellbeing.

The Festive High and the New Year Drop
Many Caribbean households find joy through traditions like sorrel, fruit cake, curried dishes, and gatherings filled with laughter and community. These moments are culturally important—they ground us, connect us with heritage, and provide emotional nourishment.

But the festive period also brings:

- High-calorie meals and sugary drinks
- Irregular sleep
- Stress from family expectations or financial demands
- Reduced physical activity

When January arrives, the contrast can be stark. The celebrations end, routine returns, and the weather remains harsh. This sudden shift can leave people feeling low, anxious, and physically sluggish. Without support, many enter the new year already depleted.

The solution isn't to eliminate festive joy; it's to pair cultural celebration with cultural care.

SEVEN WAYS TO STAY WELL-BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT

1. Support Vitamin D levels

With limited sunlight, supplementation is one of the most effective ways to maintain healthy levels.

- Take a daily Vitamin D supplement between October and April.
- Incorporate foods like oily fish, eggs, fortified cereals, and mushrooms.
- When daylight appears, make use of it— even 10 minutes near a bright window can help.

Maintaining Vitamin D levels supports immunity, bone health, and mood stability.

2. Protect your mental wellbeing

Winter can affect emotional balance. Understanding this normalises the experience and encourages early action.

- Use a light therapy lamp to simulate natural daylight.
- Start mornings with grounding rituals—if you have a faith practise prayer, meditation.
- Don't ignore persistent low mood—seek support from a GP or therapist if needed.
- Create playlists of uplifting gospel, reggae, soca, or highlife to boost energy.

Mental health is not a luxury; it is a foundation.

3. Move your body in ways that feel good

Movement increases serotonin, improves circulation, and reduces stress.

- Take short walks during daylight hours.
- Dance at home; it's cultural, joyful, and excellent exercise.

• Try chair exercises, stretching, yoga, or home workouts if outdoors feels uninviting.

The goal isn't intensity; it's consistency.

4. Enjoy festive foods with cultural balance

Caribbean cuisine is rich in flavour and tradition. Winter wellness is not about restriction, but about mindfulness.

- Add more vegetables to classic dishes.
- Reduce sugar in sorrel or switch to natural sweeteners.
- Portion meals sensibly while still enjoying every bite.
- Stay hydrated with warm herbal teas like ginger, peppermint, or lemon.

Healthy eating should remain joyful.

5. Stay connected—even when you feel like withdrawing

Isolation can worsen low mood, especially when days are short and nights are long.

- Check in with family and friends regularly.
- Attend small gatherings or virtual meetups when going out feels like too much.

- Join community groups or faith group activities for structure and support.

Community is part of Caribbean cultural DNA—lean into it.

6. Start the new year gently
January should not demand perfection or pressure.

- Set realistic goals and allow yourself time to adapt.

• Re-establish routines slowly—sleep, hydration, movement, and prayer.

• Avoid comparing yourself to others; focus on what you need now.

Renewal works best when approached with compassion.

7. Protect your emotional and spiritual space

Winter is naturally a reflective season, offering a chance to reset.

- Write down what you're grateful for.
- Cut back on digital noise or draining relationships.

• Keep spiritual practices central—devotion, worship, and community uplift.

Nourishing the spirit strengthens the whole self.

8. A season to be well

Winter does not have to be a period of suffering. With awareness and culturally attuned strategies, it can become a season of healing, preparation, and intentional self-care.

For black and Caribbean communities, winter wellness is both a personal responsibility and a collective commitment.

When we understand our risks, honour our traditions with balance, and prioritise both mental and physical health, we step into the New Year stronger, steadier, and more resilient.

Marsha Jones is a registered nurse and midwife who currently works as senior clinical leader in the National Health Service. She is also co-founder of the Caribbean Nurses and Midwives Association UK.

Current and emerging role of AI in echocardiography

Heart failure is a clinical syndrome in which the heart cannot pump blood sufficiently to meet the body's needs, leading to symptoms like shortness of breath, fatigue, and fluid build-up in tissues. It arises from structural or functional abnormalities of the heart that impair ventricular filling or ejection of blood.

This may involve reduced systolic function (the heart's pumping ability), preserved ejection fraction (diastolic dysfunction), or a mix of both.

"Heart failure is not a single disease, it is the final common pathway of many cardiac conditions that impair the heart's ability to pump and circulate blood effectively," said Dr Xavier Brown, post-doctoral Fellow, Heart Institute of the Caribbean.

