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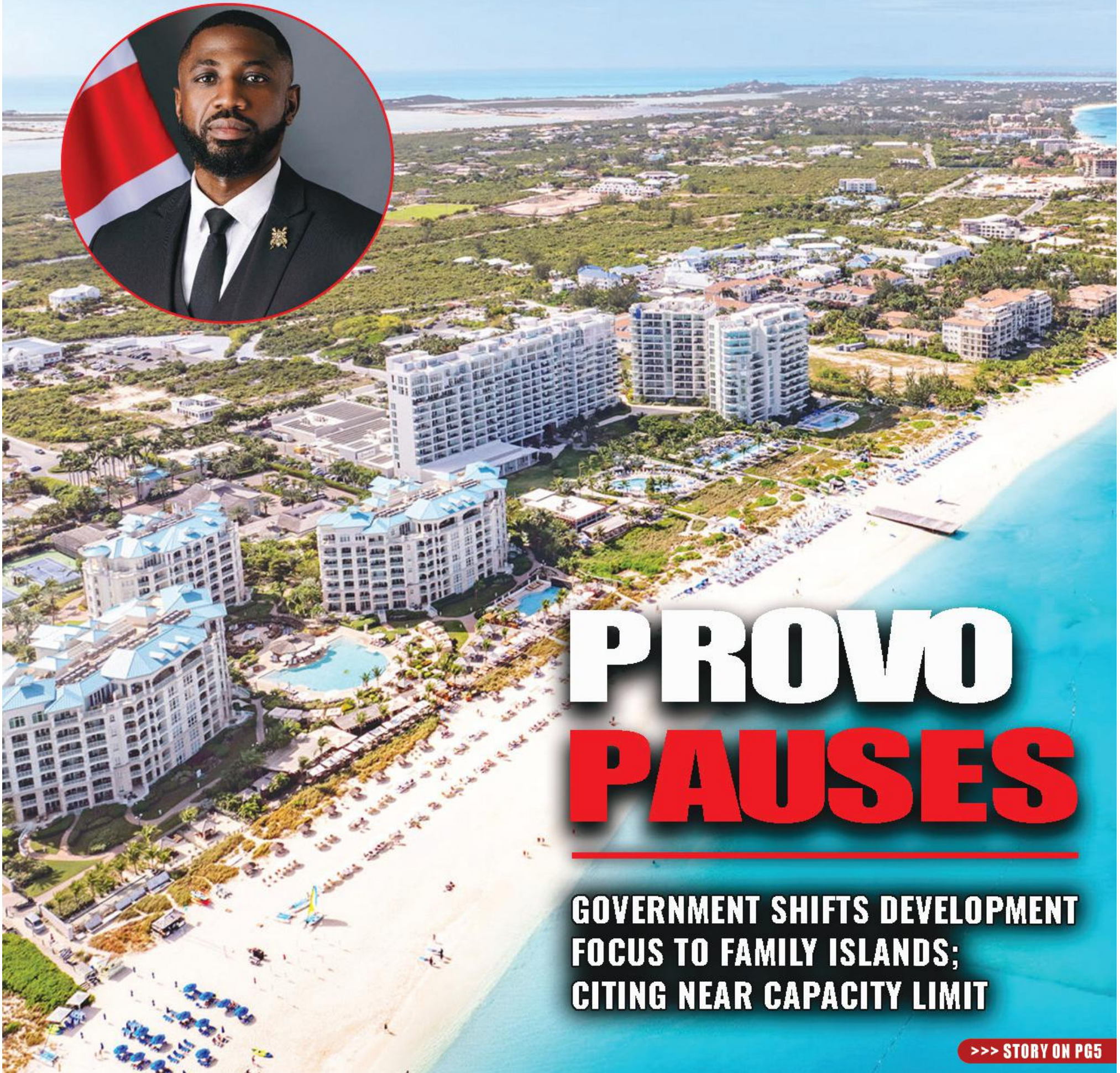
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**Tianna Taylor, Sevyn
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PROVO PAUSES

**GOVERNMENT SHIFTS DEVELOPMENT
FOCUS TO FAMILY ISLANDS;
CITING NEAR CAPACITY LIMIT**

>>> STORY ON PG5



TCI Regiment Conducts Community Clean-Up Along Bay Road in Blue Hills

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Members of the Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment rolled up their sleeves on Tuesday, June 23, as they carried out a community clean-up initiative along Bay Road in Blue Hills, Providenciales, demonstrating their commitment to service beyond their military duties.

The exercise focused on improving the appearance of the area by clearing overgrown vegetation and removing debris along the roadway, with additional cleaning activities planned around the nearby clinic compound. Lieutenant Colonel Ennis Grant, Commanding Officer of the Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment, said the project was part of the Regiment's ongoing efforts to support communities

across the Turks and Caicos Islands. "We are actually here doing a community project," Grant said. "We're trying to clean the road a little bit to enhance the aesthetics of the road, and we'll also be going up towards the clinic to do some cleaning around the clinic compound."

Grant emphasized that maintaining clean communities is a shared responsibility and encouraged residents to take an active role in caring for their surroundings.

"I think as a community, the government can't do everything," he said. "People have to take up the initiative to try to do some things for the community in which they live and try to keep it clean and do all of those different sorts of stuff."

He noted that community engage-

ment has always been an important part of the Regiment's mission and expressed hope that the initiative would encourage others to follow suit.

"For us as a Regiment, we have always been committed to serving our communities, and I think this is how we can demonstrate our efforts in a very small way," Grant said. "We hope that it will inspire other persons to do the same."

According to Grant, the Bay Road clean-up marks the beginning of additional community-focused activities planned by the Regiment in the months ahead.

"Definitely, this is just the genesis of what is to come," he said.

The Commanding Officer also highlighted the Regiment's ongoing

preparations for the hurricane season. He said members are gearing up for their annual camp and undertaking training designed to strengthen emergency response capabilities.

"Right now, we are preparing for our annual camp, but we'll be doing quite a lot of preparatory work for hurricane season training to be able to respond if we have an emergency that is of a magnitude that we really can't contain," Grant explained. "We want to be able to have that level of effectiveness for communities when we are called upon to respond."

The community clean-up initiative reflects the Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment's continued commitment to supporting the well-being, resilience and development of communities throughout the country.

Taylor and Louis Share Top Honours in 2026 CPEA Results as Turks and Caicos Records 95.9% Pass Rate

Tianna Gabrielle Miracle Taylor of B.E.S.T. Institute and Sevyn Carolie Louis of Charles Hubert James Primary School have emerged as the top performers in the 2026 Caribbean Primary Exit Assessment (CPEA), sharing the number one position nationally with an impressive average score of 96.6 percent.

The results, released Tuesday by the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, reveal another year of strong academic achievement across the Turks and Caicos Islands, with the territory recording an overall pass rate of 95.87 percent.

A total of 463 students from 17 schools, 10 public and seven private, were entered for the examination administered by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) in May. Of the 460 students assessed, 441 demonstrated Near Competence or better, while 316 students, representing 68.7 percent of candidates, attained Competent or Advanced Competence levels.

Education officials hailed the results as evidence of the territory's continued educational progress.

According to the Ministry, the proportion of students reaching Advanced Competence has nearly tripled since 2022, increasing from 6.3 percent to 19.35 percent. Language Literacy emerged as the strongest subject area, with a performance rate of 70.9 percent, while the number of students scoring 75 percent or higher among the top ten schools has more than doubled during the same period.

Among the nation's top performers, Eliza Simons Primary School secured two places in the top five, with Kevaun Lamoy Lewis placing third with an average of 96 percent and



Sevyn Carolie Louis of Charles Hubert James Primary School



Tianna Gabrielle Miracle Taylor of B.E.S.T. Institute

Timothy Nathanael Morgan taking fourth place with 95.8 percent. Dabria Anneliese Shantina Thomas of Richmond Hill Preparatory rounded out the top five with 95.6 percent.

Other students making the national top ten list include Tivon Ozere Wright of Charles Hubert James Primary, Zayden Curtis-Gomes of Oseta Jolly Primary, Joshua Carlos Ariza of Ona Grinton Primary, Laila London Reynolds of B.E.S.T. Institute, and a tie for tenth place between Zacchaeus Benaiah Clerisier of Thelma Lightbourne Primary and Camila Eriel Walkin-Garcia of B.E.S.T. Institute.

Thelma Lightbourne Primary School distinguished itself as the territory's leading school by number of high achievers, producing 30 students who scored 75 percent or higher.

In the individual subject areas, Tianna Tay-

lor earned the highest score in Science with an outstanding 98.3 percent. Sevyn Louis topped Social Studies with 97.5 percent and shared the highest Mathematics score of 97.5 percent alongside Dabria Thomas of Richmond Hill Preparatory and Kevaun Lewis of Eliza Simons Primary. Zayden Curtis-Gomes achieved the highest Language score with 96.4 percent.

Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, the Hon. Rachel Taylor, congratulated students, teachers and parents on the achievement.

"I extend my warmest congratulations to every candidate who sat the 2026 Caribbean Primary Exit Assessment," she said. "These results reflect the dedication of our young learners and the steady progress our education system continues to make."

The Minister also praised principals and teachers across both public and private institutions, noting that the Ministry's growing use of educational data will support informed decision-making and strengthen student outcomes.

"To the parents and guardians who support our children each and every day, I offer my sincere thanks," she added. "As we celebrate these gains, the Ministry remains firmly committed to ensuring that every learner is given every opportunity to succeed."

Top-performing students from each participating school included Kevaun Lamoy Lewis (Eliza Simons Primary), Joshua Carlos Ariza (Ona Grinton Primary), Sevyn Carolie Louis (Charles Hubert James Primary), Karessa D'Amour Wynter (Ilanthe Pratt Primary), Zayden Curtis-Gomes (Oseta Jolly Primary), Tianna Gabrielle Miracle Taylor (B.E.S.T. Institute), Dabria Anneliese Shantina Thomas (Richmond Hill Preparatory), and Zacchaeus Benaiah Clerisier (Thelma Lightbourne Primary, among others).

To celebrate the achievements of the territory's highest-performing students, the Ministry will host a series of CPEA Prize-Giving Ceremonies under the theme "Together We Soar: Parents and Students United." The ceremonies will begin on June 29 in Grand Turk and continue through July 2 across South Caicos, North and Middle Caicos, and Providenciales.

The Ministry commended school leaders, teachers, parents and communities for their continued partnership in supporting student success and reaffirmed its commitment to creating an environment where every learner can thrive.

DDME Hurricane Preparedness Expo, Huge success in The Nation's Capital

The Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies (DDME) successfully hosted its Hurricane Preparedness Expo this past Friday, 19 June 2026, at the Dillon Hall in Grand Turk.

Residents and visitors attending the event, took full advantage of the opportunity to learn more about hurricane preparedness while participating in exciting activities and receiving complimentary tokens.

The expo brought together several key partners and stakeholders, including the TCI Red Cross, Do it Center (Building Materials), Pelican Energy TCI, Interhealth Canada, TCI Regiment, Health Promotion and Advocacy Unit, Aged Care and Rehabilitation TCI, the Environmental Health Department, Survey and Mapping Department and the Public Works Department. These stakeholders and vendors contributed to the event's success by sharing valuable information and products aimed at helping individuals and families prepare for the hurricane season.

Both the Director and Deputy Director for DDME addressed attendees and emphasised the importance of remaining vigilant throughout the Atlantic Hurricane Season. DDME Director, Lt. Col (Ret'd) Jason Hills stated, "Preparedness is not a one-time activity but an ongoing responsibility. We encourage everyone to take the necessary steps by staying informed and ensuring



Ms. Kevaun Lucas Deputy Director and Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Jason Hills, Director with a raffle winner.

their emergency plans and supplies are up to date," DDME Deputy Director Ms. Kevaun Lucas added that, "It only takes one storm to change lives and communities forever. That is why preparedness cannot wait until a hurricane is on our doorstep, take the time now so you will not be caught off guard later."

DDME would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude to all vendors and persons from the Grand Turk community that attended this event. We also express our sincere thanks to The Hon. Otis Morris and Hon. Sharon Simons for their presence and participation.

The Hurricane Preparedness Expo forms part of the DDME's ongoing public awareness and community outreach initiatives during the Atlantic Hurricane Season. These events aim to strengthen preparedness and resilience across the country. The public is warmly encouraged to attend DDME initiatives and take an active role in hurricane preparedness.

UPCOMING CHURCH SERVICE

Sunday, 28 June 2026 • St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Grand Turk | 9:00 AM (New time)

OTHER UPCOMING EVENT

Saturday, 4 July 2026 • Community Hurricane Scavenger Hunt, Meeting point: Oseta Jolly Primary School, Providenciales | 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

\$6.5M Cost-of-Living Relief Approved for TCI Residents

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands Government has approved a one-time \$500 Cost of Living Relief Payment for approximately 13,000 eligible British Overseas Territories Citizens (BOTCs) and Turks and Caicos Islands Status Holders, representing a total government investment of approximately \$6.5 million.

The measure, according to a press statement from the Premier's Office, was approved by Cabinet during its meeting on Wednesday, June 24, as part of the Government's response to ongoing global economic pressures that continue to impact households across the country. According to the Washington Misick Government, the relief payment is intended to provide immediate financial support to residents facing increased living expenses driven largely by rising global fuel costs and their effect on the prices of goods and services.

Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands said the initiative reflects the Government's commitment to helping families manage the financial challenges brought about by circumstances beyond the country's control.

"My government understands that many families continue to feel the effects of global economic pressures that are beyond our control," the Premier stated.

"Rising fuel costs have affected the



Rising fuel costs have affected the prices of goods and services across the world, including here in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

prices of goods and services across the world, including here in the Turks and Caicos Islands. While no single measure can eliminate these challenges, Cabinet

has agreed that it is both appropriate and responsible to provide targeted relief at this time."

The Premier added that the payment is

designed to ease some of the immediate financial burden on residents while demonstrating that the Government remains focused on the welfare of citizens and residents.

"Assistance is intended to help ease some of the immediate financial burden being experienced by our people and to demonstrate that this Government remains committed to putting the welfare of citizens and residents first," the Premier said.

The Government noted that the one-time payment forms part of a wider package of support measures already implemented to assist households and vulnerable groups throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Among those measures are reductions in import duties on a range of breadbasket and essential food items under the 2026/27 Budget, increased funding for social welfare programmes, continued support through the National Insurance Board for qualifying unemployed and furloughed workers, and the ongoing Financial Assistance Programme for residents aged 70 and older.

Additional targeted social support initiatives are also being maintained to help protect vulnerable households from economic hardship.

Government officials said further details regarding eligibility criteria, registration requirements, verification procedures and payment timelines will be announced in the coming weeks.

Departments unite to Identify the Greatest Invasive Species Threats to the Turks and Caicos Islands

The Department of Agriculture has successfully concluded a two-and-a-half-day Horizon Scanning Workshop from the 17th- 19th June 2026 aimed at identifying the invasive non-native species that pose the greatest future threat to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The workshop was funded under the Darwin Strategic Biosecurity Project and facilitated by the Department of Agriculture. It brought together leading international scientists and local experts to review scientific evidence and prioritise invasive animal, plant, invertebrate, and marine species that could threaten the country's agriculture, biodiversity, public health, economy, and natural ecosystems.

International experts included representatives from the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, University of Exeter, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Newcastle University, University of Liverpool, and the British Forces



Cyprus Joint Services Health Unit. Local participants represented the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), Department of Environmental Health, Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Border Force, the

National Trust, and the private landscaping sector.

