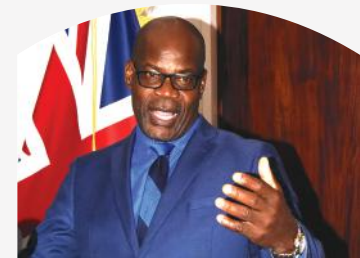


PAL Summer Games Are On



NEWSLINE
Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage



Three Suspects Held In Deadly Hookah Lounge Mass Shooting PG4

Haitian Community Calls Out “Hateful Posts on Social Media, Press Conferences, and Articles” In Open Letter to Government, HRC PG6

SIX MONTH BAN



TCI Government Imposes Six-Month Ban On Work Permits and Visas for Haitians in Wake of Security Concerns

All Licensed Businesses Required to Close by 12 a.m. Between Sunday to Thursday, 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Opposition Leader Urges Immediate Action on Gun Violence After Deadly Lounge Shooting

In the wake of the deadly mass shooting at the Hookah and Cigar Lounge on July 27, Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood is calling on the government to take urgent and comprehensive action to combat escalating gun violence in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The shooting, which sent shockwaves through the community, has reignited national concerns over public safety and the rise in gun-related crime.

“This tragic event is a heartbreaking reminder of how urgent and serious the threat of gun violence has become,” Astwood said in a statement released this week. “We must do more than respond—we must act to prevent these atrocities before they happen.”

While commending the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force for their swift response to the incident, Astwood said the country cannot rely solely on reactionary measures. Instead, he proposed a four-pronged plan focused on prevention, enforcement, and community partnership.

Youth Diversion and Employment Programs

Astwood emphasized the need to steer at-risk youth away from crime through targeted intervention, skills training, mentorship, and job creation. “We must invest in our young people and give them real alternatives to gang activity and violence,” he said.

Modern Surveillance and Intelligence Technology

Calling for upgrades in law enforce-



“We must invest in our young people and give them real alternatives to gang activity and violence,”

ment technology, Astwood urged the deployment of advanced CCTV systems, real-time monitoring, and predictive analytics to help authorities detect and disrupt criminal operations.

“We need smarter tools to stay ahead of evolving threats,” he noted.

Stronger Border Security

With concerns about the illegal flow of guns, drugs, and undocumented migrants, Astwood proposed increased surveillance at ports of entry, tighter customs procedures, and closer collaboration with international partners. “Our borders are the front line. We

must fortify them with the resources and technology necessary to protect our people,” he said.

Community Engagement and Public Education

Astwood also stressed the importance of building trust between law enforcement and the public. He advocated for safe channels for reporting suspicious activity and more robust outreach efforts.

“Cash rewards are useful, but true crime prevention begins with trust,” he stated.

This Must Be a National Priority

Beyond specific initiatives, Astwood urged the government to elevate gun violence and national security as top policy priorities. He called for more strategic planning, greater financial investment, and bipartisan cooperation in addressing the issue.

“Gun violence is not just a policing issue—it threatens our social fabric, our economy, and our way of life,” he warned. “This must be the main topic in government deliberations and national discourse.”

A Call for Unity and Urgency

The Opposition Leader ended his statement with a plea for unity, urging the government and all stakeholders to act swiftly and collaboratively to restore safety and public confidence.

“We owe it to our citizens, residents, and visitors to make peace and security a reality—not someday, but now,” he said. “We must work together to ensure that tragedies like this never happen again.”

Probe into Fatal Plane Crash Near Providenciales Airport Underway

Authorities in the Turks and Caicos Islands have launched a full investigation into the cause of a fatal small aircraft crash that occurred on Tuesday afternoon, resulting in one death and another individual hospitalized.

According to the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority (TCIAA), the crash involved a Cessna 210 aircraft, bearing tail number N1110S, which was on approach to Howard Hamilton International Airport (PLS) after departing from North Perry Airport in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The aircraft was carrying two people at the time of the incident.

Emergency services—including air-side fire and rescue units, medical response teams, and police—were immediately dispatched to the crash site. A rescue boat supported by Las Brisas, a local restaurant, was also

deployed as part of the coordinated response led by the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority.

Despite the swift action of emergency crews, one of the two occupants succumbed to injuries sustained in the crash. The second occupant was transported to hospital for treatment.

The airport was temporarily closed at 3:14 p.m. to facilitate rescue operations and was safely reopened at 5:19 p.m.

The National Security Council, Civil Aviation Authority, and other relevant agencies are actively investigating the cause of the crash.

In a statement, Hon. Arlington Musgrove, the Minister with responsibility for the TCIAA, expressed condolences:

“Our thoughts remain with the individuals involved in today’s crash and

their loved ones.”

The Airports Authority promised



The ill-fated plane with crashed near the Howard Hamilton International Airport in Providenciales.

that further updates will be provided as the investigation progresses.



Members of the EMTs assist the surviving passenger of the craft which went down on Provo, into an ambulance.



GLOBAL CAPITAL CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF EMPOWERING LIVES AND BUILDING ECONOMIC RESILIENCE IN THE TCI

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands — July 2025

This July marks a significant milestone for Global Capital, as it represents not only a decade of service, but also the month the company issued its very first loan following its incorporation in March 2015. Global Capital has since grown to become TCI premier non-deposit taking lender that has earned the trust of thousands while becoming a pillar of financial empowerment across the nation.

Over the past 10 years, Global Capital has played a vital role in the lives of individuals, families, and small, medium size businesses by offering fast, accessible financing during moments that matter most, from medical emergencies, educational opportunities, funeral expenses, travel needs to real estate transactions, business start-ups, expansions and bridge loans.

The company's reach has extended far beyond financial services, uplifting lives and fueling progress at every level. Global Capital is proud to be part of a movement that promotes resilience, growth, and generational advancement. According to Rochelle Brown, CEO of the company, "We are always happy to be able to do the work that strengthens communities while lending support in ways that build a more vibrant economy". From the outset, Global Capital has remained rooted in its founding vision. Back in 2016, Founder and Chairman, Victor Lowe encouraged locals "to take advantage of the opportunity to access financing easily". That vision, fueled by the belief in self-empowerment, continues to drive the company today. A decade later, CEO Rochelle Brown echoes those same values but with a renewed and timely message; "With the current economic vibrancy of our country, it's an ideal time for our people to expand their participation in the marketplace through small and medium size businesses. We encourage locals to use our services as a vehicle to build generational wealth."

Ms. Brown further emphasized the significance of this moment in TCI's development in stating that "with new resorts, real estate, and tourism projects emerging, the opportunities are unprecedented. Employers may want to empower employees to participate in this economic boom. Beyond lending, we are integrally involved in nation building by proudly sponsoring annual educational and sports initiatives, investing in the next generation of leaders, scholars, and athletes".

From its first loan in July 2015 to becoming a household name in financial support, Global Capital's journey is one of vision, trust, and dedication. As the company reflects on 10 impactful years, it looks ahead with optimism, ready to continue transforming lives and being integrally involved in positively reshaping the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

With all that said, we wish to thank each one of our clients for trusting us and giving us the opportunity to meet their financial needs. Our mantra of **HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES** remains our #1 priority.

Three Suspects in Deadly Hookah Lounge Mass Shooting Apprehended, Says TCI Police Commissioner

Police have taken three individuals into custody in connection with the devastating mass shooting at a popular hookah and cigar lounge on Providenciales, which left three people dead, and 10 others injured. The development was confirmed by Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey during a press conference held at the Shore Club Resort on Wednesday, July 30, alongside Premier Hon. Washington Misick.

The shooting occurred on the Morning of Sunday, July 27, at the Island Hookah Cigar Lounge, when heavily armed gunmen stormed the venue and indiscriminately opened fire on patrons. Thirteen individuals were shot, with three succumbing to their injuries. Ten others sustained a range of wounds, with two in critical condition requiring emergency airlift for medical treatment overseas. Their current medical status remains unknown.

Commissioner Bailey addressed the nation directly, expressing both confidence and concern in the ongoing investigation.

“We actually took one more person in,” Bailey revealed. “So, there are now three persons in custody with regards to that investigation. I want to reassure the nation—we are going to get to the bottom of it. We know exactly what happened, we know all the players, and we will bring them to justice.”

Bailey further disclosed that five individuals were identified as suspects in the attack, all of whom are known to police. Three of them have previous interactions with the criminal justice system, with two currently before the courts on serious charges and out on bail.

“One of the suspects was held with an illegal weapon and granted bail,” Bailey explained. “He was then charged again for possession of another illegal weapon and granted



Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey

bail again. This cycle raises serious concerns about the current bail framework and its impact on public safety.”

Bailey’s remarks echoed sentiments expressed earlier by Premier Misick, who has called for a review and possible overhaul of the judicial pro-

cesses surrounding bail for repeat offenders, particularly those accused of violent crimes or firearm-related offences.

The Commissioner also noted that law enforcement officials recently met with the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to discuss these con-

cerns and reiterated that the issue is not due to a lack of effort by prosecutors.

“I want to be clear—it was not from a lack of trying on the DPP’s part in one of the cases,” Bailey emphasized. “Every possible legal avenue was pursued to oppose bail, but the individual was still released. We have to consider the victims of crime too.”

Bailey called for a more balanced approach within the criminal justice system, one that respects human rights while ensuring the protection of victims and the wider community.

“Sometimes we focus a lot on human rights, but the victims have rights too,” he stated. “There must be a balance between protecting the accused and ensuring that those who are victims of crime—and the communities they live in—are safe.”

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force continues to pursue the remaining two suspects. Authorities have not yet released the names of those in custody or provided further details about the motives behind the shooting.

The mass shooting has shocked the nation and reignited debates about crime, public safety, and the efficacy of the criminal justice system in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Residents and government officials alike are calling for urgent reform.

“This tragedy has exposed weaknesses in the system that must be addressed,” said one community leader in attendance at the press briefing. “We support the police and the government in their efforts to bring these individuals to justice and to prevent future violence.”

As the investigation progresses, the public is urged to come forward with any information that may assist the police. Authorities have vowed transparency and swift action as they move toward prosecuting those responsible.

Government Going After Unauthorized Gambling Establishments

The Gaming Control Commission of the Turks and Caicos Islands (GCC) wishes to remind the public that gambling activities conducted at unauthorized and unlicensed locations, such as barber shops, convenience stores, and other informal venues, are strictly illegal.

Therefore, the use, transit, or sale of handheld gaming devices not li-

censed or approved by the Commission also constitutes a breach of the laws governing gaming in the Turks and Caicos Islands. These activities fall outside the parameters set forth under the Gaming Control Act and pose serious risks to the public.

These regulations are in place not only to uphold the integrity of the gaming sector but to protect vulner-

able members of our community, particularly minors, from exposure to unregulated gambling. The GCC remains committed to its mission of maintaining a safe, transparent, and responsible gaming environment in line with our vision for a well-regulated and socially responsible gaming industry.

We urge all individuals and business

owners to comply with the law. Any person found facilitating or participating in unauthorized gaming activities shall be subject to investigation and enforcement action.

Reports can be made directly to GCC by emailing info@tcigamingcc.tc; contacting our office via 649-338-5152 or via our website at www.tcigamingcc.tc.



Premier Hon. Washington Misick speaking at the news conference at the Shore Club Resort in Providenciales.

TCI Government Imposes Six-Month Ban on Work Permits and Visas for Haitians Amid Security Concerns

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

of the immigration process. It also aligns with the government's intention to implement a quota-based work permit system in the near future.

As part of its long-term legislative strategy, the government has completed a comprehensive review of the Immigration Act, with findings and recommendations expected to go before Cabinet in September. Legislative proposals will follow, aimed at repealing and replacing outdated immigration laws with a more modern legal framework.

"The goal is to introduce a modernized Immigration Act that better addresses the challenges we face today," Premier Misick noted.

In parallel with immigration reform, the Cabinet has authorized the Ministry of Innovation, Technology and Energy to lead the development of a "safe city" strategy in partnership with the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force and other security stakeholders. This includes the installation of CCTV surveillance, automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) systems, spot street lighting, and connected traffic policing infrastructure.

Further measures include new regulations for nightlife and entertainment venues. Effective July 31, 2025, all licensed businesses are required to close by 12 a.m. from Sunday to Thursday, and 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The government will also initiate a comprehensive review of the Liquor License Act, with mandatory police vetting and security assessments becoming part of the licensing process for clubs, bars, events, and other establishments. "For too long we have allowed certain behavior to fester, believing it was small or insignificant," Misick said. "But when we ignore the little

things—anti-social behavior, disrespect for law and order—those small things become big things."

Calling for a united front against crime, Premier Misick urged residents to play their part in safeguarding their communities while rejecting vigilante justice.

"Everyone who has a legitimate right to be in this country has an obligation to help protect this country," he said. "Protection does not mean reckless behavior. It means standing together and supporting actions that will restore peace and order."

The Premier extended appreciation to the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, the Turks and Caicos Regiment, Border Force, Immigration, Employment Services, and frontline workers. However, he also acknowledged troubling reports of a small number of public servants involved in criminal activity, including human and drug trafficking.

"These actions undermine our national security, corrode the rule of law, and betray the trust of the people they are meant to serve," Misick warned. "Let me be clear — justice will find you."