During his presentation at the Masters of Medicine Conferences held at the AC Hotel in Kingston, Dr Brown said that, while detailed population-wide heart failure prevalence figures are limited in many Caribbean countries, cardiovascular disease (of which heart failure is a major component) is a leading cause of death in the region. In Jamaica, for instance, cardiovascular disease accounts for roughly a third of all deaths.

Studies in Afro-Caribbean communities living in the United Kingdom, often considered a proxy for patterns seen in Caribbean de-

scent populations, show that specific cardiomyopathy types differ by ethnicity:

Among Afro-Caribbean patients with clinical heart failure studied in London, non-ischemic dilated cardiomyopathy was the most common cause.

Rates of ischemic cardiomyopathy (due to coronary artery disease) were much lower (13 per cent) compared with white patients. Cardiac amyloidosis (ATTR V122I), a genetic condition more prevalent in people of African descent, accounted for over 11 per cent of cases.

"In Afro-Caribbean patients, hypertension and non-ischemic cardiomyopathies often dominate the heart failure landscape, reminding us that regional genetics, environment, and risk factor patterns shape disease prevalence," Dr Brown said.

"Echocardiography is our cornerstone for diagnosing and managing heart failure, it tells us how well the heart pumps, how thick the walls are, and whether valves or muscle movements are abnormal," Dr Brown said. Artificial intelligence (AI), especially machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL), is now being integrated into echocardiography to support clinicians:

1. AUTOMATED IMAGE INTERPRETATION

- AI systems are trained on thousands to millions of echo images and expert reports.

They learn patterns associated with normal and abnormal heart structures so that:

- View classification identifies which anatomical view is on screen.
- Segmentation isolates heart chambers and walls.
- Measurements (like ejection fraction) are calculated automatically.

2. DIAGNOSTIC PROBABILITY SCORING

After processing the image data, AI tools can assign probabilities that a patient has a specific condition for example heart failure with reduced ejection fraction, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, amyloidosis. These probabilities help clinicians weigh diagnoses quantitatively rather than purely subjectively.

"AI doesn't replace the clinician, but it adds a second, statistically grounded lens, turning echo images into quantified diagnostic probabilities that refine and speed clinical decisions," Dr Brown said.

3. WORKFLOW AND QUALITY ENHANCE-

MENTS

AI assists with image acquisition (guiding probe placement), standardising measurements, flagging poor quality images, and potentially generating draft reports, saving time and reducing variability.

WHY AI MATTERS IN ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY

Accuracy & Consistency: AI can reduce measurement variability between operators

Speed: Automated analysis can cut interpretation time significantly

Access: In resource-constrained settings, AI might extend diagnostic reach where cardiology specialists are limited

Probability-Driven Decisions: Rather than a binary normal/abnormal call, AI yields nuanced risk scores that integrate data patterns beyond human visual assessment

"We are entering an era where echo plus AI doesn't just show us the heart, it helps predict what that image means for this person's future risk and optimal care path," Dr Brown said.



'Cat' Coore remembered for his unique talent

When Rolling Stone magazine named Stephen "Cat" Coore at #91 in its 250 Greatest Guitarists of All Time in October 2023 it came as no surprise to his long-time admirers, which include Wayne Armond, who felt it was overdue recognition for the co-founder of Third World.

Armond, guitarist with Chalice, remembers showing Coore his first chords on the guitar when he was 13 years old. "When we [fellow guitarist Paul Drysdale] start teach him, because he could read music he just took it from there. In six months, he was running rings around us," Armond told the Jamaica Observer.

Coore's Carlos Santana-inspired licks drove many of Third World's classic songs such as Always Around, Now That We Found Love, Try Jah Love, Jah Glory, and Talk To Me.

Armond told the Observer that the Mexican maestro was his biggest influence.

"He could play just about every Santana song by the time he was 15. Cat

brought that element of rock music to reggae," he noted.

The affable Coore was the third of three sons born to David Coore, a respected lawyer who became Jamaica's deputy prime minister and finance minister. His mother was Rita Coore, a respected music teacher from Trinidad and Tobago.

Initially, he was a cellist, who played at numerous recitals and for Princess Anne when she visited Jamaica in 1966. Two years later, he joined the Inner Circle band as a guitarist.

In 1973, Coore and keyboardist Michael "Ibo" Cooper formed Third World, which cut its teeth playing in clubs and hotels, before releasing a critically acclaimed début album on Island Records in 1976.

Third World underwent numerous personnel changes, including the departures of Cooper and drummer Willie Stewart in 1997. Coore continued to helm the band which consistently toured Europe and North America.

As Third World celebrated its 46th anni-



The late Third World iconic guitarist Stephen 'Cat' Coore

versary in 2019, Coore told the Observer that the band no longer cared about making hit singles.

