

**SPORTS DIRECTOR
PRAISES
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PG32

NEWSLINE

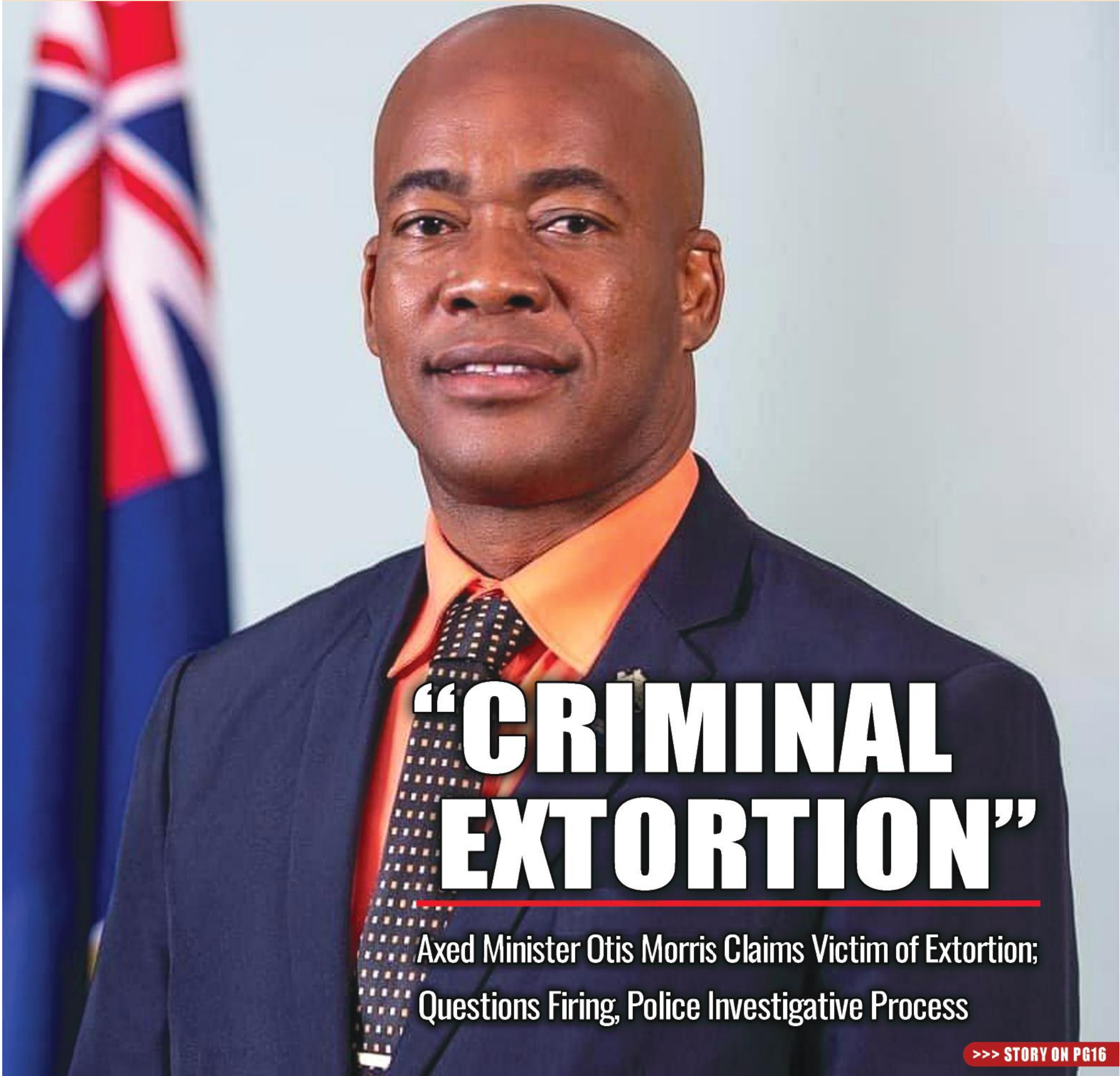
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“CRIMINAL EXTORTION”

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Experience Turks and Caicos Launches Strategic Travel Advisor Education

Experience Turks and Caicos is pleased to announce its partnership with Houston-based Travelview International to launch a video-driven travel advisor marketing and education program across the United States and Canada – markets that collectively represent about 90 percent of the destination’s visitor arrivals. Through this initiative, Experience Turks and Caicos will leverage Travelview International’s established platform to engage approximately 80,000 travel advisors across North America, including members of leading luxury consortia, through a series of highly targeted video campaigns on the Turks and Caicos Islands, including its lesser-known sister islands.

The program distributes twice-monthly emails featuring short informational videos that function as a “video FAM trip,” helping advisors quickly build destination knowledge and stay current on the islands.

The campaign underscores Experience Turks and Caicos’ ongoing commitment to deepening its engagement with the travel advisor community, as luxury travelers increasingly turn to these



Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly

trusted professionals to curate and secure highly personalized, bespoke experiences.

“Our partnership with Travelview International reflects the critical role that travel advisors play in shaping high-value travel decisions and driving meaningful demand for destinations like Turks and Caicos,” said Paul Pennicook,

Interim CEO Consultant of Experience Turks and Caicos.

“Advisors are indispensable partners in how luxury travel is planned and experienced today, and by investing in direct, consistent engagement, we are ensuring they are equipped with the insights and inspiration needed to confidently position our is-

lands at the forefront of their recommendations.”

The content features concise, expertly narrated informational videos crafted for efficient learning and lasting recall. These videos highlight the destination’s defining attributes, including its geography, heritage, and cultural character; a curated overview of its resorts, villas, and accommodations; and distinctive experiences and excursions that set the Turks and Caicos Islands apart within the Caribbean luxury landscape – all while visually showcasing the natural beauty that the destination is renowned for.

As a respected publisher within the travel industry, Travelview International is recognised for delivering credible, non-advertorial content that advisors rely on to make informed recommendations for their clients. The platform seamlessly integrates editorial programming produced by Travelview with video contributions from private sector partners on specific resorts, villas, experiences, and services with direct pathways to additional information and booking opportunities.

TCI Nominated in Several Condé Nast Traveler 2026 Readers’ Choice Awards Categories

The Turks and Caicos Islands has once again secured a coveted place in the prestigious Condé Nast Traveler 2026 Readers’ Choice Awards, earning nominations across multiple categories that highlight the destination’s enduring appeal.

The “Beautiful by Nature” islands have been recognised in the categories of favourite Island, Beaches, for the world-renowned Grace Bay Beach, and Hotels and Resorts, underscoring the strength and diversity of the destination’s tourism product.

Widely regarded as one of the

most influential accolades in global travel, the Condé Nast Traveler Readers’ Choice Awards reflect the authentic voices and experiences of discerning travelers from around the world.

“The Condé Nast Traveler Readers’ Choice Survey remains one of the most highly anticipated and respected benchmarks in the travel and tourism industry. The Turks and Caicos Islands has consistently ranked among the top destinations in the categories in which we are nominated, and this continued recognition speaks to the exceptional quality of our

tourism offerings,” said Mr. Paul Pennicook, Interim CEO Consultant.

“We encourage our visitors, partners, and friends of the destination to cast their votes and share what makes the Turks and Caicos Islands truly special.”

Voting is now open and runs through June 30th, 2026. The results will be published in the November 2026 issue of Condé Nast Traveler and featured online.

As an added incentive, participants who complete the survey will be entered for a chance to win a 15-day Viking ocean voyage

exploring the British Isles, with stops including Scotland’s Shetland Islands, Dublin, and Greenwich, England.



Paul Pennicook, Interim CEO Consultant

ROYAL TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS POLICE FORCE ISSUES URGENT SCAM ALERT

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force is warning residents to remain vigilant as scammers escalate their tactics, now targeting individuals through fake WhatsApp messages and video calls.

Authorities say cybercriminals are increasingly using platforms such as WhatsApp and FaceTime to initiate video calls, a method that may allow them to capture facial features and potentially gain access to sensitive personal data.

The Police Force's Financial Crimes Unit reports that these scams are becoming more sophisticated, urging the public to take immediate precautions to protect themselves and their financial information.

Growing Threat Through Video Calls

According to officials, scammers are no longer relying solely on phishing links or text-based deception. Instead, they are attempting to engage victims through live video interac-

tions, making the schemes appear more credible and harder to detect. Residents are being cautioned that answering unsolicited video calls, especially from unknown contacts, could expose them to identity theft and financial fraud.

Police Advice: What NOT To Do

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force strongly advises the public to avoid the following:

- Clicking on suspicious or unfamiliar links
- Accepting invitations from unknown contacts, particularly those initiating video calls
- Sharing personal, financial, or banking information with unverified sources

Steps To Stay Protected

To reduce the risk of falling victim to scams, residents are encouraged to:

- Verify all communications before responding
- Avoid answering calls or video calls claiming to be from financial

institutions

- Confirm messages directly through official channels
- Speak with their banks about enabling two-factor authentication
- Sign up for email or mobile alerts to monitor transactions in real time

Report Suspicious Activity Immediately

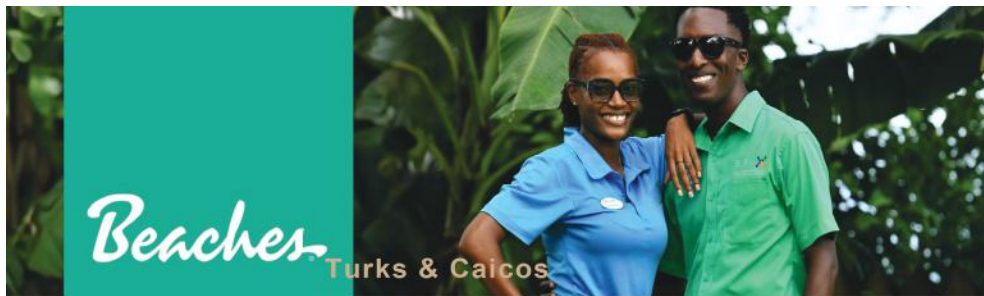
Members of the public who encounter suspicious messages or calls are urged to report them without delay to the Financial Crimes Unit of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force at 1 (649) 232-3286 or 232-3255, as well as notify their financial institution.

A Call for Vigilance

The Police Force is emphasizing that public awareness is key in combating cybercrime. Officials are urging residents to share the warning widely to help protect others in the community.

"Stay alert. Stay safe," the advisory

concluded, reminding citizens that safeguarding personal information is the first line of defense against scammers.



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Two men died suddenly on Providenciales

Two men were found dead in separate incidents at their homes in Providenciales earlier this week, raising concern among residents. One of the deceased has been identified as 52-year-old Devon Anthony Henry, a Jamaican national and elevator engineer. The other is Johnson Cherrenfant, a 35 year-old Haitian national. According to reports, concern arose on Sunday, April 12, when Henry failed to report to work. Attempts to contact him were unsuccessful, prompting colleagues to visit his residence in the Caicos Lodge area along Leeward Highway. Upon arrival, they noticed the company vehicle parked outside the building. After gaining access to the premises, Henry was found unresponsive. Authorities

were alerted, and he was later pronounced dead at the scene. In a separate incident, officers of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force responded to a report on Monday, April 13, of an unresponsive male. The individual was identified as Johnson Cherrenfant. Reports indicate that Cherrenfant had complained to a relative the previous day about feeling dizzy. The relative checked on him shortly after 2:00 a.m., at which time he stated he was still feeling unwell and fatigued. When the relative returned around 3:35 a.m., Cherrenfant was found unresponsive and appeared to have died. Emergency Medical Services were contacted, and a doctor later pronounced him dead at 4:56 a.m.

Action Plan Targets Stronger Border Security Amid Migrant Surge

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

An action plan to strengthen border security in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) has been agreed following urgent national security discussions on a recent surge in irregular migrant activity.

Members of the National Security Council (NSC) outlined a coordinated response that includes the immediate upliftment of air surveillance, expanded land and marine patrols, and heightened immigration enforcement measures. Authorities also emphasized short-term collaboration with local stakeholders and regional partners, while setting medium- to long-term priorities aimed at enhancing national capabilities and reinforcing the country's overall security posture.

The measures were finalized during a special NSC meeting co-chaired by Acting Governor Anya Williams and Premier Charles Washington Misick on April 13, 2026, at the Office of the Governor in Providenciales. The high-level meeting brought together key government and law enforcement officials, including the Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services, the Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development, the Acting Attorney General, and the Commissioner of Police, along with senior national security personnel. Council members were briefed on migrant activity over the past week across Middle Caicos, East Caicos, and Providenciales. According to officials, joint operations involving the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, the TCI Regiment, and the TCI Border Force—supported by the Department of Fisheries and private-sector partners—resulted in the interception and rescue of approximately 350 irregular migrants.

Of that number, 200 individuals have already been repatriated to Haiti, while others remain in custody undergoing processing. Authorities confirmed that several suspected offenders are under investigation for immigration-related offences.

Premier Misick reaffirmed the government's firm stance on border protection, warning that there will be zero tolerance for individuals who attempt to breach immigration laws or assist unlawful entry.



Members of the National Security Council

He noted that the government is fully committed to implementing the agreed action plan in coordination with national and regional partners.

Acting Governor Williams also sought to reassure the public, stating that the NSC is closely monitoring developments and remains prepared to take decisive and coordinated action. She highlighted the professionalism of law enforcement agencies and confirmed that additional measures will include enhanced surveillance support from the Cayman Islands, as well as expanded patrols and enforcement operations.

Williams also commended the efforts of national agencies and recognized the contribution of the South Caicos fishing community, particularly during a maritime incident on April 10.

Authorities are reminding the public that assisting illegal entry or harboring undocumented individuals is a criminal offence under TCI law. The National Security Council has indicated that it will continue to monitor the situation closely and implement further measures as necessary to safeguard the islands.

Strong Warning Against Immigration Breaches

In the meantime, the authorities are advising the public that harbouring or facilitating the entry of illegal migrants is a serious criminal offence under the Immigration Act, punishable by fines of up to \$20,000 and up to four years of imprisonment and that authorities are fully committed to prosecuting

anyone found in violation of these laws to the fullest extent.

The Border Force remains resolute in its commitment to protecting the integrity of our borders, safeguarding lawful employment, and upholding the rule of law. Any breach of the Immigration Act will be met with decisive enforcement action. The public is reminded of the following legal provisions under the TCI Immigration Act;

1. Section 12(1) A person shall not engage in any gainful occupation in the Islands unless he is lawfully authorized to do so, including being in possession of a valid work permit or otherwise exempt under law.

