

Kick For Inclusion Takes Spotlight

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Digitized Immigration Processing System Coming PG4



Underspending Leaves TCI with Year-Ending Surplus PG10



New Arrival Terminal

Government to Begin Construction of 40,000 sq. ft. Arrival Terminal at Howard Hamilton International Airport

>>> STORY ON PG5



Miss Cote D'Ivoire Donates To TCI Special Needs

Miss Cote D'Ivoire, Olivia Yacé, who placed fourth runner-up in the Miss Universe Pageant, visited the Turks and Caicos Islands earlier this past week, where she donated \$5,000 to the local special needs programme. Yacé, who is internationally recognized for her advocacy and humanitarian work, made the presentation while attending Kick for Inclusion Soccer Festival, which caters to special needs, as well as non-special needs children. The event was held at the TCI Field on Wednesday, March 12, 2026. The following are highlights of the event.





Managing Director

Job Overview: To lead and direct the operations and financial activities of a five-star luxury resort, maintaining the highest level of guest service and owner satisfaction. Ensure the selection and ongoing direction of resort team members to achieve the highest level of integrity, job satisfaction, morale and team spirit. The position ensures the Resort's operation meets the Company's target customer needs, ensures employee satisfaction, and focuses on growing revenues and maximizing the financial performance of the department. Develops and implements property-wide strategies that deliver products and services to meet or exceed the needs and expectations of the customer and property employees and provides a return on investment.

Essential Functions:

- Strategic Planning and Decision-Making: Developing and implementing the company's overall strategic direction and ensuring alignment with organizational goals.
- Leadership and Management: Leading the executive team, motivating employees, and fostering a positive organizational culture.
- Financial Oversight: Overseeing budgeting, financial planning, and ensuring the organization's financial health and stability.
- Business Development: Identifying growth opportunities, building relationships with clients, partners, and stakeholders to expand the organization.
- Operational Management: Ensuring efficient day-to-day operations and resource management across departments.
- Representation: Acting as the spokesperson for the organization, representing it in industry forums, public events, and with government bodies.
- Risk Management: Identifying potential risks and implementing measures to mitigate them.
- Monitoring Performance: Setting performance metrics, reviewing progress, and implementing corrective actions as needed.
- Ensuring Corporate Governance: Upholding ethical standards and ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

Requirements and Qualifications

- Master's degree in Hospitality/ Tourism Management or Business Studies or equivalent certified qualifications preferred
- At least 10 years five-star resort/international management experience in Senior Level Hotel Operations
- Minimum of 5 years of direct related experience as a General Manager for a five-star luxury property
- Must have pre-opening experience in a luxury hotel
- Strong Rooms or Food & Beverage background
- Luxury Brand Hotel Chain experience a must
- Delivers business results through effective management of planning, forecasting, improving yield, budgeting, cost management and all aspects of business
- Energetic, positive visionary leader, dedicated to motivating and developing team members
- Ability to balance many priorities, resolve problems and meet owners and guest expectations
- Exceptional communication and customer service skills and live the standards of our organization

Competencies

- Business Acumen.
- Great organization & planning skills.
- Effective Communication & Confidentiality
- Consultation
- Strong Connection & Collaboration skills
- Critical Evaluation
- Ethical Practice
- Values Diversity
- Global & Cultural Awareness
- Learning & Development Expertise
- Leadership & Navigation
- Relationship Management

Salary Range: \$US 150,000.00 - \$US 166,000.00 per annum

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

Qualified candidates should submit their Resumes to our Human Resources Department via

Email: humanresources@rockhouserestort.com or hand deliver applications at our office on #1 International Drive, Providenciales.

Positions marked with an * are currently being held by a work permit holder. Deadline for submission: March 15, 2026

Government on Track to Digitize Immigration Processing System

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Hon. Jamell Robinson, Minister of Immigration and Border Services, has revealed that the Turks and Caicos Islands Government is moving ahead with plans to overhaul the country's immigration processing system through the introduction of a comprehensive digital platform using the latest technology.