"Mi nuh really business wid dat. Third World has done so much at this point it's just more music and more love," he said.

Coore is the seventh Third World member to die in 11 years. He was preceded by lead singer Bunny Rugs (2014), percussionist Irvin "Carrot" Jarrett (2018), Cooper (2023), drummer Cornel Marshall (2024), guitarist Rupert Bent, and original lead vocalist Prilly Hamilton in 2025.

He was honoured with the Order of Distinction in 2005 by the Jamaican Gov-

ernment.

Minister of Entertainment and Culture Olivia "Babsy" Grange, in offering tribute, said: "Stephen 'Cat' Coore was a unique talent... His passing is a tremendous loss... We will miss 'Cat' Coore's presence, but there is no doubt that his legacy will live on and continue to inspire current and future generations of musicians."

He was pre-deceased by his brothers Michael and Ivan and is survived by his wife Lisa; children Shiah, Kanna, Stephen, and Ashley; along with grandchildren.

- First reported in the Jamaica Observer



Italian designer Valentino salutes at the end of his Spring/Summer 2006 Haute Couture show, 23 January 2006 in Paris.

ROME, Italy (AFP) — One of the top designers of his era, Italy's elegance aficionado Valentino Garavani spent nearly half a century dressing the world's great beauties, from Jackie Kennedy to Princess Diana, before his death Monday at age 93.

"Valentino Garavani passed away today at his Roman residence, surrounded by his loved ones," wrote his Rome-based foundation on social media.

A funeral is planned for Friday in the Italian capital, with a lying in state on Wednesday and Thursday.

Best known as just Valentino, the designer's creations — many of them in "Valentino red" — were worn by the who's who of the international elite, from Elizabeth Taylor, Audrey Hepburn and Nancy Reagan to Sharon Stone, Julia Roberts and Gwyneth Paltrow in recent years.

When the empress of Iran, Farah Pahlavi, escaped the country during the 1979 revolution, she was wearing a coat made by Valentino.

Dubbed "the Sheik of Chic" by Women's Wear Daily in the 1980s, Valen-

Valentino, Italy's fashion king, dies at 93

tino was celebrated by the New York Times in 1997 for his "single-minded dedication to glamour."

On the catwalk and in his own life, Valentino exuded luxury down to the last detail of his immaculate hairdo and caramel tan.

With his five pet pug dogs and a private jet, he shuttled between his Roman palace, New York apartment, chateau near Paris, chalet in Switzerland and his 50-metre (164-foot) yacht.

Named after the star of silent cinema Rudolph Valentino, who was known for "The Sheik" among many other films, Valentino Garavani was born on May 11, 1932 in Voghera, a small town south of Milan. His father owned an electric cable business.

As a boy he asked for made-to-me-

sure shoes and was passionate about fashion. "I have had this illness since childhood," he told the Italian edition of Elle magazine in 2007. "I only like beautiful things."

"I do not like seeing men without ties, in a jumper, women with vulgar make-up and shapeless trousers. It is a sign of a bad education and a lack of self-respect."

He left home when he was 17 to study at prestigious arts and fashion schools in Paris, where the decadent French style of Christian Dior had revitalised a grim post-World War II fashion industry and would deeply impact Valentino's later aesthetic.

In 1952, he was hired by designer Jean Desses, who dressed wealthy clients, including royalty, and five years later he went to work for Guy Laroche.



Actor Delroy Lindo

Sinners star Delroy Lindo is gearing up to develop a "deeply personal" film set in Jamaica following his ac-

claimed performance in the vampire-themed horror movie. In an interview with Deadline, he

Delroy Lindo to make feature directorial debut with Jamaica-set film — reports

explained that the movie is set in a Jamaican community and focuses on themes of power, spirituality and, as Lindo describes it, the healing power of community.

Born in the United Kingdom (UK) to Jamaican parents, Lindo maintained that he is very committed to the film, which he has been aware of since 2015.

He acquired the rights to it in 2021, and has since then been working on funding for it.

Lindo told Deadline: "The story is about a young man who has lost his mother. His parents are both doctors. And we meet him on the day that we discover that his mother has been tragically killed."

Continued Lindo: "We then jump forward six years, and he and his father have not mourned the loss of the mother and the wife, respectively. The child then gets sent to his maternal homeland in Jamaica."

The picture is set in the Blue Mountains and will have a magical realism element, the actor revealed.

It comes almost five decades into his acting career, which includes acclaimed films such as *Sinners* and *The Harder They Fall*.