Participants received presentations on the Darwin Strategic Biosecurity Programme, horizon scanning methodologies, and invasive species surveillance tools. Presentations on current biose-

curity and invasive species prevention efforts in the Turks and Caicos Islands were delivered by Ecologist Dodly Prosper of DECR and Chief Plant Protection Officer Roneta Huntley Thomas of the Department of Agriculture.

Working in multidisciplinary groups, participants assessed and ranked invasive species based on their likelihood of entering the Turks and Caicos Islands and the potential impacts they could have if established. The results will help guide future surveillance, early detection, prevention, and response efforts.

The Department encourages residents to remain vigilant and report any unusual plants, animals, insects, or marine species to the relevant government Department – "protecting the Turks and Caicos Islands from invasive species requires a collective effort". Additional public awareness activities will be rolled out under the Darwin Strategic Biosecurity Project in the coming months.

PROVO REACHES DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY; GOVERNMENT SHIFTS FOCUS TO FAMILY ISLANDS

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Providenciales has effectively reached its infrastructural development capacity, prompting the Turks and Caicos Islands Government to indefinitely halt consideration of new large-scale tourism projects on that island and instead, is redirecting future investment toward the country's family islands.

The Premier, Hon. Washington Misick, had made that announcement earlier this year at his State of the State Speech, but Minister of Tourism, Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, expounded on the matter in an interview with NewslineTCI.

The move marks a significant shift in the government's tourism and development strategy and is intended to ease mounting pressure on Providenciales' infrastructure while creating new economic opportunities in North Caicos, South Caicos and Grand Turk.

Speaking during an interview with NewslineTCI, Jolly said the decision was driven by the reality that Providenciales is already experiencing substantial growth and must now be given time for its infrastructure to catch up.

"It's not slow down, it's stop," Jolly said when asked about future major developments in Providenciales. "We're not taking on any large-scale development projects in Provo at all at the moment. And that goes back to several issues and potential benefits. One, we talked about the infrastructure. We're just at max capacity."

The minister explained that the government expects between 3,000 and 4,000 additional hotel rooms, already approved through existing projects, to come online over the next four to five years. If those developments perform as anticipated, tourism activity on the island could increase dramatically.

"Our tourism numbers in Provo could double based on how successful these projects are and if they all come on stream at the same time," he said.

Such growth, according to Jolly, would place additional strain on nearly every aspect of the island's infrastructure, including roads, airports, public utilities, telecommunications networks and government services.

He noted that residents are already experiencing challenges associated



"...We talked about the infrastructure. We're just at max capacity."

with increased development and population growth, including heavier traffic, longer wait times and greater demand on public facilities.

"That means airports, our roads, every office, whether it's the DMV, Planning (The Planning Department), a bank, everywhere you go on a daily basis that already seems tedious is going to be even more tedious just by the volume of people," Jolly said. Government officials, he added, have a responsibility to consider those impacts before approving additional projects.

While infrastructure concerns are a major factor behind the policy change, Jolly said another important objective is ensuring that the benefits of tourism development are shared more equitably throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

For decades, Providenciales has been the dominant destination for tourism investment, largely because of its strong market performance and profitability. According to the minister, resort properties in Grace

Bay routinely enjoy annual occupancy rates of approximately 75 percent and average daily room rates ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Those figures have made Providenciales highly attractive to investors, often at the expense of development opportunities elsewhere in the archipelago.

"What the government has made clear is that we want you to look at the other islands," Jolly said.

The government's strategy, according to Jolly, is centered on encouraging tourism development that complements the unique character and strengths of each island rather than replicating the Providenciales model across the country.

He noted that South Caicos, for example, is being positioned as a fishing and maritime tourism destination, adding that the island has already benefited from major investments, including Sailrock Resort and Salterra, as well as direct American Airlines service from Miami that was supported by government incen-

tives.

He further pointed out that North Caicos is being promoted as an eco-tourism destination, leveraging its natural attractions such as caves, wetlands, birdwatching sites and historical landmarks. Government is also investing in infrastructure improvements, including airport upgrades, to make the island more attractive to both visitors and investors.

Jolly highlighted the recently announced Anantara resort project in North Caicos as evidence that international investors are beginning to recognize the island's potential. The luxury brand is known for high-end, low-impact developments that align with the government's sustainability goals.

The minister also revealed that local investors have expressed growing interest in tourism projects in North Caicos, including boutique developments designed around environmentally sustainable experiences.

Grand Turk is likewise attracting increased attention from developers seeking opportunities tied to the island's cultural, heritage and tourism assets.

Central to the government's approach is its recently completed carrying capacity assessment, which evaluates the ability of each island to accommodate future development while preserving environmental quality and quality of life.

"Our carrying capacity report is clear that we're not going to copy Provo in North Caicos or Grand Turk or South Caicos," Jolly said. "Each island has something that it does special, and if you're willing to build into that, we as a government will support you."

The minister said the decision to redirect development is ultimately about ensuring the long-term sustainability of the tourism industry while creating opportunities throughout the archipelago.

"Provo needed to shut down just for the infrastructure to catch up," he said, "but we realize it's also so the other islands can get their fair opportunity not only from existing travelers but development projects as well."

As government advances its strategy, Jolly believe the shift will help create a more balanced tourism economy, reduce pressure on Providenciales and unlock the development potential of the Turks and Caicos Islands' family islands for years to come.

The Water Is Ours — So Why Aren't Jobs?

Op Ed by Paladin

For twenty years, we have heard the same promise from government after government: “We must diversify our economy. We cannot rely so heavily on tourism.”

Yet every year, the opposite happens. Tourism grows, everything else shrinks, and our national dependence deepens. We talk diversification, but we build nothing to support it. We warn about fragility, but we reinforce the same fragile structure.

And nowhere is this contradiction more glaring than in the one sector that should already belong to Turks Islanders: Water Sports and Marine tourism. We live in a country where the ocean is our greatest asset — our identity, our livelihood, our brand. Yet the jobs connected to that ocean are overwhelmingly filled by foreign labour. Not because Turks Islanders can't do the work. Not because the skills are too advanced. But because the one institution designed to train our people — the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College — has refused, repeatedly, to build the programmes that would put our young people on the water, in the workforce, and in control of their own economic destiny.

This is not a small oversight. This is a national failure.

A College with a Mandate — But No Vision

When TCICC was created, its mandate was clear:

Provide Education and Training that meet the Workforce needs of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Training. Skills. Workforce development. Not just academics.

Yet thirty years later, the College still has **no trade school**, no construction training, no plumbing, no electrical, no HVAC, no mechanics, no butchery — despite a decade long construction boom that could

have absorbed hundreds of apprentices. Seven Stars. Ritz Carlton. St. Regis. South Bank. Shore Club. Blue Cay.

Dozens of villas and mid scale developments. All built with foreign skilled labour because TCICC never produced a single cohort of trained tradespeople. We missed that window. It will not come again. But the failure did not stop there.

The Water Sports Gap: A National Blind Spot

Water sports is not a side activity. It is a **pillar** of our tourism product. It is the heart of our visitor experience and the backbone of many small businesses. It is also one of the few sectors where Turks Islanders could dominate with the right training.

And yet, TCICC offers **nothing** in this space.

No lifeguard certification. No swimming instruction. No rescue training. No pool attendant programme. No scuba diving certifications. No boat captain training. No deckhand programme.

No dive master pipeline. No kiteboarding instructor training. No waterski or wakeboard instruction. No jet ski safety certification. No marine mechanics. No environmental stewardship training. Nothing.

And here is the part that should concern every citizen: TCICC has been approached multiple times to create a Water Sports Department — and the Board rejected it on three separate occasions. Their reasoning? They “did not see the benefit for Turks Islanders.”

Let that sink in.

In a country where tourism is 85% of GDP...In a country surrounded by water...In a country where water sports is one of the fastest growing sectors...In a country where these skills can be taught in 6–12 months...In a country where young people are desperate for opportunity... The Board of the national college could not see the benefit. This is not just shortsighted. It

is economically irrational.

The Consequence: Permanent Dependence

Because TCICC refuses to train our people, we now import:

- Dive masters
- Boat captains
- Jet ski operators
- Kiteboarding instructors
- Marine mechanics
- Lifeguards
- Rescue personnel

We import the very jobs that should be ours. We import the income. We import the expertise. We import entrepreneurship. We import the future. And we do it willingly — because the institution responsible for training Turks Islanders has chosen not to.

The Bigger Picture: A Country Out of Alignment

This is not just about water sports. This is about a national system that is out of alignment with its own needs.

TCICC is not aligned with:

- the labour market
- the tourism economy
- Vision 2040
- youth opportunity
- national diversification goals
- the country's natural assets

We talk about diversification, but we do not diversify the workforce.

We talk about opportunity, but we do not build the pathways. We talk about empowerment, but we do not train our people for the jobs that exist right now.

This is how a country becomes dependent. Not by accident — but by design.

One Simple, Clear Solution: Create the Turks & Caicos Marine and Water Sports Academy

Not a committee. Not a study. Not another speech.

A Marine and Water Sports Academy — housed at TCICC, funded by government, and operated in partnership with the private sector.

A one year programme that trains:

- Lifeguards

- Swimmers
- Rescue personnel
- Pool attendants
- Boat captains
- Deckhands
- Dive masters
- Scuba instructors
- Jet ski operators
- Kiteboarding instructors
- Waterski and wakeboard instructors
- Marine mechanics
- Environmental stewards


With **mandatory certification** for anyone operating commercially in TCI waters. This is simple.

This is achievable. This is affordable. This is transformative. And it would put hundreds of Turks Islanders into high demand, well paid, ocean based careers within a single year.

The Water Is Ours — The Jobs Should Be Too

We cannot keep saying “diversify the economy” while refusing to diversify the workforce. We cannot keep saying “empower our people” while denying them the training that leads to real jobs. We cannot keep saying “the ocean is our greatest asset” while handing the ocean economy to foreign labour. The water is ours. The reefs are ours. The beaches are ours. The tourism product is ours. It is time the jobs were ours too.

And it starts with one decision: Build the Marine and Water Sports Academy — now.



Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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Denver Route Opens up to TCI

United Airlines to Offer Weekly Flights from Denver, Colorado to Provo

The Turks and Caicos Islands is celebrating another major airlift milestone with the announcement that United Airlines will launch new nonstop service between Denver International Airport (DEN) and Howard Hamilton International Airport in Providenciales (PLS) beginning December 2026.

According to the government, the new weekly service marks a significant expansion of United Airlines' established presence in the Turks and Caicos Islands and is the result of extensive negotiations with the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority (TCIAA).

This announcement comes on the heels of the Turks and Caicos Islands' successful roadshow in Denver, where the delegation, led by the Premier, Hon. Charles Washington Misick, was warmly welcomed by Governor Jared Polis, who proclaimed May 20th, 2026, as Turks and Caicos Islands Friendship Day in Colorado in recognition of the growing ties between the destination and the state.

Premier, Hon. Charles Washington Misick, said this new route will open new opportunities for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"This new direct service between Denver and Providenciales is tremendously exciting for the Turks and Caicos Islands. Denver is one of America's great aviation gateways, opening convenient access to Colorado, California, and the entire western United States. Having already established strong links to the eastern and midwestern markets, we are delighted to now extend our reach to the west. We are confident this route will unlock significant opportunities



The new route will be operated by a Boeing 737 MAX 9 aircraft featuring 179 seats, including 20 in business class and 159 in economy.

for tourism, business, and investment and further strengthen our ties with the United States," he said.

Minister of Tourism, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, welcomed the announcement as a strong endorsement of the destination's growing appeal and the Ministry's continued efforts to diversify source markets and expand airlift.

"This new service between Denver and Providenciales represents another important step in expanding the global reach of the Turks and Caicos Islands. For many years, our strongest air connections have been concentrated along the East Coast and in the Midwest of the United States. Today, we continue our strategic expansion westward, creating direct access to one of North America's most dynamic and affluent regions. This route strengthens our ability to attract visitors whose interests align naturally with

the Turks and Caicos Islands' tourism product—from luxury travel and wellness experiences to diving, outdoor adventure, and second-home ownership," he said.

Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development, Hon. Arlington Musgrove, described the announcement as another important step in strengthening the destination's connectivity and competitiveness.

"This new service is the result of continued collaboration between the Government, the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority, Experience Turks and Caicos and our airline partners. Expanding air access is critical to sustaining tourism growth, and we are pleased that United Airlines continues to recognise the immense opportunity that exists here in the Turks and Caicos Islands," the Minister said. "As part of our broader strategic vision, we have been deliberately cultivating and developing routes from the western portion of North America — a market of enormous potential — with the goal of securing greater overall air capacity into our destination."

"We're excited to give our customers yet another non-stop option between the Caribbean and Denver," said Tom Kozlowski, Senior Manager of Latin, Caribbean, & Hawaii Network Planning, United Airlines. "United is the largest carrier in Denver, and this new addition will be the westernmost service from Turks and Caicos to the US, opening new tourism opportunities. We know our customers in Denver and surrounds will enjoy easier access to beautiful beaches, unique island charm, and vibrant culture in one of the Caribbean's most sought-after destinations."

The government pointed out that the addition of the Denver route further strengthens the Turks and Caicos Islands' airlift portfolio and builds on recent successes in expanding access from key and emerging markets. Experience Turks and Caicos and the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority will continue working closely with airline partners to identify opportunities for strategic growth and enhanced connectivity.

The new route will be operated by a Boeing 737 MAX 9 aircraft featuring 179 seats, including 20 in business class and 159 in economy.

Route	Start Date/Frequency	Departure Time	Arrival Time	Aircraft
DEN – PLS	Dec. 19, Weekly on Saturdays	10:00	17:00	Boeing 737 MAX 9
PLS – DEN	Dec. 19, Weekly on Saturdays	13:35	17:21	Boeing 737 MAX 9

This chart outlines the United Airlines Denver to Provo route operation

Sapodilla Bay Redevelopment Aimed at Creating New Opportunities for Local Vendors - Minister

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Tourism Minister Hon. Zhavargo Jolly is seeking to reassure vendors at Sapodilla Bay that a planned redevelopment project will ultimately create greater economic opportunities for Turks and Caicos Islanders while transforming one of Providenciales' most popular beaches into a world-class tourism attraction.

The project has generated significant public discussion in recent months, particularly among vendors who have expressed concerns about relocation and the potential impact on their livelihoods.

During an interview with NewslineTCI, Jolly acknowledged those concerns but said the government's vision extends far beyond simply relocating vendors.

Instead, he described the initiative as part of a broader effort to create sustainable commercial opportunities for Turks and Caicos Islanders through the strategic development of public beach accesses across the country. "It didn't take me long coming into office to realize that if you're a Turks and Caicos Islander and wanted access to beachfront commercial real estate, it's very unlikely you'll have an opportunity," Jolly said.

According to the minister, most prime beachfront locations have already been acquired by major tourism developments, leaving limited opportunities for local entrepreneurs to establish businesses in high-demand coastal areas.

Government, however, retains ownership of

beach access points throughout the islands, and Jolly believes those locations can become valuable engines of economic growth for residents.

He pointed to the success of Ricky's Flamingo Café as an example of how public beach access development can generate substantial opportunities for local business owners. Inspired by that model, the ministry said that he has been evaluating beach access sites throughout Providenciales and developing plans tailored to each location's size, frontage and potential uses.

He said some sites may feature storage facilities for beach equipment rentals, while others could accommodate massage services, food vendors, restaurants and tour operators.

Minister Jolly said that Sapodilla Bay represents one of the most ambitious projects within that initiative.

He explained that government plans to develop Crown land adjacent to the beach into a modern tourism facility featuring improved parking, restaurant spaces, water sports operations and technology-driven customer service systems.