2. Section 12(2) A person shall not employ another person who is prohibited from engaging in gainful occupation under subsection (1).

3. Section 95(2) Any person who employs an individual not lawfully permitted to work commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to:

a fine of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or imprisonment for a term of two years, or both; and, in the case of a continuing offence, an additional fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) for each day the offence continues; with the court further empowered, upon repeated offences, to suspend a business license for a period not exceeding six months.

4. Section 105 A person who assists or facilitates the transportation or entry into the Islands of an individual known, or reasonably suspected, to be an unlawful entrant commits an offence and is li-

able on summary conviction, to a fine of \$20,000 or imprisonment for four years, or both; or on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for up to seven years.

5. Section 105 Where such actions place individuals at risk: A person who facilitates unlawful entry in circumstances giving rise to a danger of death or serious harm is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for up to fourteen years.

6. Section 106 A person who knowingly harbours an individual unlawfully present in the Islands commits an offence and is liable: on summary conviction, to a fine of \$20,000 or imprisonment for four years, or both; or on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for up to seven years.

Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services, Hon. Jamell Robinson stated:

"The integrity of our borders is fundamental to our national security, economic stability, and the rule of law. The legislation is clear, and enforcement will be unwavering. Those who employ, harbour, or facilitate unlawful entry will face the full extent of the law. We call on all residents and businesses to act responsibly and support the protection of our Islands."

Anyone with information regarding irregular migration is strongly urged to contact the nearest police station, call 911, the Serious Crime Unit at 231-1842, or report anonymously via Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477, through the Crime Stoppers P3 app or via email at tci-intel@gov.tc.

Gangs Disrupted as Police Report Major Crime Reduction in Turks and Caicos

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Police Commissioner Fitz Bailey says gang activity across the Turks and Caicos Islands has been significantly disrupted, marking a major turning point in the country's fight against violent crime.

In an interview with Newsline TCI, Bailey revealed that sustained operations by the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force have dismantled the influence of organized gangs, particularly in Providenciales, where criminal networks once fueled a surge in violence.

At the height of the crisis, about 14 gangs were believed to be operating in the Turks and Caicos Islands, with some becoming notoriously violent and leaving a trail of bloodshed across communities.

According to the Commissioner, several alleged gang members who previously terrorized communities are now behind bars, while others were killed during armed confrontations with police.

"I would say we have disrupted all the major gangs operating in the Turks and Caicos Islands," Bailey stated, while cautioning that small remnants may still exist. "There might be some elements left, but we have significantly dismantled their operations."

Bailey disclosed that approximately 14 key gang members are currently in custody, adding that law enforcement remains vigilant to ensure that these groups do not regroup.

Murder Rate Trends Show Improvement

The Commissioner pointed to crime data

over the past decade to illustrate the scale of the challenge and the progress made.

Earlier years recorded relatively low murder figures, including four in 2013, two in 2014, and seven in 2016. However, from 2019 onward, the country experienced a sharp escalation in violent crime, with murders climbing into double digits and peaking at 48 in 2024.

In 2025, that figure dropped to 27, representing an approximate 44 percent reduction.

More notably, Bailey highlighted that 2026 has started on an unprecedented note.

"For the first quarter of this year, we have not recorded a single murder," he said. "In fact, since September 12 last year, we have had only one murder. That's over six months, and we intend to maintain that trajectory."

The Commissioner described the development as a significant achievement and a sign that current strategies are working.

Regional Cooperation and Increased Pressure

Bailey also pointed to increased regional collaboration as a key factor in disrupting criminal networks. In one instance, a suspect who fled the country was apprehended in the Dominican Republic and returned to the Turks and Caicos Islands to face justice.

"That shows the pressure is being applied," he said. "When individuals feel the need to flee, it means the environment is becoming more difficult for them to op-

erate."

Community Support Critical

While praising the efforts of police officers, Bailey emphasized that public cooperation has played a crucial role in reducing crime.

"We want to credit not just the hardworking men and women of the police force, but also the support we continue to receive from citizens," he said. "We encourage the public to keep working with us."

He stressed that national security is a shared responsibility and called for continued collaboration to sustain the gains made.

"It is not beyond us to make these islands one of the safest places in the world," Bailey added. "If we all see it as important for our future, we can achieve it together."

Strengthening the Police Force

Looking ahead, Bailey outlined several initiatives aimed at building capacity and improving the effectiveness of the police force.

These include increased government investment, the addition of new vehicles, and the rollout of a highway patrol unit. The force is also exploring the use of modern technology to enhance operations, allowing officers to access real-time information while on patrol.

Bailey acknowledged the support of the government in providing resources, noting that national security remains a priority despite fiscal constraints.

At the same time, he stressed the importance of accountability and internal re-

form. Plans are underway to strengthen oversight, including the introduction of an Inspector General role to safeguard against corruption and ensure adherence to policies.

Reimagining Policing

Beyond crime reduction, Bailey said his broader vision is to transform the image and professionalism of the police force.

He emphasized the need for standardized procedures, consistent uniforms, and clear career pathways to make policing an attractive and respected profession.

"The police force must not be seen as a last resort," he said. "It must be a first choice, a credible organization where young people want to serve."

He added that creating opportunities for advancement and improving the overall image of the force will help attract talented individuals and strengthen the institution over time.

A Lasting Legacy

Reflecting on his tenure, Bailey said his goal is to leave behind a safer country and a stronger police service.

"When I arrived, violent crime was overwhelming and the murder rate was getting out of control," he said. "Today, crime is down, fear is down, and we are seeing results."

While acknowledging that more work remains, the Commissioner expressed confidence that the progress achieved so far can be sustained.

"We will ensure that the gains we have made are not reversed," Bailey said.

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The Buildings We Pretend Not to See And the Ones We Need for Our People

An Op-Ed by Paladin

If you drive just 200 meters down Good Book Road, off Millennium Highway, you'll find two buildings that say more about the state of our country than any policy document ever could. They are half finished, half abandoned, and yet fully occupied. Families live inside. Businesses operate from them. And for more than a decade, no one from the Physical Planning Department has intervened.

This is not a hidden corner. It is surrounded by new construction.

Which means the truth is simple: we all see these buildings — we just pretend not to. Across Turks and Caicos, unsafe and unregulated structures sit in plain sight. Some apartments are improvised carved into tiny, airless rooms. Some are unfinished shells that have become permanent homes. Some are structurally compromised and would be condemned anywhere else in the region.

And yet they remain. Not because we lack laws — but because we lack enforcement.

We Have Building Codes. We Just Don't Apply Them

TCI has:

- A Physical Planning Ordinance
 - A Building Code based on regional standards
 - Mandatory inspections
 - Requirements for Occupancy Certificates
- But many buildings in daily use have never passed a single inspection.

Some never had a permit. Some were approved on paper but never checked again. This is not just a regulatory lapse. It is a public safety risk, especially in a hurricane zone.

How Did We Get Here?

The reasons are familiar:

- Rapid development outpacing government capacity
- Too few inspectors for too many projects
- A culture of "build first, regularize later"
- Political reluctance to

confront informal housing

- No system of random or periodic inspections

The result is a two tier-built environment: one modern and regulated, the other improvised and invisible.

But here is the part we rarely say: the people living in unsafe buildings are not the problem — they are the victims of a broken system.

The Buildings We Should Be Building

While unsafe structures linger, something else is happening across the country: Boutique hotels are springing up with modern, efficient housing camps.

These developments use:

- Prefab units
- Snap on construction
- Flat pack systems
- Modular container based housing
- Rapid assembly worker accommodations

They are cost effective, hurricane resistant, and can be built in weeks, not years.

And here are the questions that should shake us awake:

- If these methods are good enough for hotels and developers, why aren't they good enough for our own people?
- Why can't a Turks Islander with land build a safe, modern, affordable home using the same systems?

Why can't a young family use prefab construction to build a starter home?

Why can't a landowner create a few rental units — legally, safely, and quickly — using modular designs?

This one policy change would do more for empowerment than any speech or slogan. Land Ownership → Home Ownership → Wealth Building → Generational Wealth.

Allowing citizens to use modern prefab and modular construction would:

- Lower the cost of building
- Speed up construction

timelines

- Reduce unsafe informal housing

- Expand rental supply
- Increase homeownership
- Strengthen family wealth
- Build communities in months, not decades

And no — this does not mean using abandoned shipping containers as makeshift homes. Those should be used for storage, not living.

We are talking about engineered, certified, purpose built modular housing — the same systems already used by hotels, resorts, and construction camps.

Whole communities could be built in a few months.

Affordable housing would no longer be a burden on government.

It would become a partnership with citizens, powered by modern building technology.

A National Correction Plan: Fair, Firm, and Long Overdue

Fixing unsafe buildings and enabling modern construction are not separate issues. They are two sides of the same national responsibility.

Here is a fair minded, balanced correction plan that protects citizens while restoring standards:

1. A National Building Audit (12–18 months)

A structured, island wide inspection program to identify:

- Safe buildings
- Repairable buildings
- Dangerous structures

This gives us a full national inventory.

2. Three Tiers of Action

Tier 1 — Compliant

No action needed.

Tier 2 — Non compliant but repairable

Owners receive a correction notice and 6–24 months to fix issues.

Support includes:

- Low interest repair loans
- Technical guidance
- Payment plans for fees

Tier 3 — Dangerous structures

If a building is structurally unsound or impossible to bring into compliance, it must be con-

demned and removed.

Residents receive relocation support.

3. A One Time Amnesty for Unpermitted Buildings

Many people inherited or unknowingly purchased non compliant structures.

A national amnesty allows them to regularize without fear.

4. Strengthen the Planning Department

- More inspectors
- Digital tracking
- Mandatory re inspections every five years
- A public database of occupancy certificates

This is how you rebuild trust.

What are OUR choices as a People and a Nation

We can continue pretending not to see the buildings that are falling apart. Or we can choose to build the ones our people actually need.

We can keep allowing unsafe, unregulated structures to multiply.


Or we can empower citizens with modern, affordable, hurricane resistant housing. We can wait for tragedy to force action.

Or we can act now — with fairness, compassion, and discipline.

The buildings on Good Book Road are warnings. The prefab communities rising around boutique hotels are opportunities.

The question is whether we have the courage to stop ignoring the first

and start embracing the second.



Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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A file photo of police officers sharing lens with Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam and Premier Hon. Washington Misick

Recent Police Promotions – a Major Step Towards RTCIPF Professionalism

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

one of a limited number of internationally certified police training institutions. Officers have been enrolled in programmes including juvenile command, middle management development, and advanced detective training, some of which span more than a year.

Currently, several officers are engaged in intensive courses, including a 16-month detective training programme and supervisory management training, while others are participating in command-level courses designed to prepare them for senior leadership roles. These initiatives are intended to ensure both immediate operational improvement and long-term institutional resilience.

Bailey also underscored the importance of succession planning, noting that the force is deliberately building a pipeline of capable leaders from within its ranks.

“My intention is that when I leave, there is a competitive advantage within the local force,” he said, explaining that the focus is on developing officers already serving in the organization who are equipped to assume leadership roles in the future.

A particularly significant aspect of the transformation strategy is the push to elevate women into leadership positions, an area where the force has historically seen little representation at the executive level.

Bailey acknowledged that no woman has previously served in the force’s executive ranks but expressed confidence that this will change in the near future. He stressed that advancement is based on merit, not gender, and that women are equally capable of leading at the highest levels.

“We all face the same dangers and challenges,” he said. “I don’t believe in withholding talent, whether male or female.”

With women already comprising a significant portion of the force, efforts are underway to identify and develop those with leadership potential. Bailey noted that exposure to training and professional development has already begun to reveal emerging talent within the ranks.

“There are some talents emerging,” he said, pointing to noticeable improvements in officers who have been given opportunities for advancement and training.

As the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force continues its reform agenda, Bailey remains confident that the combination of merit-based promotions, targeted training, and inclusive leadership development will reshape the organization into a more effective and forward-looking institution.

While the full impact of these changes may take time to materialize, the commissioner’s message is clear: the foundation is being laid for a stronger, more capable police force ready to meet the evolving needs of the country.

A major round of promotions within the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force is being described as a pivotal step in the organization’s transformation, with nearly half of the officers who went through the interview process successfully advancing to higher ranks.

In an interview with Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey, it was revealed that approximately 46 percent of officers assessed for promotion were elevated, marking one of the most significant internal shifts in the force’s history.

Bailey emphasized that the process was carefully structured and grounded in fairness and transparency.

“We outlined what the process would be, and we stuck to it,” he said, noting that the promotions were carried out in strict accordance with established guidelines. The outcome, he added, re-

flects the selection of officers best positioned to help lead the force through its ongoing transformation.

The promotions form part of a wider strategy aimed at strengthening operational effectiveness and building a more credible and resilient police service. While immediate changes may not be visible to the public, Bailey indicated that the long-term benefits will become clearer over time as the newly promoted officers begin to influence the organization’s direction.

A central pillar of that transformation is investment in training and professional development. Over the past year, the force has expanded its capacity-building efforts, partnering with regional institutions to equip officers with specialized skills.

Among the key initiatives is collaboration with the Jamaica Police College,

Department of Tourism Regulations Explains Accommodation Data Reporting Methods

Platforms such as AirDNA offer useful insights into short-term property booking activity in the Turks and Caicos; however, the Department of Tourism Regulations found that AirDNA and TCIG use different methods to calculate total property counts, leading to discrepancies between reported figures and officially registered data.

What is AirDNA?

The Department of Tourism Regulations acquired a paid subscription to AirDNA, a data analytics platform, in 2024 to track short-term rental activity across multiple countries. Its data is primarily sourced from

listings on platforms such as Airbnb and VRBO.

Why do duplicate listings occur?

Property owners may list the same accommodation multiple times on booking platforms to increase visibility and booking potential. As a result, AirDNA data may reflect duplicate listings for a single property. It is also a matter of property ownership vs Bookable Units.

It is important to distinguish between property ownership and bookable units. A single property may consist of multiple units (e.g., villas or apartments), each listed separately on booking platforms.

While the Department may register these as one property, platforms like Airbnb may count each unit as an individual listing.

Commenting on the matter, DTR Director Avi Adams said, “It is important for us to produce data that reflects the short-term rental industry as it is interpreted through the eyes of the law. We use the Tourism Regulations and Licensing ordinance to inform all of our processes and decision-making for the betterment of the Turks and Caicos Islands. We’d like to discourage owners from creating duplicate listings, as it skews data and can lead to double book-

ings, which can put a damper on the guest experience. We encourage properties to work with us and become registered to strengthen data and avoid any penalties involved with non-compliance.”