In the meantime, Misick affirmed his government's pledge to strengthen the prosecutorial system of the country to ensure offenders are successfully convicted, saying that criminal will never find a safe space in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"We will leave no stone unturned and no safe haven for those who betray this country. Our economy, especially our tourism industry, depends on a safe and secure Turks and Caicos Islands."

This moratorium marks a defining moment in the Misick administration's efforts to address crime, reform immigration, and safeguard national interests in the face of growing regional challenges.

In a significant move aimed at enhancing national security, the Turks and Caicos Islands Government has imposed a six-month moratorium on the issuance of first-time work permits and visas to Haitian nationals.

The announcement was made by Premier Hon. Washington Misick during a national address on Wednesday, July 27, 2025, at The Shore Club Resort in Providenciales. Premier Misick said the decision is part of a broader government strategy to combat rising crime in the Turks and Caicos Islands, pointing out that the social instability in neighboring Haiti and the influx of work permit applications from Haitian nationals were key factors influ-

encing the moratorium. According to police assessments, a significant portion of serious crimes in the territory has been attributed to members of the Haitian community.

"In light of the ongoing escalation of violence in Haiti, and the steady influx of work permit applications from that country, the Government will immediately implement a six-month moratorium on the issuance of first-time work permits to Haitian nationals," Misick said. "There will also be a six-month moratorium on visas that will take effect immediately."

He added that this temporary measure is necessary to establish a more rigorous vetting system to ensure national security and the integrity

Haitian Heritage Association Pens Open Letters to Premier, Governor, Human Rights Commission, on Crime

July 29, 2025

Hon. Washington Missick
Premier, Turks & Caicos Islands
Cc: Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam
Governor, Turks & Caicos Islands
Cc: Ms. Kabitha Smith
Director, TCI-Human Rights Commission
Re: Position Paper

Ladies and gentlemen,
The Haitian community of TCI stands united in profound outrage over the recent acts of violence that have inflicted sorrow and division in the community. We mourn deeply for the families torn apart by the recent mass shooting and those who have lost their homes, including a precious child who suffered minor burns in the senseless fires sweeping through our neighborhoods simultaneously.

The current narratives

We have seen comments that sparked a wave of hateful narratives in the community. Such behavior can only benefit the criminals. This is typically the evil strategy to divert our focus from the real issues that matter the most and lead us into distractions. We have carefully vetted social media posts from cowardly individuals hiding behind anonymous statuses to create diversions. Some posts may seem to be written by a particular nationality; however, a thorough analysis would reveal that this is not the case. Instead, malicious individuals exploit the discordant atmosphere to sow divisive seeds or push their political agendas or contentions. The narrative works so well for the criminals that today, when a warrant is issued, the first reader's perception is, "Which surname is it?" Is it a Jean, Pierre, Joseph, or Missick, Forbes, or Cunningham, Thompson, or Gomez, Rodriguez? When we were supposed to focus on the real issues at hand. Brothers and sisters, we cannot afford to let our true selves be defined by a competition over which nation produces more criminals in our community. One or the other; they do not make up our collective integrity and cultural heritage. Instead, they are enemies of our community. It is far beyond our remit to determine who may have stirred up this emotional havoc among us; however, we adhere to a quote of Dr. John Maxwell, who famously said, "Every-thing rises and

falls on the leadership."
How many criminals have been apprehended?
To date, critical thinkers can safely prepare their minds for a multitude of hateful posts on social media, press conferences, and articles, whether true or untrue; however, the most significant news that the country is expected to hear, perhaps, is yet to come: "How many criminals have been apprehended?" While we recognize the responsibility of every corporate citizen to help keep the community safe, questions may arise: Who has the responsibility for national security? When will we be able to return to our everyday life, such as attending evening church services and leaving our doors open to breathe in fresh air?
We believe that we went to the polls and elected the right leaders for the right positions; thereby, we commissioned them to place the right people in the right jobs. Go after the criminals, find them, whoever they are, regardless of their nationalities; and punish them to the full extent of the law.
We have heard the calls loud and clear
We have heard the calls loud and clear! We believe in a good rule of thumb for guidance, which stipulates, "Leaders praise, encourage people in public, while criticizing them in private." Also, wisdom entails that singling out a particular ethnic group may only embolden those lurking in the shadows. This can be illustrated by the fact that singling out one unruly child in the house may be dangerous for the whole neighborhood, as other children who are not as well-behaved may play innocent and create a disaster. Regardless of whether it is incidental or purposeful, we have determined to give our unwavering support in the battle, as we are not only living in this community but have also contributed significantly to the social, economic, and political development of these islands.
We believe that crime is everyone's business.
Crime, whoever commits it, is a deterrent to the social and economic development of any society; the Turks and Caicos Islands is no different. Thus, we have significant reasons to engage in the fight, based on human dignity and integrity, as many of us in the Haitian community have invested our life savings, accumulated

over 30-40 years, in the country. We also respect the investments of other hardworking corporate citizens. Therefore, unsolved crimes put us all at risk.
Who sets the fire?
We must ask: Who set the fires? We are astounded by the contradictory information circulating within social media platforms and public discussions. Over 50 individuals have lost their homes, and a child has been injured. According to local authorities, these fires were no accident; they were deliberately set. Eyewitness accounts claim that this coordinated, malicious attack unfolded even as law enforcement was present, raising troubling questions about accountability and awareness. Now the victims testify that on July 24th, 2025, while the police helicopter was hovering low over the neighborhood, a well-coordinated task force surrounded the area, and the fire was set in various angles of the area simultaneously. If this is proven to be true, one may ask: Is the most wanted fugitive omnipresent? Additionally, several calls were made to the Emergency Services for assistance with the fire truck. The answer was, "The police are in the area". This suggests that they are aware of the issue, and the fire truck arrived late and was inadequately equipped. As a result, despite the fire-fighters' brilliance and professionalism, they were unable to rescue even the formal structures. Furthermore, in the previous month, another series of fires was set simultaneously, notably one in Blue Hills, across the African Shop, one in the Dako Yard vicinity, and another one in the Bight vicinity. Once again, if those fires were set by the most wanted fugitive, critical thinkers may have reasons to believe that he is not only omnipresent but also omnipotent.
Where are the hard facts that authorities promised?
Authorities have promised to unveil the truth with hard facts, which have yet to be proven. We firmly believe that one person cannot deal with a situation of this nature as both defendant and judge. Instead, in a civilized society like ours, an independent investigation would have been necessary to establish the truth surrounding the matter, especially when there is a suspicious human rights infringement.
Our position

We condemn with all our strength all illegal activities, especially those linked to criminals, and we support the government's actions based on human dignity and integrity, to address, regularize, and normalize conditions that can be rectified. For instance, if destroying informal structures is deemed the best option, could a standard process be established to address this, rather than resorting to actions that can be disastrous and detrimental to the common values we all share?
We believe crime is a collective challenge that affects us all—it obstructs the social and economic growth of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Therefore, we must combat crime vigorously, not just for ourselves, but for every hardworking citizen invested in this community's future. Unsolved crimes put us all at risk.
In conclusion
It's time we address the narratives that have begun to fester within our community. We must reject the hateful comments and divisive rhetoric that only serve to benefit those who seek to undermine our unity. Let us form a united front to defile those who are trying to sway public perception, deliberately distracting us from the real issues at hand and seeking to incite division rather than healing. Join us in holding each of us accountable. We are united in this fight against crime, and together, we can reclaim our community and safeguard our future. Let us come together and build a secure environment for ourselves and the generations to come. Our strength lies in our unity—let's use it to restore the safety and dignity we all deserve.
Rev. James Prosper-President
Mr. Vaguy Vilmar-Trustee
Dr. Alces Dor -Consultant



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Unregistered Accommodations Threaten TCI’s Global Reputation, Says Tourism Ministry

Government Cracks Down with Zero-Tolerance Enforcement Campaign

The Department of Tourism Regulations (DTR) has launched a sweeping enforcement campaign across the Turks and Caicos Islands, targeting unregistered tourism accommodations that officials say are harming the country’s reputation and economy. According to the department, only 50% of the more than 1,300 known accommodation providers in the country are properly registered. The remainder are operating outside the legal framework, prompting the DTR to begin issuing formal Enforcement Notices under the Tourism Regulations Ordinance 2023. “These unregistered properties present serious challenges to

the tourism industry,” the department said in a statement. “They contribute to negative guest experiences, poor online reviews, and undercut the effectiveness of national marketing campaigns.” Tourism Minister Hon. Zhavargo Jolly voiced strong support for the enforcement measures, emphasizing the importance of accountability in protecting the TCI brand. “For too long, unregistered accommodations have operated outside the system—undermining guest confidence, diminishing our brand, and robbing the country of rightful revenue,” said Minister Jolly. “This is a matter of fairness, public safety, and protecting

the Turks and Caicos experience. Every operator who benefits from our tourism economy must be held to the same standards.” The Department is urging all accommodation providers to register immediately to avoid fines, penalties, and potential prosecution. “We have an excessive number of unregistered properties in the Turks and Caicos, resulting in a loss of government revenue that supports the country’s growth,” said DTR Director Avi Adams. “Registering with DTR also ensures quality assurance so guests can trust they are re-

ceiving high-standard service.” Adams added that operators have had ample time to comply, with the department now entering its third year of operation. “Our role is to ensure every accommodation provider meets legal requirements and upholds the high standards expected of a world-class destination like Turks and Caicos,” Adams said. Accommodation providers are advised to contact the DTR without delay to complete the registration process. Assistance is available by email at tourismregulations@gov.tc or by phone at +1 (649) 338-5348.

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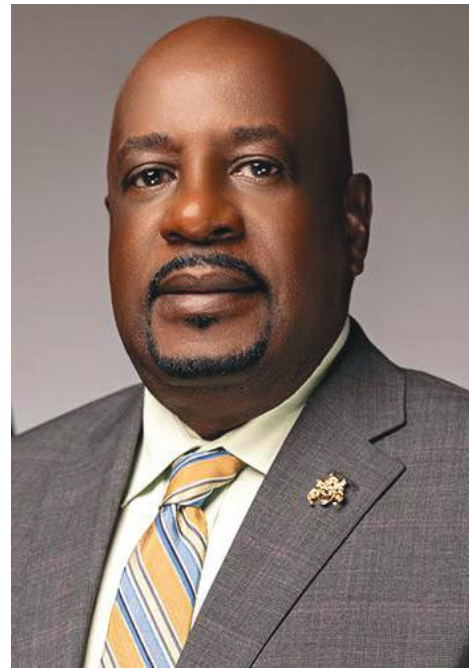
“For too long, unregistered accommodations have operated outside the system—undermining guest confidence, diminishing our brand, and robbing the country of rightful revenue,”



Hon. Otis Morris piloted the Bill



ROBINSON... “This law is one of several steps we are taking to bring accountability and control back to the people.”



MUSGROVE... “This is about restoring confidence in the system,”



ASTWOOD... “Our community must maintain control over who becomes one of us,”

TCI Parliament Passes Landmark Status Amendment Bill With Unanimous Support

In a rare show of unity, the Turks and Caicos Islands House of Assembly on Friday passed the Turks and Caicos Islands Status (Amendment) Bill 2025 with unanimous support from both Government and Opposition members.

The Bill, championed by Hon. Otis Morris, Minister of Public Service and Utilities, represents a pivotal change in how Islander status is granted — placing the power more firmly in the hands of the elected government.

The amended law seeks to restore public trust, protect national identity, and ensure that only individuals with genuine and meaningful connections to the Turks and Caicos Islands can become Turks and Caicos Islanders. Central to the change is a shift in who ultimately approves the granting of Islander status. Under the new law, the TCI Status Commission now informs the Governor in Cabinet — rather than the Governor acting alone — of its decision on who should be granted Islander status. This move reinforces democratic oversight and removes unilateral authority from the Governor. Deputy Premier and Minis-

ter of Immigration and Border Services Hon. Jamell Robinson described the amendment as a timely response to growing concerns over transparency and the sanctity of citizenship in the territory. In his parliamentary statement, he noted the government’s increasing efforts to address immigration irregularities, including a crack-down on undocumented workers and fraudulent status documents.

“We are sounding the alarm,” said Hon. Robinson. “There are too many persons in this country on work permits who are idle or working outside their permitted categories. This law is one of several steps we are taking to bring accountability and control back to the people.”

Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Arlington Musgrove emphasized that the Bill reflects the will and identity of the TCI people.

“This is about restoring confidence in the system,” Musgrove declared. “We oppose the unilateral granting of Islander status to individuals with no meaningful ties to these islands. Today, we reaffirm that

decisions about national identity must rest with the elected representatives of the people.” Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood also gave his full backing to the Bill, underscoring its importance in safeguarding national sovereignty and preventing misuse of citizenship privileges.

“Our community must maintain control over who becomes one of us,” said Astwood. “This amendment addresses a dangerous loophole that allowed decisions to be overturned by external actors, including the Governor and the courts. The people must decide who joins our family.”

Astwood further proposed the introduction of a transparent point-based system for citizenship, stricter disqualifiers, and an independent appeals body composed solely of Turks and Caicos Islanders to manage future applications.

The Bill also introduces administrative reforms, such as including the Permanent Secretary as an Ex-Officio member of the TCI Status Commission, to ensure policy alignment with government priorities.