Before that, however, Lindo will be seen in the newest addition to the *Godzilla vs Kong* franchise, *Godzilla vs Kong: Supernova*, set to release in 2027.

Trinidad-based promoter sues Vybz Kartel over performance cancellation – report

A Trinidad and Tobago-based promotion company has filed a civil lawsuit against Jamaican dancehall superstar Vybz Kartel over the cancellation of the deejay's scheduled performance at the One Caribbean Music Festival last May, according to reports in the twin island republic.

Jacho Entertainment Limited filed the lawsuit in the High Court of Justice last Tuesday, alleging breach of contract, unjust enrichment, and defamation, among other claims, reported CNC3 News.

According to the article, the promotion company is seeking damages in excess of TT\$7.3 million, in addition to the recovery of US\$1.1 million allegedly already paid to Kartel, real name Adidja Palmer, under a performance agreement.

CNC3 News reports that Jacho Entertainment alleges it entered into

a written agreement with Kartel on November 22, 2024, under which he was contracted to headline the event – originally planned for February 28, 2025 but later rescheduled to May 31 – for a fee of US\$1.35 million, which was payable in four instalments.

The promoter reportedly claimed that by May 29, 2025, approximately 81 per cent of the contracted fee had been paid, leaving a balance of US\$250,000, which it intended to settle upon the artiste's arrival in Trinidad. However, according to the company, temporary foreign exchange constraints affected the timing of the final payment, but the funds were available on the day of the event.

It is alleged that Kartel failed to board his scheduled flight to Trinidad and demanded full payment prior to



Dancehall superstar Vybz Kartel speaks to the audience after being crowned 'King of Dancehall' at Reggae Sumfest at Catherine Hall in Montego Bay, St James on Saturday, July 19, 2025.

arrival, which was not a condition required under the agreement.

Kartel subsequently announced the cancellation of his performance via social media. According to the promoter, he did so without issuing a formal written notice as stipulated in the contract.

The promoter reportedly said it was forced to absorb substantial costs in refunds to disgruntled ticket holders as well as other costs and reputational damage as a result of the can-

cellation. It said statements by Kartel alleging mismanagement on its part further damaged the company's reputation.

According to the article, Jacho Entertainment said legal action was pursued after months of unsuccessful efforts at settlement.

The company is seeking all monies paid, special and general damages, an injunction restraining further alleged defamatory statements, and interest and costs.

Tourism Youth Congress and Career Expo 2026 Jan. 29

In less than 7 days, students from across our islands will face off to see who will become the next Junior Minister of Tourism.

The organizing committee of the Tourism Youth Congress and Career Expo 2026 invites the general public and tourism stakeholders to rally behind our most valuable asset—our youth—at this pivotal event on Thursday, 29th January 2026, at the Graceway Sports Centre, Providenciales. This is more than an event; it is a direct investment in the vision and representation of our next generation.

Beginning at 11:00 a.m., the Tourism Youth Congress will convene, during which a representative from the youth franchise will be selected to represent the nation on tourism-related youth matters. Students will present their innovative and persuasive ideas for the sustainable future of our tourism sector.

The Congress winner will be appointed the Junior Minister of Tourism, a significant ambassadorial role that empowers a young leader to represent the official youth perspective of the Turks and Caicos Islands at the 2026 Caribbean Tourism Orga-

nisation's (CTO's) Youth Congress. Immediately following the Congress, the afternoon transforms into an interactive Career Expo, creating a vital bridge between ambition and opportunity. Students and young person's seeking advancement will connect directly with leaders from every facet of our leading industry—from world-class hotels and marine operations to aviation, culinary arts, environmental stewardship and cultural heritage. Discover the prosperous careers built right here at home.

Honourable Zhavargo Jolly, Minis-

ter of Tourism stated, "Youth empowerment is the cornerstone of true national progress. This initiative recognizes the youth franchise and their voice in the future we are building for a better Turks and Caicos Islands. At the Congress we will listen to their policy ideas and the Expo will show them the tangible pathways to execute that vision." This event will showcase the vision of the youth for national development through tourism while allowing many of the youth to connect and network with industry professionals.

International Day of Education 2026: Caribbean Youth Chart Path Forward

As UNESCO observes International Day of Education 2026 under the theme "The power of youth in co-creating education," Caribbean students are offering clear, actionable recommendations to transform education across the region.

While sharing insights during the Caribbean Development Bank's (CDB) 2025 Regional Symposium and Policy Dialogue on Transforming Education last October, young people from across the Caribbean identified three critical areas for educational transformation: smarter use of technology, mandatory Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), and stronger partnerships between families, schools, and communities.