Among the innovations being considered are digital ordering systems that would allow beachgoers to order food and beverages directly from their chairs using QR codes.

Orders would then be transmitted to vendors across the street and delivered to customers by staff.

The minister believes such technology will create a more professional and competitive

tourism product while increasing earning opportunities for vendors.

"We're allowing technology to help us bridge that gap," Jolly said.

While some vendors have expressed a preference for maintaining the existing setup, Jolly argued that the redevelopment will provide significantly improved facilities and business opportunities.

"I think people would have liked what they had, but when you start comparing a tent with pallets and folding tables and broken umbrellas to what's coming now, it's night and day," he said.

Importantly, the minister revealed that funding for the Sapodilla Bay project has already been approved within the current budget.

According to Jolly, implementation is expected to begin during the upcoming fiscal quarter, with completion targeted before the end of the calendar year.

"The money for Sapodilla Bay is already approved in this budget," he said. "That's moving forward."

Beyond Sapodilla Bay, government intends to replicate similar developments at additional beach access points throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Jolly said his goal is for every developed beach access to provide clean facilities, commercial opportunities and services operated by Turks and Caicos Islanders.

"Hopefully by the time I'm done as Minister of Tourism, every one of these beach accesses will have the kind of facilities where Turks and Caicos Islanders can make money and

be proud of," he said.

For the minister, the project is about more than infrastructure, but rather about ensuring that local residents continue to benefit directly from tourism growth and have meaningful opportunities to participate in one of the country's most important industries.

If successful, Sapodilla Bay could become the model for a new generation of locally driven tourism enterprises across the Turks and Caicos Islands.



This file photo shows Sapodilla Bay Vendor Jerome Rigby at his establishment.

Police Intercept Vessel Carrying 40 Irregular Migrants Near Providenciales

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF) successfully intercepted a vessel suspected of being involved in illegal migration early Monday morning as it approached Providenciales.

According to police, shortly after 5:00 a.m., the Coastal Radar Unit detected and tracked a vessel operating outside the Northwest Point area. Based on intelligence received, the Marine Branch was alerted and immediately launched an operation to intercept the vessel. Officers subsequently stopped a boat measuring approximately 36 to 38 feet in length. Authorities reported that the vessel was carrying 40 individuals believed to be irregular migrants.



The vessel was secured and safely towed to shore, where

law enforcement and partner agencies coordinated their re-

sponse. Following the interception, all occupants were handed over to the Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force for processing and further investigation.

The RT&CIPF continues to urge members of the public to assist in combating illegal migration by reporting any information related to unlawful entry into the Turks and Caicos Islands. Information can be provided by contacting the nearest police station, calling 911, reaching the Serious Crime Unit at 231-1842, or anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477. Residents are also encouraged to download the Crime Stoppers P3 mobile application, which allows users to submit information anonymously.

A Public Reminder on Marine Wildlife Awareness and Safety

The Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) wishes to remind all residents and visitors to practice safety and awareness when swimming, snorkelling, or enjoying activities along the shorelines of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Our marine ecosystem is home to a rich variety of marine life, including sharks, barracudas, and rays. While these animals are a natural and important part of our healthy reef systems, sharing the water safely requires mindfulness and respect for their natural habitat. By taking a few simple precautions, we can ensure that our beaches remain safe and enjoyable for everyone.

General Tips for Safe Swimming and Shoreline Activities

• Swim with a Companion:

Avoid swimming alone, especially in deep water or areas with low visibility, and let someone on shore know your plans.

• **Stay Alert in the Water:** Always remain aware of your surroundings. Swim in designated areas where possible and pay attention to any posted signs or flags.

• **Avoid Swimming at Dawn and Dusk:** Many marine predators, including sharks, are more active and feed during twilight hours. It is best to swim during bright daylight.

• **Remove Shiny Objects:** Barracudas and other predatory fish are naturally attracted to bright, reflective objects, which they can mistake for the flash of prey fish. Remove jewellery, watches, and metallic accessories before entering the water.



• **Avoid Swimming Near Fishing Activity:** Do not swim near docks, fishing boats, or areas where fishermen are cleaning fish, as bait and discarded scraps will naturally attract marine life.

If you Encounter Marine Life (e.g. Sharks, Barracuda, Rays) remember to:

- Stay calm and do not panic.
- Maintain a safe distance and avoid sudden movements.
- Do not attempt to touch, feed, or interact with the animal.
- Slowly and calmly make your way back to shore or to a boat.
- Exit the water safely and alert

others nearby immediately.

This notice is a routine reminder of our shared responsibility to respect the ocean environment while prioritising personal safety. The DECR will continue to monitor our coastal zones to ensure the safety of our communities. We thank the public for their ongoing cooperation in keeping our beaches beautiful and safe.

For more information, safety tips, or to report unusual marine wildlife activity, please contact the Department of Coastal Resources at (649) 338-4170 or via email at environment@gov.tc.

Robert Koenig Found Not Guilty in Airports Authority Fraud Case

Supreme Court Finds No Case to Answer

American businessman Robert Koenig has been found not guilty in the Airports Authority corruption trial after the Supreme Court ruled that there was no case for him to answer. The ruling was delivered by Justice Selochan on 25 June 2026.

Mr. Koenig had been charged with conspiracy to defraud in connection with a lighting contract between the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority and LED Industrial Group. He denied the allegation from the outset.

At the close of the prosecution's case, Mr. Koenig's legal team, led by Jerome Lynch KC and Mark A. Fulford of F Chambers, made a submission of no case to answer. The submission argued that, even taking the prosecution's evidence at its highest, there was no proper evidential basis upon which the Court could conclude that Mr. Koenig knowingly and dishonestly agreed with anyone to defraud the Airports Authority.

The defence submitted that the evidence did not establish the essential elements of the charge against Mr. Koenig. In particular, the defence argued that there was no evidence capable of proving that Mr. Koenig was party to a dishonest agreement to procure the contract, no evidence that he participated in the Airports Authority's internal procurement process, and no evidence that the reference letter relied upon by the prosecution had any connection to the award of the contract.

The defence further argued that the case against Mr. Koenig rested on inference, later association, and suspicion, rather than evidence capable of proving the criminal charge against him.

Justice Selochan accepted that there was no case for Mr. Koenig to answer and entered a verdict of not guilty in his favour.

Following the ruling, Mr. Koenig's legal team indicated that it is considering whether to make an application for costs and will notify the



Robert Koenig

Court within seven days.

Speaking after the ruling, Jerome Lynch KC, lead counsel for Mr. Koenig, said:

"This ruling is a vindication of Mr. Koenig's position. The criminal law requires evidence, not suspicion. At the close of the prosecution's case, there was no evidence capable of proving that Mr. Koenig was party to any dishonest agreement to defraud the Airports Authority. Justice Selochan's ruling reflects the proper application of the no-case principles and rightly resulted in a verdict of not guilty."

Mark A. Fulford, who appeared with Mr. Lynch KC for Mr. Koenig, added: "Mr. Koenig has maintained his innocence from the beginning. The Court's ruling confirms the central point we advanced on his behalf: suspicion is not proof, association is not conspiracy, and a defendant should not be required to answer a criminal charge where the evidence does not support the case against him. We are grateful that the Court

carefully considered the law and the evidence and entered a verdict of not guilty."

Mr. Fulford said the ruling was also

an important reminder of the purpose of a no-case submission.

"At the close of the prosecution's case, the Court must ask whether the evidence is legally capable of supporting a conviction against the defendant before the Court. In Mr. Koenig's case, the answer was no. The law requires more than concern, allegation, or inference built on gaps. It requires evidence."

Fulford also said the ruling also raises legitimate questions about the investigative and charging decisions that led to a private businessman being put through a serious criminal trial where, at the close of the prosecution's own case, the Court found there was no case for him to answer.

"Public corruption investigations must be thorough, fair, and evidence-led," Mr. Fulford said. "That is especially important where reputations, liberty, public resources, and public confidence in the justice system are all at stake."

In addition to Lynch and Fulford, the F. Chambers team also comprised Trainee Attorney Aaliyah Rigby.



The F. Chambers team of (from left) Aaliyah Rigby, Mark A. Fulford and Jerome Lynch KC.



Former Deputy Police Commissioner Albert Grant Honoured as ALMI Man of the Year

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Former Deputy Commissioner of Police Albert Grant was honoured as the Abundant Life Ministries International (ALMI) Man of the Year during the church's Father's Day service, a recognition of his leadership, service, and commitment to family and community.

The special occasion was attended by several members of Grant's family, including his wife Marilyn, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who joined the congregation in celebrating the achievement.

Grant, a father of 12, has enjoyed a distinguished career in law enforcement. He enlisted in the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force as a constable and rose steadily through the ranks, ultimately serving as Assistant Commissioner of Police before retiring from active service.

Accepting the award, Grant expressed gratitude and humility, crediting God, his family and the church leadership for the recognition.

"I'm elated, I'm humbled, and I'm grateful to you, Bishop Dr. C.A. Williams and your team, for deeming me worthy to receive such a highly honoured appointment," Grant told the congregation.

Drawing inspiration from the Psalms, he reflected on God's goodness and faithfulness throughout his life.

"Like the psalmist David, I too have experienced and contemplated the awesomeness of God," he said. "When I consider the goodness and mercy of the Lord, I echo those words: 'O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endureth forever.'"

Grant also offered prayers for continued blessings and protection over Bishop Williams, the church leader-



ship and congregation.

"I thank you sincerely. My prayer is that God will continue to shower blessings and protection upon you and your congregation," he said.

The veteran law enforcement officer also took time to acknowledge the support of his family, thanking them

for standing by him throughout his journey.

"I want to appreciate my family for supporting me. I appreciate you, and I thank you very much," Grant said.

The Father's Day recognition highlighted Grant's lifelong dedication to public service, faith and family, values

that church leaders said exemplify the qualities of a Man of the Year recipient.

Fathers, who were in the congregation were also awarded gifts as a token of the church and in recognition of the day, celebrated around the world during the month of June.

Grand Turk's Future Can't Rest on Government Alone

An Op-Ed by Audley A. Astwood

The recent commentaries lamenting the state of Grand Turk raise concerns that many residents share. No serious person would argue that the capital doesn't face challenges. Better infrastructure. Greater economic diversification. Stronger investment, and expanded opportunities are goals that every citizen should support.

But there's a larger question that deserves equal attention. Where are Grand Turk's corporate citizens? Where are the successful business people who built fortunes from opportunities created in these islands? Where are the entrepreneurs who left Grand Turk? TCI has many who now possess the resources to help shape its future. Where are the wealthy Turks and Caicos Islanders who speak passionately about the capital's problems? The same ones who invest little of their own money in solving them?

In other countries, private citizens sponsor educational programmes, fund community projects, and create businesses that generate employment. They don't sit around waiting for government to do everything. Grand Turk should be no different.

Yes, government has its role to play but the idea that the future of Grand Turk depends entirely on govern-

ment action is not realistic. The most successful societies are partnerships between public institutions, private enterprise, and engaged citizens.

Too often, public debate in Turks and Caicos begins and ends with government. Every challenge becomes government's fault. Every solution becomes government's responsibility. Every disappointment becomes evidence of government failure. Yet I'm not hearing the same level of scrutiny directed at those from Grand Turk with the means to make a difference. How many successful businesspersons from Grand Turk have invested in the capital? How many have funded scholarships? What about apprenticeships? Any community projects? Maybe a youth programme or cultural initiatives? How many have used their influence and resources to help create opportunities for the next generation? These questions deserve answers.

I love constructive criticism. It's healthy in any democracy. Government should be held accountable but accountability shouldn't be a one-way street. There are many citizens and businesses that created their wealth from our capital. They have an obligation to the place that helped shape their success.

Our capital's future won't be secured by endless complaints. That's regardless of who won the last election. It



will be secured when all stakeholders accept their share of responsibility. TCI doesn't need more pessimism. It needs investment. It needs partnership. It also needs successful sons and daughters of Grand Turk to step forward and contribute to the development they so often demand from

others. The measure of a community is not how loudly it criticises its government. The measure of a community is whether its people are willing to become part of the solution. That's the conversation Grand Turk should be having.

TCI PARTICIPATES IN GLOBAL POSTAL AND CUSTOMS SECURITY FORUM

The Turks and Caicos Islands participated in the Global Post-Customs Forum on Security and Business Conference held at the Hilton Hotel in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 9–11 June 2026.

The Forum brought together Postmasters General, Directors of Customs, and senior postal and border security officials from around the world to discuss the evolution of the postal market, electronic data interchange, emerging de minimis trends, regional security challenges, and strategies for effective risk governance across the global postal network.

Key areas of focus included international instruments that support collaboration between postal operators and customs administrations, as well as the advancement of ASYCUDA-CDS interconnectivity as a critical component of joint risk management and border security. The Turks and Caicos Islands delega-



Mr. Emilio Seymour - Director General, Border Force and Mrs. Elizabeth James, Postmaster General.

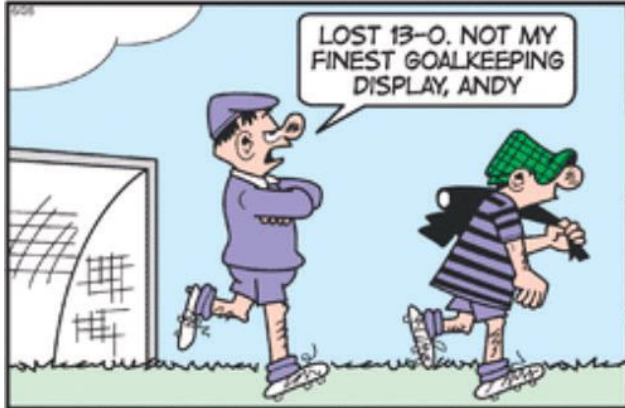
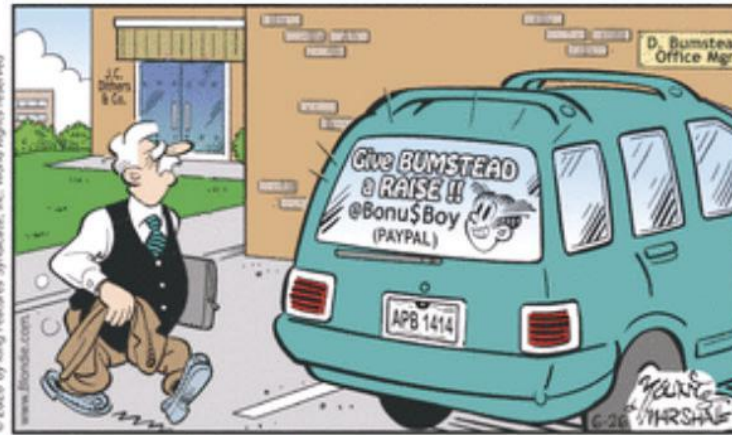
tion was represented by Mrs. Elizabeth James, Postmaster General, and Mr. Emilio Seymour, Director General of Border Force. During the Forum, delegates examined approaches to strengthening cooperation between postal services and customs adminis-

trations. Discussions also focused on enhancing the exchange of electronic data, improving risk assessment capabilities, preventing the movement of illicit goods through postal and customs channels, and addressing the financial and operational impli-

cations of compliance with regional and international regulations.

The Forum was sponsored by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and attended by representatives from 80 countries. Participation in the Forum provided an opportunity for the Turks and Caicos Islands to engage with international partners, share experiences, and gain insights into emerging trends and best practices affecting postal operations, customs administration, trade facilitation, and border security.

The Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands remains committed to strengthening border security, promoting international cooperation, and adopting modern practices that support secure and efficient postal and customs operations. The knowledge gained from the Forum will contribute to ongoing efforts to enhance collaboration, improve operational effectiveness, and facilitate legitimate trade and commerce.

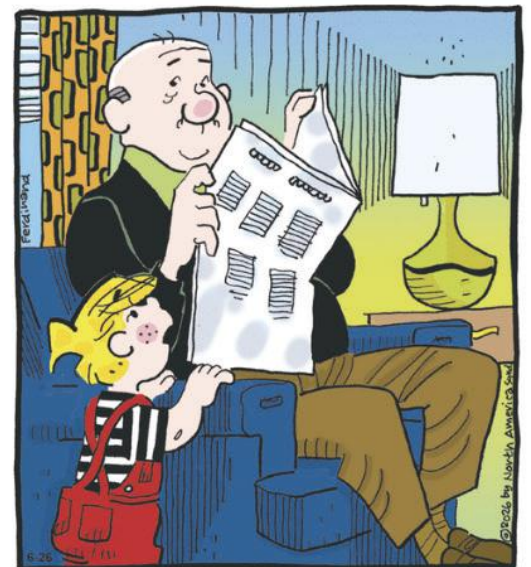


NEWSLINE TCI COMICS

Do you ever come across a picture of your ex and think, "I DON'T KNOW WHAT DEMON POSSESSED ME TO DATE THEM BUT I'M GLAD IT'S MOVED ON TO A NEW HOST"?



"Guess who wants another glass of water."



"HOW OLD DO YOU HAVE TO BE BEFORE YOU CAN'T SLEEP?"



National Trust Turks and Caicos Islands. (2020). Cultural Heritage and Traditional Music of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Sadler, H. (2006). Turks and Caicos Islands: Lands of Discovery. Macmillan Caribbean.

Visit Turks and Caicos Islands. (2019). Culture, Music and Festivals of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

RIPSAW music

NEWSLINE

Heritage

For generations, Ripsaw Music has been a defining sound of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Recognised as the national music of the islands, ripsaw reflects the creativity and resilience of a people who transformed simple tools into instruments of cultural expression (Visit Turks and Caicos Islands, 2019).

At the heart of ripsaw music is the carpenter's handsaw, an ordinary tool repurposed to create a unique rhythmic sound. The saw is bent and scraped with a metal object, such as a knife or screwdriver, producing a distinctive scraping tone known as "ripping" (National Trust TCI, 2020). This sound forms the foundation of the music, often accompanied by drums, shakers, and other instruments. The rhythm is lively and expressive, commonly heard at festivals, community gatherings, and cultural celebrations across the islands (Sadler, 2006).

Ripsaw music is believed to have developed during the islands' early working years, when labourers used whatever materials were available to create music and pass the time. Like many forms of Caribbean folk music, it emerged from everyday life and reflects the shared experiences of the people (Visit Turks and Caicos Islands, 2019).

Over time, ripsaw has evolved while remaining rooted in tradition. It continues to be performed by local musicians and passed down through generations, preserving a sound that is uniquely Turks and Caicos. Today, ripsaw music stands as a powerful symbol of national identity and cultural pride. Its distinctive rhythm and resourceful origins serve as a reminder that the islands' heritage is not only seen, but also heard in the sounds that bring communities together (National Trust TCI, 2020).





ORANGE COUNTY UNIVERSITY CONFERS HONORARY DOCTORATE ON DR. COURTNEY S. ROBINSON

On Saturday, June 6th, Orange County University conferred an honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Strategic Communications and Leadership on Dr Courtney S. Robinson, recognising a distinguished career that has married creative practice with institutional reform, cultural stewardship and public service.

The degree was awarded during a convocation ceremony, drawing civic leaders, alumni and family to celebrate a life devoted to creative arts and sustained, sacrificial, and transformative public service.

University officials paid tribute to Dr Robinson's decades-long work across government communications, destination marketing and branding, media and event production, and mentorship. His pioneering establishment of editorial governance, rapid-response protocols and cross-platform communications frameworks has strengthened governmental institutional credibility and helped build public trust in times of crisis. In tourism and cultural sectors, he has insisted on authenticity, sustainability and the ethical representation of heritage, creating practical pathways for talent and communities to benefit from their own stories.

"Dr Robinson exemplifies the principled, innovative leadership our graduates and honourees should aspire to," said President, Pauline Kim. "This honorary doctorate recognises not simply a record of achievement but a practice of stewardship — the capacity to transform institutions so they outlast individuals, to communicate with clarity and conscience, and to open doors for others. His work in embedding transparency and systems across government and industry has raised the standards of public life and strengthened the social fabric that underpins resilient communities."

Dr Robinson's career spans service with the Turks and Caicos Islands Government Information Service, strategic roles with the Turks and Caicos Tourist Board and Experience Turks and Caicos, and international appointments and



consultancies.

He founded Islander Fashions and launched the TCI Top Model Contest, initiatives that moved fashion, modelling and creative arts into sustainable careers through rigorous training and exposure, international placements and industry networks. As a founding member of the Turks and Caicos Islands Cultural Group, he professionalised heritage performance, advocating for faithful representation and cultural dignity.

Accepting the honour, Dr. Robinson framed the doctorate as both recognition and responsibility. "This doctorate is a profound affirmation that perseverance, communication, and leadership are more than discipline, technique, and integrity — they are a public covenant," he said. "Across my life's work, I have learned that how we live and tell our stories shapes who we become as a people. Teachers and mentors taught me to listen before speaking. Communities taught me to centre dignity in representation; colleagues taught me to build systems that endure change. I accept this degree not

as a culmination but as a mandate: to deepen mentorship for emerging practitioners, to defend transparency even when it is uncomfortable, and to design

approaches that serve the public interest and uphold cultural integrity.

If we get this right, our narratives will do more than attract visitors or media to the Turks and Caicos — they will strengthen livelihoods, reinforce institutions, and honour the custodians of our histories."

Beyond policy and programmes, Dr Robinson's enduring legacy lies in human capital. His apprenticeship pipelines and mentorship have multiplied skilled professionals across the creative, tourism and public sectors, enabling alumni to access regional and global markets while remaining rooted in hometown culture.

Orange County University's decision to confer the doctorate underscores the institution's commitment to recognising leadership that combines creative sensibility with policy acumen and ethical stewardship. The award celebrates not only past achievements but also the ongoing work of building institutions, uplifting communities and ensuring that communication serves the common good.



Life Line FEATURED CHURCH

Christ Is The Answer Ministries

This week on NEWSLINE's Life-Line Featured Church, we turn the spotlight on Christ is the Answer Ministries. Christ is the Answer Ministries, located at George Alley off Aviation Drive (the Street Opposite Mackey's Tires), Providenciales, is pastored by Bishop Dr. Sherlock Padmore.

The church has provided weekly opportunities for worship. On Sunday at 7p.m. Sunday Service. Bible Study is held on Tuesdays at 7pm. For further information on how to attend church services, contact 241-8030.



Life line Church Directory

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

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

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

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

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

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

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



ALMI Celebrates Fathers' Day

Abundant Life Ministries International celebrated Fathers' Day on Sunday, June 21, during its Sunday Service, where a number of fathers were awarded with gifts bags. Former Deputy Commissioner of Police Albert Grant was named man Father of the Year by that ministry. The following are photo highlights of the event.





TCI's Almando Rigby Appointed GM at St. Lucia's Windjammer Landing Resort & Residences

Turks and Caicos Islander Almando Rigby has been appointed General Manager at the luxurious Windjammer Landing Resort & Residences in St. Lucia, which took effect on June 15, 2026.

Rigby brings more than 20 years of progressive experience leading ultra-luxury resorts across the Caribbean. Rigby most recently served as Executive Assistant Manager at Rock House Resort, part of the Grace Bay Resorts, Turks & Caicos sorts portfolio in Turks and Caicos.

In this role, Rigby will lead more than 145 colleagues across six key divisions, including Rooms, Food & Beverage, Spa, Engineering, Finance, and Sales & Marketing.

Previously, he was Director of Rooms with Grace Bay Resorts, where he upheld Forbes-level service standards across all guest touchpoints. His earlier career spans senior roles in resort operations and retail management, where he developed a strong expertise in financial management, team leadership, and daily operations.

As General Manager of Windjammer Landing, Rigby will oversee all aspects of resort operations, focusing on strengthening performance, driving revenue, and enhancing the overall guest experience. He will lead

all departments to ensure consistent service standards, operational efficiency, and a seamless delivery across the resort.

"Almando brings a depth of experience in leading luxury resort operations and managing high-performing teams," said Nick Prattas, Vice President and Managing Director of Windjammer Landing Resort & Residences. "His expertise in providing guests with a high-end luxury experience aligns with Windjammer's elevated service standards. We look forward to his leadership, strengthening operations, and continuing to build on the exceptional standards our guests have come to expect."

Rigby holds a Certificate in Hospitality & Tourism Management from Florida Atlantic University and is currently pursuing an MBA in Strategic Management. He is a certified speaker, coach, and trainer with expertise in team building.

"I am honoured to join Windjammer Landing as its new General Manager," said Rigby. "The resort has built a strong reputation for outstanding hospitality. I look forward to working with the team to build upon that foundation, further elevate the guest experience, and reinforce its position as one of the Caribbean's leading lux-



Almando Rigby

ury resorts."

Rigby's appointment marks an exciting new chapter for Windjammer Landing following an extensive \$40 million renovation and the addition of La Belle Hélène, an ultra-exclusive ten-bedroom estate set in the UNESCO-protected region of Soufrière. Set along the coastline of Saint Lucia,

Windjammer Landing offers a relaxed yet refined beachfront experience, where natural beauty, cultural and understated luxury come together. From its crescent-shaped beach to its spacious villas and suites, the resort is designed to deliver comfort, privacy, luxury, and effortless sophistication.

Government Monitors Ebola Outbreak In The Congos and Uganda

The Ministry of Health and Human Services is closely monitoring the ongoing Ebola outbreak currently affecting the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and parts of Uganda.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern due to the spread of the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola virus disease.

At this time, there are no confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease in Turks and Caicos Islands or elsewhere in the Caribbean region. The Ministry wishes to reassure the public that the overall risk to the Caribbean remains low. Nevertheless, precautionary measures are being strengthened in line with international public health guidance and recommendations.

Ebola virus disease is a severe and often fatal illness caused by infection with the Ebola virus. The disease is spread through direct contact with

the blood, bodily fluids, or tissues of an infected person or infected animal. Transmission may also occur through contact with contaminated surfaces, medical equipment, or during unsafe burial practices. Ebola is not spread through the air like the common cold or influenza.

Symptoms of Ebola may appear between 2 and 21 days after exposure and can include:

- Sudden fever
- Severe weakness and fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle and joint pain
- Sore throat
- Vomiting and diarrhoea
- Abdominal pain
- Unexplained bleeding or bruising in severe cases

The Ministry advises members of the public to seek medical attention immediately if they develop symptoms after recent travel to affected areas or after

contact with a suspected case. Early medical care improves outcomes and support recovery.

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with regional and international partners including the Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and UKHSA (UK Health Security Agency), has activated enhanced surveillance and preparedness measures, including:

- Increased monitoring at ports of entry and airports
- Strengthened screening protocols for travellers arriving from affected regions
- Ongoing communication with regional public health agencies and the World Health Organization
- Review of national emergency response and isolation protocols
- Training and sensitization of healthcare workers on infection, prevention, and control (IPC)
- Ensuring

adequate stocks of personal protective equipment and medical supplies. Health officials continue to assess the situation daily and will provide timely updates as necessary.

While the outbreak in Central Africa is serious and evolving, the Ministry emphasises that preparedness systems across the Caribbean have been strengthened significantly in recent years through regional collaboration and lessons learned from previous public health emergencies.

The Ministry of Health urges the general public to review travel plans and consider avoiding travelling to or transiting through Ebola-affected countries at this time.

The public is encouraged to rely on information from official sources and to avoid spreading misinformation.

The Ministry of Health remains committed to protecting the health and safety of all residents and visitors.



ISP founder Christel Chantoiseau



Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor

Island Scholars Program Expands Mission to Empower Students Across Turks and Caicos

What started as a single effort to help one student achieve her dream of studying abroad has evolved into a growing national initiative aimed at preparing Turks and Caicos Islands students for academic and professional success.

The Island Scholars Program (ISP), an initiative of the TCI Education Foundation, hosted its First Appreciation Night on Wednesday at Pelican Bay Restaurant and Bar in Grace Bay, bringing together educators, government officials, community leaders and supporters to celebrate the program's early achievements and outline plans for future expansion.

Speaking at the event, ISP founder Christel Chantoiseau explained that the program was born from a simple but powerful experience.

"A mother approached me because she wanted her daughter to study in Canada but found the admissions process overwhelming," Chantoiseau said, recalling how she helped guide the student through school selection, admissions, visa requirements and pre-departure preparations. The student is now set to begin her studies in Canada this September and plans to return home as a qualified nurse to serve her community.

Inspired by that success, Chantoiseau partnered with entrepreneur and mentor Ajay Vyas to create a program that could help more students access educational opportunities beyond the islands.

Over the past several months, ISP has delivered free seminars in high schools across Providenciales and South Caicos, focusing on career preparation, post-secondary education opportunities and academic pathways available after high school. The program is expected to expand to North Caicos, Middle Caicos and



A group photo with the attendees at the event

Grand Turk during the next academic year.

"Talent is universal, but opportunity is not," Chantoiseau told attendees. "Island Scholars Program is here to help bridge that gap."

Minister of Education Rachel Taylor praised the initiative and emphasized the importance of strengthening connections between secondary and tertiary education.

Taylor said the Government currently supports approximately 146 students studying overseas and sees opportunities for collaboration between ISP, the Ministry of Education and the Scholarship Secretariat to better support students before and during their studies abroad.

She also highlighted the need to begin career planning earlier, encouraging students and parents to consider educational pathways as early as third form.

"It has to start even earlier than fifth form," Taylor said, noting that stu-

dents need guidance when selecting subjects that will ultimately influence their future careers.

Taylor further stressed the value of internships and workplace exposure, revealing that 380 students have already registered for the Ministry's internship and apprenticeship programs this year. She suggested that closer collaboration with ISP could help students connect classroom learning with real-world experience. Chairman of the TCI Education Foundation, Stuart Haynes, described the program as a "comprehensive incubator for excellence," designed to help students excel academically while preparing them for university admissions, internships and future careers.

"The Island Scholars Programme was born out of a simple yet profound mission to bridge the gap between academic potential and limitless global opportunity," Haynes said.

According to Haynes, the program is

already working with Year 9 students to help them make informed subject choices and is assisting older students with résumé writing, interview preparation and internship applications.

Vyas, who co-founded the initiative alongside Chantoiseau, thanked educators, principals and community partners for embracing the program. "It was just an idea six months ago," he said. "To be able to go out and do it in person, we would never have been able to do it without your support."

As the program prepares to expand throughout the islands, organizers say their goal remains simple: to ensure every student, regardless of background or location, has access to the guidance, mentorship and opportunities needed to reach their full potential.



Chairman of the TCI Education Foundation, Stuart Haynes

THE 1995 GENERAL ELECTION

Return to One man One Vote

Dr. Carlton Mills

Election Overview

The 1995 general election was held on February 2, 1995. It marked a major turning point in the country's electoral history, as the system returned to one-man, one-vote after two consecutive elections under the multi-constituency model. Under that earlier system, voters could cast multiple votes for candidates of their choice. The multi-constituency system had been introduced following Sir Roy Marshall's 1986 Report.