The passage of this law marks a major step forward in the terri-

tory’s ongoing push for greater autonomy and local accountability in matters of citizenship and immigration.

What the Amended Law Sets Out to Do:

- Transfers final advisory power on Islander status from the Governor acting alone to the Governor in Cabinet, ensuring elected officials have the final say.
 - Reinforces democratic oversight in determining who becomes a Turks and Caicos Islander.
 - Adds the Permanent Secretary as an Ex-Officio member of the TCI Status Commission for administrative oversight.
 - Strengthens safeguards against the granting of status to persons without genuine ties to the TCI.
 - Seeks to rebuild public confidence and protect national identity through transparency and accountability.
- With immigration and identity continuing to dominate national discourse, the Turks and Caicos Islands Status (Amendment) Bill 2025 is expected to have lasting implications on the country’s future citizenship policies and cultural preservation.

TCI Government Launches Local Government in Historic South Caicos Ceremony

In a landmark move toward deepening democracy and strengthening community engagement, the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands officially launched its local government system on Monday, July 21, in South Caicos.

The milestone event was hailed as a transformative step in national development by Hon. Otis Musgrove, Minister of Home Affairs, who delivered the keynote address before a gathering of community leaders, government officials, and residents. “It is truly a great honor to join all of you on this historic occasion—the official launch of local government here in South Caicos,” Minister Musgrove said. “Today, we celebrate a milestone that signifies our collective commitment to building a stronger, more inclusive, and responsive governance system across the Turks and Caicos Islands.”

The local government initiative, which will be expanded across the Family Islands, is designed to place more decision-making power in the hands of communities. It introduces a system of elected local councils, which will act as a direct link between residents and the central government, improving service delivery and administrative responsiveness. “Now, I know some might be thinking, ‘Well, finally, we’re getting closer to the government... literally!’ And I say, yes, indeed,” Minister Musgrove said with a smile. “We’re here to bridge the gap, to bring government closer to your doorstep.”



Arlington Musgrove, Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development.

Under the new framework, local councils will work in tandem with District Commissioners and government ministries. With clearly defined responsibilities, councils will ensure that local issues are addressed swiftly and that services are tailored to the needs of each community. “This is about making sure that pub-

lic services are not only accessible but also efficient and relevant,” said the Minister. “No more waiting for the next boat or flight to get things done...help is right here.” He emphasized that the establishment of local government will promote accountability, community pride, and civic engagement. Res-

idents will have the opportunity to serve in leadership roles, shaping policy and advocating for the needs of their islands.

“This structure provides opportunities for residents to serve as leaders,” Musgrove added. “It fosters a deeper sense of ownership and partnership among all citizens.”

Referencing the Bible verse Galatians 6:9, the Minister encouraged residents to view the initiative as the beginning of a journey toward progress and shared responsibility: “Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

He expressed gratitude to the many individuals who played a role in bringing the initiative to life, from government personnel to community stakeholders.

“To the residents of South Caicos and the Family Islands, I want you to know that your government is committed to listening, engaging, and working with you every step of the way. We are here to serve you.”

The rollout of local government across the Turks and Caicos Islands is expected to usher in a more transparent, inclusive, and people-centered approach to governance.

“As we expand this model to all the Family Islands,” Minister Musgrove concluded, “I am confident that we will see a more resilient, vibrant, and united Turks and Caicos Islands—one where opportunity is abundant and our communities are empowered to thrive.”

Cabinet Advances Key Legislative and Policy Measures at July 24 Meeting

The 17th Meeting of Cabinet for 2025 was held on Thursday, July 24th, with Acting Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams presiding over the session at the Office of the Premier on the island of Providenciales. The meeting brought together all Cabinet members, with the exception of the Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, Hon. Rachel Taylor, and the Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Shaun Malcolm, who were both absent. During the session, Cabinet considered and approved a number of significant legislative and policy measures. Chief among them was the Draft Turks and Caicos Islander Sta-

tus (Amendment) Bill 2025, which was approved for advancement to the House of Assembly. The amendment seeks to update key provisions regarding Islander status. Cabinet also approved the Turks and Caicos Islands Contractors Policy, incorporating amendments that emerged from the day’s discussions. As part of the broader reform of the construction industry, Cabinet endorsed the formation of a dedicated committee tasked with informing the drafting of legislation to support the new Contractors Policy. This legislation will serve as the foundational framework for regulating the local construction sector.

In a related move, Cabinet gave its support to the formal establishment of a Construction Contractors Association. Once launched, the Association will be officially recognized by the Turks and Caicos Islands Government (TCIG) as the representative body for stakeholders in the construction industry. Further, Cabinet agreed to extend the current moratorium on the issuance of new non-Turks and Caicos Islander contractor licenses until December 31, 2025. The extension allows additional time to complete the necessary legislative reforms. As part of those anticipated changes, Cabinet also approved a new sys-

tem of tiered licensing categories, including designated value ranges, reserved classifications for local contractors, and proposed licensing fees—all subject to forthcoming legislative amendments. Lastly, Cabinet approved new bidding practices for contractors operating within the Turks and Caicos Islands. These practices, too, will be implemented following the passage of enabling legislation. The decisions mark a significant step forward in modernizing and strengthening oversight in the construction sector while reinforcing opportunities and protections for local contractors.



This aerial photo shows wood gathered for coal-burning.



This aerial photo shows coal kilns being burnt.

Government Raises Alarm Over Widespread Forest Loss Caused From Charcoal Production

Large areas of Providenciales' native old-growth forest are being destroyed for charcoal production, sparking serious environmental and safety concerns. Newly captured aerial images from July 24 reveal the alarming scale of deforestation, including charred clearings as close as 200 metres (about 650 feet) from residential communities in Blue Hills and outer Wheeland.

Satellite imagery analysis indicates that since 2016, approximately 600 acres of tropical dry forest—mostly on the island's remote central-western side—have been lost to unregulated charcoal burning. This area, which includes land near the Frenchman's Creek and Pigeon Pond Nature Reserve, is one of the last large tracts of old-growth forest remaining on Providenciales. The rate of destruction has notably intensified in the past five years.

While charcoal is primarily used locally for cooking fuel, some residents believe portions of it are being exported, particularly to Haiti.

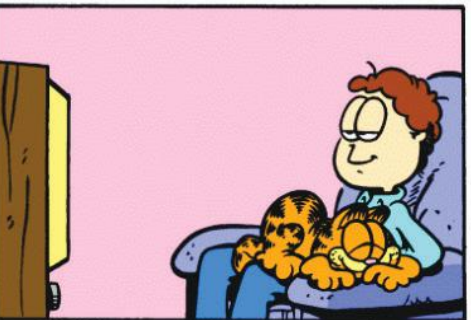
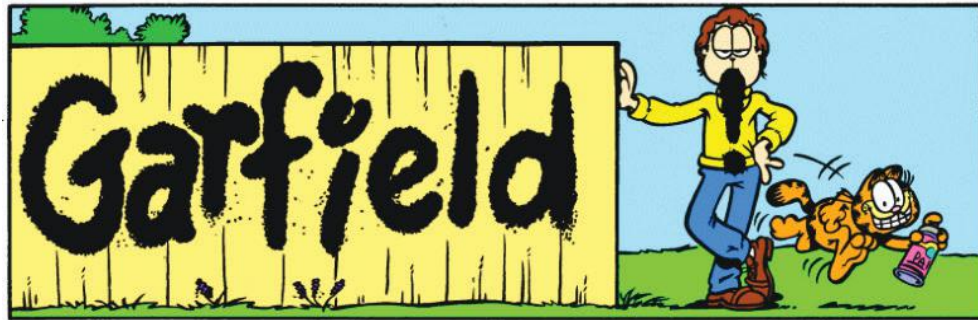
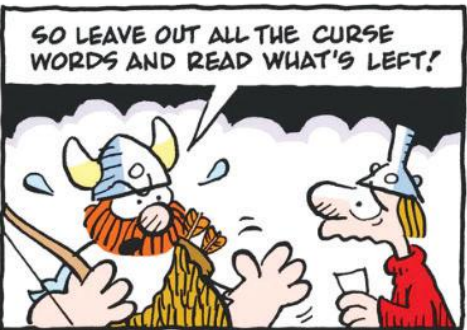
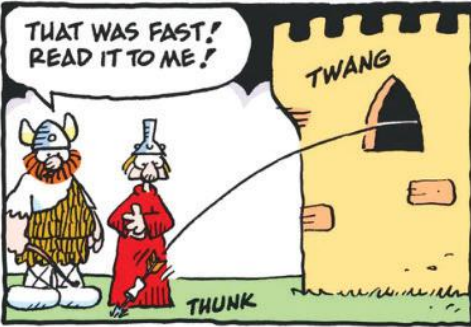
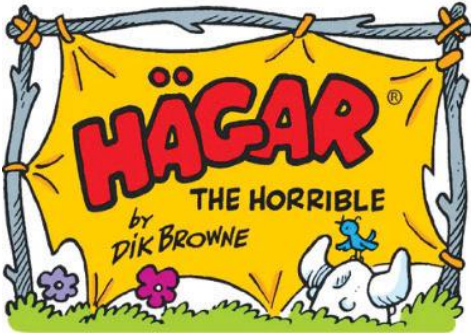
Despite the visible and increasing damage, the Turks and Caicos Government and relevant authorities have yet to implement any significant measures to halt the activity. The unapproved clearing of land is illegal under the Turks and Caicos Islands Government Planning Department regulations. Nevertheless, enforcement appears lacking. This raises serious public safety concerns, especially with the growing risk of uncontrolled fires spreading into nearby neighbourhoods. Several surrounding areas have experienced destructive fires over the past year. Notably, the latest aerial images were captured on the same day a major fire devastated homes in the Blue Hills community, heightening fears about the potential link between charcoal burning and escalating fire incidents. Environmental experts warn that charcoal production on this scale causes long-term ecological harm, especially in small-island nations with limited natural resources. The process often targets slow-growing hardwoods,

many estimated to be over a century old, to produce high-quality charcoal. These include ecologically and culturally significant species such as lignum vitae (*Guaiaecum sanctum*), West Indian mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni*), Jesuit bark (*Exostema caribaeum*), and nakedwood (*Thouinia discolor*). In addition to tree loss, endemic and rare plant species—some found only in the Turks and Caicos Islands—are also likely being destroyed in the process. Environmental degradation driven by de-

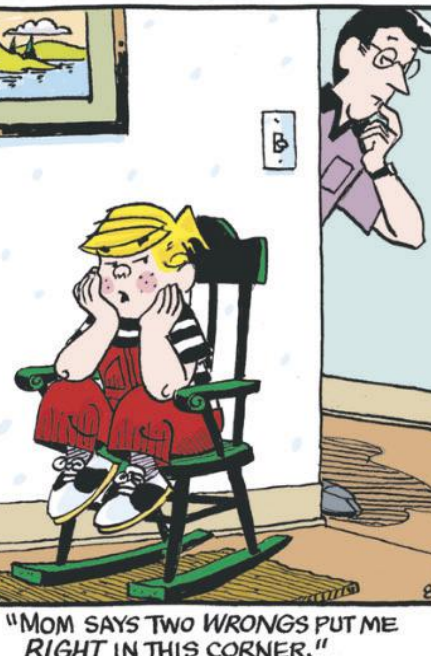
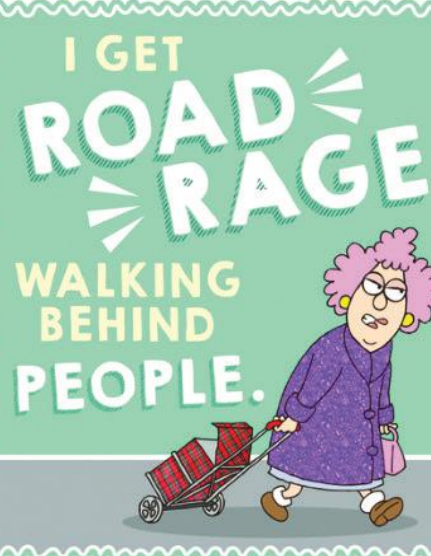
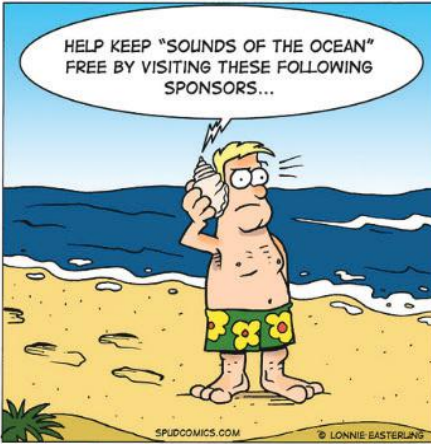
forestation is expected to worsen issues already facing Providenciales, including increased flooding, water shortages, and soil erosion. As the island continues to develop rapidly, conservationists stress that preserving its remaining native forests is critical—not just for biodiversity, but also for safeguarding communities and natural resources. Calls are growing for urgent government action to address illegal charcoal production and protect what remains of Providenciales' unique natural heritage.



Parts of the land totally void of vegetation.



NEWSLINE
COMICS



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.

JAGS McCartney



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.





INVEST TCI CELEBRATES A DECADE OF INNOVATION AND IMPACT

As the investment landscape of the Turks and Caicos Islands has transformed over the past decade, so too has the role of Invest TCI.