Currently, approximately 1,200 properties have been verified, with confirmed ownership details and physical locations. Based on this distinction, the total number of bookable units could be closer to 1,300. The Department is actively working to identify and address unregistered or informal accommodations operating outside of the regulatory framework.



Photo shows the densely-population unplanned housing settlement in the Caicos Lodge area, located along the Leeward Highway in Providenciales



The cleared area of once used to be a densely populated unplanned community in the vicinity of the Caicos Lodge area of Providenciales

50 Unauthorized Structures Removed During Caicos Lodge Enforcement Operation

Fifty unauthorized structures were removed during a coordinated multi-agency enforcement operation in the Caicos Lodge area on Thursday, April 9, 2026, marking one of the most significant actions of its kind in recent months.

The operation targeted Block and Parcel 60802/49 and 60802/65, where illegal developments had been identified and monitored over an extended period. Authorities confirmed that the structures were erected without the necessary planning approvals and were in direct violation of established building and land use regulations. The exercise was led by the Planning Department and coordinated by the Informal Settlements Unit (ISU), with support from the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, the Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force, Pelican Energy TCI, and DevCon Power Supply. Officials reported that the operation was executed in a safe, orderly, and

controlled manner, reflecting strong inter-agency collaboration.

According to authorities, the removal of the 50 structures followed a structured and lawful enforcement process under the Turks and Caicos Islands' Physical Planning framework. Section 45 Enforcement Notices were initially issued on December 11, 2024, formally identifying the unauthorized developments and notifying occupants of their non-compliance. This was followed by Warning Notices issued on March 26, 2026, which provided occupants with a 14-day period to voluntarily remove the structures and vacate the land.

Despite this opportunity for compliance, the structures remained in place beyond the deadline, prompting enforcement action. Officials emphasized that the removal process was not abrupt but carried out only after clear notice, sufficient time, and adherence to legal pro-

cedures.

Government representatives underscored that all 50 structures posed potential safety concerns, as they were constructed outside of regulatory oversight. Without proper inspections or adherence to building codes, such developments often lack the structural integrity and safety measures required to protect occupants and neighboring communities.

The enforcement action, they noted, was therefore necessary not only to uphold the law but also to mitigate risks associated with unregulated construction. Authorities warned that informal settlements, regardless of how established they may appear, can present serious hazards, including vulnerability to extreme weather, fire risks, and inadequate access to essential services.

While acknowledging the ongoing housing challenges facing the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Government maintained that unautho-

rized construction cannot be allowed to proliferate in a way that compromises safety, undermines planning systems, or infringes on property rights.

Residents and developers are being reminded that all construction activity must comply with national laws, including obtaining proper planning permission before building or occupying land.

The Government reaffirmed its commitment to enforcing planning regulations and preventing the expansion of unsafe and informal settlements. At the same time, officials indicated that efforts continue toward developing long-term, sustainable housing solutions that align with national development goals. The removal of the 50 unauthorized structures in Caicos Lodge represents a clear signal of the Government's ongoing commitment to ensuring that development across the Turks and Caicos Islands remains lawful, safe, and properly regulated.

Serious Charges for Spreading Pornographic Material

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force is strongly cautioning members of the public to desist from putting into circulation, or causing to be circulated, any graphic images or pornographic material, whether via social media or any other medium.

Engaging in such activity constitutes an offence under the Sexual Offences Act (Chapter 3:25). The Act states, inter alia: Section 47 (1): It is an offence for a person to disclose a private sexual photograph or film if the disclosure is made:

- (a) without the consent of an individual who appears in the photograph or film; and
- (b) with the intention of causing that individual distress.

Section 47 (9) further provides that a person guilty of an offence under this section is liable:

- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to a fine of \$10,000, or to both; or
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to a fine, or both.

The public is further advised that, for the purpose of the law, it is immaterial where the offending material originates. Once an individual shares, forwards, or otherwise disseminates such content, they may be committing an offence.

Members of the public are also put on notice that where material is defamatory in nature, any person who shares or republishes it may be liable for defamation. This includes dissemination



via WhatsApp, Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), email, or any other platform.

The RT&CIPF reminds the public that online behaviour is subject to the same laws as offline behaviour. Posting, sharing, or forwarding content that is abusive, indecent, threatening, or intended to incite harassment, violence, or public disorder may constitute a criminal offence.

This applies even if you did not create the original content.

Additionally, online posts, messages, images, and videos can be traced, retained, and used as

evidence. Deleting such content does not remove legal liability.

“Social media is not a law-free space. We urge the public to think carefully before posting or sharing content and to understand the serious consequences that can arise from online threats or harmful behaviour.

We encourage members of the public to report any threatening or abusive content. Victims of such acts are urged to come forward and seek assistance.

Incidents should be reported via 911 in emergencies or to the Serious Crime Unit at 231-1842.



Fuel Price Report for April 2026

The Department of Trade, Industry and Fair Competition (DTIFC) presents the Fuel Price Report for April 2026. DTIFC is tasked with implementing and enforcing the Consumer Protection Ordinance (CPO), which establishes provisions for the protection of consumer interests in relation to the supply of goods and services in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI). The Fuel Report provides an overview of fuel pricing across the Turks and Caicos Islands and serves as a mechanism to inform the public

about changes in fuel costs and pricing trends. Through monitoring and reporting of fuel prices, our aims to empower consumers with accurate and timely information to better understand fuel pricing within the local market.

For more details on Fuel Price Reports, please visit our official website www.gov.tc/trade or contact the Department of Trade, Industry & Fair Competition by email at: consumeraffairstci@gov.tc or by telephone at: 649-338-3703.

Police Force goes Nostalgic

On April 13th officers attached to the Grand Turk Police Station paid a special visit to several retired and former members of the RT&CIPF.

The occasion was marked by nostalgia, as the former officers fondly reflected on their years of service.

Warm exchanges, laughter, and heartfelt appreciation filled the streets of Grand Turk, with each officer expressing gratitude for being remembered. Among those visited was retired Superintendent Ralph Doughty, who was instrumental in the formation of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force Cricket Team.

Additionally, officers visited former Sergeant Conrad Thomas, former Inspector Benjamin Harvey, Corporal Leroy King, Sergeant George Worrell, Superintendent Marc Henry and acting Inspector Tomiko Ginton.

The visiting team comprised Inspector Jeremy Jones, Sergeants Kavin Mars and Aquina Martin, and Constable Hussein Higgs. Superintendent Willet Harvey presented tokens to Mr. Doughty and Mr. Ginton.

In a continued effort to support the wider community, welfare checks were conducted by Sergeant Martin and Constable Higgs on elderly resi-



Police officers hanging out with one of their retired members

dents, including Yvonne Lightbourne, Pastor Mary Forbes, and Edith Mesa. Meanwhile, Constables Jeffrey Cas-

tillo and Demi Alexis visited the Ona Ginton Primary School, where they conducted a “Good Touch, Bad

Touch” awareness session with students aged 4–7, focusing on child safety and personal protection.

Police Make Church Outreach

Officers from the Grand Turk Police Station on 12 April, attended a church service at the Methodist Church, officiated by Reverend Frednor Toussaint. Led by Inspector Jeremy Jones, officers in attendance included Sergeants Marlon Morse, Aquina Martin, and Detective Police Constable Philip Smith. During the service, Reverend Toussaint delivered a message centred on forgiveness, encouraging members of the congregation to let go of past hurts and embrace healing. Following the service, officers interacted with the congregation.

Meanwhile, in Providenciales, the Safeguarding and Public Protection Unit observed Child Abuse Prevention Month with a church service held at the New Testament Church in Blue Hills.

In attendance were Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey, Deputy Commissioner Rodney Adams, Acting Deputy Commissioner Kendall Grant, and Assistant Commissioner Darron Williams, along with officers of various ranks across the Force.



From left: Sgt Aquina Martin, Insp Jeremy Jones, Sgt. Marlon Morse, Reverend Frednor Toussaint, Detective Police Constable Philip Smith and a parishioner.

Building on Success: A Path Forward for Track and Field in the Turks and Caicos Islands

An Op-Ed by Anthony Gardiner

The recent performance of the Turks and Caicos Islands team at the CARIFTA Games is deserving of recognition and applause.

The team's efforts on the regional stage reflect both dedication and promise, and special commendation must be given to the athletes who proudly represented the country. The three medals won at the 2026 Games marks a positive step forward for athletics in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The country has two Olympians, including Delano Williams, who competed for Great Britain in the 4x400m relay at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Such milestones highlight the level of talent that exists within this small island nation. While these accomplishments are encouraging, they also present an opportunity to reflect on how track and field can continue to develop in a more structured and sustainable way.

Across the region, countries such as Jamaica, The Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago have consistently excelled in athletics. A key

factor in their success is the presence of well organized, year round training programmes that prepare athletes not only for national competitions but also for regional and international events.

In the Turks and Caicos Islands, events such as Inter High continue to showcase the best talent the country has to offer, however, training often becomes more intensive only in the months leading up to these competitions and to CARIFTA. While this approach can yield success locally, there may be opportunities to strengthen preparation for the higher level of competition seen at regional meets.

One way forward could be to study and adopt elements of the systems used by more established athletics programmes in the region. Greater exposure to international training methods could help to provide insight into athlete development, conditioning, and competition readiness.

For example, structured opportunities for local coaches to observe programmes in countries like Jamaica and The Bahamas could

help identify techniques that contribute to success in sprint events, particularly in the 100m to 400m range. Similarly, for middle and long distance events, lessons could be drawn from countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia, both of which have established themselves as global leaders in endurance running.

Another important area for development lies in early athlete engagement. Establishing structured programmes for younger age groups particularly between primary school aged could lay a strong foundation for long term success. Over time, a consistent and well supported development pathway could produce athletes who are better prepared for the demands of regional and international competition.

It is important to recognize that meaningful progress in sport does not happen overnight.

Improvements require time, consistency, and sustained investment. However, with careful planning and a commitment to development, the results can be significant.

The achievements at the 2026 CARIFTA Games demonstrate that the Turks and Caicos Islands possess both the talent and the potential to compete on the regional stage. By building on this foundation and exploring opportunities for growth, the country can continue to strengthen its athletics programme in the years ahead.

As the nation celebrates its athletes, it also has an opportunity to look forward with a focus on development, collaboration, and long term success.



FSC ENHANCES LIQUIDITY STRESS TESTING AND CONTAGION RISK ANALYSIS WITH CARTAC SUPPORT

The Financial Services Commission (FSC) participated in a five-day liquidity stress testing training programme delivered by the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC), the IMF's regional technical assistance arm, held 23–27 March, 2026 at its Providenciales office.

The engagement supported a comprehensive redesign of the Commission's liquidity stress testing framework, transitioning to a cash-flow-based approach to strengthen assessment of funding resilience under a range of stress scenarios.

CARTAC also delivered hands-on technical assistance to enhance the FSC's contagion risk analysis, improving the Commission's capacity to identify, assess, and monitor potential spillovers across the domestic financial system and the



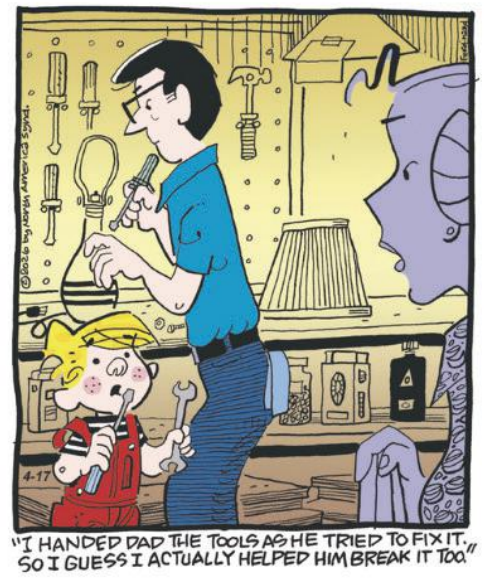
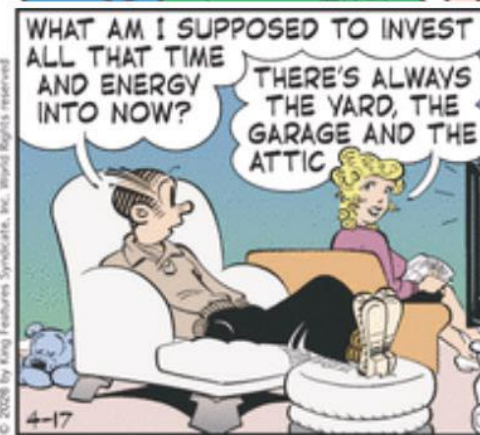
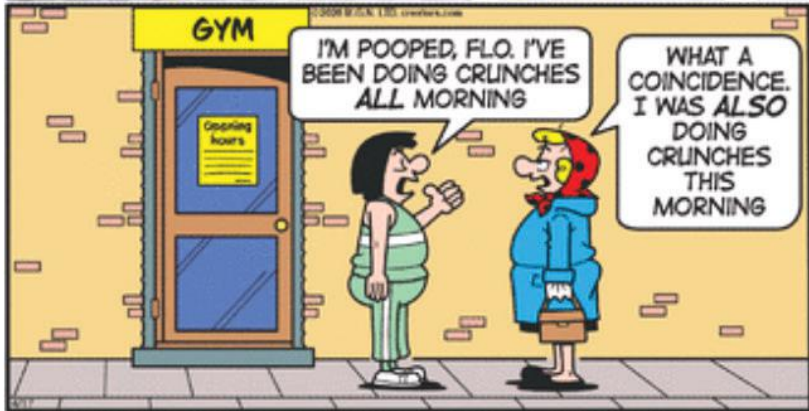
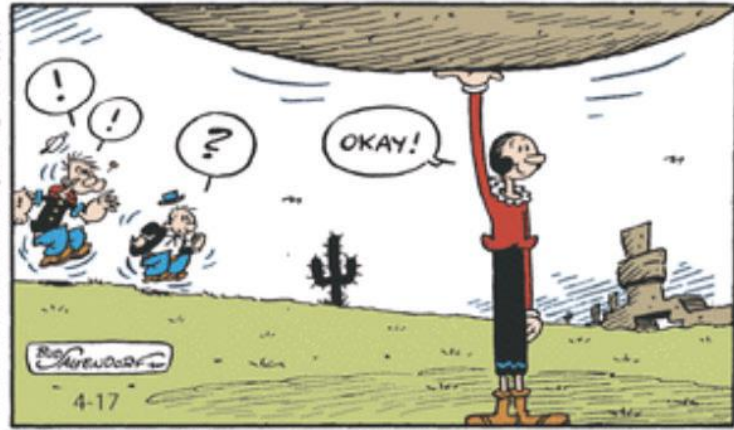
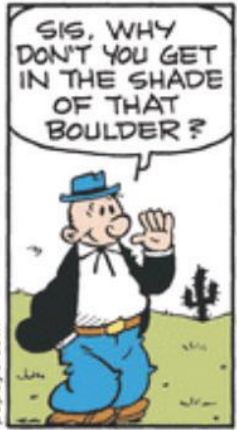
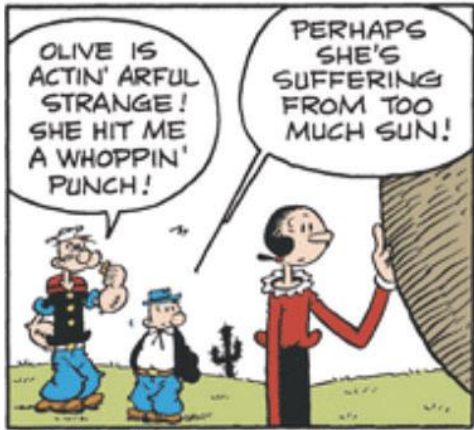
From left: Ms Toni Panton - Risk-Based Supervision Advisor; Ms Chivel Greenland - Senior Policy Analyst; Policy Unit; Mr Xuxa Gordon - Senior Policy Analyst - Policy Unit; Mrs Kenisha Bacchus - the FSC's Acting Managing Director; and Mr Kalin Tintchev - CARTAC Advisor on Financial Stability.

wider Caribbean region.