Return to Single-Member Constituencies

Another major feature of the 1995 election was the return to individual member constituencies. Under the previous multi-member system, there were five constituencies sharing thirteen seats. In 1995, the total number of seats remained at thirteen, but they were redistributed across thirteen separate constituencies.

Key Boundary Changes

Several important boundary changes accompanied this shift:

- Salt Cay, which had been attached to Grand Turk (South) since 1988, was restored as a separate constituency, as it had been in the 1976, 1980, and 1984 general elections.
- South Caicos retained two seats, once again divided into South Caicos (North) and South Caicos (South).
- Middle Caicos was separated from North Caicos and returned to a single-seat constituency.
- North Caicos was divided into North Caicos (East), including Bottle Creek, and North Caicos (West), including Kew, Whitby, and Sandy Point, as had been the case before 1988.
- Grand Turk retained four seats, but instead of being labeled as districts, the constituencies were named West Road, Over Back, North Back Salina, and South Back Salina.
- Providenciales gained an additional seat, bringing its total to three, with The Bight, Blue Hills, and Five Cays each becoming separate constituencies.

The Shift

The Electoral Boundaries Commission was established in December 1993 and formalized by proclamation on January 6, 1995. The move to single-member constituencies was enacted through the Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution (Amendment) Order 1993, which took effect on June 11, 1993. This reform was intended to strengthen localized representation and reduce problems such as voter intimidation in smaller multi-member areas, as identified by the 1986 Constitutional Commission. For the 1995 election, the thirteen constituencies were organized as follows:

- Grand Turk: West Road, Overback, North Backsalina, and South Backsalina
- Salt Cay: Fifth Constituency
- South Caicos: South Caicos (North) and South Caicos (South)
- Middle Caicos: Eighth Constituency
- North Caicos: North Caicos (East), including Bottle Creek, and North Caicos (West), including Kew, Whitby, and Sandy Point
- Providenciales: Constituencies 11, 12, and 13, representing The Bight, Blue Hills, and Five Cays

These boundaries were drawn to better reflect population distribution across the islands, replacing the broader multi-member groupings used under the earlier system.

Political Contest and Candidates

The 1995 election also marked a change in the political landscape. Since the 1988 election, no new political parties had been formed, and no independent candidates had contested seats. That changed in 1995.

The two established parties—the People's National Party (PNP), which formed the government at the time, and the People's Democratic Movement (PDM)—each fielded a full slate of thirteen candidates. In total, thirty-eight candidates contested the election.

A new party, the United Democratic Party (UDP), also entered the race under the leadership of Mr. Wendell Swann, a former Minister in the 1988 PDM government. He and another former affiliate broke away to form the party, although the UDP was able to contest only four seats. Seven independent

candidates also entered the election.

Among the most notable candidates was Mr. Norman Saunders, who returned to contest the election after his confinement in the United States. Not selected by the party he had helped to form; he chose to run as an independent aligned with the PNP.

Voter Participation

A total of 5,432 voters were registered for the election. Of these, 4,197 voted, producing a turnout rate of 76.8 percent. The election recorded 4,117 valid votes and 80 invalid ballots, continuing the islands' pattern of strong voter participation.

Election Results by Constituency Grand Turk (West Road)

West Road had 457 registered voters, with 371 ballots cast for a turnout of 81.18 percent. There were 17 spoiled ballots.

The PNP candidate, Clayton E. Been, received 142 votes, or 38.27 percent. He was defeated by Larry Coalbrooke of the PDM, who won 212 votes, or 57.14 percent.

Overback

Overback had 403 registered voters, with 318 ballots cast for a turnout of 78.91 percent. There were 4 spoiled ballots.

The PNP leader, Mr. Washington Misick, was returned with 204 votes, or 64.15 percent. His opponent, Mrs. Lillian Misick of the PDM, received 110 votes, or 34.59 percent. This was Mr. Misick's second consecutive victory in Grand Turk.

North Backsalina

North Backsalina had 460 registered voters, with 369 ballots cast for a turnout of 80.22 percent. There were 8 spoiled ballots.

Oswald Skippings of the PDM again emerged victorious, winning 61.78 percent of the vote. His PNP opponent, Cecil A. Ingham, received 141 votes, or 38.21 percent. This continued Mr. Skippings' winning streak since the 1976 general election. This made Mr. Skippings fifth consecutive election victory.

South Backsalina

South Backsalina, the largest constituency in Grand Turk, had 471 registered voters. Of these, 383 voted, producing a turnout of 81.32 percent—the highest in

Grand Turk. There were 0 spoiled ballots reported.

The PDM candidate and new party leader, Mr. Hugh Derek Taylor, won 220 votes, or 57.44 percent. His PNP rival, Oswald Williams, received 163 votes, or 42.55 percent. Mr. Williams had previously been a staunch supporter of the PDM before switching to the PNP. Among all Grand Turk candidates, Mr. Skippings recorded the highest vote share, with 61.78 percent.

Salt Cay

Salt Cay had 101 registered voters, of whom 92 voted, producing a turnout of 91.09 percent.

The PNP candidate, Ms. Arabella Smith, was again victorious with 53 votes, or 57.6 percent. Her PDM opponent (and longtime candidate) Mr. Leon Wilson, received 39 votes, or 42.39 percent. The UDP also fielded a candidate, Mr. Gerald Simmons, but he did not receive any votes.

South Caicos

South Caicos (North)

South Caicos (North) had 338 registered voters, with 273 ballots cast for a turnout of 80.77 percent. There were 8 spoiled ballots. The PNP candidate, Mrs. Emily Saunders, won with 173 votes, or 63.36 percent. Her PDM opponent, William Thomas, received 100 or 36.63 percent of the vote.

South Caicos (South)

South Caicos (South) had 358 registered voters, with 296 ballots cast for a turnout of 82.68 percent. There were 7 spoiled ballots. The PNP incumbent, Mr. Alden Durham, a former Minister in the PNP administration, received 106 votes. His PDM rival, Mr. Lewis Cox, who returned after sitting out the 1991 general election, received 71 votes, or 23.98 percent. This was Mr. Cox's fourth attempt at trying to win a seat in the electoral process in South Caicos.

Mr. Norman Saunders ran as an independent candidate and won with 112 votes, or 37.83 percent, defeating Mr. Durham by 6 votes. This was the first victory by an independent candidate since 1976.

Middle Caicos

Middle Caicos had 237 registered voters. Turnout reached 81.01 percent, with 5 spoiled ballots and 45 registered voters not voting.

The constituency again featured the familiar contest between Mr. Samuel Harvey of the PDM and Mr. Robert Hall. Mr. Harvey won with 106 votes, or 55.2 percent, while Mr. Hall received 86 votes, or 44.79 percent.

This was Mr. Harvey's second victory over Mr. Hall, although Mr. Hall still led their overall series of contests by three wins to two.

North Caicos

North Caicos (East)

North Caicos (East) had 527 registered voters, with 394 ballots cast for a turnout of 74.76 percent. There was 1 spoiled ballot.

The incumbent, former Minister Mr. Michael Misick of the PNP, won with 239 votes, or 74.36 percent. His opponent, Mr. Llewlyn Handfield of the PDM, also a former Minister in the PDM's 1988 administration, received 153 votes, or 38.83 percent.

Independent candidate Mr. Hubert James received 2 votes, or 0.5 percent.

North Caicos (West)

North Caicos (West) had 280 registered voters, almost half the

number recorded in North Caicos (East). A total of 245 voters cast ballots, producing a turnout of 87.5 percent.

The seat was contested by two brothers from opposing political parties, both of whom had roots in the constituency. Mr. Clarence Selver of the PDM won with 150 votes, or 61.22 percent, defeating his brother, Mr. Royal Robinson of the PNP, who received 95 votes, or 38.77 percent.

PROVIDENCIALES

The BIGHT

In this election, Providenciales was granted three seats each in a settlement.

In the Bight there was 504 registered voters with a voter turnout of 335 or 66.47% and 2 spoiled ballots. Mr. Oneal Delancy (PDM) gained 196 or 58.9% of the votes. Mr. Christopher Stubbs (PNP) 116 or 34.62% and Independent Candidate, Dr. Euan Menzies (now deceased) gaining 4 votes or 1.19% and the UDP candidate, Mr. Willette Swann gaining 13 or 3.88% of the votes.

In Blue Hills, there were 603 regis-

tered voters with a voter turnout of 430 or 71.31%. This constituency also saw three candidates contesting this seat. Incumbent Mr. Hilly Ewing (PDM) gained 218 or 50.6% of the votes, Mr. Albert Grant (PNP) 165 or 38.37% and UDP candidate and leader, Mr. Wendall Swann, 37 or 8.6% of the votes.

Finally, Five Cays had a total voter registration of 693 voters with 473 or 68.25% voter turnout. Both the PDM and PNP featured two new candidates for this election. The PDM candidate Mr. Staven Rigby gained 255 or 54.91% of the votes to his PNP rival, Ms. Lillian Been with 204 or 43.12% of the votes.

Observations

Several key observations can be drawn from the 1995 general election.

Leadership and Party Performance

The PDM entered the election under new leadership, with Mr. Hugh D. Taylor at the helm. After losing the 1991 general election to the PNP, the party returned to power in 1995, winning eight seats to the PNP's four, with one seat going to an independent candidate, Mr. Norman Saunders, in South Caicos (South).

Shortly after the election, Mr. Saunders rejoined the PNP, the party he had helped to found. Under Mr. Taylor's leadership, the PDM increased its position by three seats compared with the 1991 result.

The PDM won three of the four constituencies in Grand Turk, as well as Middle Caicos, North Caicos (West), and all three seats in Providenciales. The remaining seats were won by the PNP. The UDP performed poorly, and none of its candidates secured enough votes to qualify for reimbursement. After six general elections, it was clear that the Turks and Caicos Islands remained committed mainly to the two established political parties.

Turnout and Popular Vote

Salt Cay recorded the highest voter turnout at 91.09 percent, while The Bight had the lowest at 66.47 percent.

In the popular vote, the PDM received 2,058 votes, or 49.99 percent; the PNP received 1,887 votes, or 45.83 percent; and independent candidates received 172 votes, or 4.18 percent. Of the independent total, Norman Saunders accounted for 112 votes in his

winning effort.

Historical Significance

The 1995 election was the sixth general election since the introduction of Ministerial Government. The PDM had won in 1976 after two independent candidates aligned with the party to form a majority. The PNP then won the 1980 and 1984 elections, while the PDM returned in 1988 with a landslide victory but lost in 1991. Its success in 1995 meant that, after six general elections, the two major parties were tied with three victories each.

The election also marked Mr. Hugh D. Taylor's emergence as the fifth individual to hold the office of Chief Minister. It further meant that three officeholders had come from the PDM and three from the PNP.

Notable Results

Mr. Michael Misick of the PNP recorded the highest vote share in the election, with 74.36 percent. At the other end of the scale, UDP candidate Mr. Gerald Simmons received no votes. Mr. Norman Saunders was the only independent candidate to win a seat.

Regional Patterns

Despite the PNP's overall defeat, the party remained strong in Grand Turk through its candidate Mr. Washington Misick. Although Providenciales gained additional representation, all three seats there were won by the PDM. It is also believed that after winning the election in 1991, during his term in office (1991 – 1995), Mr. Misick made a significant number of civil servants redundant, hence his defeat being a bittersweet moment for redundant civil servants.

In South Caicos, Mr. Norman Saunders' victory over PNP incumbent Mr. Alden Durham could also be viewed as an indirect success for the PNP, given his later return to the party.

Following this election, the country waited in anticipation to see what plans the new Chief Minister, Hon. Hugh Derek Taylor would unfold, and how he would address the unemployment state of those who were made redundant. Furthermore, Hon. Taylor was seen as an honest man, a man of integrity and above all else, god-fearing. To many, these were the qualities that they wanted in a leader.

Dr. Carlton Mills is a historian and a former minister of education, and former vice president of the TCI Community College

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More young adults are being diagnosed with gastrointestinal cancers

You may have heard that colorectal cancer is increasingly affecting young adults. However, it is not the only gastrointestinal (GI) cancer that doctors are diagnosing in patients below the age of 50, explains Christina Wu, M.D., an oncologist at Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center in Arizona.

"People under 50 are not too young to develop gastrointestinal cancers," Dr. Wu says. "If young adults notice new or persistent symptoms, it's important to get them worked up."

At Mayo Clinic, early-onset gastrointestinal cancers are defined as GI cancers diagnosed in people under 50 years old. Research shows that the most common type of early-onset GI cancer worldwide is colorectal cancer, followed by stomach cancer, esophageal cancer and pancreatic cancer. Less common types of early-onset GI cancers include bile duct, gallbladder, appendix, neuroendocrine and small bowel cancers.

"More research needs to be done to understand what causes the rise in incidence of early-onset GI cancers," Dr. Wu says. "We know that certain factors can increase the risk of developing GI cancers, and early detection gives patients a better chance of successful treatment."

Risk factors

Several factors can increase the risk of developing early-onset GI cancers, including genetic conditions, chronic diseases and

lifestyle:

Lynch syndrome and familial adenomatous polyposis are hereditary conditions that are associated with an increased risk of early-onset colorectal cancers.

Inflammatory bowel disease and primary sclerosing cholangitis can increase the risk of developing GI cancers such as colorectal cancer and cholangiocarcinoma, respectively.

A sedentary lifestyle, obesity, diets high in processed foods, alcohol consumption, smoking and environmental exposures may be associated with an increased risk of GI cancers.

Early detection and symptoms

Recommendations for when people at average risk for colorectal cancer should be screened vary by country but generally start in their 40s or early 50s. In the U.S., colorectal cancer screening is recommended to start at age 45 for people at average risk; people with risk factors such as a family history of colorectal cancer may need to start screening earlier.

Having a primary care clinician, getting regular health checkups and discussing any health concerns with a healthcare professional can help determine what screening or tests may be needed, depending on individual risk factors.

In some cases, symptoms of early-onset GI cancers may present and be associated with

specific cancer types:

- Unintentional weight loss with jaundice and pain may indicate pancreatic cancer.

- Weight loss, pain, and difficulty eating or swallowing may be linked to stomach cancer.

- A persistent change in bowel habits, abdominal pain and iron-deficiency anemia may be associated with colorectal cancer.

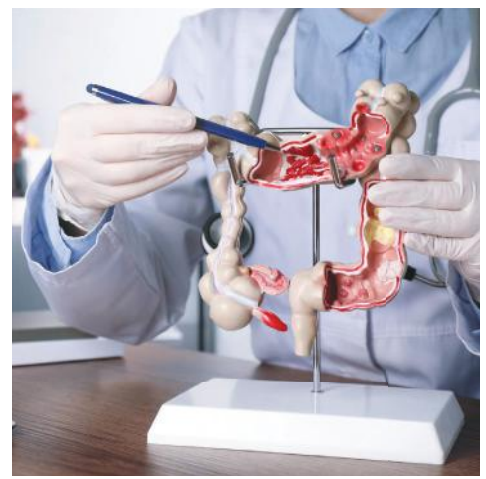
"Any new symptoms that are persistent or worrisome should prompt a visit to a healthcare professional to get checked out. If symptoms are ignored or not investigated, young adults may experience a delay between when they first experience symptoms and a cancer diagnosis. Recognizing symptoms early is important," Dr. Wu explains.

Tailoring care for younger adults

Young adults diagnosed with GI cancers often need multidisciplinary care due to differences in cancer biology, as well as unique social and life-stage needs.

"Before starting treatment, we perform genetic testing and tumor profiling to identify mutations that may guide targeted therapies," says Dr. Wu. "These advances allow us to provide more personalized and effective treatment for our patients."