Now marking ten years of service, the Agency has helped shape a more inclusive and resilient economy — facilitating over \$1.2 billion in investment and supporting hundreds of local enterprises along the way.

A Decade of Investment and Impact

Over the past decade, Invest TCI has supported over 300 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) through its MSME Programme. Since the first round of MSME approvals in 2016, the programme has expanded to include sixteen priority areas, creating more opportunities for locals to strengthen and scale their business across a range of industries.

The MSME Programme has continued to grow with nationwide outreach initiatives, including island-wide roadshows, playing a vital role in raising awareness of its benefits and offering direct support and guidance to both aspiring and existing entrepreneurs.

In 2023, Invest TCI hosted its first MSME Award Ceremony, recognizing outstanding local entrepreneurs who had demonstrated exceptional resilience and commitment throughout the programme. Further strengthening the programme, in 2024, an impact study was conducted to assess its outcomes, measure its contribution to economic growth, and inform future improvements to better serve local entrepreneurs.

Notably, also in 2024, one MSME recipient expanded operations and is now being assessed outside the MSME category, which indicates the impact of the programme in nurturing small businesses into sustainable large-scale enterprises.

Invest TCI continues to play a strategic role in strengthening a favourable business environment for investors and bolstering the FDI ecosystem of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The agency has secured over \$1.2 billion in foreign direct investments through executed development agreements, creating more than 1000 direct employment oppor-

tunities for locals. As due diligence remains a critical component during the vetting process, Invest TCI remains committed to supporting credible, high-impact developments that align with national development priorities.

Over the last ten years, the agency has built relationships with global brands such as Ritz-Carlton, IHG, positioning the Turks and Caicos Islands as a premier destination for high-end investment and development. At the same time, the Agency has strengthened ties with renowned local brands, including Grace Bay Club and The Hartling Group; longstanding partners who continue to expand their footprint and contribute significantly to the country's tourism and real estate landscape.

Recognizing the need to better support a growing and diverse client base, Invest TCI made a strategic decision in 2023 to establish the Business Support Unit to provide dedicated and comprehensive support and training to entrepreneurs and small businesses. As the services offered continued to spread across the country, the agency noticed the need to enhance its presence in Grand Turk. In recent years, small business activity on the island has increased, alongside growing investor interest in Grand Turk's unique cultural and economic potential.

Global Recognition and Strategic Partnerships

An important element of Invest TCI's accomplishments contributed to defining the brand and visual identity of the agency. Invest TCI was carefully rebranded in 2017, strengthening the agency's value proposition to investors. Its unique visual identity has been instrumental in communicating the country's attractiveness and capturing the attention of international partners. Invest TCI continues to generate international interest through its active participation in investment-focused international events, and the publication of several thought leadership articles, positioning the Turks and Caicos Islands as a forward-looking, investor-ready destination for investment. This proactive approach has created opportunities for the agency's team to contribute

to international planning committees and assume leadership roles within the global investment promotion community. In 2023, CEO of Invest TCI, Mrs. Angela Musgrove, was appointed as a Director of the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (CAIPA), a role that strengthens collaboration across the Caribbean, and has increased the visibility of the Turks and Caicos Islands among international investors.

Through strategic partnerships, projects facilitated by the agency have been recognized at the Caribbean Hotel & Resort Investment Summit, now known as ALIS CALA. The agency continues to provide global exposure for its MSMEs, most recently through its partnership with DMZ Canada. This collaboration has created international growth opportunities for entrepreneurs like Ms. Mary Fulford, owner of Island Mystique, who is now exploring new markets and expanding her business reach. Leveraging Policy and Sustainability

In alignment with global sustainability trends, Invest TCI continues to champion sustainability by exploring further integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into the investment screening and facilitation process.

In addition to its vital role in attracting investments, Invest TCI actively participates in policy advocacy. To date, the agency has contributed to several policy recommendations, including but not limited to the revised National Investment Policy, MSME and Refurbishment Policies, ensuring the policy environment remains aligned with investor needs and national goals.

Looking Ahead

CEO of Invest TCI, Mrs. Angela Musgrove stated "As we mark this decade of service, we do so with gratitude for our partners, pride in our people, and optimism for the future. Our mission remains bold: to catalyze inclusive, sustainable investment that empowers every island and every entrepreneur across the Turks and Caicos."

To commemorate this milestone, Invest TCI will host a series of events, includ-

ing a celebratory Annual General Meeting that will convene government leaders, investors, and entrepreneurs to highlight those who have contributed to our economic landscape and explore the next phase of economic opportunities for the islands.

As Invest TCI enters its second decade, its mission remains clear: to drive sustainable investment that benefits the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, builds resilient industries, and strengthens the country's position on the global investment stage.

Looking ahead, Invest TCI will prioritise a better investor experience through innovative experiences and resources while adopting AI for a seamless process. Invest TCI reaffirms its commitment to continued outreach across the islands to ensure that every community can participate meaningfully in the country's economic future.

About Invest Turks and Caicos
Invest Turks and Caicos is the Islands' Investment Promotion Agency, responsible for enhancing the economy through the attraction, growth and retention of overseas investment; and supporting the growth of local businesses.

We provide a free and confidential service to overseas businesses looking to expand and will work with a company project team throughout the investment process, providing advice and support. This can include:

- Information on the local business climate;
- facilitating contact with relevant Government Departments throughout the investment process;
- advice on Government incentives and concessions to investors;
- introductions to local service providers/suppliers;
- advice on work permits and permanent residency procedures;
- ongoing support following set up.

We also work actively to support the growth of local businesses, including the management and delivery of the Micro Small and Medium Enterprise Programme which provides concessions and reliefs to locally owned businesses.

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

Church of God of Prophecy, Blue Hills

This week on Newsline Featured Church, we shine the spotlight on the Church of God of Prophecy, located in Blue Hills, Providenciales. The church is led by pastor Andrew Stone. There are at least six opportunities for worship during the week. On Sunday at 9:30a.m. is Sunday School. On Sunday 11a.m. is Divine Sunday Morning Service. On Sunday at 7:30p.m. is Evening Ser-vice. On Tuesday at 7:30p.m. is Prayer Meeting. On Wednesday at 7:30pm is Bible Study, and on Friday at 7:30pm is Youth Ministry. For further about any of the worship opportunities, contact 1 649-941-3438.



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.

<div>Firm Foundation Ministries International Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581</div> <div>Christ is the Answer Ministry, George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030</div> <div>One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com.</div> <div>Touch of Love Ministries International Center Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731</div> <div>Abundant Life Ministries International P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755</div> <div>Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk, Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289</div> <div>Bethany Baptist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118</div> <div>Church of God of Prophecy, Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854</div> <div>Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk Tel:946-1866</div> <div>Calvary Baptist Church, South Caicos. Tel:946-3212</div> <div>Harvest Bible Chapel TCI, Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales. Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com. https://www.harvesttci.tc.</div>	<div>Firm Foundation Ministries International 19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240</div> <div>Church of God of Propesy, Providenciales Tel:941-3438</div> <div>Roman Catholic Church, Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136</div> <div>Faith Tabernacle Church of God, Providenciales, Tel:946-4073</div> <div>New Testament Church of God, Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175</div> <div>New Testament Church of God, South Caicos Tel:946-3631</div> <div>Methodist Church, Grand Turk Tel:946-2352</div> <div>Healing Waters Ministries, Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867</div> <div>House of Prayer Church of God, Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309</div> <div>Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727</div> <div>Mount Mariah Baptist Church, Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205</div> <div>New Beginning Harvest Ministry, Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759</div> <div>New Testament Church of God Orea Alley P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-1255 Airport Road, South Caicos Tel:231-2402</div>	<div>Firm Foundation Ministries International Waterloo Road, Grand Turk. Telephone: 649-332-624</div> <div>Paradise Baptist Church, Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349</div> <div>Revival Faith Center, North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349</div> <div>Salem Baptist Church, Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565</div> <div>Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181</div> <div>St. Monica’s Anglican Church P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499</div> <div>Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh Day Adventists, P.O. Box 803, Providenciales</div> <div>United Pentecostal Church, Brown’s Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852</div> <div>Wesleyan Methodist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596</div> <div><i>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</i></div>
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HIGHLIGHTS OF SOUTH DOCK PORT PHASE 1 OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING

Phase1 of the multimillion-dollar South Dock Port on Providenciales was officially commissioned into service on Thursday, July 24, 2025. The South Dock improvement aims to ultimately cut the cost of imports by allowing easier access to cargo boats into the harbor. The event saw Acting Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams, Premier Hon. Washington Misick, and Minister of PPHID Hon. Arlington Musgrove attending. The following are highlights of the event.





WHY YOUR MORNING ROUTINE MATTERS MORE THAN YOU THINK

Small changes after you wake up can set the tone for your entire day

By Monica Uttamchandani
Holistic Health Coach - Turks and Caicos

Your First Hour Matters: How to Build a Morning Ritual That Fuels Your Day

What you do in the first hour after waking can shape everything: your energy, digestion, mood, productivity, and even how resilient you are to stress.

Think of your morning like the foundation of a house. If it's solid, your day feels steady and supported. If it's chaotic or reactive, everything feels a little off. You don't need an elaborate "5 AM miracle morning", just a few intentional choices that nourish your body, mind, and nervous system. Here's how to craft a simple, supportive morning ritual that helps you feel more grounded, clear, and energised, without the overwhelm.

1 - Start With Warm Lemon Water and Sea Salt

After 6 to 8 hours of sleep, your body wakes up slightly dehydrated. A glass of warm water with fresh lemon juice and a pinch of mineral-rich sea salt helps:

- Rehydrate cells
- Support digestion and bile flow
- Replace electrolytes and trace minerals lost overnight
- Gently wake up the liver and kidneys

Lemon stimulates your digestive fire (what Ayurveda calls agni), while the salt helps with adrenal support and hydration at the cellular level. It's a small step that makes a big difference and sets the tone for more intentional choices ahead.

2 – Get Natural Light on Your Skin and Eyes

One of the most powerful ways to regulate your energy and sleep is by exposing your body to natural sunlight within the first 30 to 60 minutes of waking.

Why it works:

- Natural light resets your circadian rhythm
- It tells your brain to stop producing melatonin
- It triggers a healthy surge in cortisol (your body's natural "get-up-and-go" hormone).

Even just 5 to 10 minutes of light outside — no sunglasses, ideally on your skin too — can improve sleep at night, reduce brain fog, and stabilise mood. If you're inside, sit near a bright window to get similar benefits.

3 - Move Your Body — Gently and Intuitively

You don't need a full workout, even 5 to 15 minutes of light movement can wake up your muscles, increase circulation, and support lymphatic drainage.

Try:

- A gentle walk
- Stretching or sun salutations
- Hip openers, spinal twists, or mobility flows
- A few bodyweight squats or a short rebound on a trampoline.

Movement first thing in the morning signals to your body that it's safe to activate, helping to clear morning sluggishness and improve digestion, metabolism, and mental alertness.

4 - Try Energising Breathwork

Breathwork is one of the fastest, most accessible ways to shift your mental state. Techniques like the

Wim Hof method (deep rhythmic breathing with breath holds) or even simple diaphragmatic breathing can increase oxygen flow to the brain and gently stimulate the sympathetic nervous system in a positive, controlled way.

Benefits include:

- Clearer focus and reduced mental fog
- More energy and alertness
- Reduced anxiety
- Improved oxygenation to cells and tissues.

If you're new to breathwork, start slow and always listen to your body.

5 - Eat a Protein-Rich, Fibre-Filled Breakfast

The breakfast you eat sets the tone for your blood sugar all day. Skip the sugary cereals, naked carbs, or coffee on an empty stomach, these can spike cortisol, crash blood sugar, and lead to cravings, irritability, and low energy later in the day. Aim for a breakfast that includes:

- Protein (eggs, Greek yogurt, tofu scramble, beans, or protein smoothies)
- Fibre-rich carbs (fruit, oats, sweet potato, whole grains)
- Healthy fats (nut butter, avocado, seeds).

This combination stabilises your blood sugar, supports hormone health, and keeps you fuller longer.

6 - Remember, It's Not About Perfection

A thoughtful morning ritual isn't about doing everything perfectly or checking boxes. It's about creating

small, repeatable habits that help you meet your day with clarity, energy, and calm. It's how you move from reacting to life to responding with intention.

Even just one or two of these actions can have a ripple effect on your focus, mood, and digestion for the rest of the day. The more you practice them, the more naturally they become part of your rhythm.

And when your mornings feel steady, it becomes easier to face whatever the day brings, from parenting and meetings to workouts and surprises with more grace and capacity.

For more realistic wellness rituals, healing habits, and grounding routines, 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.



SEARCH ON FOR MALE YOUTH AMBASSADOR

The Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, through the Department of Youth Affairs, has officially launched the search for the next Male Youth Ambassador for the period 2025–2026.

The call is open to dynamic and driven young men between the ages of 18 and 29 who are passionate about youth development and civic engagement.