Given the interconnected nature of the Turks and Caicos Islands' financial sector, these enhancements are expected to improve early detection of vulnerabilities and support more effective supervisory intervention.

"Strengthening our liquidity and contagion analysis is essential to safeguarding financial stability in the Turks and Caicos Islands," said Kenisha Bacchus, Managing Director (Ag).

"CARTAC's practical guidance and technical expertise have equipped our team with robust, cash-flow-based tools to better evaluate funding resilience and anticipate how risks might spread across institutions and markets. We look forward to integrating these improvement into our risk-based supervision framework."



NEWSLINE TCI COMICS

I CAN'T PROVE THIS...
 BUT I SWEAR I USED TO BE SMARTER, FUNNIER, AND A LOT LESS TIRED.



NEWSLINE
Heritage

JUNKANOO

Junkanoo is one of the most enduring cultural traditions in the Turks and Caicos Islands, rooted in African heritage and shaped by the territory's history of enslavement, migration, and community life. While the festival is most widely associated with The Bahamas, Junkanoo has long been practiced in the Turks and Caicos Islands and remains an important expression of cultural identity and continuity.

The origins of Junkanoo date back to the era of slavery, when enslaved Africans were allowed limited periods of celebration during the Christmas season. These gatherings provided rare opportunities for cultural expression and allowed African rhythms, dance, masking, and music traditions to survive under colonial rule. Across the wider Caribbean, including the Turks and Caicos Islands, these practices gradually evolved into organised street performances tied to Christmas and New Year celebrations.

In the modern Turks and Caicos Islands, Junkanoo is primarily celebrated on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, with major parades held in Providenciales and Grand Turk. Organised Junkanoo groups perform to the sounds of goatskin drums, cowbells, whistles, and brass instruments, wearing colourful, handcrafted costumes made from materials such as cardboard, crepe paper, foil, and wire. Groups compete in categories including music, costume design, choreography, and overall presentation, attracting large crowds of residents and visitors.

A defining feature of Junkanoo in the Turks and Caicos Islands is its strong community and family-based foundation. Preparation often begins months in advance, with multiple generations contributing to costume-making, instrument construction, and rehearsals. This collective effort strengthens social bonds and ensures the transmission of cultural knowledge from one generation to the next.

Beyond entertainment, Junkanoo serves as a living symbol of resilience, freedom, and cultural survival. As the islands continue to modernise, the tradition remains a powerful reminder of the past and a vibrant expression of the living heritage that continues to shape the identity of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

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From Two Seats to No Credibility

An Op-Ed By Audley A. Astwood

The greatest threat to the credibility of the opposition today isn't the Government. It's the leadership of Edwin Astwood himself. This isn't speculation or partisan spin. It's the cold, unvarnished record. Under his watch, the People's Democratic Movement has not merely lost elections, it has collapsed into irrelevance.

Two seats out of nineteen is not a foothold. It's a footprint on the edge of extinction. Yet from that position, the country is being asked to accept lectures on governance.

While Charles Washington Misick governs and carries responsibility, the opposition struggles to manage itself. They speak about a common denominator. Fine. Every major political failure of the PDM in recent years has come under one constant, Edwin Astwood. Electoral collapse, loss of confidence, shrinking presence in Parliament. Same leadership, same result.

That record extends beyond elections into defining moments. During the 2024 national budget debate, the PDM leader was absent. Not sidelined, not prevented, simply absent. No response. No alternative. No presence. Leadership is not tested in press statements. It's tested when the country is watching. In that moment, there was nothing.

The outrage from the opposition rings hollow because of selective memory. A 2019 PDM Cabinet reshuffle quietly shifted key responsibilities. One which included the immigration portfolio held by Sean Astwood. Call it a reshuffle, but removing a minister from a critical portfolio produces the same result. The difference is presentation. One approach softens optics. The other acts plainly. Both took action when deemed necessary. The objection now exists only because there's no smoke-screen, exposing a standard that shifts depending on who holds power.

So, when the opposition asks



the country to focus on patterns, they're asking the public to ignore the one that matters. Each time responsibility is required, Edwin Astwood is missing. Elections lost, unity fractured, national debate silent. That isn't coincidence. It's consistency.

They argue that action is instability and that leadership should hesitate. That's a blueprint for failure. Their own record shows what happens when hesitation takes hold. Problems grow, standards blur, and the country pays the price.

Under Sharlene Cartwright Robinson, the PDM didn't just remove a minister, they plunged their government into turmoil. Hon. Josephine Connolly was fired amid internal conflict that spilled into the national spotlight. That wasn't governance. It was dysfunction. It didn't end there. She left the PDM and crossed the floor, walking away from a leadership she no longer believed in. That's not management. That's collapse.

Despite the attacks, the government remains intact and effective where the PDM failed. The Premier is supported by those the opposition claims are at odds

with him. No rebellion. No collapse. No loss of confidence. Just a narrative that doesn't survive scrutiny. This isn't the first time Edwin Astwood's judgement has been questioned. There's a public record of the Governor stepping in to correct him, describing his claims as unfounded. That's not disagreement. It's a credibility problem. They question the Premier's morals, but from which ground? The only consistent standard under their tenure has been failure.

While the PDM recycles outrage, the country is seeing results. Violent crime is falling. Murders are down. Major crimes are down. Premier Misick's leadership has delivered periods with zero murder reports. Even Edwin Astwood has acknowledged a significant reduction in serious crime. The criticism collapses under its own admission.

Facts don't bend. Unable to point to results or explain progress, the opposition turns to noise and speculation. The public is looking at outcomes. Safer streets, falling crime, stability returning.

Much of this noise isn't coming from accountable voices. It's

driven by anonymous pieces, unsigned attacks, and pseudonyms like Eugene Arthur, a name with no public record, no mandate, and no accountability, now functioning as an attack dog amplifying the People's Democratic Movement. That alone is cowardice. But it goes deeper. When that voice is linked directly to the Deputy Leader, Bobby Been, the issue shifts from commentary to coordination. What this reveal isn't just behaviour, but a breakdown. Power is blurred, discipline is absent, and authority is no longer anchored in its leader. If Edwin Astwood were in control, this wouldn't stand. The fact that it does tells the country everything.

If you believe in your argument, you put your name to it and defend it. So, the question becomes unavoidable. Why is the opposition hiding behind anonymous voices to make arguments it can't defend openly? What does that say about Edwin Astwood's leadership?

When criticism comes from him and those around him, it must be weighed against credibility. A man whose claims have been publicly dismissed as unfounded can't expect to be taken seriously. A man who fails to stand and respond when the nation is watching has no standing to question those who do.

A party that can't earn trust has no standing to lecture those entrusted to govern. The country already sees the pattern. When the PDM is tested, it loses. When it governs, it fractures. Under Edwin Astwood, that is the only constant.

If identifying the real common denominator is the goal, the answer is clear. Look at the last two election results. Numbers don't lie. Under Edwin Astwood, the PDM has moved from defeat to collapse, from relevance to the margins, from a political force to an afterthought.

Two seats out of nineteen isn't coincidence. It's a verdict delivered by the people. Guilty of political failure, beyond reasonable doubt.

Life Line FEATURED CHURCH

Rock of Jesus Ministry

In this week's edition, we feature Rock of Jesus Ministry, located at 15 Five Cays Safe Haven, Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands. The ministry is led by Senior Pastor Bishop Bryant R. Cox. Rock of Jesus Ministry has several weekly opportunities for all who wish to participate. On Sunday is Divine Worship. On Tuesday is Noon Day Prayer, held between 12:00pm and 1:00pm, and then Christian Living Bible Study at 7:00pm. On Wednesday is Intercessory Prayer Meeting at 7:30pm. On Friday is Friday Youth Meeting starting at 6:30pm.

To contact Rock of Jesus Ministries, Tel: 649 331 7628 or 649 241 0087



Life line Church Directory

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

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

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

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

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

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

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rock of Jesus Ministry
15 Five Cays, Safe Haven,
Tel. 649-331-7628; 649-241-0087

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“CRIMINAL EXTORTION”

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Member of Parliament for Grand Turk North, Hon. Otis Morris, who was relieved from his ministerial office by Premier Hon. Washington Misick over allegation of him being shown in a sexually explicit viral video, has strongly denied any involvement, while asserting that he is the victim of a criminal extortion scheme.

Morris, the former Minister of Public Safety and Utilities, categorically rejected claims that he is the individual depicted in the video, describing the material as fabricated and part of a deliberate attempt to coerce him. According to the MP, unidentified individuals demanded money from him under the threat of releasing the footage. He said he refused to comply with the demands and promptly reported the matter to the relevant authorities.

The MP expressed concern that public discourse has focused heavily on the video itself rather than the alleged criminal act of extortion. He characterized the situation as a serious matter that has been overshadowed by sensationalism.

Questions Over Forensic Report

Morris also addressed the recent publication of a newspaper article referencing a “Forensic Visual Assessment Report” reportedly prepared by Jamaica’s Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA). The report, he noted, is explicitly marked as sensitive and intended

strictly for official investigative use.

He raised concerns about how details from such a document entered the public domain while the investigation remains ongoing. Morris described the apparent release, or leak, of information as irregular and potentially prejudicial, suggesting it undermines the integrity of the investigative process.

He further argued that the situation appears to be shifting the matter into the court of public opinion rather than allowing due legal processes to unfold.

Findings Described as Inconclusive

While some media interpretations of the report have suggested it supports claims that Morris appears in the video, he insisted that a full reading of the document reveals otherwise. According to Morris, the report is preliminary, heavily qualified, and ultimately inconclusive. He pointed to several limitations outlined in the assessment. Among them, the report explicitly states that its findings do not amount to formal biometric identification and do not constitute a positive forensic confirmation of the individual shown. Additionally, the analysis was conducted using a low-resolution, screen-recorded copy of the video, rather than the original file. Morris noted that this significantly reduces the reliability of the findings due to compression and degradation of image quality.

The report also acknowledges that the absence of

detectable artificial intelligence artefacts does not rule out the possibility of sophisticated manipulation. According to Morris, this leaves open the potential that advanced deepfake technology could have been used in a manner not easily identifiable under the conditions of the assessment. He emphasized that the document itself recommends further investigative steps, including securing the original recording device, conducting first-generation forensic analysis, and submitting the material to specialized AI detection platforms. These steps, he noted, have not yet been completed.

Morris argued that presenting such a preliminary and limited report as definitive proof is both inaccurate and irresponsible.

Criticism of Government Response

The MP also criticized the Government’s handling of the matter, particularly the decision to revoke his ministerial responsibilities. He contended that the action was taken in violation of his fundamental right to natural justice.

According to Morris, he has not received any formal communication from the Premier outlining the reasons for his dismissal, nor was he given an opportunity to respond to the allegations prior to the decision being published in the official Gazette.

He described the move as a premature and unjust action based on unverified claims and incomplete evi-

dence, adding that it reflects a failure of due process and leadership.

Reaffirms Position

Morris reiterated his firm denial of any involvement in the video and maintained that the allegations against him are baseless. He further stated that even if the claims were true, the act depicted would not constitute a criminal offence, and there has been no suggestion that he was responsible for distributing the video.

He affirmed his intention to continue cooperating with authorities in their investigation into the alleged extortion attempt and said he will take all necessary steps to defend his name and reputation.

Despite the ongoing controversy, Morris said he remains committed to his role as the elected representative for Grand Turk North and to serving the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands. In the meantime, Morris is emphasizing his resolve to confront what he described as false accusations and to ensure that the matter is addressed through proper legal channels rather than public speculation.

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Young Women Celebrate Completion of Baking Master Class for Girls in Providenciales

By Vivian Tyson
NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Twenty-seven young women were recognized on Saturday, April 11, following the successful completion of an eight-week Baking Master Class for Girls, led by nutritionist Lakeisha Wilson at the Salvation Army Brighter Futures Centre.

The certification ceremony marked more than the end of a culinary course, it celebrated personal growth, creativity, and resilience among the participants. Addressing a gathering of parents, supporters, and invited guests, Wilson described the program as a transformative journey designed to equip young women with practical life skills.

“Today is not just a ceremony. It’s a celebration of growth, creativity, courage, and determination,” Wilson said, noting that participants learned not only baking techniques but also patience, discipline, teamwork, and confidence.

Over the course of the program, the students developed a wide range of baking skills, from mixing and kneading dough to decorating cakes. Their creations included Italian bomboloni, popcorn treats, and savory dishes such as stromboli. The curriculum also incorporated cultural elements, with sessions on traditional local desserts like cream cakes. The initiative benefited from contributions by guest instructors and community partners. Canadian baker Christina Barry, who supports a cancer charity through her baking, participated in a special apple pie session and



The Baking Master Class Certification Recipients are photographed with host and Nutritionist Lakiesha Wilson



A section of the audience at the event

sent well wishes to the students. Local entrepreneur Heather MacTale also guided participants in preparing traditional treats, encouraging them to explore niche business opportunities within the local market.