Firstly, students are calling for a digital revolution in education to make technology work for them, bridge the generation gap, and ensure inclusion for all learners.

Naomi Jordan, a visually impaired student of Harrison College and First Vice President of the Barbados National Student Council, highlighted how digital tools make learning accessible and interactive for everyone. "The integration of technology in schools has made education more inclusive, interactive, and accessible, especially for students like me," she said. "Digital tools such as tablets and Google Classroom allow me to engage with lessons interactively, correct mistakes easily, and participate fully alongside my peers."

While students celebrate the benefits of digital tools, they also identified challenges. A significant generational gap persists as many parents and teachers are unfamiliar with how technology is used in learning,



which can lead to overly restrictive or fear-based policies. Students recommend improving adult digital literacy so schools can address real challenges while promoting safe, responsible, and effective use of technology.

Beyond the digital classroom, students emphasised that preparing youth for the future requires practical, hands-on skills. They are calling for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to be strengthened and made mandatory across the Caribbean, noting that practical skills are essential for future success but are not widely required in schools.

Rondelle Ned, Operations Coordinator in the Ministry of Legal Affairs in Guyana, emphasised that integrating TVET into curricula would provide tangible opportunities for

students to thrive. "Skills are wealth, yet TVET is not widely mandatory across the Caribbean. Ensuring it is part of the curriculum would provide practical opportunities for students to succeed," he said.

At the Symposium students also highlighted findings from a 2025 consultation with secondary and tertiary learners across the region, showing meaningful parental and community involvement is essential for student success. They identified three key pillars of support: emotional support, effective communication, and community collaboration. Emotional support involves consistent care, encouragement, and presence to build confidence and resilience. Effective communication requires open, judgment-free dialogue that empowers learners. Finally, collaboration means parents,

teachers, and the wider community must work together, both in person and digitally, to support students academically, socially, and culturally. The student recommendations were presented during the "Student and Youth Perspectives: What Helps Us Learn, What Holds Us Back" session at CDB's 2025 Regional Symposium and Policy Dialogue on Transforming Education held last October. The session was part of the Bank's efforts to integrate student insights into policy support and to promote effective collaboration between families, teachers, and policymakers to transform regional education. These recommendations now resonate strongly with this year's International Day of Education theme, demonstrating the vital role of youth voices in shaping the future of Caribbean education.

Bahamas opens globally recognised Category 5 hurricane shelter

A climate resilient hurricane shelter, able to withstand category five level disasters and flagged as a global best practice, has been opened and activated on the island of Abaco in the Bahamas, representing a tri-lateral partnership between the Bahamian and Indian governments and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Built to withstand 200 miles per hour (mph) winds and accommodate up to 800 people, the newly operationalised hurricane shelter and community centre is built as a multi-purpose facility for year-round community activities and a safe space during disasters for the people of Abaco.

It includes solar power and water harvesting systems, disability inclusive features at access points and bathrooms, an industrial kitchen, an office space for emergency personnel, and communications and outdoor space for sporting activities during the year.

The UNDP-managed project was funded by the Indian government with a US\$1 million grant from the India-UN Development Fund.

The Disaster Risk Management Authority (DRA) of The Bahamas served as the national implementing partner for the initiative, overseeing construction activities and mobilising US\$3.5 million parallel co-financing from the Bahamas government.

The Indian High Commissioner to The Bahamas, Shri Mayank Joshi, said the Abaco shelter has been chosen as a global best practice under the India-led Coalition of Disaster Resilience Infrastructure (CDRI), a global partnership inspired by India's experiences with natural disasters, in which UNDP also serves as a strategic partner. "As we hand over this facility, we celebrate not just a building but a partnership of shared values, shared challenges, and share aspirations for a safer and more prosperous future," Joshi said.

New Delhi said that the project embodies the spirit of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" in which the world is one family, as well as reflecting India's solidarity with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and its

steadfast support for climate resilience and disaster preparedness. Minister of State with responsibility for Disaster Risk Management, Leon Lundy, said the facility now stands as a new beacon of hope in the face of more frequent and severe disasters.

"In ordinary days, it will serve as a place of training, community meetings, skills building, and youth development. In extraordinary hours, it will become a sanctuary, a command post, a beacon of order when the winds rise and the waters push," Lundy said. The government said, building on this success, DRA plans to further expand shelter coverage into the future across the Bahamas family islands most at risk from hurricanes.

UNDP Resident Representative in The Bahamas, Dr Kishan Khoday, lauded the south cooperation model between The Bahamas and India, with UNDP and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, which UNDP hosts, prioritising this model as a way forward



Aerial view of the Abaco Hurricane Shelter and Community Centre

to scale up action on the climate emergency.