In addition, young adults may require support, such as fertility preservation and resources to navigate the emotional and prac-



tical challenges of a cancer diagnosis. Mayo Clinic's Early-Onset and Hereditary GI Cancers Program provides specialized, multidisciplinary care for this patient population.

Innovations in treatment

With advances in genetic testing and tumor profiling, cancer care teams can provide more personalized and targeted treatments, including immunotherapy in some cases, and identify patients who may be eligible for clinical trials. Analysis of the tumor helps guide treatment decisions and identify appropriate therapies.

For certain GI cancers, treatment may involve a combination of chemotherapy, radiation (including proton beam therapy) and surgery. Advances in treatment, including minimally invasive approaches and immunotherapy, are improving care for some GI cancers.

Mayo Clinic researchers have been exploring the use of artificial intelligence as an additional aid in the detection of GI cancers such as colorectal cancer and pancreatic cancer.

When does Alzheimer's really begin? New research suggests changes start in the late 50s



years before symptoms, and it is associated with cognitive decline. There currently is no cure.

Mayo Clinic researchers identified when these changes tend to occur throughout the lifespan. Earlier detection can give patients and families more time to plan, to access care and to benefit from treatments that may slow progression.

Using data from 2,082 participants in the long-running Mayo Clinic Study of Aging, researchers analyzed a wide range of measures — including blood biomarkers, brain imaging and cognitive performance — to identify when Alzheimer's-related changes begin to speed up.

"This population-based study provides an integrated view of age-related patterns across multiple Alzheimer's biomarkers measured in blood and imaging, plus cognition," says Mingzhao Hu, Ph.D., assistant professor in Mayo Clinic's Department of Quantitative Health Sciences and first author of the study. "By estimating the ages when changes in health markers become more noticeable, the results show that many of these shifts tend to happen from late 50s through early 70s."

The future of detecting Alzheimer's

"As Alzheimer's research shifts toward prevention and earlier treatment, blood biomarkers will play a central role in identifying who is best suited for these therapies," says Jonathan Graff-Radford, M.D., chair of Behavioral Neurology at Mayo Clinic and senior author of the study. "Knowing when these biomarkers start to change,

and when they relate to cognitive impairment, helps point us to the ages when prevention screening could have the greatest impact."

Researchers found that many Alzheimer's-related biomarkers show that changes begin to accelerate at specific ages.

Measurable declines in cognitive performance were seen to accelerate in people who are in their late 50s, followed by more rapid amyloid accumulation in the brains of people in their early 60s — pointing to an early 60s window when cognitive and amyloid changes become more pronounced. The buildup of amyloid-beta proteins that clump together to form plaques in the brain is a primary hallmark of the disease.

By the late 60s to early 70s, biomarkers of tau pathology and neurodegeneration show more pronounced increases. Several blood-based markers — including plasma GFAP, NfL and p-tau — show steeper changes around ages 68 to 72, alongside more evident brain atrophy, particularly in memory-related regions. Two broad windows emerged, around the early 60s for cognition and amyloid PET, and around the late 60s to early 70s for several blood and neurodegeneration markers, highlighting these key transitional periods in the aging process.

Moving toward earlier detection

Understanding the timeline of Alzheimer's disease progression could be critical for shifting care from late-stage treatment to earlier detection and prevention. Researchers point out that the findings re-

flect overall population trends, rather than precise predictions for any one individual. However, they offer direction for future research, including examining whether these "breakpoints" can predict cognitive decline, confirming the results in more diverse populations and tracking individuals over time to better understand how the disease progresses.

The results of the study also reinforce the growing role of blood tests in Alzheimer's research and care. These tests showed patterns similar to brain imaging, suggesting they could be used to monitor disease-related changes over time and identify people at higher risk.

"When you think about population screening, the critical issue is timing," says Dr. Graff-Radford. "You don't want to start too early, before biomarkers change, and this work provides a way to begin addressing that," adds Dr. Graff-Radford.

The work also helps inform research into screening and monitoring by identifying age ranges when blood tests may be most informative. Additionally, several of the blood marker patterns were consistent across two commonly used laboratory platforms, supporting that the findings are not tied to a single assay.

This research is part of a broader effort at Mayo Clinic known as the Precure initiative. It focuses on developing tools to help clinicians detect and address disease-related changes earlier, before symptoms appear or conditions become harder to treat.

.A study found that biological changes associated with the disease could begin as early as the late 50s — decades before memory loss appears.

Subtle biological changes linked to Alzheimer's disease may begin as early as the late 50s — decades before memory loss or other symptoms appear — according to new research from Mayo Clinic.

The study, published in *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*, maps when key brain and blood-based changes tend to accelerate across the lifespan, offering new insight into when detection and prevention efforts could have the greatest impact.

Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia, affects about 6.9 million people in the U.S. aged 65 and older. It involves abnormal changes in proteins such as amyloid and tau that can begin

Gramps Morgan joins Stephen Marley and Buju Banton's Roots and Rhymes Summer Tour

Reggae artiste Gramps Morgan has joined Stephen Marley and Buju Banton's Roots and Rhymes summer tour. Morgan is scheduled to perform on twelve shows, beginning on June 26, and ending on July 18.

In an interview with Observer Online, Morgan said it was a big deal for him to perform alongside his musical brothers. "It is a very big deal to me, knowing that I get to share a stage with two of my music brothers. We've always dreamt of doing a tour like this, but it is also a little bittersweet because I wish my brother (Peetah Morgan) was here to share this moment, and it would even be stronger doing the tour as Morgan Heritage and my brother singing the lead vocals but I know he's watching down and smiling and will be enjoying many of the shows as we all share a stage together—three families: Marley, Myrie and Morgan," said Gramps.

The tour will visit cities including Bethel and Elmont in New York, Cincinnati in Ohio, Boston, Massachusetts, Bridgeport, Connecticut, Dallas, Texas, Huntsville, Alabama, Detroit, Michigan, and Chicago, Illinois.



Buju Banton addresses students via megaphone in the halls of Ascend Public Charter Schools in Brooklyn, New York, as part of the Principal For The Day series.

"Some of the venues where we will be performing are pretty big and some are midsize. These are two of the biggest names in reggae music who have done it at the highest level, coming together to do this. This is a great statement for our genre of music and our culture,"

Morgan disclosed.

While he will be sharing the stage with Banton and Marley, Gramps will also be headlining his very own solo No Water in My Whiskey tour.

"I will also be doing a show of my own on July 4, which will be a day off for ev-

eryone else in Kansas City. Missouri is where that show will take place, then I move on with my family, Morgan Heritage, to Reggae Land in the UK, performing August 1, then I continue on with four more shows in the UK and then close out in Amsterdam at Reggae Lake August 15. Later in the fall, I have a few more dates, including the West Coast in the United States," Morgan shared.



Gramps Morgan

Usher says R&B deserves stadium stage - Singer defends tour with Chris Brown

As Usher prepares to launch a stadium tour with Chris Brown, he says the criticism and legal troubles surrounding the singer never factored into his decision to embark on the tour.

"Absolutely not," Usher told The Associated Press. "He's my brother, and he's amazing as a performer. That's who I see. He works hard for his fans, and his fans support him." Brown has remained one of R&B's biggest stars despite years of legal troubles and controversy. Last year, he pleaded not guilty in London to charges stemming from an alleged 2023 assault at a nightclub after previously being released on bail to continue touring. He also pleaded guilty in 2009 to felony assault for attacking then-girlfriend Rihanna.

For Usher, their North American tour — which kicks off Friday in Denver — represents something much bigger than two of R&B's brightest stars sharing a stage.

The 33-date tour follows blockbuster solo runs for both artistes. Fresh off headlining the Super Bowl half-time show in 2024, Usher's 'Past, Present, Future' tour sold more than 1.1 million tickets across North America, while Brown's 'Breezy Bowl XX' grossed nearly US\$300 million.

"It's not about me and my brother coming together," Usher said. "We come together in support of our fans of R&B."

Throughout the interview, Usher repeatedly returned to one message: R&B has



Usher (left) and Chris Brown

helped shape modern music while rarely receiving equal recognition.

"It deserves to be in a stadium," he said. "It is not just for theatres. It is not just for arenas. We do this ... too. We are major too. R&B is major too."

Usher said the tour also honours the artistes who laid the foundation for the

genre, citing Buddy Bolden, James Brown, Jackie Wilson, Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Marvin Gaye, Donny Hathaway, Prince, Luther Vandross, along with influential figures including Earth, Wind & Fire and Babyface.

"We're carrying it over there for them," he said.

Rather than viewing the tour as a competition between two of the genre's biggest performers, Usher said rehearsals have reflected the admiration they have for one another.

"When we run through the show, I look over, and I see Chris standing up doing my portion and dancing," he said. "When it would be my time, I'd be standing up, rooting him on. I love his music. I am encouraged by his music in the same way I feel like he's been encouraged and inspired by mine."

Usher said the partnership fulfils a vision that dates to Brown's earliest days in the music business.

"When he first started his career, having been there as a mentor, a person to support what he did, some portion of my 25-year-old self was kind of like, 'Man, I'm still building. Let's someday get to the point where there's an opportunity for us to share the stage together,'" he said.

Now, Usher believes the collaboration could inspire more artistes to rethink touring together.

"There is power in numbers," he said. "After this becomes the success that I know it's going to be, you will see more collaborations. You will see artistes beginning to understand, 'Wait a minute. We actually serve more of our fans when we bring them together, as opposed to trying to do it all by ourselves.'"

Windward, Core Construction, TCICC Launch TCI's First Construction Apprenticeship Program of Its Kind

Seven TCICC students begin paid, dual work-and-study training on active construction sites in a first for the Turks and Caicos Islands

Windward, Core Construction, and the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC) have launched an apprenticeship program that is the first of its kind in the Turks and Caicos Islands, creating a direct, structured pathway from education to skilled employment in the construction industry for youth in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The 10-month program which commenced earlier this month, was formally launched with a total of seven trainees, on Monday, June 22, 2026 at Arc, South Bank's flagship neighbourhood, in the presence of government ministers, industry partners, and the inaugural cohort.

This apprenticeship initiative serves as a vital adjunctive immersive experience for trainees registered in the 3-month internationally recognized National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Core Construction program at TCICC. It enables them to immediately apply and hone the foundational skills acquired in the classroom through real-world, hands-on engagement on active construction sites.

The program follows a structured dual model: full 8-hour paid workdays on active Windward construction sites managed by Core Construction, including Arc at South Bank, designed by world-renowned architect, Piero Lissoni, and Nivå on Turtle Tail, designed by Magnus Ström of Ström Architects, followed by evening classroom and practicum workshop training and sessions delivered by TCICC's instructors at its East Campus.

The trainees will complete approximately 87.5 hours of foundational theoretical instruction across safety, construction mathematics, hand and power tools, blueprint reading, and basic rigging, supported by face-to-face classroom theory, hands-on workshop practicals, and augmented and virtual reality simulations.

Upon completing the NCCER Core Curriculum/Certification, trainees have the opportunity to progress to Level 1 specialized craft training across disciplines including carpentry, electrical, plumbing, HVACR,

and welding. In addition, at the conclusion of the apprenticeship period, there is a guaranteed offer of full-time employment with Core Construction for a minimum of one year.

The program is the first in the Turks and Caicos Islands in the area of construction to combine paid, on-site work experience with internationally recognized credentials and guaranteed employment in a single, continuous pathway.

"Windward is extremely proud to be a Founding Partner of this initiative. Across all our projects, past and present, we have always looked for ways to return value to our community, whether through participation in initiatives, contributing to community infrastructure, or building it ourselves. We pride ourselves on projects that stand the test of time and add long-lasting value to the communities in which they are built. Arc is a unique opportunity to expose our young apprentices to world-class design and modern construction techniques, and through our partnership with Core Construction and the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College, we are investing in our most valuable asset, the young people of this country. We would very much like to make this type of partnership a standard in the industry, as opposed to an exception. Because not only can we build better structures, but brighter futures."

Ivor Stanbrook, Director, Windward

"This is not just the launch of an apprenticeship program. For us, it is a statement about the future of this country, about who it belongs to. For too long, we have measured development by the things we can see — the resorts, the marinas, the villas. But a country like the Turks and Caicos Islands is not only about what is built. It is about the people that build it. And if the buildings rise and our people do not rise with them, we have measured the wrong thing. Through this program, we are turning the language of opportunity into its machinery. A skill is not just a job. A job can be lost. But a skill can travel with you —

from employment to ownership, it can earn a wage, build a home, and give young people the dignity and leverage that an economy like ours demands. The young people who pass through this program will not only build projects. They will build this country."

Kyle Smith, Director, Windward

"Construction is one of the most significant industries in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and it should be one where local talent leads. Through the projects we are developing, we are not only building infrastructure — we are contributing to the growth and long-term development of the islands. But today, we are here to celebrate something even more important — the opportunity to invest in people. This program reflects our commitment not only to deliver construction projects, but to share knowledge, develop local talent, and support the next generation of construction professionals. We see this as a long-term commitment, not a one-time initiative."

Liliana Navarro, Financial and Administrative Director, Core Construction

"This event represents far more than the launch of a program. It is a launch of opportunity. Through internationally recognized NCCER training, paid apprenticeships, hands-on industry experience, and a pathway to full-time employment,



Toriano Williams, Deputy Director of the Physical Planning Department

we are creating opportunities for young Turks and Caicos Islanders to develop the skills, the confidence, and the qualifications needed to succeed in the construction industry. To our corporate citizens and public stakeholders, partner with your local community college. Invest in apprenticeships, internships, and workforce training. Together, we can build a stronger, more skilled, more resilient workforce in the Turks and Caicos Islands."

Dr. Candice Williams, President and CEO, Turks and Caicos Islands Community College

The program has drawn strong support from the Turks and Caicos Islands Government, with the Ministries of Education and Youth, Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development, Immigration, and



Kyle Smith (left) and Ivor Stanbrook (right) present a hardhat to one of the trainees



A section of the audience



Hon. Shaun Malcolm (right) and Ivor Stanbrook

Tourism all recognizing the initiative as a meaningful contribution to the islands' workforce development priorities.

"This is indeed true collaboration in action. The 2026 cohort represents the inaugural class of what Windward, Core Construction, and the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College intend to grow into a flagship annual program. This is not a one off initiative, it is the beginning of a sustained national effort. Our intentionality, our planning, and our shared commitment will help close the skills gap in the construction sector and ensure that our workforce development remains consistent, structured, and future focused. For the seven trainees who began earlier this month, this moment represents far more than training. It marks the start of a career built on real work, real standards, and a real stake in the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands. They are not just learning a trade, they are stepping into a pathway that strengthens our communities, supports our economy, and builds the very foundation of our nation's growth."

Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education and Youth, Turks and Caicos Islands

Appeal to Industry Partners

TCICC warmly invites other industry stakeholders, contractors, and construction professionals to partner with the Community College in this important initiative. By collaborating, we can ensure that every registered trainee in the NCCER Core program benefits from this same high-impact, immersive apprenticeship experience thus bridging the gap between training and real-world application, strengthening the local workforce, and building a more skilled and resilient construction sector in the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Toriana Ivor Stanbrook, Director, Windward



Dr. Candice Williams, President and CEO, Turks and Caicos Islands Community College



Kyle Smith, Director, Windward



Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education and Youth, Turks and Caicos Islands



Liliana Navarro, Financial and Administrative Director, Core Construction



CARICOM Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett

‘Defective decision’ - UWI professor rips CARICOM over ‘flawed’ reappointment of secretary-general

An independent legal opinion out of Trinidad and Tobago has described the controversial reappointment of CARICOM Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett as procedurally flawed, and legally void.