The minister made the announcement while delivering his ministerial statement in the Turks and Caicos Islands House of Parliament on Friday, March 13, 2026.

Robinson said the modernization initiative forms part of the government's broader focus on improving border security, operational efficiency, and public service delivery. "Order, security and modernization remain central to this government's priorities," Robinson told members of the House.

Contract Executed for New Digital Border System

According to the minister, the government executed a contract in December 2025 with Vision-Box, recently acquired by Amadeus IT Group, following what he described as an extensive and rigorous procurement process.

Work on the project officially began earlier this month with the arrival of senior representatives from Amadeus and their subcontractors, including Vision AI and Redex, along with technical teams to begin implementation.

Initial site surveys have already been completed in Providenciales, South Caicos and North Caicos, with Grand Turk scheduled to follow.

Robinson described the milestone as the



Minister of Immigration and Border Services
Hon. Jamell Robinson

start of an eight- to eighteen-month implementation period aimed at delivering digital technology solutions to strengthen border management and modernize immigration operations.

E-Gates and Biometric Identification

A key component of the project will be the introduction of automatic border-crossing technology, including secure electronic gate systems designed to improve the efficiency of border crossings.

From mid-2027, Robinson said hundreds of thousands of international travelers are expected to pass through Turks and Caicos borders using the new systems.

The platform will incorporate biometric identification, document authentication, validation systems and real-time monitoring to enhance security while speeding up the processing of visitors.

The program will also introduce biometric

registration requirements for non-citizens, with biometric capture devices to be deployed across international airports, detention centres and government offices.

In addition, mobile biometric devices will be issued to law enforcement officers, enabling faster identification of migrants in the field and strengthening immigration enforcement operations.

Customs Compliance and Revenue Recovery

Robinson also highlighted efforts by the government to strengthen customs compliance and ensure revenue owed to the government is properly collected.

He revealed that the Customs Enforcement Compliance Unit has conducted extensive engagement with importers since 2024 to regularize outstanding obligations. These efforts included meetings with operators, training sessions, compliance notices, extended deadlines and structured repayment plans.

The minister said the initiative has produced significant results, with \$17.4 million recovered between January 2024 and December 2025 from historically outstanding declarations and unpaid customs entries dating back to 2020 and 2021.

He further noted that the courier sector generates approximately \$8.64 million annually in revenue from import duties and customs processing fees.

However, government reviews identified an estimated \$890,000 in arrears per year, representing roughly nine percent of outstanding payments, while about 91 percent of revenue due to the government is successfully collected.

Measures to Improve Compliance

To address non-compliance, the govern-

ment has implemented targeted measures, including the temporary suspension of deferred payment facilities for certain accounts.

Courier operators who meet compliance thresholds and adhere to agreed payment plans may have those privileges reinstated, while those who fail to meet obligations may face continued suspension and possible enforcement measures under the Customs Ordinance.

Robinson emphasized that the measures do not prevent the continued importation or clearance of goods.

Cargo can still be released through the standard customs clearing process on a cash basis, with duties paid prior to release. Priority clearance will continue for medications, frozen goods, perishables and other essential supplies to minimize disruption to the public.

"These measures are not intended to hinder legitimate trade, but rather to protect public revenue and ensure that all operators meet their statutory obligations," the minister said.

Minister Defends Customs Staff

Robinson also defended the performance of customs staff amid criticism, pointing to the overall success rate of revenue collection.

"When persons run to the media to make it look like my staff isn't doing their job, because they did their job, I have a problem with that," he said.

"A 91 percent success rate on anything is an A-star."

The minister said the government remains committed to maintaining a fair, transparent and predictable trade environment while ensuring that the revenue of the Turks and Caicos Islands is properly protected.