"Category 5 shelters can have big impact for community resilience goals in places like The Bahamas, with scope to replicate the Abaco Shelter model in other Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)."

"Today, SIDS are on the frontlines of the climate crisis, with 2025 seeing new records broken in the Caribbean for intensity of storms and degree of impacts. Ensuring a resilient recovery from disasters must include scaled-up investments to expand climate-resilient infrastructure and shelters. We commend The Bahamas and India for this outcome," Khoday said. The UNDP said that the hurricane-resilient shelter in Aba-

co concludes its post hurricane Dorian resilient recovery support to The Bahamas.

The UNDP Multi Country Office in Jamaica said it is scaling up climate resilience and disaster recovery support to the Caribbean as intensifying climate change impacts generate more intense and frequent storm systems.

"2025 was one of the most powerful hurricane seasons on record, with Hurricane Melissa being one of three category five level storms to hit the Caribbean in 2025.

"With record ocean temperatures and more frequent and severe climate disasters becoming the new normal, a priority is to rapidly enhance levels of climate resilience and disaster preparedness," the UNDP added.



Pictured during Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on Thursday 23 October, are from left: Chairman at the Disaster Risk Management Authority, Alex Storr; Dr. Kishan Khoday, UNDP Resident Representative; High Commissioner of India to The Bahamas (resident in Kingston, Jamaica), His Excellency Shri Mayank Joshi; Minister of Social Services, Information and Broadcasting, the Hon. Myles LaRoda; and Minister of State with responsibility for Disaster Risk Management, the Hon. Leon Lundy.

Caribbean Excellence Recognized in Los Angeles - Shelly-Ann Aqui Solomon Only Caribbean Nominated for Major U.S. Award

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO — Caribbean entrepreneur and global business leader Shelly-Ann Aqui Solomon has been nominated for the Black Business Association's Salute to Black Women Awards 2026, in the category of Excellence in Business Award, making her the only Caribbean nominee recognized this year.

Hosted in Los Angeles, California, the Salute to Black Women Awards honors Black women whose leadership, innovation, and impact are shaping the future of business. Shelly-Ann's nomination is more than a personal milestone, it is a powerful moment of representation, visibility, and possibility for Caribbean women worldwide.

This recognition places Caribbean excellence firmly on a global stage. Shelly-Ann Aqui Solomon is the founder of the Positioned to Propel Academy and is widely known for transforming lived experience into leadership, famously flipping \$40 into a seven-figure enterprise while helping women across the Caribbean and diaspora build profitable, purpose-driven businesses without burnout or cultural compromise.

Her nomination represents more than personal achievement, it is a powerful statement about the global relevance, leadership, and economic influence of Caribbean women.



Bermuda Premier David Burt

"This moment is bigger than me," Shelly-Ann shared. "It represents ev-

ery Caribbean woman who has ever been overlooked, underestimated,

or told she had to leave home to succeed. This nomination says: we belong here too."

Why This Nomination Matters

1. It places Caribbean women in global conversations about business excellence
2. It challenges outdated narratives about where world-class leadership comes from
3. It creates visibility and access for future generations of Caribbean entrepreneurs
4. It affirms that success rooted in culture can scale internationally
5. In an era where representation matters more than ever, Shelly-Ann's nomination stands further proof that Caribbean women are not emerging, they are leading.

Shelly-Ann is calling on the Caribbean region and global diaspora to rally in support and make their voices heard through voting.

How to Vote:

Visit <https://stbw.org/>
Click "Submit Vote"

Enter your email address and follow the instructions

Cast your vote for Shelly-Ann Aqui Solomon

Scroll to the bottom and click "Submit"

Alternatively, visit @simplyshellynt on social media and view the pinned post for step-by-step voting instructions. Voting ends February 13, 2026

Over 10,000 candidates sitting January CSEC examinations across the region says Wesley

The Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) has announced that over 10,000 candidates across the region are currently sitting the January 2026 CSEC examinations.

Registrar and Chief Executive Officer at the CXC, Dr Wayne Wesley shared the information during a press conference broadcast from Jamaica via Zoom on January 7.

"These examinations commenced this past Monday and will conclude on the 29th of this month," Wesley said.

"We are pleased to say that we

are administering these January examinations on-screen, employing our digital e-assessment and hybrid e-assessment approach. It is our intention to offer all exams on-screen in the next three to five years," he shared.

Wesley said immediately after the January session of examinations is complete, CXC will start preparations to serve the over 100,000 candidates, "who with likewise certainty and confidence, will sit over 600,000 CSEC and CAPE subject entries in the traditional May-June examinations.