The conclusion was made in a 48-page document authored by Rajendra Ramlogan, professor of commercial and environmental law at The University of the West Indies, St Augustine.

The document, which was made public on Monday, determined that Barnett’s reappointment was invalid and not consistent with the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, as it lacked support from two-thirds of regional heads, noting that only 10 of the 15 member states had a say.

Ramlogan also indicated that foreign ministers and key delegates were illegally locked out of the decision-making process during a closed-door heads of government retreat in Nevis, following the 50th Regular Meeting of the Conference of CARICOM Heads of Government held in Basseterre, in February. Trinidad and Tobago’s Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar argued that the twin-island republic did not support either Barnett or the process that re-elected her.

The position triggered a dispute, driven by Port of Spain’s objections to the procedure used during the retreat, noting that its representative did not attend.

Persad-Bissessar left the summit early and had claimed that acting head of delegation, Foreign Affairs

Minister Sean Sobers, was not invited to the retreat.

CARICOM officials have countered that Sobers declined attendance, citing concerns about seasickness during the boat crossing to the venue.

Jamaica’s Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness subsequently called for a meeting of regional heads to resolve the matter.

“I think the solution really lies in assembling another heads meeting to have the matter addressed,” Holness said.

“That’s something that I have been pushing for quietly behind the scenes. I think it is distressing for a lot of persons within the region regarding what is being said in the public domain, but I know that all the heads are working behind the scenes to have this matter resolved,” Holness told Trinidad and Tobago’s Guardian newspaper last April in New York.

Ramlogan noted that the opinion does not proceed from any assessment of the personal suitability, competence or integrity of Barnett, the incumbent secretary-general.

“Rather, it addresses a narrower but more constitutionally important question: whether the process by which authority was renewed complied with the institutional and procedural requirements established under the Revised Treaty.

“On the material presently available, there is a substantial legal basis to question whether the reappointment satisfied the consti-

tutional framework governing such decisions. The concerns identified do not arise from one isolated procedural event but from the cumulative effect of several interconnected issues,” he concluded.

The university professor noted that Article 24 of the Revised Treaty vests the authority to appoint and reappoint the secretary-general explicitly in the Conference of Heads of Government.

He asserted that the decision was discussed and finalised during the retreat in Nevis, which operated under structurally distinct procedures from formal meetings of the conference.

He argued that because the body exercising authority was not functioning in the institutional form prescribed by the treaty, it lacked the competence to make a formal appointment.

Ramlogan said Article 11(2) of the treaty guarantees that any head of government may designate a minister or another representative to attend any meeting of the conference.

However, the retreat was strictly restricted to heads only via logistical mandates and communications, he said, which effectively barred designated representatives – foreign ministers of Trinidad and Tobago, The Bahamas, and Antigua and Barbuda, who were heading their respective delegations due to their heads’ absence – from participating.

Ramlogan pointed out that while Rule 19 of the CARICOM Rules of Procedure allows heads-only arrangements for confidential deliberations, Rule 19(4) explicitly dictates that representation rights revive when formal decisions are taken. Bypassing this constitutes an ultra vires use of subsidiary rules to override explicit treaty rights.

“The consequence is significant. A heads-only caucus may be lawful as a deliberative setting. A heads-only caucus cannot become the final decision-maker where the conference is exercising a formal Revised Treaty

function. Otherwise, Rule 19(4) of the Rules would become meaningless,” he said.

Additionally, he pointed out that article 24(1) requires that the appointment of the secretary-general occur “on the recommendation of the Council”, meaning the Community Council of Ministers.

He rejected arguments that reappointments are exempt from this requirement, noting that a reappointment is a fresh conferral of constitutional authority upon the expiration of a fixed term. Because the Community Council was bypassed and never issued a formal recommendation, Ramlogan said the constitutional balance of power was breached.

“Article 24 of the Revised Treaty establishes that the appointment of the secretary-general occurs by the conference on the recommendation of the Council. This opinion concludes that reappointment is part of the same constitutional appointment architecture rather than a separate, unconstrained process. Re-appointment is not administrative continuity but the conferral of renewed constitutional authority following expiry of a fixed term,” he argued.

He said the decision was executed in a closed environment and was notably omitted from the official conference communiqué published on March 11, 2026. Without proper plenary confirmation or formal adoption, Ramlogan said the decision lacked complete legal finality.

“In conclusion, the heads’ only restriction was inconsistent with the Revised Treaty because it deprived Trinidad and Tobago of the rights of participation guaranteed by Article 11(2) of the Revised Treaty and materially affected the integrity of Conference decision-making,” he said.

“...Consequently, the exclusion of the designated representatives rendered the resulting decision constitutionally defective and potentially void.”

Visa appoints Jorge Salum as Vice President and Country Manager for Greater Caribbean Markets

Miami – June 16, 2026. Visa Inc. (NYSE: V), a global leader in digital payments, today announced a leadership transition across its Caribbean operations, highlighted by the appointment of Jorge Salum as Vice President and Country Manager for Greater Caribbean Markets. In this newly created role, Salum will lead an expanded structure that brings together the Northern and Southern Caribbean (excluding Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic), covering 22 markets across the region.

“Jorge Salum’s appointment reflects Visa’s commitment to advancing the next phase of digital payments transformation across the Greater Caribbean. His deep expertise, strong track record, and understanding of these markets position him well to lead growth at a critical moment, as the region accelerates its shift from cash to secure digital commerce, expands financial inclusion, and strengthens its payment ecosystem. Jorge’s leadership will be instrumental in deepening partnerships with financial institutions, merchants, fintechs, governments, and other stakeholders to support more inclusive, resilient, and connect-



Jorge Salum as Vice President and Country Manager for Greater Caribbean Markets

ed economies across the Caribbean,” said Jorge Lemus, Senior Vice President and Group Country Manager, Visa, Caribbean and Central America. More recently, he served as Country Manager for the Southern Caribbean, leading markets such as the Dutch Ca-

ibbean, Guyana, Haiti, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago, while also heading the Business Development team for Caribbean and Central America.

“This is a meaningful opportunity to

help advance Visa’s work across the Greater Caribbean,” said Jorge Salum. “The region is entering a new stage of digital payments transformation, where the focus is not only on expanding access, but on creating trusted, seamless, and inclusive payment experiences that support everyday commerce, small-business growth, tourism, public-sector modernization, and cross-border connectivity. We will continue working closely with our clients and partners to scale innovative solutions, strengthen payment infrastructure, and help build more resilient and inclusive digital economies across the region.”

Salum will assume this role as part of a leadership transition following the retirement of Frank Gandarillas, who led the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean for nearly three decades. Gandarillas, who joined Visa in 1998, held multiple roles across the sales organization and most recently served as Country Manager for the Northern Caribbean, overseeing key client relationships in markets including The Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, and Turks & Caicos.

Train passed red signal before fatal crash – report

A train driver killed in a crash in Bedfordshire passed a red signal moments before the collision, investigators said. Train driver Shaun Burton, 60, died and 162 people were injured when one London-bound service crashed into the back of another on Friday, June 19. The Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) said in an interim report that Burton’s train proceeded past a red signal near the scene of the crash in Elstow, near Bedford at 17:15 BST.

It added that “it is not yet possible to say what indication the driver received” from automatic warning system (AWS) equipment fitted to the train.

The RAIB has found the stationary train had come to a stop “unexpectedly” because of a fault with its Automatic Warning System (AWS) equipment. Data suggests the signal behind the stationary train was red, according to investigators.

The train that had started its journey at Corby, passed this red signal, its brakes were activated for about nine seconds before the collision, when the train was travelling at about 76mph. Its speed had reduced to 49mph when the impact happened.

The RAIB said its full investigation would consider “the actions of those involved and any factors that may have influenced them”.

Dave Calfe, the general secretary of train driver union ASLEF, welcomed

the investigation and said the incident may have been avoided if the train protection and warning system (TPWS) had been installed in that location.

He said: “Because what will concern passengers, and what concerns us, is that there are safety systems that can be put in place to prevent such accidents happening and the network should have been able to cope.”

EPA/Shutterstock Out of focus emergency workers are stood near two crashed trains behind them. EPA/Shutterstock

About 100 people were injured in the crash, of which 53 remain in hospital. The 16:40 train from Corby collided with the 15:50 service from Nottingham at about 17:15 BST, just south of Elstow.

British Transport Police confirmed that 53 people remain in hospital and eight are in a critical condition.

Passenger Pete Knapp described the crash as being “like a bomb explosion”. Earlier Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer said his thoughts “were with all those injured” in the incident.

He told the House of Commons: “I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of the driver of the Corby to St Pancras train.

“His family have requested privacy, and we should all respect that. I send my deepest sympathies to them at this awful time.”

John Fairhall/BBC Train carriages on a

piece of land next to a railway, with a couple being moved on to a make shift road. John Fairhall/BBC

Train carriages have been removed using a crane and a temporary road. Emergency services, including multiple air ambulances and 70 firefighters, were sent to deal with the immediate aftermath.

Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander told the House of Commons that emergency services had acted “quickly, professionally and bravely”.

Cranes have been used to remove the trains involved in the crash, which

were then transported out using a temporary road put in place by construction workers.

British Transport Police officers have recovered a “significant amount of passenger property” which has been sent to a East Midlands Railway storage facility.

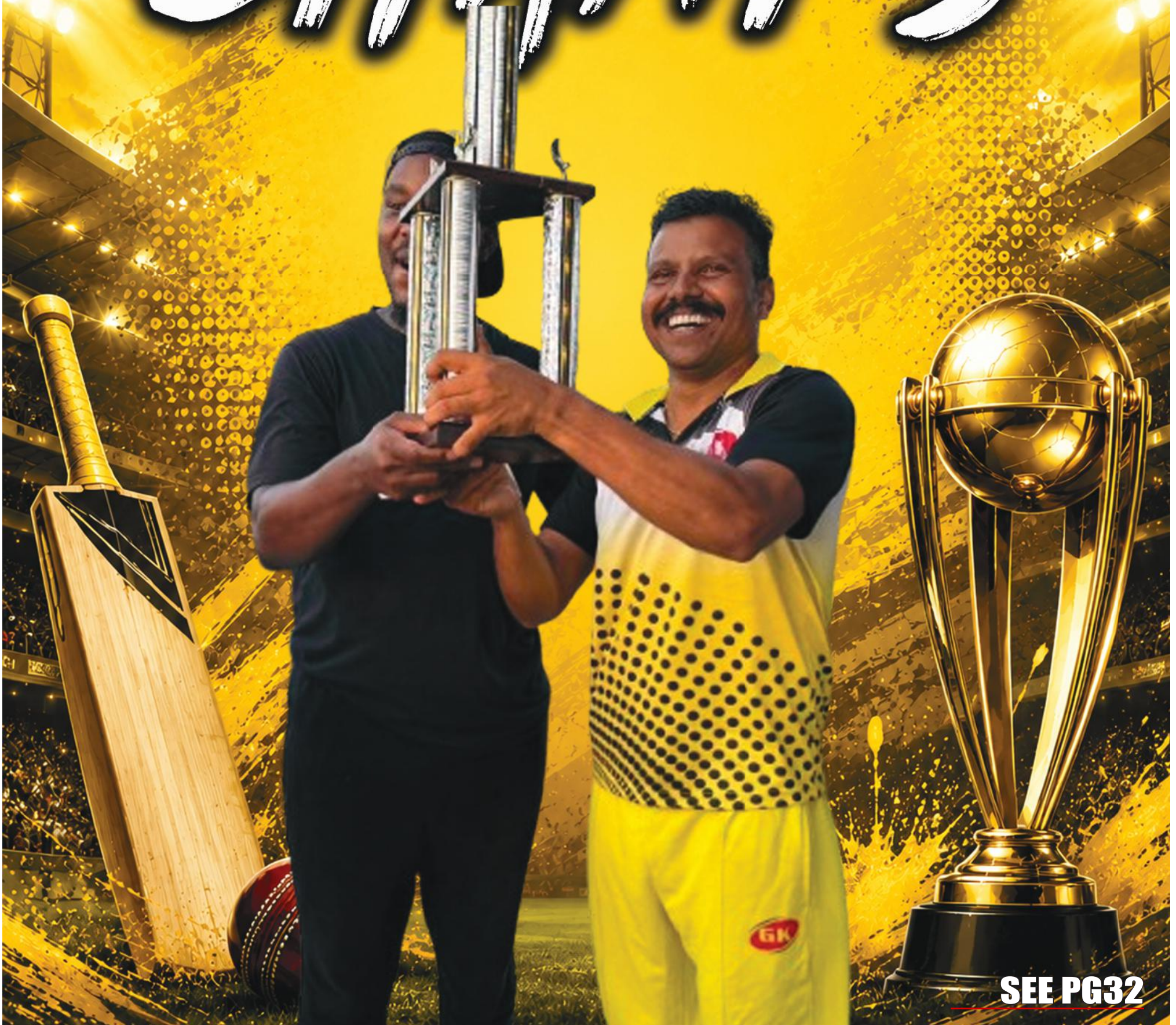
Those passengers who have lost items have been asked to contact the force so they can be returned.

Network Rail has warned that the Midland Main Line will remain closed to East Midlands Railway and Thameslink services until the end of the week.



Two damaged trains, the front of one purple train is crushed into the end of another, with severe impact damage visible around the cab area. One man died and about 100 people were injured in the collision on Friday, June 19.

GK ARE CRICKET CHAMPS



SEE PG32

Grand Turk to Host JAGS McCartney Road Relay on June 30



File photo of the Provo leg of the JAGS McCartney earlier this year

The Turks and Caicos Islands Commonwealth Games Association (TCICGA) and the Turks and Caicos Islands Amateur Athletic Association (TCIAAA), in partnership with the Department of Culture, will host the Rt. Excellent JAGS McCartney Road Relay on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, in Grand Turk.

The relay, which begins promptly at 4:30 p.m., carries special significance this year as it coincides with the birthday of the Right Excellent JAGS McCartney, the Turks and Caicos Islands' National Hero. The event forms part of ongoing national efforts to celebrate his life, leadership, and lasting contribution to

the development of the country. Organisers say the annual relay serves as both a sporting event and a tribute to one of the nation's most influential leaders.

"This relay is more than a sporting event, it is a powerful tribute to the life and vision of the Right Excellent JAGS McCartney," a representative of the organising committee stated. "As we mark his birthday, we are reminded of the responsibility we carry to uphold his legacy through unity, service, and national pride."

The relay will start at the JAGS McCartney Memorial Site before making its way through the island and concluding at the Parade Grounds.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to line the route and show their support by participating in the relay, whether through walking, running, or cheering on the participants.

Adding to the evening's festivities, spectators will be treated to an exhibition cricket match featuring the Titans Cricket Club immediately following the relay at the Parade Grounds.

Organisers expect strong community participation, with government officials, athletes, students, uniformed groups, cultural performers, and families all set to take part in the occasion. The event is designed

to be both reflective and celebratory, highlighting the importance of honouring national heroes while fostering unity and national pride.

The TCICGA and TCIAAA, together with the Department of Culture, are encouraging the public to come out early and support what promises to be an inspiring national event.

As the nation marks the birthday of its National Hero, the Rt. Excellent JAGS McCartney Road Relay will provide an opportunity for residents and visitors alike to celebrate his enduring legacy and reaffirm a shared commitment to building a stronger and prouder Turks and Caicos Islands for future generations.

Ivory Coast into World Cup knockout round as Pépé scores twice in 2-0 win over Curaçao

Ivory Coast got goals from Nicolas Pépé in each half and advanced to the World Cup knockout round for the first time in the West African team's history with a 2-0 victory over Curaçao on Thursday.