According to the announcement, the initiative seeks to identify a young leader who embodies the spirit of service and advocacy. The selected Youth Ambassador will

represent the Turks and Caicos Islands on various platforms, both locally and internationally, promoting youth interests and participating in development projects.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must meet a set of criteria, including:

- Proven project planning and management skills
- Excellent public speaking and communication abilities
- Proficiency in spoken and written English
- Active involvement in a youth club, organization, or youth

work at a national or community level

- Demonstrated interest in youth development initiatives
- Non-partisan stance
- Knowledge of current affairs
- Computer literacy, including familiarity with email and internet applications

Leadership, commitment to youth empowerment, and a clear vision for positive community change are essential qualities for prospective candidates.

Deadline and Contact Information

The deadline to submit applica-

tions is **August 8th, 2025**. Interested individuals are encouraged to register early and may contact the Department of Youth Affairs for application forms at the following numbers:

- **Provo:** 941-7471
- **Grand Turk:** 339-5101
- **South Caicos:** 339-6205
- **North Caicos:** 338-6441

This initiative underscores the Department's ongoing efforts to empower young people and create avenues for leadership, civic engagement, and national representation.

Beaches Turks & Caicos Celebrates Nurse Manager Eleanor Brooks-Clare

Beaches Turks and Caicos says it is proud to shine the spotlight on the remarkable service and lifelong dedication of Eleanor Elaine Brooks-Clare, Nurse Manager at the resort's on-site medical centre.

Described by the resort as a cherished member of the Beaches family since August 1, 1997, Nurse Brooks-Clare continues to exemplify the core values of "service above self."

With over 25 years of dedicated service, Nurse Brooks-Clare has become a trusted caregiver to guests and team members alike. She delivers not only exceptional healthcare but also compassionate leadership. Her story is one of resilience, advocacy and service, both within the hospitality industry and the wider Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) community.

"Nurse Brooks-Clare is a fan favourite and a cornerstone of our resort team," said James McAnally, managing director at Beaches Turks and Caicos. "Her warmth, clinical expertise and calm presence have made her a leader, a mentor and a source of reassurance to thousands over the years. We are honoured to have her as part of the Beaches family."

A certified family nurse practitioner and midwife, Nurse Brooks-Clare began her medical training in 1978 at the University Hospital of the West Indies, advancing through specialisations in mid-wifery and family medicine. Her professional journey has touched many—from delivering babies on

her home island of South Caicos to mentoring team members and advocating for national health initiatives.

Among her most impactful contributions was her successful petition for the national helmet law following the tragic loss of her son, Sasha, in a motorbike accident in 2006. The law, passed just two months later, has since saved countless lives. In recognition of her advocacy and healthcare service, she received the Patriotic Award – Cayos Medal in 2016 by the TCI Government.

Nurse Brooks-Clare co-founded the TCI Diabetic Association, spearheading efforts to improve diabetic care by coordinating regular visits from specialist podiatrists.

Even those she once delivered as new-borns now serve alongside her. Lashiko Seymour, senior manager on duty at Beaches Turks and Caicos, shared, "Nurse Clare is not only a nurse—she's a life coach and mentor. Her poise in emergencies and nurturing nature create a safe and supportive space for everyone she encounters."

Nurse Brooks-Clare credits much of her strength and service ethic to her upbringing and strong family support. "My husband has been my rock. My parents taught me to live selflessly and my extended family and colleagues inspire me daily." She also speaks fondly of mentors such as Dr Sam Slattery of Grace Bay Medical and Jeremy Jones, former general manager at

Beaches Turks and Caicos resort.

Perhaps one of the most touching aspects of her story is her ongoing connection with organ do-nation advocacy. "Though I lost my son, Sasha, I found meaning in knowing his heart lives on in someone else," she said, referencing one of the recipients of Sasha's organs. Her involvement with Life

Alliance at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Florida continues this legacy of healing and hope.

As Beaches Turks and Caicos continues to deliver world-class hospitality, it proudly honours the individuals behind the scenes—like Eleanor Brooks-Clare—whose service and heart remind us all what it means to truly care.



Eleanor Clare



Permanent Secretary, Dr. Kasan Troupe presents a picture to the Hon. Minister of Education



TCI Delegation and the YOVA team

TCI Education Delegation Strengthens Regional Partnerships during Strategic Visit to Jamaica

From 22 -25 July 2025, the Honourable Rachel M. Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, led a high-level delegation on an official visit to Jamaica to engage with key educational stakeholders. The objective of this mission is to strengthen the educational systems of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), spanning from Early Childhood to Tertiary Education, through strategic partnerships and knowledge exchange.

The delegation included Mr. James Astwood, Permanent Secretary, Ms. Elisann Delancy, Deputy Director, Department of Education, Mr. Jaron Harvey, Director of Rehabilitation and Community Services, Dr. Suzette Creary, Dean, Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC).

Over four days, the delegation met with various institutions and leaders to explore collaborative opportunities in youth rehabilitation, curriculum development, teacher training, special education, STEM education, and alternative education pathways. Highlights of the visit included an insightful tour of the Youth of Vision Academy (YOVA), where the team engaged with Dr. Noel Reid, Director, and Jennifer Alexis-Codner, Founder/Director. Discussions focused on innovative approaches to youth education and rehabilitation.

Strategic dialogue was also held with Jamaica's Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth, and Information in which the TCI delegation met with Dr. Kasan Troupe, Permanent Secretary, and senior executives. Key discussions centered on:

- Alternative Education Pathways
- Inclusive Education and Special Education Needs
- Support Strategies for Underperforming Students

- Alignment of vocational training with Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQ) and CSEC standards
- The team also visited MICO Teacher's College, where they held discussions with President Dr. Asburn Pinnock and faculty members on:
 - Secondary Teaching Programmes
 - TCICC collaborations for teacher training
 - Strengthening STEM education and teacher training
 - Opportunities for a student exchange and cultural caravan to the Turks and Caicos Islands
- Continuing the focus on advancing higher education and assessment standards, the TCI Delegation had a working session at University of Technology (UTech), where the delegation, alongside UTech leadership and TCICC's Dean, explored potential partnerships

for tertiary-level programmes, teacher training, and strengthening STEAM initiatives.

The team likewise met with Dr. Eduardo Ali, Pro-Registrar and Deputy CEO of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC), and his team. Discussions included:

- CXC Offerings and Alternative Pathways to Assessment
- National Literacy and Numeracy Assessment
- Professional Learning Institute (PLI) resources for teacher development
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy alignment with CXC frameworks

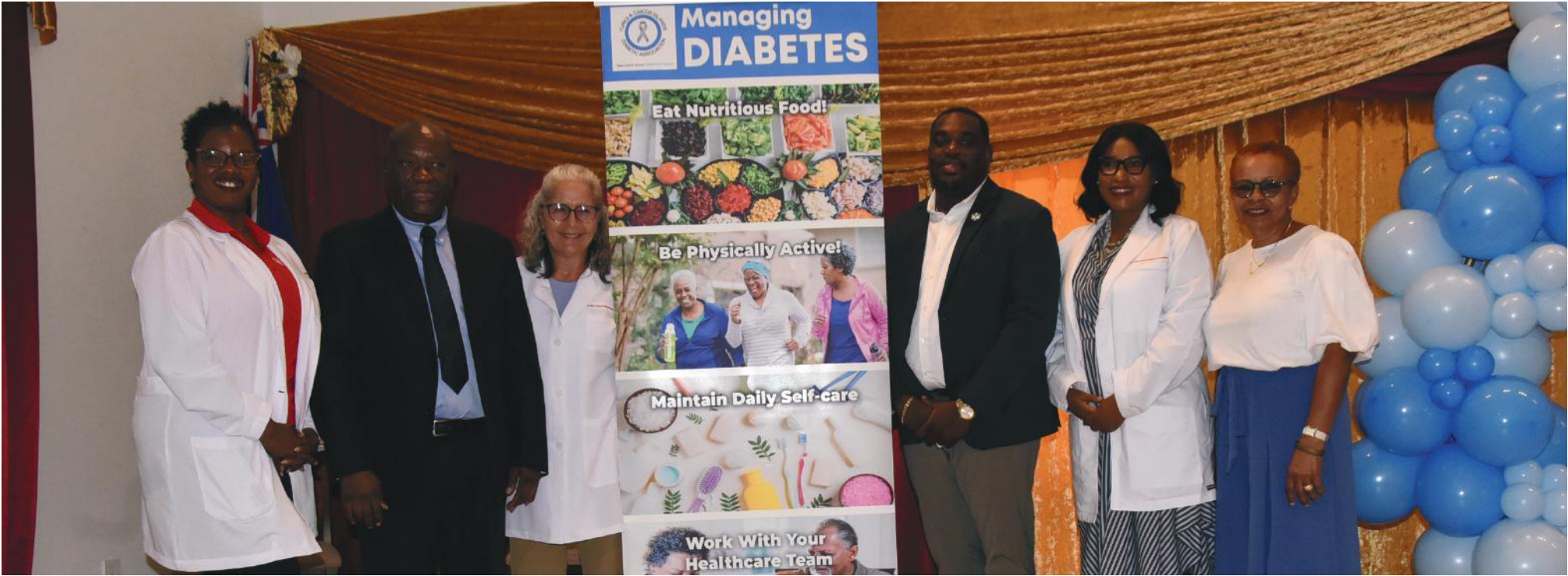
The visit today will include engagements at HEART/NSTA Trust, where the delegation will discuss technical and vocational training opportunities with Managing Director Dr. Taneisha Ingleton and her team.

The final meeting will feature Mrs. Latoya Harris Chatty, Executive Director of the National Trust, and Dr. Traceloy Solomon, Director of Projects, Jamaica Education Project, focusing on STEM education policies for primary and secondary schools, teacher training, and the establishment of STEM-focused schools.

Speaking on the visit, Honourable Taylor expressed her satisfaction with the outcomes of the visit: "This mission is integral in building bridges between our education systems and ensuring that Turks and Caicos Islands students and teachers benefit from the best practices in the region. We are committed to fostering partnerships that will enhance curriculum delivery, strengthen teacher training, explore different pathways to education for our students as we prepare our students for global competitiveness."



TCI Delegation visit to the University of Technology



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DIABETIC ASSOCIATION Health SYMPOSIUM

Recently, the Turks and Caicos Islands Diabetic Association staged a Health Symposium with a rich cadre of speakers at the Salvation Army’s Brighter Futures Centre along Leeward Highway. The main speaker was Dr. Denise Braithwaite-Tennant. The following are photo highlights of the event.



How to stop sabotaging your weight loss plan

MANY PEOPLE sabotage their weight loss goals. You know exactly what to do, but cannot seem to do it. You feel like you could write a diet book with everything you know about weight loss, but you do not act on it.

The truth is, there is a huge difference between knowing what to do and actually doing it. It is easy to hop from one diet to the next without ever sticking with anything. Success or lack thereof comes down to our mindset, psychology, and habits.

No diet that is solely based on the food you eat will help you figure out why you gained weight in the first place. A diet will not fix emotional, mindless, stress-induced eating, and it will not fix habitual, compulsive binge-eating. Basically, a diet will not get to the root cause of why you overeat.

According to Dr Rivane Chybar-Virgo, medical doctor and health and wellness coach, speaking at a bi-weekly 'Health Talk Sunday Series' presentation, it is crucial to be kind to yourself throughout your weight loss journey.

"Remember that progress is not always linear, and setbacks are normal. Focus on building healthy habits, celebrating small victories, and being patient with yourself as you work towards your goals," she said.

During a weight loss journey, Dr Chybar-Virgo said it is helpful to view food as fuel and nourishment rather than a source of restriction or deprivation. "This involves focusing on nutrient-dense foods, paying attention to

portion sizes, and practising mindful eating to better understand hunger and fullness cues," she said.

"Prioritise whole, unprocessed foods like fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, and whole grains, as they provide essential vitamins, minerals, and fibre to support your body's needs. Be mindful of serving sizes to manage calorie intake and avoid overeating. Drink plenty of water throughout the day, as it can help with satiety and overall health," she added.

To reduce guilt during your weight loss journey, focus on a balanced approach that includes mindful eating, self-compassion, and celebrating progress, rather than dwelling on perceived failures.

"Pay attention to your body's hunger and fullness cues, savour your food, and enjoy the experience of eating without distractions. Replace guilt-ridden thoughts with positive affirmations and focus on the progress you have made.

Identify situations or emotions that lead to feelings of guilt and develop strategies to manage them," Dr Chybar-Virgo said.

Celebrating your weight loss journey is also crucial for maintaining motivation and reinforcing positive habits. Focus on non-food rewards and activities that align with your goals, like buying new workout clothes, enjoying a spa day, or planning an active outing. Acknowledge your progress through reflection, tracking, and sharing your successes with loved ones.

"Treat yourself to new workout gear

(clothes, shoes, fitness tracker), or a relaxing spa day. Plan an activity you enjoy, like a hike, a cooking class, or a weekend getaway. Prioritise sleep, mental health days, or a massage. Create a list of rewards paired with specific weight loss goals and celebrate with them as you reach them," Dr Chybar-Virgo said. We have all heard the saying, 'You are what you think', right? Well, that is especially true when it comes to your weight journey. If you are constantly telling yourself, you cannot lose weight or feeling frustrated with the process, you are creating mental roadblocks. Dr Chybar-Virgo said, that is where weight loss affirmations come in; they help break those negative thought cycles and replace them with positive,

empowering beliefs. Once you start believing in your ability to change, you are already halfway there!