Professional pastry chefs from leading resorts, including The Ritz-Carlton and The Palms, assisted with cake decorating sessions, helping students refine their presentation skills.

Beyond the kitchen, participants built friendships and

completed educational projects, including presentations on baking tools and equipment. Motivational support was also provided by Selina Ross, Miss Supranational TCI, who encouraged the young women to embrace their confidence and potential. Wilson expressed gratitude to sponsors, instructors, and the Salvation Army for supporting the initiative, as well as to parents for their continued encouragement.

In her closing remarks, she praised the participants for

their dedication and urged them to apply the skills learned throughout their lives.

“Whether you go on to start a business or simply bake for your families, know that you are capable of creating something beautiful,” she said.

The program forms part of ongoing efforts to empower young people in the Turks and Caicos Islands through skills training and mentorship, with organizers hopeful of expanding future editions of the master class.

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS IN YOUR BODY BEFORE A DIAGNOSIS

Understanding the slow build-up of metabolic disease

By Monica Uttamchandani
Holistic Health Coach, Turks and Caicos

Most chronic health conditions do not appear suddenly. Diabetes, hormonal disorders, autoimmune issues, and chronic inflammation usually develop quietly over time. Long before a diagnosis, the body gives subtle signals that something is off.

These early signs are often brushed aside as stress, aging, or “normal life.” Low energy becomes routine. Digestion feels unpredictable. Sleep quality declines. Cravings intensify. Weight shifts without clear reason. What is happening internally is a gradual loss of metabolic flexibility. Blood sugar becomes harder to regulate. Insulin works overtime. Cortisol stays elevated longer than it should. Inflammation lingers instead of resolving.

For example, someone may wake up already tired, skip breakfast, rely on coffee to get going, and eat lightly during the day. By evening, hunger feels urgent and uncontrollable. Blood sugar drops, cortisol spikes, and the body compensates with stress hormones. Repeating this cycle daily trains the body into survival mode.

Over time, this pattern increases the risk of insulin resistance, hor-



monal imbalance, and inflammation. The body is not malfunctioning. It is adapting to inconsistent fuel and chronic stress.

The Most Powerful Intervention at This Stage

The most powerful intervention is rhythm, such as:

- Regular meals, to prevent repeated blood sugar crashes and cortisol spikes
- Adequate nourishment, rather than under eating during the day and overeating at night
- Sleep consistency, which improves insulin sensitivity and hormonal repair
- Physical stress reduction, such as walking, breathwork, or gentle movement, not just mental reframing

Health does not collapse overnight. And it does not rebuild overnight either. The earlier these patterns are supported, the easier it is for the body to restore balance naturally. For more education on early metabolic signals and prevention-focused health, follow @balancedbymonica on Instagram.

Monica Uttamchandani is a certified Holistic Health Coach based in the Turks and Caicos Islands. She also consults in person at The Elephant Rooms in Salt Mills, Providenciales.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES RECOGNISE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH 2026

The Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) proudly joins the global community in observing the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month 2026 under the theme “Positive Childhoods Start with Us.” The campaign reminds us that protecting children is a shared responsibility—one that calls on the care, compassion, and commitment of our entire community.

Across the Turks and Caicos Islands, strong and supported families help children grow up feeling safe, confident, and hopeful. Positive childhoods are built in loving homes, caring schools, faith communities,

and neighbourhoods where people look out for one another and step in with support.

As families face increasing social, emotional, and economic pressures, prevention begins with supportive relationships and informed communities. Small acts of care—checking in, offering help, or speaking up when something feels wrong—can make a lasting difference.

Mrs. Ashley Adams Forbes, Director of DFCS, stated: “Positive childhoods are not guaranteed—they are built when communities choose to show up for families and pro-

tect their children. When we listen, when we care, and when we speak up for a child in need, we may be changing the course of a life. In doing so, we are not only strengthening families, we are safeguarding the future of our nation.”

Hon. Shaun D. Malcom, Minister with responsibility for DFCS, added: “Protecting our children is the most urgent duty we share as a nation. When any child is unsafe, our entire society is at risk. Safe, stable, and nurturing environments are not optional—they are essential to the survival, strength, and future of the Turks and Caicos Islands. This is the

moment for all of us to act, to speak up, and to protect those who cannot protect themselves.”

Child Abuse Prevention Month is an urgent warning to everyone who lives and works in the Turks and Caicos Islands: our children need protection now, and standing together is no longer optional—it is a moral and national imperative.

Positive childhoods do not happen by chance—they start with us. Because when we support families, we protect children. And when we protect children, we strengthen our nation.

-Contributed

Thoughts, Prayers and Poems...

A Prayer for Fearlessness

Hi, my name is Chrystal Charles, and I am a Voice of Turks and Caicos. This, being the first of multiple series, is a body of expression that has been accumulated over many years that I've decided to share. This series will be called, Thoughts, Prayers and Poems. Here's a Prayer of mine....
 A Prayer for Fearlessness
 God...
 Heavenly Father
 You who formed me,
 You who breathed courage into my bones
 If You have not given us a spirit of fear,
 Why do we tremble before men?
 We are already small in number,
 Yet even smaller still in boldness.
 The people carry Your torch.
 We gather in Your temples,
 We speak Your name,
 We hold the ears of the people
 The children, the layman, the congregation
 Yet our actions whisper
 What our lips shout against.
 Lord...
 we are a frightened people.
 Afraid of integrity,
 For it provokes the proud and powerful.
 Afraid of truth,
 For it unsettles the comfortable and the capitalist.
 Afraid of standing firm,
 For it invites resistance.
 We fear men
 Who can only affect now,
 Yet ignore Your Word
 the One who controls eternity.
 We watch the sheep wander,
 Led by foxes dressed as shepherds,
 And still...
 we say nothing.
 Frightened.
 Afraid of voices.
 Afraid of opinions.
 Afraid of rejection.
 Afraid of what they will say
 About our lives,
 In our land,
 Under Your sky.
 Jesus-
 what has happened to us?
 We were born with fire,
 Yet society douses it with conformity
 from our first breath.
 Still...
 there is a smolder within us

Low. Quiet. Hidden.
 Buried beneath comfort,
 Consumption,
 Colonization of the spirit and the mind,
 And the illusion of success.
 Daily, we trade flame for ease.
 We bury purpose beneath convenience.
 We crown distraction as king.
 And we breathe shallow air
 gasping for depth,
 for meaning in our lungs
 Fed by empty things
 That feel like everything and nothing at all
 On a dying earth,
 Among a dying people.
 Father, I pray for fearlessness,
 For I swim in a sea of fear daily.
 Each day,
 fighting not to drown
 In the noise,
 The hypocrisy,
 The suffocating fog of compromise.
 Lord- keep me fearless.
 And bold.
 Not loud without substance,
 But bold with truth.
 Not reckless,
 But unwavering.
 Not proud,
 But unshaken.
 Make the smolder within us
 become a flame
 that ignites us all.
 But God? if ever all is lost here,
 If the fire around me fades?
 Lead me
 Lead me to where the ground is
 alive,
 Where truth burns hot,
 Where courage is not rare.
 Let me never cease
 never settle
 For cold walls, of celebration halls
 of empty victories,
 For houses that feel nothing like
 home.
 Let my life be full
 Not of wealth alone,
 But of purpose.
 God,
 strip fear from my spirit
 and from the spirit of my people.
 Break agreement with timidity.
 Silence the voice that bows to man.
 And raise in us
 a courage
 that answers only to You.
 As Your Word says;
Deuteronomy 31:6 : "Be strong and
 of a good courage, fear not, nor be



afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."
Psalm 23:4 : "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."
Isaiah 41:10 : "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."
Joshua 1:9 : "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."
2 Timothy 1:7 : "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."
Psalm 56:4 : "In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me."

Psalm 27:1 : "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"
Psalm 34:4 : "I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."
1 John 4:18 : "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."
Proverbs 3:25 : "Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh."
John 14:27 : "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
My name is Chrystal Charles, and I am a voice of Turks and Caicos. Go to tesspresents.com to hear the narration. For advertising and orator contributions, email tess-charlestci@gmail.com.



The Cheshire Hall Medical Centre in Providenciales

TCI Hospital Celebrates 16 Years of Advancing Quality Care and Innovation

Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital (TCIH), operated by InterHealth Canada, proudly marks 16 years of service to the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, celebrating a legacy of delivering safe, high-quality, and evidence-based care since opening its doors 10th April 2010.

Background:

Public-Private Partnership Model

Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital is delivered through a public-private partnership (PPP) between the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands and InterHealth Canada Limited (ICL). In January 2008, InterHealth Canada entered into an agreement with the Government to design, build, finance and operate the country's acute secondary healthcare facilities. This partnership was established almost two decades ago aimed to modernize healthcare infrastructure, improve access to services and ensure the delivery of high-quality care aligned with international standards.

Under this model, hospital operations are delivered through two specialized entities operating within the InterHealth Canada framework:

- A clinical services company, responsible for the delivery of all medical and clinical care
 - A facilities management company, responsible for infrastructure, maintenance and non-clinical support services
- Both entities operate under InterHealth Canada Limited, have distinct management structures and provide services in



Dr. Denise Brathwaite-Tennant, CEO

accordance with the terms outlined in the Project Agreement with the Government.

The hospital services were officially commissioned on April 10, 2010, with:

- 20 inpatient beds at Cheshire Hall Medical Centre
 - 10 inpatient beds at Cockburn Town Medical Centre
- Importantly, both facilities collectively

called the Turks & Caicos Islands Hospital (TCIH) were designed with built-in expansion capacity, including "shelled" spaces that can be retrofitted to increase inpatient bed capacity as demand grows. This forward-looking design on the part of the Turks & Caicos Islands Government aimed to support long-term scalability and enables the health system to respond to the evolving needs of the population.

Since its establishment, TCIH has transformed healthcare delivery across the islands through infrastructure development, international partnerships and a steadfast commitment to clinical excellence. The hospital system, comprising facilities in Providenciales and Grand Turk, introduced a new era of accessible, comprehensive care for residents and visitors alike.

A Legacy of Quality and International Recognition

Since its establishment, TCIH has maintained a strong focus on quality improvement and patient safety. Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital continues to distinguish itself as one of the few internationally accredited hospitals systems in the Caribbean, reflecting a sustained commitment to quality, safety and accountability.

TCIH has maintained Accreditation Canada International accreditation at the Diamond level since 2012, the highest level achievable under the program, demonstrating consistent compliance with rigorous global standards in patient safety, governance and clinical care.

Accreditation Canada's Qmentum Global program is an internationally recognized framework used in more than 40 countries to drive continuous quality improvement, strengthen safety culture and ensure evidence-based care delivery across health systems. Within the Caribbean, hospitals achieving full international accreditation remain relatively limited, underscoring the significance of TCIH's achievement.

As a growing centre for education and workforce development, TCIH has played a pivotal role in building local capacity within the healthcare sector. In 2019, the hospital achieved accreditation through the University of the West Indies accreditation body to support physician internship training, marking a major step toward developing a sustainable, home-grown medical workforce.

The hospital has also delivered a robust institutional training program since inception, supporting several health professionals across the Turks and Caicos Islands. Through collaborations with the Ministry of Education, TCIH has hosted one of their largest cohorts of interns and apprentices, while partnerships with the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College have enabled the introduction of the first clinical nursing rotations on-island.

Advancing Evidence-Based Care: Best Practice Spotlight Organization

Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital has further strengthened its commitment to quality care through its designation as a Best Practice Spotlight Organization(r) (BPSO(r)) by the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario in 2025. The BPSO(r) programme is an internationally recognized initiative that supports healthcare organizations in implementing and sustaining evidence-based clinical practices. Through this designation, TCIH has demonstrated its ability to integrate best practice guidelines into everyday care, improving outcomes in key areas such as patient safety, person- and family-centred care, falls prevention and pressure injury prevention. For the community, it means greater confidence that care delivered at TCIH is safe, consistent and aligned with internationally recognized standards, ultimately contributing to better patient experiences and improved health outcomes across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Advancing Surgical Safety: AORN Go Clear(tm) Award

Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital has also demonstrated leadership in surgical safety through its achievement of the AORN Go Clear(tm) Award in 2020, an international recognition granted by the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses. The Go Clear(tm) Award recognizes healthcare facilities that have successfully implemented a comprehensive surgical smoke evacuation program, ensuring that operating theatres are effectively "smoke-free." Surgical smoke-produced during procedures using lasers or electrosurgical devices-can contain harmful chemicals, toxic gases, and biological particles that pose risks to both patients and healthcare professionals. By meeting AORN's stringent criteria, TCIH demonstrated that it has:

- Adopted standardized protocols for smoke evacuation in surgical procedures
- Equipped operating rooms with appropriate smoke evacuation technology

- Trained clinical teams in safe surgical practices
 - Embedded a culture of safety within perioperative care
- At the time of receiving this recognition in 2020, Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital was recognized as the first hospital in the Caribbean to achieve the AORN Go Clear(tm) Award, marking a significant milestone for patient safety and clinical excellence in the region.

For patients, this achievement translates into safer surgical environments, reduced exposure to harmful airborne contaminants, and alignment with international best practices in operating room care. For healthcare professionals, it reflects a workplace that prioritizes occupational health and safety, reducing long-term exposure to surgical smoke and supporting a safer, more sustainable clinical environment.

Investing in the Next Generation of Healthcare Professionals

Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital is committed to building a sustainable healthcare workforce by inspiring and developing the next generation of health professionals. Through its READY Programme, TCIH provides high school students across the Turks and Caicos Islands with early exposure to careers in healthcare.

The programme introduces students to a wide range of clinical and non-clinical roles, helping them better understand the pathways into the health sector and equipping them with foundational knowledge and career guidance.

Complementing this initiative is the hospital's Clinical Observership Programme, which offers students currently pursuing tertiary education in health sciences the opportunity to spend their summer months immersed in the hospital environment. Participants gain valuable hands-on exposure by shadowing experienced healthcare professionals, while also benefiting from structured mentorship and professional development support.

Together, these programmes reflect TCIH's commitment to nurturing local talent, strengthening workforce capacity and supporting long-term sustainability within the health system-ensuring that future generations are equipped to meet the evolving healthcare needs of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The hospital has also contributed to workforce development in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Through partnerships with the Ministry of Education National Internship and Apprentice program and the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College. Further strengthening professional development, TCIH has worked closely with the Health Professionals Authority to introduce nurse clinical examinations locally.

In collaboration with international partners, including the Hamilton Education Foundation, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, TCIH has supported the introduction of Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) training within the islands-enhancing emergency care capacity and preparedness.