Bermuda Premier David Burt



EXPLOSIVE START

**Local Track and Field Season Starts With
Exciting Meets**

See Story on Page 32



Massive Support for Road Dogs' Run of Nations

A Historic Leap for Sporting Excellence in the Turks and Caicos

The streets of Grace Bay were transformed into a vibrant display of athletic excellence and cultural pride on Saturday, January 17th, as the Road Dogs Running Club hosted the inaugural Run of Nations. With more than 250 people in attendance, the event has been hailed as the “running event of the year,” with supporters noting a world-class atmosphere that rivalled major international marathons.

Inspired by their participation in the Fort Lauderdale Marathon, the Road Dogs aimed to bring that same high-energy, professional experience to the Turks and Caicos Islands. The result was a race day that many described as having an atmosphere akin to a major U.S. sporting event, complete with a live DJ, professional hosting, and an elite level of competition.

The event featured both 5K and 10K courses, but the highlight of the morning was the setting of the inaugural 10K course record. Andres Davila claimed the title with a blistering time of 44:41, securing

the \$500 Record-Breaking Bonus presented by the Turks and Caicos Banking Company. Other top finishers included Lynn Robinson, who took first place in the Women's 10K, and Daniel Redmond and Eunice Missick, who topped the Men's and Women's 5K categories, respectively.

Beyond the competition, the Run of Nations was an event with a heart. The Road Dogs Running Club is proud to announce that the event also raised funds for the Potcake Place K-9 Rescue. This contribution highlights the club's commitment to supporting the local community and its beloved animals. Supporters and participants are encouraged to look out for more information regarding the official donation presentation in the near future.

President of the Road Dogs Running Club, Leo Lightbourne, expressed his profound gratitude and shared the organisation's long-term vision.

“The turnout we saw today signals a massive shift in public interest

toward wellness and competitive sports in TCI,” said Lightbourne. “Using our experiences from Fort Lauderdale, we wanted to deliver a world-class event. This is just the beginning. Our ultimate goal is to evolve the Run of Nations into a flagship event on the national calendar and bring a full marathon to the Turks and Caicos Islands in the near future.”

This historic event was made possible through the support of a dedicated network of sponsors including Turks and Caicos Banking Company (TCBC), Experience Turks and Caicos, Apex Safety Solutions Ltd., Solutions Experts Ltd., Grace Bay Market, Mr. Groupers, TCI Financial Services Commission, Stanbrooks Corporate Services Ltd., Crime Stoppers TCI, KIA Motors, Garnier, Goldsmith, Flamingo Pharmacy, Island Grub, and Carquest.

Additional support was provided by Master Tech, Provo Beverages, Let's Move Turks and Caicos, Open Thought, Super-P The Entertainer, BTSW Productions, Let Me Clear

Your Yard, Walkin's Service Station, Cactus Cafe, Luxe' Ri Faces, Pikliz Takeout Bar, Subtronic Sound Reinforcement, Spa Seclude, Magnolia, and Yuni-Verse Creative Media. The Road Dogs Running Club thanks every runner, walker, volunteer, and spectator who turned Grace Bay into a symbol of “Many Nations, One Goal”.

- Contributed

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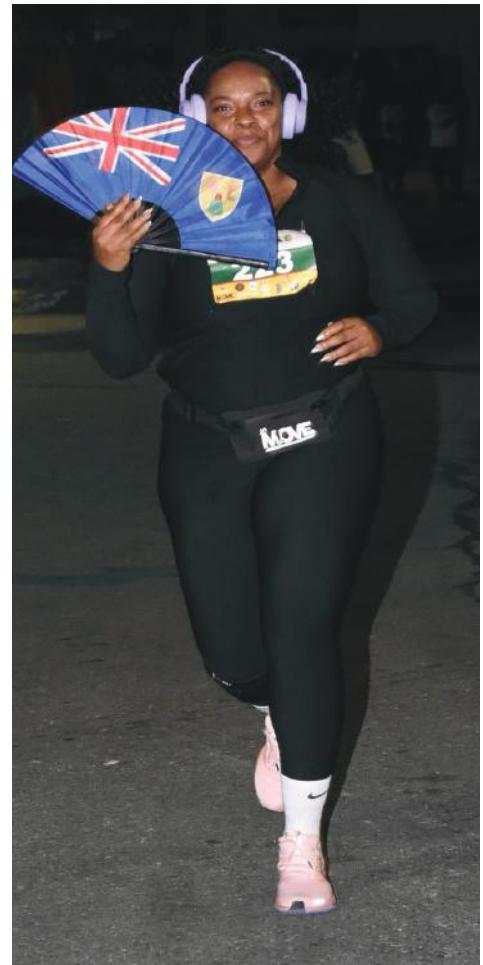
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Highlights of the Run of Nations

The inaugural Run of Nations 10k and 5k Fun Run took place on Providenciales on Saturday, January 17, in Grace Bay, Providenciales. Approximately 300 persons took part in the event, including Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor. The following are photo highlights of the event.