"Weight loss affirmations are not a quick fix, but they are a powerful tool to keep you motivated, centred, and confident. By repeating these affirmations daily, you are teaching your brain to see yourself through a lens of capability and self-love. When your mind is on board, the body tends to follow," she said.

A supportive internal environment, encompassing psychological and physiological factors, is crucial for successful weight loss. It influences motivation, emotional regulation, and overall well-being, impacting both the initial journey and long-term maintenance of a healthy weight.



Unstable blood pressure or pulse rate?

Have you been experiencing light-headedness, fainting spells, unstable blood pressure, especially low blood pressure, particularly upon standing), or abnormal heart racing? Then, this information may interest you.

When the control of the 'automatic' functions of the body –that is, blood pressure, pulse rate, temperature, breathing, sweating, or digestion – is affected, this could be a sign of a medical condition which reflects a state of inadequate function (dysfunction) of the autonomic nervous system (ANS). It is medically named as 'ANS dysfunction', or simply dysautonomia.

Dysautonomia is a disorder that affects the involuntary functions of our internal body. People living with a dysautonomia have trouble regulating these systems, which can result in a variety of complaints that can affect their quality of life. In other words, dysautonomia, or autonomic dysfunction, can involve various body systems.

This specialised 'autonomic' nervous system automatically keeps an appropriate balance in our capacity to react quickly in an emergency ('fight or flight' responses), increasing our pulse rate or blood pressure – this is our 'sympathetic' nervous system in action.

On the other hand, the body actions needed to restore energy and rest (lowering the pulse rate and blood pressure) are in charge of the 'parasympathetic' nervous system, the one that works in an opposite way. A healthy state is an adequate balance between both branches of our autonomic nervous system. Accordingly, an imbalance is considered a dysautonomia. Symptoms of dysautonomia vary, and some individuals may experience fatigue, nausea, brain fog, and changes in body temperature, inappropriate sweating or episodic syncope (fainting, passing out, or blacking out) associated with a temporary loss of consciousness.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF I HAVE A DYSAUTONOMIA?

There are many underlying conditions that can lead to a dysautonomia. Sometimes it is as a result of a previous viral infection, like COVID-19. Whatever the reason, its assessment is a specialised medical field that requires appropriate testing. For example, in order to assess how the blood pressure and heart rate respond to positional changes, we ask the patient to lie down and rest in a table that can be tilted at various angles, at the same time that we monitor their vital signs continuously (tilt table test).

In other cases, we measure the pulse rate changes in response to a deep breathing, or we evaluate how the heart responds to exercise. We can also analyse the variation in time between consecutive heartbeats (heart rate variability). All these tests can provide insights into the balance or a possible over- or under activity of the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems. In any case, an individualised assessment of each patient will always

be made.

Good lifestyle adjustments are key. Exercise, adequate sleep, a balanced diet and good hydration, and reducing mental stress are important. In a person with a history of fainting, we also advise to avoid triggers like prolonged standing or hot, crowded places. Remember, the inside of our body is always working overtime to maintain a balanced, healthy state of being, and we should cooperate to this end.



New law grants status to slave descendants

US singer Ciara is one of the first public figures to become a citizen of Benin under a recent law by the small West African country granting citizenship to descendants of slaves. The Grammy-winning performer’s acquisition of citizenship at a ceremony Saturday in the city of Cotonou is part of a broader initiative by Benin to attract the Black diaspora, acknowledge the country’s role in the transatlantic slave trade, and promote tourism focused on slavery-related sites of remembrance. “By legally recognising these children of Africa, Benin is healing a historical wound. It is an act of justice, but also one of belonging and hope,” Justice Minister Yvon Detchénou said at the ceremony. In September, Benin passed a law granting citizenship to those who can trace their lineage to the slave trade. It is open to anyone above 18 who doesn’t already hold other African citizenship and can provide proof that an ancestor was deported via the slave trade from anywhere in sub-Saharan Africa. Beninese authorities accept DNA tests, authenticated testimonies and family records. Last week, the government launched My Afro Origins, the digital platform that processes applications.

While Benin is not the first country to grant citizenship to descendants of slaves, its citizenship law carries added significance, in part because of the role it played in the transatlantic slave trade. European merchants deported an estimated 1.5 million enslaved people from the Bight of Benin — a region that includes present-day Benin, Togo and parts of Nigeria — to the Americas. Beninese kings actively participated in capturing and selling slaves to Portuguese, French, and British merchants. The former kingdoms and the communities they raided still exist today as tribal networks. Benin has long been working to reconcile with its legacy of complicity. It has openly acknowledged its role in the slave trade, a stance not shared by many other African nations that participated. In the 1990s, it hosted an international conference to examine how and where slaves were sold. In 1999, then-President Mathieu Kérékou apologized to African Americans during a visit to a church in Baltimore. Alongside this national reckoning, “memorial tourism” around the legacy of the slave trade has become a key approach of Benin’s government to attract afro-descendants. Memorial sites are mostly in Ouidah, one



of Africa’s most active slave-trading ports in the 18th and 19th centuries. They include the Slave Route, which was the path marking enslaved people’s final journey to ships, and the Door of No Return, a haunting doorway that opens to the Atlantic Ocean where they left Africa, and their families, for the last time. Sindé Chekete, the head of Benin’s state-run tourism agency, said these sites give Afro-descendants the opportunity to learn about and honor the struggles and resilience of their ancestors.

“It may inspire some people to say ‘I want to return to Africa and choose Benin to understand this history,’” Chekete said. Following her citizenship ceremony, Ciara toured the historic city, where she walked the Slave Route to the Door of No Return. “Between emotion, reflection and heritage, I experienced a profound return to what truly matters,” she said. Ciara is best known for chart-topping hits like Goodies and Level Up, her dynamic choreography, and her work in fashion and philanthropy.



Mojo Morgan, a founding member of Morgan Heritage, spent several months hanging out with dancehall artiste Popcaan, soaking up the grit and joys of rural life.

Mojo Morgan pushes inspirational anthem, Dreams

Morgan Heritage, spent several months hanging out with dancehall artiste Popcaan, soaking up the grit and joys of rural life, and experiencing first-hand the wonderful jolt of Kingston street life rolling up in twenty-deep entourages at dances and events in the capital city. He used the opportunity to write a soundtrack of his unique experiences for an upcoming EP dubbed ‘Jamaica Love’. The lead single from ‘Jamaica Love’ is the hard-hitting ‘Dreams’ which is co-produced by dancehall super producer Rowan ‘Droptop’ Melhado, known for a string of top-ten trending songs in Jamaica. The single fuses the genres of reggae and rock, and inspirational energy in a way that feels fresh, yet familiar. “Working with Mojo on this record was a powerful experience,” said Melhado, chief executive officer and founder of Droptop Records. “This isn’t just a song; it’s a soundtrack for anyone on the grind. Coming off recent hits with Popcaan, Skeng, and Chronic Law, I wanted to bring that same energy to something more uplifting. This one’s for the streets and the soul,” Droptop added. Mojo Morgan has high hopes for the single as it channels the artiste’s own journey of resilience and invites listeners to share and pursue their own dreams unapologetically. “Dreams is a gateway to ‘Jamaica Love’, an album which is a deeply personal project for me because it honours my homeland,

my family legacy, and especially the memory of my late brother and bandmate, Peeta Morgan,” Mojo said. The ‘Jamaica Love’ EP is rooted in reggae and dancehall but infused with hip-hop, country, Americana, and global rhythms. The EP features heavyweight collaborations with Gramps Morgan, Popcaan, Sizla, Maino, Chronic Law, and Mojo’s own children and nephew making it as much a family celebration as it is a cultural statement. “Jamaica Love is more than music, it’s a message. It’s a legacy, healing, and the soundtrack for anyone who’s ever had to fight for their dream,” the US-born, Brooklyn-raised Mojo Morgan said. Other standout songs on the EP include Mountain Song featuring Gramps Morgan and Esh Morgan and By My Side, featuring Jemere Morgan and Kelib Morgan. As a founding member of the Grammy Award-winning group Morgan Heritage, Mojo developed a sound rooted in tradition, but boldly unafraid to push boundaries and helped pioneer a sound that elevated Jamaican music to international acclaim. Now, Mojo has curated his own unique sound, coined as “Rasta Rock”, a sweet fusion shaped by the lyrical depth of Bob Dylan and Peter Tosh, the raw spirit of 2Pac and Vybz Kartel, and the emotional textures of Coldplay, The Cranberries and Phil Collins. It’s a lane of his own, global, grounded and full of heart.

Grammy-winning artiste Mojo Morgan is making a major summer push with his anthemic new single ‘Dreams’, a cheeky club banger that offers a perfect example of how to grab the brass ring of music success in 2025. “‘Dreams’ is for every hustler, every survivor and every soul who refuses to settle.

The song is motivational, soulful and uplifting, it’s a declaration that your dreams are valid, no matter where you come from or what you’ve been told,” said Mojo Morgan. The single, which will be available on all major download platforms on Tuesday, will be released alongside glitzy visuals. Mojo Morgan, a founding member of

Ozzy Osbourne heard the gospel weeks before his death, says evangelist

The frontman of pioneering heavy metal band Black Sabbath, has died at the age of 76.

But two weeks before his passing, legendary rock icon Ozzy Osbourne was given the opportunity to hear the gospel message, according to a post from @celebrityevangelist on Instagram.

The evangelist shared that during a visit, he placed a Bible in Osbourne's hands and shared the good news of Jesus Christ.

"The Holy Spirit was drawing him," the post reads, suggesting a spiritual openness in the final days of the singer's life.

One user commented "For his sake,

I hope he repented and received Christ," while another wrote: "I pray he made it to heaven."

Ozzy Osbourne was raised in a working-class Roman Catholic family in Birmingham, England. He attended Catholic school as a child.

Despite his dark image, Ozzy frequently used Christian imagery in his music and album art. Songs like *After Forever* by Black Sabbath even defend belief in God.

However, while he believes in God, he has admitted to struggles with organised religion, saying things like "I'm not religious, but I'm spiritual. I don't go to church, but I do believe there's a God."



One user commented "For his sake, I hope he repented and received Christ,"

Blue Ivy the star of Beyoncé's Cowboy Carter tour

"Who they came to see?" Beyoncé asks as she performs her 2023 single *My House* during the Cowboy Carter tour. For many, the answer has been Blue Ivy. Blue Ivy Carter, the Grammy-winning artiste's 13-year-old daughter, is more present than ever on stage, and fans are impressed by the growth from her first performance years ago to now.

Isabella Kerr, 15, has admired Beyoncé for years, but said she attended the Cowboy Carter tour specifically to experience Blue Ivy's moves in person.

"People are saying, 'Oh, she's a mini Beyoncé,' but no, I think she's the first Blue. Everything about her when she's on stage is electrifying," said Kerr.

The Cowboy Carter tour concluded Saturday in Las Vegas and it had fans buzzing that Blue Ivy is well on her way to being a next-generation powerhouse.

Blue first graced the stage at 11 years old during her mother's 2023 Renaissance tour. She performed again during 'Beyoncé Bowl', the NFL Christmas Day Half-time Show that was just nominated for four Emmy Awards. She danced alongside the icon as she performed songs from the Cowboy Carter album for the first time.

"Even the difference between the Renaissance Tour and now, you can tell she's really grown in her confidence," said fan and artiste Olivia Ellis. "You can tell she has a different vibe about her."

On the Cowboy Carter tour, she can almost be mistaken for one of Beyoncé's

professional dancers. She is on stage for nearly every song and has a solo recreating her mother's choreography from her 2006 *Déjà-vu* music video, a nod to the undeniable similarities between the two.

Online videos of Blue display professionalism comparable to her mother's during the Cowboy Carter tour. During a rainy New Jersey stop, she brought out towels to dry her area of the stage before nailing her *America Has a Problem* choreography.

In another unexpected moment during a Chicago show, her earring got caught on Beyoncé's hair. Blue remained calm, removed the jewellery and motioned to the singer that it was safe in her hand as they both seamlessly continued.

In *Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé*, fans were given a behind-the-scenes look at the decision-making process the first time Blue was allowed to perform. Beyoncé expressed how nervous she was about her child being in front of thousands of people made her, revealing she initially said no.

"I made a deal with her, and I said, 'If you practise and you show your commitment, I'll let you do one show.'" Blue Ivy fulfilled her end of the deal, and a fan base was formed: the Ivy League.

At last month's Cowboy Carter Paris stop, members of the Beyhive and Ivy League finally got what they had been asking for — Blue Ivy merchandise. Shirts with the teen's face and the phrase 'Déjà Blue'

plastered on the front were available for purchase.

Prior to that, fans were creating their own custom pieces that highlighted Blue and Beyoncé's connection.

At the MetLife Stadium show, Ellis wore a custom corset top she painted, showcasing Blue Ivy and her eight-year-old sister, Rumi Carter, on stage with Be-

yoncé during *Protector*, a track from the Cowboy Carter album that Rumi is featured on.

"I thought that would just be a really fun moment to highlight on a corset," she said. "It's just really cool to see her as a mom because we've all grown up with Beyoncé, and now it's like her show is kind of like a family affair," Ellis said.



Beyoncé, (second left) and her daughter, Blue Ivy Carter, perform during halftime of an NFL football game between the Baltimore Ravens and Houston Texans in December 2024 in Houston.