Building Life-Saving Skills in the Community

Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital has also played a leading role in strengthening emergency response capacity across the islands through education and training. TCIH is recognized as the first fully accredited training centre in the Turks and

Caicos Islands under the American Heart Association, delivering a comprehensive suite of internationally recognized resuscitation programmes. Through this initiative, the hospital provides annual training to more than 300 participants, including healthcare professionals, first responders and members of the wider community. These programmes focus on essential life-saving skills such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), first aid, and advanced resuscitation techniques. By expanding access to this training, TCIH is helping to build a more resilient community, equipping individuals with the knowledge and confidence to respond effectively in emergencies and improving outcomes in critical situations.

This achievement reflects the hospital's broader commitment not only to delivering high-quality clinical care, but also to empowering the community with the skills needed to save lives.

Rising Utilization Reflects Growing Demand for Hospital Services

TCIH's milestone comes at a time of rapid national growth, placing increasing demand on healthcare services. According to the Turks and Caicos Islands Statistics Authority, the population has grown significantly-from 18,491 in 2000 to 50,828 in 2024-while total visitor arrivals reached approximately 1.81 million in 2024, driven largely by continued expansion in the tourism sector. This growth trajectory is expected to continue.

The Government's National Tourism Development Strategy projects an increase in registered accommodation rooms to over 6,000 by 2032, reflecting sustained expansion in the hospitality sector and further growth in visitor and migrant workforce numbers.

This demand is further intensified by the rising prevalence of chronic non-communicable diseases, which is contributing to greater complexity in care delivery and placing sustained pressure on both critical care services, outpatient visits and overseas referrals. At the same time, the hospital is closely monitoring an increase in trauma-related cases, adding another layer of demand on emergency and acute care services.

Over the past fourteen years, Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital has experienced a significant increase in patient activity, reflecting both national population growth and rising demand for healthcare services.

Between February 2012 and February 2026, total patient encounters across the hospital system increased from 5,841 to 9,050, representing a substantial rise in overall service utilization. This growth has been particularly pronounced in outpatient care, where on-island clinic visits more than doubled, increasing from 2,617 to 6,439 encounters over the same period.

At Cheshire Hall Medical Centre, the impact of this demand is most evident in inpatient services. Bed occupancy levels have risen from an already high 85.34% in February 2012 to 115.71% in February 2026, indicating sustained periods where demand has exceeded available bed capacity.

These trends are creating capacity challenges across several key areas:

- Inpatient beds- High occupancy driven by medical complexity and longer lengths of stay
- Emergency Department - Increased patient volumes, acuity and trauma presentations

• Outpatient Clinics - Growing demand for both on-island and visiting specialist services

• Laboratory Services - Expanded testing needs to support chronic disease management and acute care

• Diagnostic Imaging - Increased reliance on ultrasound, CT, MRI and other imaging to support timely diagnosis and treatment

These trends underscore the critical need for greater investment in expanding services at TCIH to support reliable, high-quality healthcare services to both residents and the millions of visitors who travel to the islands each year and reduce the need the overseas care.

Recognising the Strength of Our People

At the heart of Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital's success over the past 16 years is the dedication, professionalism and compassion of our naturally excellent team. TCIH recognizes that the strength of its services lies in its people-highly skilled and committed healthcare professionals and support teams who work every day to deliver safe, high-quality care to the community.

Across both Cheshire Hall Medical Centre and Cockburn Town Medical Centre, our team continue to demonstrate resilience, teamwork and an unwavering focus on patient-centred care, even as demand for services continues to grow.

The Board of Directors of InterHealth Canada extends its sincere appreciation to all members of the TCIH team for their outstanding contributions over the years. "We recognize and deeply value the commitment of our facilities management and clinical services team, whose daily efforts make a meaningful difference in the lives of patients and families across the Turks and Caicos Islands. Their dedication, expertise and compassion are the foundation of the hospital's success. As we celebrate this milestone, we thank them for their continued service and for the vital role they play in supporting the health and wellbeing of the community."

Dr. Denise Brathwaite-Tennant, CEO, highlighted the importance of forward planning and partnership: "As we celebrate 16 years of service, we are proud of how far we have come in transforming healthcare in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Our achievements reflect the dedication, expertise and compassion of our entire team, who continue to place patients and families at the centre of everything we do.

"As demand for healthcare continues to grow, driven by population increases, chronic disease and evolving patient needs, we are seeing sustained pressure across all areas of the hospital, including critical care, outpatient services and emergency care.

"We are also closely monitoring the rise in trauma cases, which further underscores the need for responsive and resilient systems. In collaboration with our partners, we continue to advocate for the additional resources and investments required to meet this rising demand and to ensure we maintain safe, high-quality care for our community.

"We remain committed to working collaboratively with our key partners the Ministry of Health and the National Health Insurance Board to strengthen capacity, enhance service delivery and plan strategically for the future, ensuring that the health system continues to meet the needs of the Turks and Caicos Islands."

When strength needs support -Rebalancing life during menopause

There is a quiet moment many women encounter in midlife; one that rarely makes headlines but is deeply felt. It is not marked by outward crisis, but by an internal shift. A heaviness and a fatigue that rest does not seem to cure. Invariably, a truth that gently rises to the surface: I don't want to be the strong one any more.

According to Nicola Clarke, this moment is not a sign of weakness, but a powerful turning point, one that often coincides with the physical and emotional transitions of menopause.

"Being tired of being the strong one doesn't mean you are breaking. It means you are becoming more honest with yourself," she said.

For years, many women have been the emotional anchors in their families and communities, the ones who carry responsibilities quietly and consistently. Strength becomes identity and reliability becomes expectation. However, midlife changes that dynamic.

Hormonal shifts can lower emotional tolerance, while life itself becomes more complex. Ageing parents may require care and children become more independent, shifting relational roles. Long-term relationships evolve, and beneath it all lies years of accumulated emotional labour.

"What once felt manageable now feels heavy, and not because you are weaker, but because it is no longer sustainable," she said.

This convergence of internal and external pressures often leads women to confront an imbalance they may have long ignored, one of constant giving with little replenishment.

Rather than viewing this phase as decline, Clarke reframes it as a transition from endurance to awareness. "You begin to notice the imbalance. The one-sided giving. The lack of support. The quiet resentment," she said.

This awareness becomes the catalyst for change. It signals not the loss of strength, but its evolution. "Strength is no longer about how much you can carry. It's about recognising what you were never meant to carry alone," she said.

Clarke outlines a series of intentional shifts that can help women navigate this stage with clarity and self-compassion:

1. Acknowledge the weight: You can't change what you haven't named. Identifying areas of depletion, resentment, or invisibility is the first step towards healing.
2. Allow support: For many women, receiving help feels unfamiliar, even uncomfortable. Support is not a failure, it is a rebalancing.



ancing.

3. Stop over-functioning: Years of anticipating needs and filling gaps can create dependency patterns. Overfunctioning keeps others underfunctioning, encouraging women to step back and allow others to contribute.

4. Set boundaries around energy: Not every demand deserves a response. Not everything deserves your time, attention, or emotional capacity. Discernment is the new strength.

5. Embrace a new identity: Growth often requires releasing old roles. You are not responsible for maintaining an identity that costs you your well-being.

As women begin to shift, Clarke notes that meaningful transformation unfolds:

- Relationships become more balanced and reciprocal.
- Emotional resentment gives way to support and clarity.

- Decisions are guided by intention rather than obligation.
- A deeper connection to self begins to re-emerge.

The narrative around menopause is often framed in terms of loss - loss of energy, youth, or vitality - but Clarke offers a different perspective: one of renewal and realignment.

In this next phase, strength is no longer measured by how much a woman can endure in silence. Instead, it is defined by her willingness to honour her needs, set boundaries, and invite support.

"Strength in this next phase is not about holding everything together, it's about no longer carrying it alone," she said.

As more women embrace this redefinition, menopause becomes less of an ending and more of a powerful recalibration, one that opens the door to a more balanced, authentic, and supported way of living.

Understanding hypertension and insulin

As Jamaica continues to battle a growing epidemic of non-communicable diseases, the conversation around hypertension and diabetes is evolving beyond symptoms to deeper, underlying causes.

Leading that shift is Dr Orlando Thomas, a medical doctor, educator, and founder of the Thomas Medical and Shockwave Centre in Old Harbour, who has been using his YouTube platform to unpack the complex relationship between insulin and high blood pressure.

In a recent livestream, Dr Thomas challenged conventional thinking, urging Jamaicans to look beyond surface-level diagnoses. "Insulin is not just about diabetes. It is a central hormone that affects multiple systems in the body. When insulin is dysregulated, it creates a cascade of problems, including hypertension," he said.

Insulin is responsible for helping glucose enter the body's cells to be used as energy. However, when the body becomes resistant to insulin, a condition known as insulin resistance, the pancreas compensates by producing more of the hormone. Over time, this leads to chronically elevated insulin levels, which Dr Thomas says plays a direct role in raising blood pressure.

"High insulin levels cause the kidneys to retain sodium and water, which increases blood volume and raises blood pressure. It also contributes to the stiffening of blood vessels and increased inflammation, which further compounds the problem," he said.

This physiological connection is particularly concerning in Jamaica, where both hypertension and diabetes are widespread. Data from the Ministry of Health & Wellness Jamaica indicate that approximately one in four Jamaican adults has hypertension, while diabetes affects an estimated 8 to 12 per cent of the population.

Even more alarming is the level of underdiagnosis and poor control, with many individuals unaware of their condition until complications arise. Non-communicable diseases account for nearly 70 per cent of all deaths in Jamaica, with cardiovascular disease and stroke leading the statistics.

Dr Thomas emphasised that insulin resistance often develops silently, sometimes decades before a formal diagnosis. "By the time someone is diagnosed with diabetes, they have likely been insulin resistant for years. Hypertension often develops along that same timeline, which is why we see these conditions occurring together so frequently," he said.

He also highlighted the role of visceral fat stored around internal organs - as a major driver of insulin resistance. "This is not just about weight. It is about where the fat is distributed. Visceral fat is metabolically active and releases inflammatory chemicals that worsen insulin resistance and damage blood vessels," he said.

In his presentation, Dr Thomas pointed to modern lifestyle patterns as key contributors. Diets high in refined carbohydrates,

sugary drinks, and ultra-processed foods continuously spike insulin levels, eventually overwhelming the body's regulatory systems. "We are constantly stimulating insulin with what we eat. If the body never gets a break, it loses its sensitivity to insulin," he said.

Beyond diet, chronic stress is another major factor. Elevated cortisol levels, often triggered by prolonged stress, can increase blood sugar and worsen insulin resistance. Poor sleep further compounds the issue, disrupting hormonal balance and increasing the risk of both hypertension and metabolic disease.

Dr Thomas is particularly passionate about shifting the focus from treatment to prevention. "We have normalised managing disease instead of preventing it, but these conditions are largely lifestyle-driven, which means they are also modifiable,"

He advocates for a multilayered approach that includes dietary changes, increased physical activity, stress reduction, and improved sleep hygiene. Diets rich in whole foods, including vegetables, lean proteins, and healthy fats, help stabilise blood sugar and reduce insulin spikes. Regular exercise enhances insulin sensitivity, allowing the body to use glucose more efficiently.

Importantly, he stressed that small, consistent changes can have a profound impact. "You don't have to be perfect, but you have to be intentional. Every positive choice moves you closer to better health," he said.

The implications of his message are far-reaching, particularly in underserved communities where access to healthcare may be limited. Through his digital outreach, Dr Thomas is bridging that gap, bringing critical health education directly to the public.

He also underscored the importance of routine screening. "Check your blood pressure, check your blood sugar, know your numbers. Early detection gives you the opportunity to intervene before complications set in," Dr Thomas said.

For many Jamaicans, hypertension remains a silent threat, often going unnoticed until it leads to serious outcomes such as heart attacks, strokes, or kidney failure. When combined with insulin resistance, the risks multiply significantly.

Dr Thomas believes that education is the most powerful tool in reversing this trend. "When people understand what is happening in their bodies, they are more empowered to make better decisions. Health is not just about medication. It is about knowledge, discipline, and daily habits," he said.

The link between insulin and hypertension is not just a medical concept. It is a call to action. In a country facing a rising tide of chronic illness, addressing the root causes may be the key to building a healthier future.

"Your lifestyle is either feeding disease or fighting it. The choice is yours," Dr Thomas said.

Lisa Hanna launches luxury skincare brand

Now entering the global beauty market, former Member of Parliament and Miss World 1993 titleholder Lisa Hanna has launched a luxury skincare line, Lisa Hanna Beauty.

Former Member of Parliament Lisa Hanna has launched a luxury skincare brand, Lisa Hanna Beauty. The Miss World 1993 titleholder made the official announcement on social media. "Beauty wasn't meant to be defined. Beauty is that quiet moment that takes your breath away—not for how it looks, but for how it makes you feel. It's not a standard, it's not a filter, it's not youth to recapture. It's the courage to let your laughter rise unedited; it's the grace to let your story show—scars and all," she said in a video shared across her Instagram page and the brand's official account on

Tuesday.

Developed in partnership with a globally recognised Italian laboratory, the brand is described as one that brings together "science, integrity, and modern understanding to support women living full, demanding, evolving lives." It was also said to be born "from a life fully lived". The line stands behind the philosophy to "age intelligently."

The brand's website features Hanna's personal story, in which she outlines the vision behind Lisa Hanna Beauty. She explains that at 50, her sense of elegance and radiance is not the result of shortcuts, but of discipline, self-respect, and intentional care.

"Through every season of her life, she recognised that skin does not simply age—it reflects how a woman lives, endures, and



Lisa Hanna

becomes," the statement reads. It further notes that for too long, beauty has positioned time as an adversary—something to resist, erase, or hide. Lisa Hanna Beauty was created, it says, to shift that narrative.

So far, seven products have been listed on

the website, including the Advanced Balance Cleanser, The Serum, The Moisture Crème, Luminous Face + Body Glow, Instant Relief Eye Gel, Hydra Dew Elixir, and Advanced Fade Balm. The products are also available at Equinox Hotels and Spa.

-First reported by the Jamaica Gleaner

Two shot and injured at a Jamaica Carnival by a Reveller

Organisers of the Big Wall Carnival event have issued a statement expressing deep concern after a shooting incident left two people injured during festivities on Sunday night at the Ranny Williams Entertainment Centre in St Andrew, Jamaica.

According to initial reports, a patron discharged a firearm and injured two persons during the event. It is understood that the incident involved a popular social media personality who has since turned himself over to the police.