Les Éléphants have crashed the party and made it out of their group for the first time in four World Cup appearances.

Ivory Coast beat Ecuador 1-0 in its tournament opener — at the same Philadelphia stadium as Thursday's game — and lost to Germany in its Group E second game.

Ivory Coast will play on June 30 against either France or Norway, whichever is the runner-up in Group Curaçao needed to win and instead failed to become the smallest nation to qualify for the knockout stages.

Pépé, who plays for the Spanish club Villarreal, wiped out all the suspense in this one early, scoring in just the seventh minute, and the



Nicolas Pépé (19) celebrates with team mates after scoring his second goal against Caribbean team Curacao

lead held the rest of the game in front of an enthusiastic crowd that

made Les Éléphants feel at home. Ivory Coast held its training base in

nearby Delaware and practiced at the Philadelphia suburban home of Major League Soccer's Philadelphia Union.

Throw in a friendly (against the Union's second team), and the thrilling win in the 90th minute against Ecuador, and Les Éléphants found their adoptive fans among the crowd of 68,324 — about 40% of the population of Curaçao — at the home of the NFL's Eagles.

The fans in Ivory Coast orange went wild when Pépé scored again on a left-footed shot from the far corner in the 64th minute to seal the win. He was subbed out three minutes later to earn just a bit more rest for the June 30 game that will serve as the biggest one for the national team in World Cup history.

Ivory Coast needed only a draw to advance, yet played with a competitive fire the rest of the game and never let Curaçao seem close to getting even in this one.

Teachers FC Edges SWA Sharks in Thriller as Scott Fires Cheshire Hall to Big Win

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Teachers FC staged a spirited comeback to defeat SWA Sharks FC 3-2 in an exciting Under-16 Girls clash, while Cheshire Hall FC's Kommalapate Scott delivered a stunning four-goal performance to headline the Under-16 Boys action during last weekend's Pelican Energy Youth League matches at the TCIFA Playing Field in Providenciales.

The girls' contest provided the most dramatic encounter of the weekend, with SWA Sharks racing into an early two-goal lead before Teachers FC responded with three unanswered goals to secure a hard-fought victory.

SWA Sharks wasted little time asserting themselves as Fred Line Brave found the back of the net twice in the opening five minutes, scoring in the second and fifth minutes to give her side what appeared to be a commanding advantage.

Teachers FC, however, refused to be rattled by the early setback. Learning Martinez sparked the comeback in the 10th minute, reducing the deficit to 2-1 and shifting the momentum in her team's favour.

The equaliser came just before the halftime whistle when Wanderli Medinas scored in first-half stoppage time (20+1), sending the teams into the break locked at 2-2.

With the match finely balanced, Briangely Meises produced the decisive moment in the 38th minute, firing home the winner to complete Teachers FC's impressive comeback and seal a 3-2 victory.

Meises' influential display earned her the Most Valuable Player award for Teachers FC



The Provo United Team

after she not only netted the winning goal but also played a pivotal role in leading her team's second-half effort. The match was played without any cautions.

The Under-16 Boys division saw Cheshire Hall FC produce a dominant display against Provo United FC, cruising to a comfortable 4-0 victory behind an outstanding individual performance from Kommalapate Scott.

Scott was virtually unstoppable throughout the opening half, scoring all four goals before the interval to put the contest beyond

doubt.

He opened the scoring in the sixth minute before doubling Cheshire Hall's advantage in the 17th minute. The prolific striker completed his hat-trick in the 24th minute and capped a remarkable first-half display with his fourth goal in the 35th minute.

Cheshire Hall entered the halftime break with a commanding 4-0 lead and successfully maintained that advantage through the second half to secure all three points.

Scott's four-goal haul earned him the Most

Valuable Player award for Cheshire Hall FC, while Provo United's Gervens Mathurin was recognised as his team's MVP for his efforts despite the defeat.

In the weekend's other Under-16 Boys fixture, SWA Sharks FC recorded a convincing 3-0 victory over Beaches FC.

The Sharks established control of the match during the first half with two quick goals. Jonathan Malabre opened the scoring in the 23rd minute before Sharaad Goddard doubled the advantage just one minute later in the 24th minute.

SWA Sharks maintained their 2-0 lead for much of the second half before Edin Dieu-dome added a third goal in the 57th minute to put the result beyond doubt and complete the 3-0 triumph.

Although the match featured no goals for Beaches FC, it was more physical than the other contests, with three players receiving cautions. Emanome Jean was booked in the 11th minute, Xavier Carry received a caution in the 28th minute, and Charlie Thornhill was shown a yellow card two minutes later in the 30th minute.

Samuel Desronvil was named the Most Valuable Player for SWA Sharks following his all-round contribution to the team's victory, while Louriensley Valen earned MVP honours for Beaches FC.

The latest round of Pelican Energy Youth League matches continued to showcase the growing talent within the Turks and Caicos Islands' youth football programme, with exciting attacking football, standout individual performances and spirited competition across both the boys' and girls' divisions.

Morocco overcome historic Haiti goals to maintain World Cup momentum

Morocco twice overcame the shock of conceding to Haiti to win a World Cup thriller 4-2 in Atlanta on Wednesday, but missed out on top spot in Group C to Brazil.

Haiti bowed out with their first World Cup goals for 52 years as a Yassine Bounou own goal and Wilson Isidor's stunning strike twice gave them the lead.

Achraf Hakimi and Ismael Saibari, with his third goal in as many games at the World Cup, levelled before half-time.

Soufiane Rahimi was nearly brought to tears when the 30-year-old's deflected effort found the top corner to give Morocco the lead before Gessime Yassine rounded off the scoring.

But Morocco missed out on top spot in the group to Brazil on goal difference, meaning they will head to Monterrey for a likely meeting against the Netherlands or Japan on Monday.

Despite bowing out without a point, Haiti's performances at a first World Cup since 1974 have done a nation gripped by poverty proud.

Les Grenadiers were already eliminated after losing to Scotland and Brazil, but the thousands of Haitian expats in the stands at Atlanta were undeterred as every attack was met with deafening cheers.

Morocco boss Mohamed Ouahbi made four changes to the side that had im-

pressed in holding Brazil and beating Scotland in their opening two games and the Atlas Lions started sloppily.

Haiti's long wait for a goal on the global stage was ended after just 10 minutes when Jean-Kevin Duverne got the by-line and Lenny Joseph flicked his cross into the net via a deflection off Bounou.

Hakimi has continued to captain Morocco despite learning mid-tournament that he is to face a trial on rape charges in France. The reigning African footballer of the year stormed forward from right-back at every opportunity and was in the right place to equalise on 39 minutes.

In his final game for Haiti, 38-year-old goalkeeper Jonny Placide could only parry Bilal El Khannouss' strike and Hakimi had a simple task to force the ball over the line.

Within four minutes, though, Haiti had restored their lead in far more spectacular fashion.

Sunderland striker Isidor pounced on a loose ball and let fly from outside the area with a shot that arrowed into the top corner.

Hakimi and Ouahbi were visibly angered by conceding for a second time, but the 2022 World Cup semi-finalists responded before half-time.

Saibari stroked home his third goal of the tournament with a cool finish from

Hakimi's low cross.

Brahim Diaz nearly even gave Morocco a half-time lead when his curling effort shaved the post to end a thrilling first half. With Brazil cruising to victory over Scotland in Miami, Morocco knew only a comprehensive victory would secure them top spot in Group C.

Ouahbi began turning his attention to the last 32 as Bayern Munich-bound Saibari

and Real Madrid's Diaz were replaced with over 20 minutes remaining.

But two of his substitutes came on to win the game for Morocco.

Rahimi's powerful strike from a corner flew into the top corner via a deflection off a desperate Haiti defender.

He then turned provider by robbing possession on the Haiti by-line and crossing for Yassine to roll into an empty net.



Morocco takes on Martin Experience #8 of Haiti during the FIFA World Cup 2026 Group C match between Morocco and Haiti at Atlanta Stadium on June 24, 2026 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Raymond Gardiner Athletes Shine at Northwest Track and Field Classic

Six students from Raymond Gardiner High School proudly represented at the 50th Northwest Track and Field Classic held in Miami, Florida, on June 13–14, 2026. The team was accompanied by their Physical Education teacher and coach, Ms. Nerissa Forbes.

During the two-day competition, the athletes performed admirably and brought home three medals for their school. Joshua Innocent secured two silver medals, one in Shot Put and another in Javelin, while Tamani Gardiner earned a bronze medal in Javelin. These outstanding achievements highlighted the talent and dedication of the Raymond Gardiner High School athletes on the international stage.

Among the competitors was Sevyn Louis, who is not yet a student of Raymond Gardiner High School. She competed in the Girls' 400m (11–12 age group). Although she did not advance to the finals, the experience provided valuable exposure and learning opportunities for the young athlete.

Darnique Handfield competed in the Girls' Long Jump (13–14 age group). While she did not qualify for the finals,



The Raymond Gardiner High Athletes who presented their school at the 50th Northwest Track and Field Classic held in Miami, Florida

she was grateful for the opportunity to compete and gain valuable experience at such a prestigious event. The school's male athletes also repre-

sented well:

- * Jneyo Agenor competed in the Boys' 100m and 200m (17–18 age group).
- * Sanjay Cox competed in the Boys'

200m and 400m (16–17 age group). Reflecting on the trip, Coach Ms. Nerissa Forbes stated that participating in the Northwest Track and Field Classic was a dream she had been pursuing for the past two years.

"This is something I have wanted to do for the past two years, and I am thrilled that the dream finally became a reality. I am proud of our athletes and look forward to returning to the meet next year."

Coach Forbes also extended heartfelt thanks to the parents, sponsors, Principal, and Vice Principal whose support, encouragement, and contributions helped make the trip possible. Their commitment to the development of young athletes played a significant role in ensuring the success of this venture.

The experience provided the athletes with an opportunity to compete against top international talent, develop their skills, and proudly represent their school and country. The team returned home with medals, unforgettable memories, and a renewed determination to continue striving for excellence in track and field.

North Caicos Hosts Historic JAGS McCartney Road Relay

On Saturday, 20 June 2026, under bright and welcoming skies, Bellefield Landing in North Caicos became the starting point for a remarkable display of national pride and unity, as participants arrived by ferry, boat, car, and bus to take part in the annual Rt. Excellent JAGS McCartney Road Relays. Generously sponsored by the Commonwealth Games Association, the event drew an impressive turnout of participants and spectators from across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Among those present and actively participating were Hon. O.O. Skippings and Hon. Norman Saunders, both former Chief Ministers; Hon. Robert Hall, former Speaker of the House; Mr. Amin McCartney, son of the National Hero; Hon. Arlington Musgrove, Minister of Government and Representative for North and Middle Caicos; the District Commissioners for North and Middle Caicos; representatives of the Commonwealth Games Association;

members of the Department of Culture; uniformed groups; a vibrant Rip-saw group; schoolchildren; and even a young participant between the ages of three and four.

Participants travelled the nearly nine-mile route from Bellefield Landing to Horse Stable, walking, running, and in some cases driving, demonstrating endurance, enthusiasm, and a shared commitment to honouring the legacy of the Right Excellent JAGS McCartney.

The event concluded at Horse Stable, where brief remarks were delivered by officials, cultural performances were showcased, and refreshments were served. The day stood as a powerful reminder of the enduring impact of our National Hero and will undoubtedly be remembered as a milestone event in the nation's calendar.

This historic relay was made possible through the support of key partners and sponsors, including InterCaribbe-



From left: Former government minister and radio talk show host Hon. Robert Hall; Karlene McIntosh, a representative of the Ports Authority; former district commissioner Cynclair Musgrove; Anetra Musgrove, representing the Department of Culture; and Former Chief Minister Hon. Norman Saunders.

an Airways, Caicos Express Airways, the North and Middle Caicos District Commissioners' Offices, the Department of Culture, and the Commonwealth Games Association. Lead organiser and former District Commissioner, Ms. Cynclair Musgrove, expressed immense pride in

the success of the event, noting that it fostered a strong sense of national unity. She highlighted that the relay brought families and community members together in a meaningful and interactive way, describing it as "educational, entertaining, and edifying."



The victorious GK Foods Cricket Team, who were crowned Champions of the TCICA T20 Competition after defeating Beaches in the final.

GK Foods Crowned TCICA National T20 Champions After Thrilling Victory Over Beaches

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

GK Foods are the new champions of the Turks and Caicos Islands Cricket Association (TCICA) National T20 Cricket Competition after defeating Beaches by four runs in a tense and exciting final at the Downtown Ball Park on Sunday, June 21.

Batting first after winning the toss, GK Foods posted a competitive 138 all out in 18 overs, before producing a disciplined bowling performance to dismiss Beaches for 134 in 19.2 overs, sealing a memorable championship triumph.

The victory capped an outstanding season for GK Foods, who showed resilience with both bat and ball to edge out a determined Beaches side in one of the most closely contested matches of the tournament.

Ariharan Leads the Way with the Bat
GK Foods suffered an early setback when Ganesan Kuthalingam was dismissed for 4, but Ariharan Kuthalingam anchored the innings with a brilliant 44 off 35 balls, striking six fours and two sixes.

He received support from Ashok Kumar, who scored a quick 13 from 9 deliveries, while Thabisco Reo contributed 11 and Rajakumar Kasi added 10.

Despite regular wickets falling, GK Foods managed to push their total to 138 thanks largely to valuable extras, with Beaches conceding 31 runs in

wides, no-balls and byes.

For Beaches, Claude Williams was the standout bowler, claiming 4 wickets for 17 runs from four overs, while Bryan Williams picked up two wickets and Renne Carlson Jones, Anthony McKnight and Jerome Daley each claimed one wicket.

Beaches Fall Just Short

Chasing 139 for victory, Beaches started positively with Anthony McKnight making 16 and Kenneth Lewis striking 26 off 22 balls, including two sixes.

Sidue Hunter, who has been one of the competition's leading batsmen, added 13, while Jerome Daley contributed 10. However, wickets continued to fall at crucial moments as GK Foods applied relentless pressure.

The turning point came through the bowling of Akhilesh Chathurakinarulla, who delivered a match-winning spell of 4 wickets for 27 runs, removing key Beaches batsmen and swinging momentum firmly in GK Foods' favor.

Nagarajan Kuthalingam chipped in with 2 for 22, while Ariharan Kuthalingam, Rajakumar Kasi, Vijay Daniel Paramasivan and Ashok Kumar each collected a wicket.

Beaches still had hopes through Renne Carlson Jones, who remained unbeaten on 15, but the target ultimately proved just out of reach as the innings ended on 134.



Ganesan Kuthalingam (in yellow), Captain of the GK Foods Cricket Team, and Tabisco Reo lift the TCICA Championship Trophy during the presentation on Sunday, June 21.

Championship Glory

The four-run victory sparked celebrations among GK Foods players and supporters as they claimed the prestigious TCICA National T20 title. Akhilesh Chathurakinarulla's all-round tournament performance was highlighted by his competition-leading 17 wickets, while Beaches star Sidue Hunter finished as the tournament's leading run-scorer and Most Valuable Player.

The TCICA also recognized several

long-serving members with plaques for more than 15 years of service, including Hurbert Williams, Kareem Jack, Haïden Spring, Garvin Bruno, Damian St. Ange, Simijo Devassy, Nuwan Bodhinayake, Lyndon Tyson, Maxine Salmon, Ian Ganess, Anthony McKnight and Ricardo Brown. For GK Foods, however, the day belonged to the champions, whose collective effort secured the 2025 TCICA National T20 crown and etched their names into local cricket history.