Pictured in the Front Row from Left to Right: Dr. Horace Cox, Director, Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control, CARPHA, Mr. Thulani Matesebula, Task Team Leader and Senior Health Economist, World Bank, Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director, CARPHA, Dr. Edit Velényi, Co-Task Team Leader and Senior Health Economist, World Bank and Dr. Mark Sami, Director, Corporate Services, CARPHA.

CARPHA, World Bank's 12th RPA Committee Meeting Focuses on Advancing Resilient Health Systems in the OECS

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) in collaboration with the World Bank convened the 12th Meeting of the Regional Project Advisory Committee for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Regional Health Project, on June 16 to 18, 2025 in Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America.

This meeting is a strategic forum for stakeholder engagement on strengthening cross – border emergency planning, knowledge exchange and the advancement of initiatives that ensure resilient health systems in four Small Island Developing States within the Caribbean Region, specifically, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In attendance were senior officials from CARPHA, the World Bank, and the Ministries of Health from the aforementioned Member States.

The Executive Management Team of CARPHA, led by Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director, also held several high-level meetings with senior representatives from the World Bank including Dr. Juan Pablo Uribe, Global Director for Health, Nutrition and Population and the Global Financing Facility, World Bank and Dr. Priya Basu, Executive Head, Pandemic Fund.

In delivering opening remarks at this session, Dr. Horace Cox, Director, Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control, CARPHA, stated that “throughout this journey, CARPHA’s coordinated efforts have not only strengthened operational capacity but have also enhanced the collective ability of the region to respond effectively to urgent public health needs”.

Dr. Indar noted that “the Caribbean Region, specifically the OECS, is uniquely characterised by under-resourced populations, highly interconnected, porous borders that are susceptible to climate change impact and infectious disease risks such as COVID-19. These highlight the unique vulnerabilities that threaten the Region”. As such, Dr. Indar noted the importance of bolstering the capacity of Member States in areas of preparedness, surveillance, data analysis, risk assessment, and improved human and resource readiness to strengthen regional health security and resilience. Mr. Thulani Matsebula, Task Team Leader and Senior Health Economist, from the World Bank, highlighted the importance of the OECS Regional Health Project in “transforming the landscape among Member States by promoting integrated health systems, fostering innovation, and enhancing resilience to public health threats”. He further added that these initiatives serve to reduce disparities in access to healthcare during times of crisis and guarantee that vulnerable groups are protected through strengthened support mechanisms and rapid response strategies.

Country representatives benefited from technical guidance from both CARPHA and the World Bank in monitoring and evaluation to support the alignment of activities being implemented with project targets. These sessions were jointly conducted by Mrs. Patricia Smith-Cummings, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, CARPHA and Dr. Edit Velényi, Co-Task Team Leader and Senior Health Economist, World Bank.

Dr. Velényi commended “the high level of coordination among the project partners” with the recognition that such synergy enhances data quality for improved timely outbreak detection, supports coherent policy implementation across Member States, and adherence to project timelines, milestones and risk management protocols.

At the conclusion of this meeting, representatives agreed to advance key actions that include the following:

- The creation of a regional strategic laboratory plan.
- The creation of a centralized

repository for all data and technical resources related to this project.

- Convene a regional District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2) meeting.

- Convene quarterly RPAC meetings to ensure efficient acceleration of project implementation.

This statutory Regional Project Advisory Committee meeting ensures that the project remains on schedule, resources are being utilized efficiently, and that collaboration among Member States support the achievement of key health outcomes.



Pictured from Left to Right: Dr. Priya Basu, Executive Head, Pandemic Fund and Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director, CARPHA.



Gianni Grossi and Mario Paglino aka Magia2000 attend the premiere for the movie “Barbie”.

On Sunday, July 27, Mario Paglino and Gianni Grossi, who were professional and romantic partners, were killed after an 82-year-old man drove the wrong way on Italy’s A4 Turin-Milan highway, per Sky TG24, which is owned by Sky Italia, and local news agency ANSA. Paglino, 52, Grossi, 55, and banker Amodio Valerio Giurni, 37, died in the crash, Ansa reported. Giurni’s wife, Silvia Moramarco, 36, was injured in the accident and is currently hospitalized at Niguarda Hospital in Milan, the outlet stated. The older man, who also died, has been identified as Egidio Ceriano, Ansa noted. He was thought to have traveled just over four miles in the wrong lane on the highway before causing the fatal crash. The head-on collision occurred near the Marcallo-Mesero tollbooth in Lombar-

dy, per the news agency. Paglino and Grossi founded Magnia2000 — a company that creates custom Barbie dolls, one of which sold for \$15,000 at a charity auction in 2015 — back in 1999, per the website. Barbie shared a tribute on Instagram after news of the tragedy emerged online, writing, “The Barbie team is heartbroken by the loss of Mario Paglino and Gianni Grossi, two treasured creators and Mattel collaborators who brought joy and artistry to the world of Barbie as Magnia2000.” “As passionate and talented designers and lifelong collectors, their spirit and love for the brand turned every creation they touched into a masterpiece,” the tribute added. “Beyond their remarkable talent, they shared an energy that lit up every space

Barbie designers killed in 80-mile-an-hour head-on car smash with driver, 82

they entered,” the post, which included a photo of the pair posing underneath a Barbie sign, continued. Per the Magnia2000 website, the company “created the Italian Doll Convention, the largest fashion dolls event in Europe, promoting the passion for Barbie and all fashion dolls” in 2011. “From 2015, they [were consultants] for the ‘Barbie The Icon’ [exhibition] in Milan and Rome, where they also displayed part of their personal Barbie collection,” the site added. Barbie’s tribute mentioned some of the pair’s many achievements. “Whether leading the Italian Doll Convention in Milan or showcasing their talents and

love for Barbie at doll shows all over the world, their presence brought warmth, laughter, and a sense of belonging,” the tribute continued. “Their generosity was boundless, creating countless dolls to be auctioned to benefit charities close to fellow collectors’ hearts. Barbie is better because they loved the brand, and our beloved collector community is richer for having known them and shared in their passion. Barbie honors their memory with deep gratitude,” the post concluded. The caption read, “Barbie mourns the loss of two treasured artists whose work has forever shaped the world of dolls. Mario and Gianni, you will be missed.



The crash scene.

U.S. Auto Industry Will Now Pay Zero Tariffs To Export Cars To Europe That Europeans Don’t Want

By Matthew Debord

The newly announced trade deal between the U.S. and the European Union contains what looks like a dramatic rebalancing of the trade relationship for autos. The EU’s automakers will pay a 15% import tax on what they send to America, while the U.S. automakers will pay nothing to the EU (Canada’s Globe and Mail has a good breakdown). What a deal! Unless you consider that the U.S. currently exports a relatively small number of vehicles to Europe, and there isn’t much reason to increase the numbers. Here’s the data: in 2024, the EU sent 750,000 vehicles to the U.S., while the U.S. sent 165,000 vehicles to Europe. Those totals have fluctuated over the past few years, but the relative imbalance has remained steady. This apparently enrages President Trump and his trade negotiators, who seem to think that the EU dropping its prior 10% tariff will open the floodgates for Fords and Chevys. That’s not going to happen,

of course, because American-made cars are made for Americans, not Europeans. Automakers generally want to build vehicles where they sell them, for three main reasons. First, they can manufacture the models that a particular market wants. BMW makes SUVs at its factory in South Carolina (and is the U.S.’ top exporter by value thanks to that plant, too). Second, local production avoids issues with exchange rates and tariffs, although decades of free-trade had lowered U.S. tariffs to negligible levels. And third, local production makes regulatory approval easier to manage. Former Aston Martin CEO Andy Palmer has my favorite quote on the topic, via the BBC: “You don’t want to ship cars around the world. They’re big boxes of expensive air.” So it’s pointless to expect U.S. carmakers to suddenly start manufacturing more vehicles in the U.S. to export to the EU. They don’t make the small, fuel-efficient cars that Europeans want, and even if they did, they’d choose to make them in Europe.

It’s also worth pointing out that both GM and Ford have been retreating from Europe. GM sold its Opel/Vauxhall division to the PSA Group (now part of Stellantis) in 2017, exiting the market after decades of struggles with profitability. Ford has phased out of the passenger car business in Europe, preferring to concentrate on commercial vans and crossovers. A 10% tariff being dropped to zilch isn’t going to suddenly incentivize U.S. automakers to build a bunch of subcompacts, nor is it going to liberate Europe’s previously deprived buyers of large SUVs and pickups. For roughly two decades, the U.S. auto industry, including the so-called foreign transplants that operate factories here, has reorganized itself to satisfy American buyers and focus on profits. That means a market defined by SUVs and pickups, which in their larger versions post the industry’s best margins. Yes, the Japanese and South Koreans still sell smaller sedans, but for the most part the U.S. has become an automotive is-

land, albeit a big one. The Escalades and Navigators roam here, not in the streets of Paris and Berlin. Due to the Trump trade deal, Europe’s automakers will face a 15-percent tariff on exports to the U.S., and that might encourage some moderate upticks in local manufacturing of Audis and Mercedes. But the models that Europe exports to the U.S. are typically sedans, and that’s because the Europeans don’t want to abandon the segment and need to maintain capacity at their EU factories, which also export to other countries. The upshot here is that made-in-Europe cars sold in the U.S. will probably cost more, while U.S. auto exports to the EU will remain at about the same levels they always have. U.S. buyers who might have wanted a German-made BMW 5 Series sedan could perhaps, maybe, I don’t know, think about a Cadillac. But more likely they’ll go for a made-in-SC X5 SUV. You could say what Trump has achieved is a deal, but to me it looks a lot more like a more expensive restatement of the status quo.



PNP President Mark Golding

CCJ is back on the agenda if PNP wins election – Golding

make the CCJ Jamaica's final court at the same time the country ditches the British Monarchy in favour of a republic-style government.

The Opposition Leader told the crowd that the PNP is determined to repatriate Jamaica's final court by cutting ties with the UK-based Privy Council which has been the country's final court since independence. Arguing that the Privy Council is inaccessible to most Jamaicans, Golding declared that "Nobody in this audience can take a case to the Privy Council, it is not a real court for Jamaica because you have to be a multi-millionaire to take a case there and you have to have a UK visa as well, which you don't necessarily must get".

The PNP President noted that the CCJ was established 20 years ago, it is fully funded by a trust fund which Jamaica contributes to, and is "well

protected from political interference, having its own regional judicial commission for appointment of judges which no politician in any island can interfere with".

"Time come for full sovereignty, let us use the CCJ, the countries in the Caribbean that are doing well – Guyana, Barbados, St Lucia, Dominica, Belize – are all using it. Their people have benefitted from access to justice and we hope the Jamaica Labour Party can remove the veil from their eyes," said Golding.

He said it was ironic that it is former JLP Prime Minister Hugh Shearer who first floated the idea of a regional final court in the early 1970s. "And yet now dem a gi it a fight, it nuh mek nuh sense people. We want full sovereignty, we want full independence, we want decolonisation and we want it now. That is what we stand for in the People's National Party".

The issue that has stalled the constitutional reform process, making the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Jamaica's final appellate court, will be a priority of the People's National Party (PNP) if it is returned to office after the upcoming general election. PNP President Mark Golding spoke to the issue Thursday night at a St Ann parish meeting at Musgrave

Square in Brown's Town, where the party's four candidates for the parish were presented to a massive crowd. It was Golding who in January, pulled the party's representatives out of the Joint Select Committee of the Parliament examining the Constitution (Amendment) Republic Bill, ostensibly because the ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) has refused to

OECS signs agreement for regional shore power system

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) says it signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with three prominent partners as the sub-regional grouping moves toward advancing sustainable development, infrastructure innovation and clean energy collaboration across the Eastern Caribbean.

The St Lucia-based OECS Commission said that the MoU has been signed with the Trinidad-based Globus Energy Group Trinidad Limited, the Barbados-based Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) and the United States (US) based AECOM Technical Services, Incorporation.

The commission said the agreement outlines a joint commitment to develop and implement the Framework Project, which will serve as the foundation for future cooperation.

It said that through this project, the parties will explore shared opportunities, pool resources and establish clear processes for delivering impactful outcomes in energy, infrastructure and tourism-related initiatives. This includes innovations such as a focus on shore-to-ship power (shore power) systems for cruise berths lo-

cated within the ports of participating OECS nations.

Additional stakeholders, including cruise lines, port and utility operators, and other entities and strategic partners relevant to the region's development, are expected to be invited to join or engage with the project as it progresses.

The OECS Commission says this MoU sets the stage for developing a comprehensive framework agreement that will outline the roles, responsibilities and resource commitments of each party.

It also includes a plan to identify mutually beneficial opportunities and efficient methods for implementation. The collaboration aims to accelerate regional progress in key sectors while ensuring alignment with the OECS's development goals.

OECS Director General, Dr Didacus Jules said that the MoU represents a shared vision to build resilient, innovative and sustainable societies in the Eastern Caribbean.

Dr Jules said it reflects the strength of regional and international collaboration in tackling complex development challenges and seizing strate-

gic opportunities.

"We recognise that true economic transformation requires innovation, diversification and green growth. And, in fact, I may add, in these times of poly crisis and geopolitical instability, the reinvention of that economy, with all of the pressures that we face, is even more critical a strategic priority.