Addressing the incident Sunday night, event organisers said they were "deeply saddened and troubled" by what they described as an isolated act of violence.

"Our hearts are with those injured, their families and everyone who was present and affected," they said. "The safety of our patrons, staff and partners is, and has always been, paramount."

Authorities from the Jamaica Constabulary Force have launched an investigation into the shooting and the organisers confirmed they are cooperating fully with law enforcement and will provide any support needed to ensure accountability. They also emphasised that the isolated act does not reflect the standards, spirit or values of Big Wall.

"For over a decade, we have built a safe, inclusive and world-class carnival experience with an unblemished record of safety and professionalism. We will not allow one individual's actions to define us," Big Wall said.

The organisers also apologised to patrons and sponsors for the incident and said they were reviewing security protocols to strengthen security for future events.

"We pride ourselves on a great experience; tonight was not one of them. We are already reviewing all security protocols with law enforcement and private security partners to strengthen our measures moving forward," Big Wall said. "We thank you for your trust over the past 10 years. We will work to earn it again."



A photo of a carnival road march in Kingston Jamaica

Haitian influencer Ariana Lafond wins global youth competition in Togo

Haitian influencer Ariana Milagro Lafond, 19, has won the eighth edition of the House of Challenge, defeating 11 contestants during the April 11 finale in Lomé, Togo.

Undefeated throughout the competition, Lafond secured the top prize after a final round against Cameroonian finalist MK Michelle. She earned 30 million FCFA (about \$50,000), a car and an upcoming trip to China.

Her victory quickly sparked celebrations in Haiti, where youth in several neighborhoods across Port-au-Prince took to the streets to mark the moment.

In the days leading up to the finale, young people in parts of the capital and other

regions organized street cleanups, rallying behind Lafond's campaign and message.

Representing Haiti on a global stage, Lafond stood out with a project focused on two of the country's most pressing challenges: food insecurity and youth unemployment. Her proposal aims to provide nutritious meals to children in underserved communities while offering vocational training in cultural and visual arts to young people across Haiti's 10 departments.

Lafond, 19, a student of diplomacy and international relations, has built a large following on social media, with about 15 million followers on TikTok and more than 800,000 on Instagram. She is among a



Haitian influencer Ariana Milagro Lafond

growing number of Haitian digital creators using global platforms to spotlight local challenges and solutions.

The House of Challenge contest brings together young leaders from around the world to pitch ideas centered on social impact, entrepreneurship and innovation. For Haiti, where economic hardship and instability continue to shape daily life,

platforms like this offer rare opportunities to amplify youth-driven solutions.

Lafond's message throughout the competition centered on dignity and opportunity.

"Each child has the right to grow up healthy," she said during her pitch. "And every young person deserves the chance to build a future."



A United States (US) jury on Wednesday found that entertainment giant Live Nation wielded monopoly power at its Ticketmaster business, violating federal and state antitrust laws, according to California's attorney general.

A verdict that could have profound repercussions in the concert world came after four days of deliberations, and remedies could include breaking up Live Nation and Ticketmaster.

The jury found Live Nation and Ticketmaster liable for anticompetitive conduct that harmed the music industry and included overcharging consumers, according to California attorney general Rob Bonta.

"This is a historic and resounding victory for artists, fans, and the venues that support them," Bonta said in a release. "In the face of dwindling antitrust enforcement by the Trump Administration, this verdict shows just how far states can go to protect our residents from big corporations that are using their power to illegally raise prices and rip-off Americans."

"We are incredibly proud of today's outcome — and especially proud of our coalition made up of red and blue states alike who understood we needed to come together to protect our consumers, businesses, and state economies from Live Nation's illegal conduct."

Jury finds Ticketmaster owner ran illegal monopoly

The jury found that Live Nation overcharged for tickets sold to consumers from May 2020 through 2024, according to Bonta.

— DOJ settlement —

US judge Arun Subramaniam is to determine monetary damages to impose on Live Nation, along with conditions meant to prevent it from abusing its power in the live event ticket market.

The case was initiated under former president Joe Biden in May 2024, when the Department of Justice (DOJ) labeled Live Nation a monopolist that controlled virtually all live entertainment in the United States.

The California-based company is a behemoth in its industry: in 2025, it organized more than 55,000 events worldwide, drawing 159 million attendees. Beyond promotion, it holds stakes in 460 venues and has controlled Ticketmaster, the world's leading ticket seller, since 2010.

The US government accused Live Nation of abusing its dominant position to pressure artists and venues into signing with it, stifling competition, and imposing excessive fees on fans.

It called for Live Nation to divest Ticketmaster and take other corrective measures.

Live Nation reached a tentative settlement with the US Justice Department just days after the trial started in New York, but an alliance of states that had signed on to the case continued to press it in court.

The settlement requires Live Nation to open up the ticketing platform to competitors and to allow other promoters to stage events at certain Live Nation venues, Justice Department officials said.

Live Nation will divest up to 13 amphitheaters and pay \$280 million in damages to the nearly 40 states that were parties to the antitrust lawsuit against the California-based company.

Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren condemned the settlement in a post on X at the time.

"Donald Trump just betrayed every fan who's been exploited by Ticketmaster," Warren said. "This fine is less than one percent of Live Nation's revenue last year. We need to break up Ticketmaster and Live Nation."

Rockhouse Resort Honors Top Performers at First Quarter Awards Ceremony



Staff excellence and outstanding service were on full display as Rockhouse Resort hosted its First Quarter Employee, Supervisor and Leader of the Quarter Awards on Tuesday, April 14, on the grounds of the resort.

The ceremony celebrated team members who demonstrated exceptional dedication, professionalism and commitment to guest satisfaction during the first quarter of the year.

A highlight of the event was the “Race for the Gold (TripAdvisor)” category, which recognized employees based on guest mentions and reviews. Leading the category with an impressive 19 mentions was Steevy Tanissaint of the Food and Beverage department, earning the Gold distinction. Judson Mondesir, also from Food and Beverage, secured Silver with 16 mentions, while Chesney Rigby rounded out the top three with Bronze after receiving 13 mentions.

In the Front of House Employee of the Quarter category, two standout team members were recognized: Makendy Jean from Guest Experience and Rebecca Leopold from Food and Beverage, both applauded for their direct engagement with guests and delivery of high-quality service.

The Back of House Employee of the Quarter awards were presented to Milton Bailey of the Engineering department and

Wanya Hamilton from Culinary, acknowledging their critical roles in maintaining the resort’s operations and service standards behind the scenes.

Leadership and supervisory excellence were also celebrated. Gizele Antinore of the Culinary department was named Supervisor of the Quarter, while Janelle Desir of Human Resources and Training earned the prestigious Leader of the Quarter award for her outstanding leadership and contributions to staff development.

The awards ceremony underscored Rockhouse Resort’s continued commitment to recognizing and rewarding excellence across all levels of its team, reinforcing a culture of service, teamwork and professional growth.



ROCK HOUSE

TURKS & CAICOS

GRACE BAY RESORTS

OPEN JOB POSITIONS

*Director of Owner Relations

Job Overview: This candidate will be the primary point of contact with condominium owners, and will be responsible with ensuring each owner receives proper attention, communication and service, while transmitting relevant information to each department within resort operations. This role will allow Grace Bay Resorts to provide quality communications among our owners, resort operations and management.

Essential Functions:

Owners communication and follow up, including:

- Regular updates on construction progress of Phase II & III.
- Construction progress certificates, requests for owner payments and accounting follow up.
 - Punch list follow up reports to owners.
- Updates and follow up on hotel bookings, special requests, etc, made by owners as requested by the resort General Manager, the reservations team or others in operations as specified by the General Manager.
- Responsible to ensure quarterly income/expense reports are sent timely and professionally to condominium owners, working together with our accounting department. Strata corporation management, including:
 - Responsibility to ensure strata budgets are completed timely and delivered to owners, working together with our accounting department.
 - Preparation of documentation required for annual meetings with owners.
 - Organization of annual meetings, including notices and proxies, minutes, follow up correspondence to owners.
 - General support to Managing Partner, all new development activities, including correspondence with architects, engineers, designers, procurement agents, financial partners, banks and others as required.
 - Assistance with all marketing initiatives.
 - Assistance to procurement agent in FF&E purchases and coordination.
 - Assistance in all development related issues in the hotel refurbishment program.
 - FF&E research as necessary.
 - Support to builders, subcontractors, suppliers as necessary.
 - Any and all other support necessary in development projects. Residential Operations- Pre-opening support
 - Obtain current levels of all pre-opening work streams related to the opening project and assist with establishing the relevant next steps.
 - Create and refine pre-opening critical path template that is relevant to each residential operating model to ensure all residential opening considerations are included.
 - Develop a clear road map of Residential Operational requirements that may extend to post opening. Ensure the team is aware and understands the timeline and action required to meet these requirements.
 - Provide guidance to assist with the setup of the operations in the following areas: service, homeowner, communication, Strata management, homeowner recognition, safety and emergency plans, maintenance programs for common areas, residential systems set up, etc.

Requirements and Qualifications:

- 5 years of experience in property management and/or a comparable position in hotel operations.
- Experience with construction and/or resort openings is recommended. Creates The GBR Experience through performance that demonstrates the standards of:
 - Ownership – Takes personal responsibility and shows initiative in work planning and problem-solving.
 - Personalized Service – Shows personal attention to owners' unique needs, interests and expectations.
 - Expertise – Keeps informed and demonstrates job knowledge, following all job and service standards.
 - Natural Approach – Provides genuine service through actions that display self confidence, grace and courtesy to guests and colleagues; and
 - Any other duties that may be assigned to you.

Full time. Weekend and holiday work may be required.

Salary Range: \$US 100,000.00 - \$US 108,000.00 per annum

Pool & Beach Labourer

Job Overview: Perform tasks involving physical labor at work sites operating under the Pool and Beach Department to ensure that the pool and beach areas are kept to the standards of the hotel guests and management. May operate hand and power tools of all types and a variety of other equipment and instruments. Will be responsible for upkeeping the daily wear and tear that occurs by the pool and beach areas with a high flow of guests. May clean and prepare sites, dig trenches, and clean up rubble, seaweeds, debris and other waste materials.

Skill and Qualifications:

- Work experience in pool and beach operations
- Good organizational and time management skills with the ability to work under pressure and to multiple deadlines.
- Ability to work independently as well as on a team
- Ability to manage cleaning resources, organize work efficiently and effectively.
- Ability to lift a minimum of 30 lbs and push/pull in excess of 50 lbs

Full time. Weekend and holiday work may be required.

Salary \$8.00 - \$9.00 per hour

Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labor & Work Permit Board Zone 2

Qualified candidates should submit their Resumes to our Human Resources Department via Email: humanresources@rockhouseressort.com or hand deliver applications at our office on #1 International Drive, Providenciales. **Positions marked with an * are currently being held by a work permit holder. Deadline for submission: June 1, 2026**

US says nine vessels turned back in 48 hours of Iran port blockade

The United States (US) military said on Wednesday that it successfully stopped nine vessels from sailing out of Iranian ports during the first 48 hours of a naval blockade against the Islamic republic.

"Nine vessels have complied with direction from US forces to turn around and return toward an Iranian port or coastal area," US Central Command (CENTCOM), which is responsible for American troops in the Middle East, said in a post on X.

"No vessels have made it past US forces," CENTCOM said.

However, maritime tracking data appeared to contradict the US assertion. Tracking data from Tuesday indicated at least three ships sailing from Iranian ports crossed the Strait of Hormuz, though some vessels taking the route later turned back.

The three ships were among at least seven Iran-linked vessels that passed through the strait after Washington's blockade came into effect at 1400 GMT on Monday, according to maritime data provider Kpler.

Tehran's forces effectively closed the strait after the start of the US-Israeli air campaign against the Islamic republic on February 28, and the US on Sunday announced its blockade of Iranian ports after peace talks failed.

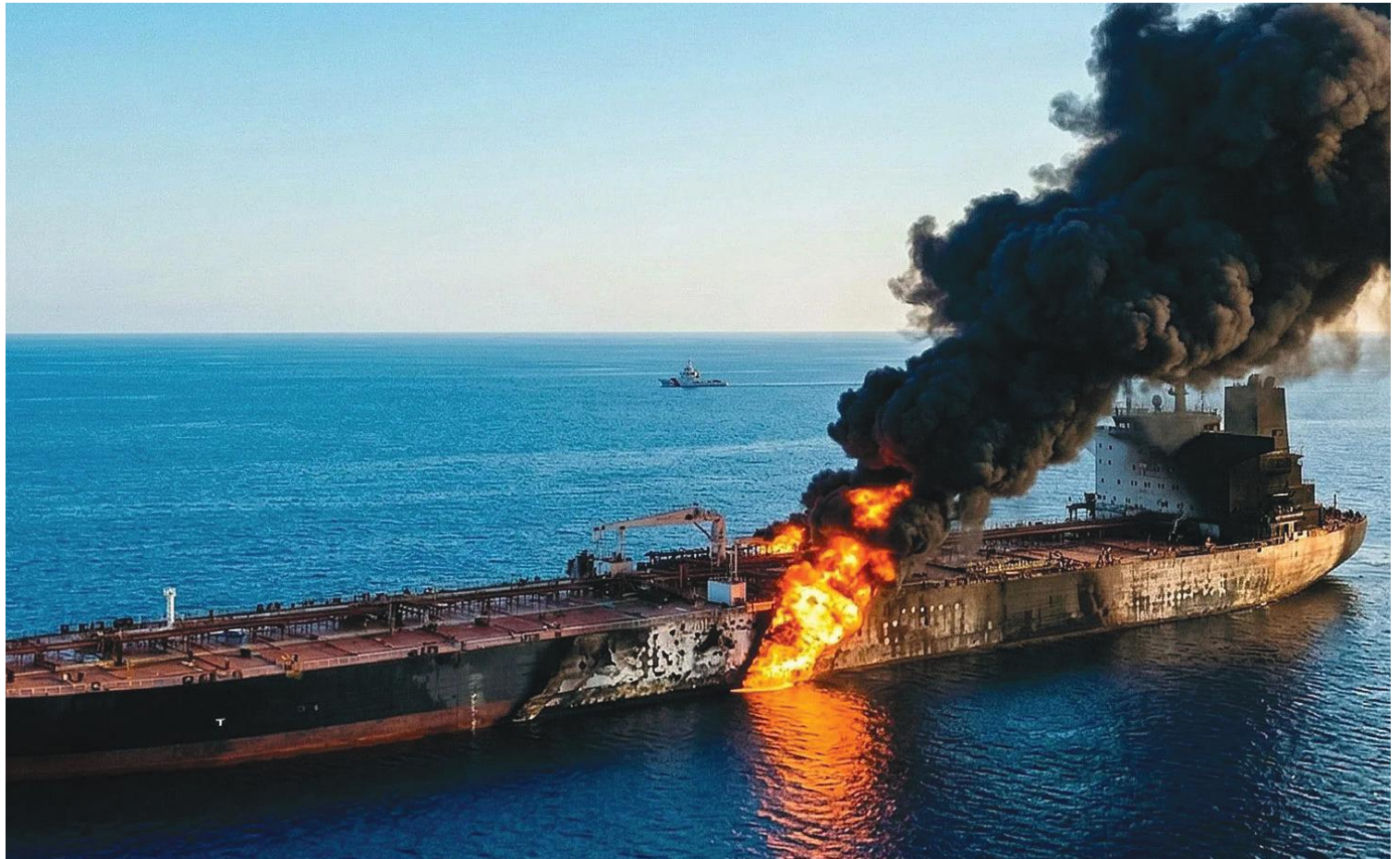


Photo shows a ship in the Strait of Hormuz on fire.