Track and Field Season Starts With a Bang in the Turks and Caicos Islands

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The 2026 track and field season in the Turks and Caicos Islands has burst out of the blocks with energy, ambition and unmistakable promise, as the Turks and Caicos Amateur Athletics Association (TCAAA) rolls out a series of development meets and official training initiatives at the National Stadium on Venetian Road in Providenciales.

From powerful sprint finishes to graceful leaps in the sandpit and determined throws soaring through the air, the early-season action has sent a clear message: the future of TCI athletics is bright, competitive, and worth watching.

The season officially ignites with Development Meet 1, which is Distance and Jumps on February 7, 2026, followed swiftly by Development Meet 2, which is Sprints and Throws on February 14, 2026. These meets are tailored specifically for high school athletes, offering them a structured platform to sharpen skills, test form, and gain valuable competition experience early in the year.

In between, the foundation of fair and professional competition is re-



inforced through the Officials' Recruitment and Refresher Session on January 31, 2026, ensuring that the standards of officiating rise alongside athletic performance.

Spectators who attend can expect more than just races and results. They will see raw speed battling for polish, young jumpers chasing flight and distance, and throwers learning the fine balance between power and precision. These are the moments where potential begins to transform into performance, and where future national representatives quietly announce themselves.

The TCAAA is urging the wider public, including parents, students, sports lovers, and supporters of youth development to come out and be part of the atmosphere. These meets are not only competitions; they are showcases of discipline, dedication, and dreams in motion.

As the starter's pistol fires and spikes dig into the track, one thing is certain: the 2026 athletics season has arrived with confidence. For those looking to witness the next generation of TCI sporting talent, the National Stadium is the place to be.

TCI Senior Women Set for Historic Participation in FIFA Series 2026

The Turks and Caicos Islands National Senior Female Footballers will compete in the inaugural expanded FIFA Series 2026, a landmark global tournament bringing together 48 national teams from across all six FIFA confederations.

The TCIFA, which described the TCI's participation in the tournament as a historic opportunity, said it represents a major milestone for women's football development in the Turks and Caicos Islands and the wider Caribbean region.

With women's matches hosted across Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, and Thailand, the FIFA Series 2026™ is designed to provide meaningful international competition for teams outside the traditional elite and to foster cross-confederation matches that broaden the competitive experience. The Women's National Team from Turks and Caicos Islands will be competing in the Ivory Coast group,

marking the first time any of our national teams will play on African soil. The Turks and Caicos Islands have been drawn into a group hosted by Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) and include Mauritania and Pakistan.

"This international match experience against teams outside our regular regional competitions will offer invaluable exposure, development, and growth opportunities for players and coaching staff alike," a news release from the TCIFA stated.

The TCIFA also described TCI's inclusion into the tournament as extraordinary.

It is with immense pride and excitement that the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association announces our participation in the FIFA Series 2026. This is an extraordinary moment in the history of our Women's National Team, and we are honored to be competing on African soil for the first time ever.

"The experience our players will gain playing against teams from different parts of the world will be transformative for our programme. This milestone reflects our ongoing commitment to developing women's football at all levels, and we thank FIFA for creating this opportunity. We call on our supporters at home and abroad to rally behind our team as they prepare to make history."

"The Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association is extremely excited about the opportunity to be part of such a prestigious event. For our women's national team, this will undoubtedly be a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

The release further stated that both the coaching staff and the players are excited and rearing to go.

"The players and coaching staff are especially looking forward to competing against nations we would not

normally encounter within our regional competitions. These types of international match-ups are invaluable for development, exposure, and growth at this stage of our programme.

"We are deeply grateful to FIFA for creating this platform and for making it possible for our women's team to participate in a truly global competition," says Dane Ritchie, Technical Director, TCIFA.

The TCIFA said the match dates, fixtures, and broadcast details will be released by FIFA as they become available. The TCIFA said it will share updates with the local football community and media as preparations progress for the team's departure.

"We congratulate our women's national team on this historic achievement and look forward to their success as they represent the Turks and Caicos Islands with pride on the global stage," the TCIFA concluded.