"This initiative enables us to reimagine the tourism sector, not just as a revenue generator, but as a driver

of sustainable energy solutions and technological modernisation. In doing so, we add value to one of our region's most vital industries while positioning ourselves as global leaders in sustainable port infrastructure," Dr Jules added.

The OECS groups the islands of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, the British Virgin Islands and Anguilla.





PAL SUMMER GAMES ARE ON

Basketball, Softball Games Bring Excitement

See Story on Page 32

Ethan Gardiner Smashes National Record at World Aquatics Championships

Sixteen-year-old swimming sensation Ethan Gardiner has etched his name into the history books once again, breaking his own national record in the men's 50-meter breaststroke during the World Aquatics Championships in Singapore.

Gardiner, representing the Turks and Caicos Islands, clocked an impressive 33.63 seconds in the preliminary heats, surpassing his previous best of 33.97 seconds set earlier this year at the CARIFTA Aquatics Championships in Trinidad and Tobago. His performance not only set a new national benchmark but also marked a historic moment — he became the first athlete from the Turks and Caicos Islands to ever compete in the prestigious long course world event. The Turks and Caicos Islands Swim Federation hailed Gardiner's achievement in a public statement, calling it a proud moment for the country's sporting community.

"Congratulations to Ethan Gardiner!" the federation said. "Ethan's achievements are truly outstanding—he not only broke records but also made history."

Gardiner's progression over the season has captured the attention of regional and international swimming observers, with coaches pointing to his strong technique, discipline, and relentless work ethic.

His historic swim in Singapore stands as a testament to the growing potential of aquatic sports in Turks and Caicos, where investments in youth development are beginning to bear fruit on the world stage.

As the young swimmer continues to rise, many believe this is just the beginning of an exciting journey. One thing is clear: Ethan Gardiner is a name to watch, and the waters of international competition have officially been stirred by the pride of Turks and Caicos.



Fraser-Pryce gets philosophical about final World Champs participation

With Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce set to return to the track in two weeks, the Jamaican sprint legend says she'll be satisfied with whatever the outcome at this year's World Athletics Championships, having overcome the mental setback experienced during the Paris Olympics last year.

The multiple-time Olympic and World Champion will compete on European soil for the first time this season when she lines up in the 100m at the Gyulai Istvan Memorial in Budapest, Hungary, on August 12. It will be Fraser-Pryce's first competitive outing since the National Senior Championships in June where she booked her spot to the World Championships in September, clocking a season's best 10.91 seconds.

The five-time world 100m champion will be looking for yet another podium finish in what is expected to be her last-ever major championship. Fraser-Pryce was unable to secure a medal at the Paris Games after having to withdraw from the 100m semi-finals. In a recent interview with French magazine Marie Claire, she explained that she "was probably having a panic attack", which was triggered when her pre-race preparations were heavily disrupted after

she was denied access through a gate at the stadium.

However, the 38-year-old says she's been able to process her emotions after a lengthy mental battle.

"The fact that I was able to pick myself up from Paris and decide we're doing another year in itself is a win because I was floored — Paris floored me. It kind of really messed me up because I had so many personal and professional challenges that I had to deal with," Fraser-Pryce said on Nice Talk with Nikki Ogunnaike.

"And then to walk away not being able to compete in Paris just added to that and it just made me feel like I was going to explode because maybe I should have walked away, maybe I shouldn't have. You have all these conversations in your head where maybe I should have done something different. It took me a while to sit with myself and grieve what happened and then decide I'm doing another year."

Fraser-Pryce says she's in a better space and says 2025 is one of her most enjoyable seasons as an athlete.

"One of the things that I'm grateful for is, I made the decision to do another year because I didn't feel that

way last year," she says. "I wasn't too sure what I wanted to do, there was so many things happening that I never felt like I was focused on track in its entirety because I was so focused on the things that were happening."

"This year, there's a sense of, 'Yeah this is it,' because I've enjoyed training — I always enjoy training, but this year on a different level. I was able to have more time with my family, going to the country for a day or two and really just enjoying this year."

Fraser-Pryce says the coaching switch from Elite Performance Head Coach Reynaldo Walcott to Andre Wellington is bearing fruit.

"Another win is the fact that I changed my coach because at this age and stage, changing the wheel can be difficult because I'm used to something that I know works for me and I had to make a very difficult decision to do something different," she says.

Fraser-Pryce, the third-fastest woman in history, with a personal best 10.60 seconds, will head to the Japanese capital in September as the most decorated athlete in the 100m field with five gold medals and one bronze, which she gained at the 2023 World Championships in Budapest.



Olympian Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce during a training session ahead of the Olympic Games in Paris, France, on Monday, July 29, 2024.



Arnett Gardens beat Dublanc 4-0 to start CFU Club Shield defence

Arnett Gardens made a strong start to their Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Club Shield title defence with a commanding 4-0 win over Dublanc FC of Dominica on Sunday at the Ato Boldon Stadium in Trinidad and Tobago. Shai Smith scored a brace for Arnett Gardens who got off to a fast start with three goals in the first 16 minutes but had to wait until time added at the end of the second half to get the fourth goal. Giovanni Taylor got the Jamaican club off to a fast start when he scored in the ninth minute, punishing a slow Dublanc FC defence with a shot from the top of the

18-yard box that beat goalkeeper Jerome Burkard. Smith then scored two quick goals, walking in the first in the 12th minute after a mix-up in the defence before poor organisation gifted him a second in the 16th minute. Dublanc FC were forced to make an early substitution when Burkard was stretchered off the field after a collision in the box and was replaced by Jaheem Cuffy. Despite dominating the possession, Arnett Gardens had to wait until two minutes into time added when substitute Chantomoi Taylor fired in the fourth goal of the game.

CWI says it welcomes Caricom’s proposal for cricket reform

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has wholeheartedly welcomed the recent proposal put forward by the Bureau of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) and the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee (PMSC) on Cricket. In a statement issued on Thursday, Caricom and the PMSC called for sweeping reforms in West Indies cricket, while expressing deep concern over the sport’s current state and demanding immediate action from CWI. They voiced alarm over the sport’s decline, particularly in Test cricket, citing failures in youth development, governance, and long-term planning. Caricom leaders also highlighted years of inaction on major reform proposals, including the 2007 Paterson Report on governance, the

2015 Eudine Barriteau Report, and the 2020 Wehby Report on CWI restructuring. In a statement issued by CWI on Saturday, it said its president, board of directors, chief executive officer, and Secretariat of Cricket West Indies welcomed the proposal. “We deeply appreciate the ongoing interest and involvement of regional heads of Government in the future of West Indies cricket and reaffirm our commitment to open and constructive engagement. “CWI views the proposed committee, comprising a broad cross-section of regional stakeholders, as a valuable opportunity to not only candidly address the challenges we face, but also to explore practical pathways to strengthen and sustain

West Indies cricket,” the statement read. “We will encourage our six shareholder members, the territorial cricket boards, to participate actively and share their insights in this important process. “We reiterate our strong desire for collaboration with Caricom and all stakeholders, as reflected in our consistent participation in meetings of the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on Cricket since 2023 and in various courtesy engagements with regional leaders. “CWI remains confident that, through collective effort and a shared vision, we can return West Indies cricket to the highest standards of excellence both on and off the field,” it further added.



Dr Kishore Shallow, Cricket West Indies president



Mark A. Fulford (left), Vice Chairman of the TCIGA and Sponsor Mervin Cox (fourth from left) seize a photo with the winning team

1ST ANNUAL MERVIN COX 'GROW THE GAME' GOLF TOURNAMENT A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The sport of golf took another major step forward on Sunday July 27th at the impressive Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Course with the successful staging of the 1st Annual Mervin Cox 'Grow the Game' Golf Tournament, hosted by the Turks and Caicos Islands Golf Association (TCIGA).

Formerly known as the (late) Bob Graham Golf Tournament, Mervin Cox - local entrepreneur, philanthropist, businessman and golf advocate has taken over headline sponsor of this event; bringing to-gether players, mentors, and first-time golfers in a powerful celebration of community, growth, and sport.

Unlike traditional tournaments, this one was built around a unique format: a four-player scramble where one member of each team had to be a complete novice—someone new to the sport of golf. This bold and inclusive approach lies at the heart of the tournament's mission: to grow the game of golf by offering a welcoming and supportive entry point for new players, women, and particularly among local youth.

TCIGA President Fraser Dodd emphasized the TCIGA's long-term vision: "The Mervin Cox, Grow the Game Golf Tournament is a sym-

bol of what golf in the Turks and Caicos can become—diverse, inclusive, and dynamic. We are committed to creating more opportunities like this that open doors for beginners Turks Islanders, and foster a stronger, more vibrant golf community."

"This tournament wasn't just about winning—it was about widening the circle, welcoming new players, and growing the spirit of the game across our islands," said Mark A. Fulford, Vice Chairman of the TCIGA. "The response from players and spectators was inspiring, and it shows just how powerful golf can be in bringing people together."

The TCIGA extends its deepest thanks to Mervin Cox for his vision and generosity, and to all participants, volunteers, and supporters who helped bring this inaugural event to such an exciting and successful inaugural event.

Taking 1st Place with a phenomenal net score of 52.10 was the team of John Donatien, Brooks Johnson, Mervin Cox Jr., and Devonte Smith. 2nd Place went to James Hamilton, Patrick Slattery, Julian Gilpin, and Sheka Kanu, with a close score of 52.19.

Jonathan Adie, Andrew MacLeod, Chris Gornall, and Anthony Sage

took 3rd Place with 54.10, followed by Graham Canham, Javi Bovell, Denise Douglas, and Michael Bovell in 4th with 55.94. The 5th Place team—Bassim Haidar, Robbie Temple, Justin Simons, and Ashley Smith—rounded out the leaderboard with a solid 57.54. Specialty awards added extra flair to the day. Godfrey Been and Kate Blain won Longest Drive among novice players, while Robbie Temple and Paula Harris took the hon-

ors among the men's and women's fields. In the spirit of fun and fairness, the "Most Honest Foursome" award was earned by Pat Staples, Greg Greatrex, Lucy Bullard, and Trem Quinlan.

The Mervin Cox Grow the Game Golf Tournament is now firmly positioned as an annual highlight on the Turks and Caicos Islands' Golf and sporting calendar, with even greater ambitions ahead.



Mark A. Fulford (left), Vice Chairman of the TCIGA and Mervin Cox (fourth from left), sponsor of the tournament share lens with the second-place team

Youth Basketball & Softball Season in Full Swing with Police Action League Summer 2025

The Police Action League (PAL) is back for Summer 2025, with three weeks of exciting competition already underway. Designed as a community-based developmental league, PAL continues to provide young athletes across the Turks and Caicos Islands with a platform to grow through sport, mentorship, and positive engagement. This year's league features basketball divisions in 13U, 15U, and 17U, along with 17U girls' softball, showcasing the best of emerging talent across multiple age groups. Games are held on weekends and are open to the public, with a lively atmosphere that brings families, friends, and communities together in support of youth development. A highlight of the softball season is the brand-new 5-game series between the Badgers and the Skyhawks, launched on Saturday, July 26 at 9:30 AM at the Downtown Ballpark in Providenciales. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, and each ticket includes access to both softball and basketball games. Basketball games take place at the Gustavus Lightbourne Sports Complex, ensuring a full day of action for all attendees. PAL is a proud initiative of the

TCI Sports Commission in partnership with the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, driven by a shared mission to create safer, more empowered communities through sport.

The league is also supported by the TCI Basketball Federation and TCI Softball Association. Follow all league updates, scores, and highlights on Facebook and Instagram @Police-

ActionLeague. See detailed statistics of individual players and standings at the National Athlete database here: <https://nieves1319.softr.app/2025pal-stat-landing-page>.



15U Basketball player Bethenly Joseph of the Guardians assessing his opponent.

Salt Rakers Aquatic Club Launches Exciting Raffle to Support Youth Swimmers

The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club is making a splash this season with the launch of an exciting community raffle to support its youth swimming program. Set to culminate in a grand draw on November 29, 2025, the fundraiser offers supporters the chance to win luxurious prizes while contributing to the development of local aquatic talent. With tickets priced at just \$20.00, the raffle boasts an enticing list of prizes generously sponsored

by well-known businesses in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The top prize is a dream experience: a private chartered catamaran excursion with PRIVÉ, offering the lucky winner a day of luxury on the crystal-clear Caribbean waters. Second prize is a \$500 shopping spree at Graceway IGA Supermarket, making it a practical and rewarding win for any household. Adventure lovers will be thrilled with the third prize — an unfor-

gettable ECO tour with Big Blue Collective, a local favorite for eco-adventures and ocean exploration. Fourth prize is a dinner for four at the elegant Alexandra Resort, perfect for a family night out or a special celebration. Rounding out the list is the fifth prize, a \$200 shopping certificate from KB Home Center, ideal for anyone planning home improvements or just in need of essentials.

This fundraiser is more than just a chance to win—it's a vital part of ensuring the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club continues to foster discipline, fitness, and excellence among young swimmers across the islands. All proceeds will go directly toward swim training programs, equipment, and community outreach initiatives. With limited tickets available and such spectacular prizes, the community is encouraged to dive in early and show their support.