Trinidad and Tobago freezes assets linked to Middle East terrorist groups

The Concerned Muslims of Trinidad and Tobago has criticised the decision of Kamla Persad-Bissessar government to officially designate three Middle Eastern paramilitary and political organisations as terrorist entities, triggering an immediate freeze on any Trinidad and Tobago assets linked to the groups.

The group's public relations officer, Imtiaz Mohammed, told the Trinidad Guardian newspaper that the move by the government raises "serious concerns" about bias and timing, arguing that it also risks reinforcing stigma against Muslim communities locally and internationally.

Mohammed questioned why the applications are being pursued now, pointing to ongoing national concerns, including crime levels and the effectiveness of the state of emergency (SoE).

Mohammed said Trinidad and Tobago is aligning itself with the foreign policy positions of the United States and Israel, linking the legal action to wider geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. The High Court here has also ordered the freezing of all local property associated with Hezbollah, Hamas and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) under provisions of the Anti-Ter-



Kamla Persad-Bissessar

rorism Act. The orders, published in the Trinidad and Tobago Gazette on April 13, and

were issued by High Court judges between April 8 and 9 and require ongoing six-month reviews by Attorney Gen-

eral John Jeremie.

According to the Gazette, Justice Carol Gobin issued freezing orders on April 8 in relation to both Hezbollah and the IRGC. A separate order issued by Justice Jacqueline Wilson on April 9 listed Hamas as a declared entity.

The High Court orders directed that all property owned or controlled locally by the three organisations, whether wholly, jointly, directly or indirectly, must be immediately frozen. The measures also extend to assets that may be held through intermediaries or proxy arrangements.

The publication in the Extraordinary Gazette signals the formal legal activation of the orders, making them enforceable across all financial institutions, property registries and relevant regulatory bodies within Trinidad and Tobago.

The move places Trinidad and Tobago within a tightening global framework targeting terrorist-financing networks, particularly those identified by international bodies such as the United Nations Security Council under Resolution 1373 and monitored through Financial Action Task Force (FATF) compliance mechanisms.



**SPORTS DIRECTOR
PRAISES CARIFTA
PERFORMANCES**

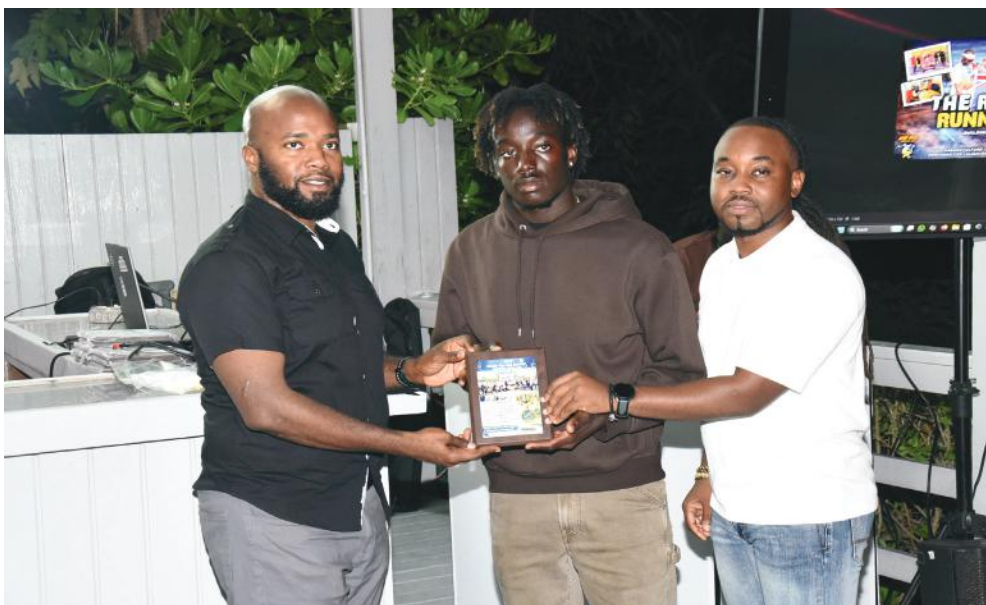
SEE PG32



ROAD DOGS RUNNING CLUB AGM AND SOCIAL

The Road Dogs Running Club staged its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Social on Saturday, March 11, at the Mackey's Cafe, Grace Bay, Providenciales. The event included a pinning ceremony, presentation of awards to sponsors, and showing of a short film depicting the journey of the club. The following are photo highlights of the event.





FIFA Celebrates Ivory Coast in Landmark Moment of Unity, Partnership, and Football Development

On Sunday, April 12, 2026, during the FIFA Series 2026 match between the Ivorian Women's National Football Team and the Turks and Caicos Islands at the Olympic Stadium Alassane Ouattara in Ebimpé, a significant moment unfolded, highlighting an official recognition from FIFA.

Representing FIFA President Gianni Infantino, two prominent figures in world football expressed their appreciation to the governing body in Côte d'Ivoire. Sonia Fulford, FIFA Council Member and President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association, alongside Ahmed Yahya, FIFA Council Member and President of the Mauritanian Football Federation, commended the country's unwavering commitment to football development and its exceptional hospitality as host of the 2026 FIFA Series.

This acknowledgment was symbolized through the ceremonial presentation of a FIFA pennant and match ball to Deputy Minister of Sports Adjé Silas Metch, who was joined by Yacine Idriss Diallo, President of the Ivorian Football Federation (FIF). The exchange served not only as a gesture of recognition, but as a powerful symbol of partnership, unity, and shared vision among FIFA member associations.

Importantly, this engagement reflects the strengthening of relationships between participating nations, fostering meaningful connections that extend beyond competition. The FIFA Series continues to serve as a platform for cultural exchange, technical collaboration, and mutual development, reinforcing FIFA's commitment to building bridges across football communities worldwide. Through such interactions, member associations are empowered to grow together, share knowledge, and contribute to the global advancement of the game.

Beyond this ceremonial moment, the recognition underscored the achievements made under the leadership of President Alassane Ouattara. Strategic investments in modern sports infrastructure, including the development of internationally accredited stadiums, have positioned Côte d'Ivoire as a premier destination for hosting major international competitions.



Photo 1: (L-R) Ahmed Yahya (FIFA Council Member and President of the Mauritanian Football Federation), Yacine Idriss Diallo (President of Ivorian Football Federation), Sonia Fulford (FIFA Council Member and President of TCIFA)



(L-R) Sonia Fulford (FIFA Council member, TCIFA President) and Adjé Silas Metch (Cote D'ivoire Deputy Minister of Sports)



(L-R) Sonia Fulford (FIFA Council member, TCIFA President) and Yacine Idriss Diallo (Ivorian Football Federation President)

SPORTS DIRECTOR PRAISES CARIFTA PERFORMANCES

The Turks and Caicos Islands has much to be proud of following the performances of our athletes at the 2026 CARIFTA Games.

Across both Track & Field and Swimming, our athletes demonstrated not only talent, but discipline, resilience, and belief on the regional stage. These performances were highlighted by outstanding podium finishes, including a gold medal by David Hall in the Boys Under-20 High Jump, a silver medal by Herwens Guerrier in the Under-17 High Jump, and a bronze medal by Luc Durliat in the 200m Butterfly.

These achievements are significant. Equally important, however, are the personal bests, national records, and the number of athletes who stepped forward and competed with confidence. Together, they reflect a deeper level of growth within our sporting environment.

Importantly, this progress is not isolated to CARIFTA. In recent months, we have also seen success across other disciplines, including our national rugby team securing a silver medal at the RAN Sevens Championships, and our national football team earning a silver medal at the Concacaf Under-15 Championships. This tells us something important, progress is taking shape across the

system.

For a country of our size, competing against larger nations with deeper systems and resources, to produce multiple podium performances at this level is a remarkable accomplishment. It speaks to the quality of talent within the Turks and Caicos Islands and the commitment of those who continue to support its development.

But moments like this do more than inspire pride, they challenge us.

They remind us that talent exists across our islands, and that it is our collective responsibility to ensure that no athlete with potential is left without opportunity. Success at this level is not accidental. It requires structure, support, access to coaching, consistent competition, and an environment that allows athletes to grow over time.

As reflected in our CARIFTA celebration theme, "Defy Gravity Together," this moment represents more than performance, it represents possibility. Gravity represents the challenges we face: the limitations, the pressures, and the obstacles that can hold us back. But what our athletes have shown us is that those limitations are not final. They can be overcome, but only if we do it together.

As a country, we are a diverse and unified people, rooted in shared identity, shared pride, and shared potential. Whether by heritage or by commitment, we all have a role to play in building something greater than ourselves. Now is the time to build on this moment and convert this energy into sustained momentum.

Sport development requires an ecosystem approach, where government, federations, coaches, schools, clubs, parents, sponsors, and the wider community all play a role in strengthening the pathway for our athletes. The progress we are seeing today is the result of that collective effort, and it is clear that the foundation is beginning to take shape.

But there is more work to be done.

We now have an opportunity, and a responsibility, to deepen that effort. We invite partners, stakeholders, and members of the public to play their part in supporting the continued development of sport in the Turks and Caicos Islands, whether through participation, partnership, or investment in initiatives such as the School Sports (TCISS) or the Athlete Development Fund (ADF).

The performances at CARIFTA 2026 have shown us what is possible. If we build on

this with intention, what we are seeing today will not be occasional success, it will become lasting pathways of excellence for our youth.



Director of Sports, Jarrett Forbes

Beaches Defeat Kishco in TCI T20 League Encounter

Beaches produced a disciplined all-round performance to secure a convincing victory over Kishco in Turks and Caicos Islands Cricket Association (TCICA) T20 League action at the Downtown Ball Park on Sunday, April 12.

Batting first, Beaches posted a competitive 170 for 5 from their allotted 20 overs, laying the foundation for victory with a composed and steady batting display. Leading the charge was Kenneth Lewis, who top-scored with a well-constructed 37, anchoring the innings and ensuring stability through the middle overs. He found valuable support from Ricardo Brown, who added 25, as Beaches maintained a steady scoring rate despite disciplined bowling from the opposition.

Kishco's bowling effort was spearheaded by S. Sargeant, who delivered the standout performance of the match with 4 wickets for 48 runs, consistently breaking partnerships and keeping Beaches from accelerating further. He was supported by Winston Callam, N. Panikar, and M. Smith, each of whom chipped in with a wicket. Despite these efforts, Beaches' batting depth allowed them to post a total that ultimately proved beyond reach.

Chasing 171 for victory, Kishco struggled to build sustained momentum against a well-organized Beaches bowling attack. Mario Smith led the resistance with a top score of 26, showing intent early but lacking the support needed to mount a serious challenge. Contributions from Wood Parker (21) and Winston Cullen (18) provided brief hope, but regular wickets halted any chance of a successful chase.

Beaches' bowlers executed their plans effectively, maintaining tight lines and applying constant pressure throughout the innings. R. Jones was the pick of the bowlers, claiming 2 wickets for 24 runs and playing a key role in dismantling Kishco's middle order. He was well supported by B. Wil-

liams, Wright, S. Hunter, and E. Henry, who each contributed with a wicket to ensure Kishco never gained control of the chase.

The fielding effort from Beaches also complemented their bowling performance, as they maintained energy and discipline in the field, limiting scoring opportunities and capitalizing on key moments.

In the end, Kishco were restricted to 130 for 9 from their 20 overs, falling well short of the target as Beaches sealed a comfortable win.

The result highlights Beaches' strength as a balanced unit, capable of delivering with both bat and ball. Their ability to build a solid total and then defend it with disciplined bowling underscores their status as a strong contender in this season's T20 League.

For Kishco, despite a commendable bowling performance led by Sargeant, the lack of consistent partnerships with the bat proved costly. They will look to regroup and strengthen their batting approach as the competition continues.

Sidue Hunter was adjudged player of the match.



Sidue Hunter Collecting his Man of the Match Award

TCI Women's National Team Embody Courage and National Pride at FIFA Series 2026

The Turks and Caicos Islands Women's National Football team continues to embody courage, resilience, and unwavering national pride during their participation in the FIFA Series 2026, representing the Turks and Caicos Islands with heart and determination on the international stage.

Facing higher-ranked and more experienced opponents, the team has encountered difficult results, yet their performances have been defined by grit, discipline, and an unbreakable spirit. Match after match, the players have stood strong; remaining organized and resolute, refusing to back down even in the most challenging moments.

Each game has tested their limits, demanding focus, character, and belief. In response, the squad has continued to rise, demonstrating unity, courage, and a deep commitment to one another and to the badge they represent. Their efforts reflect not just a team competing, but a group fighting with purpose and pride for their country.

Beyond the pitch, participation in the FIFA Series represents more than com-

petition. It is a powerful platform for connection, exchange, and the strengthening of relationships between nations, reinforcing the global spirit of the game and the shared mission of advancing women's football.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association remains steadfast in its commitment to the women's program, continuing to invest in opportunities that empower players and elevate the standard of the game across the islands.

While the results may not yet tell the full story, the heart, fight, and unity displayed by this team speak volumes. With every match, they are inspiring a nation, proving that true progress is measured not only in wins, but in courage, belief, and the refusal to give up.

And in every challenge they face, they are not just playing for today... They are carrying the hopes of a nation and lighting the path for the generations of girls who will follow.

In their opening game, the TCI went down 1-15 to Côte d'Ivoire. In their second game, they went down 0-8 to Pakistan.