Ministry of Education Honors Educators at Gatsby-Themed Teachers' Appreciation Gala

The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Education, brought Education Week 2026 to a memorable close with a spectacular Gatsby-themed Teachers' Appreciation Gala Banquet held on Friday, March 6, 2026, at the Gustavus Lightbourne Sports Complex.

The elegant evening celebrated the dedication and achievements of educators from both Government and Private Schools across the Turks and Caicos Islands, recognizing their invaluable role in shaping the nation's future.

Education Week 2026 was observed under the theme "Where Parents Lead, Children Succeed," highlighting the vital partnership between parents, schools, and the wider community in supporting student success. Throughout the week, schools across the islands hosted a variety of activities that showcased student talent, academic excellence, and the importance of active parental involvement in the educational process. The Teachers' Appreciation Gala served as a fitting finale to the week's events. The celebration emphasized how collaboration between families and educators strengthens educational outcomes and enriches the learning environment for students across the country.

Parents played a meaningful role in the success of this year's banquet, contributing their time, talents, and resources to help honor teachers. Their participation reflected the spirit of the Education Week theme in action, demonstrating that when par-

ents actively support schools and educators, the potential for student achievement and school success becomes limitless.

The gala welcomed hundreds of teachers, each of whom received a complimentary gift as a token of appreciation for their service and commitment. Additionally, dozens of educators from both Government and Private Schools were recognized with awards in several categories celebrating excellence in teaching, leadership, innovation, and long service.

Awards were presented in areas including Early Childhood Education, Primary and Secondary Teaching, Special Needs Education, Digital Innovation, Leadership, and Lifetime Achievement. In addition to plaques of recognition, award recipients received generous prizes such as hotel stays, family experiences, dinner vouchers, airline tickets, gift certificates, and wellness packages. These prizes were made possible through the support of a plethora of sponsors who came on board to support the celebration and honor the nation's educators. The Ministry of Education also expressed appreciation to the Deputy Governor's Office for providing plaques for the honourees. Gratitude was further extended to the hotels, restaurants, and community members who contributed to the culinary experience for the evening. Parents also played an important role by assisting with the preparation of meals, offering their support with exceptional care and heartfelt appreciation for teachers. In reflecting on the occasion, the Minister

of Education noted the critical role teachers play in national development.

"Our teachers are the heartbeat of our nation's progress. Every lesson they teach, every moment they inspire, and every sacrifice they make plants seeds of possibility in the lives of our children. We say thank you. Your dedication lights pathways to brighter futures, and for that, we are eternally grateful."

More than just a formal celebration, the Gatsby Teachers' Appreciation Gala stood as a powerful tribute to the resilience, creativity, and dedication of teachers throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands. As the Ministry and the Department of Education continue their mission to strengthen and advance the nation's education system, events such as this serve as an important reminder that teachers remain the foundation of every success story in the classroom and beyond.

Awardees

Early Childhood Education: Christevia Williams – Iris Stubbs Primary School; Tabrina Handfield – Ianthe Pratt Primary School. Teacher of the Year – Primary School: Ava Robertson – Oseta Jolly Primary School; Melecha Frater – Preparing Little Minds. Teacher of the Year – Secondary School: Christina Williams – Clement Howell High School; Marlon Malabre – Precious Treasures International School. Assistant Teacher of the Year: Jemelia Jackson – Thelma Lightbourne Primary School. Counselor of the Year: Carane Brodber – Oseta Jolly Primary School. Excellence in

Special Needs Education: Tevynn Lewis – Oseta Jolly Primary School; Paulette Simmons – SNAP Centre. Digital Innovator of the Year: Delarno Keddo – A. Louise Garland Thomas High School.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Lacher Thomas – Thelma Lightbourne Primary School; Yvonne Hutchinson – Precious Treasures International. Unsung Hero Award: Rebecca Shaw – Clement Howell High School.

Principal of the Year: Sophia Garland – Enid Capron Primary School; Krystal Vincent – Community Christian Academy School. Vice Principal of the Year: Nelene Swann – Enid Capron Primary School.

Special Awards

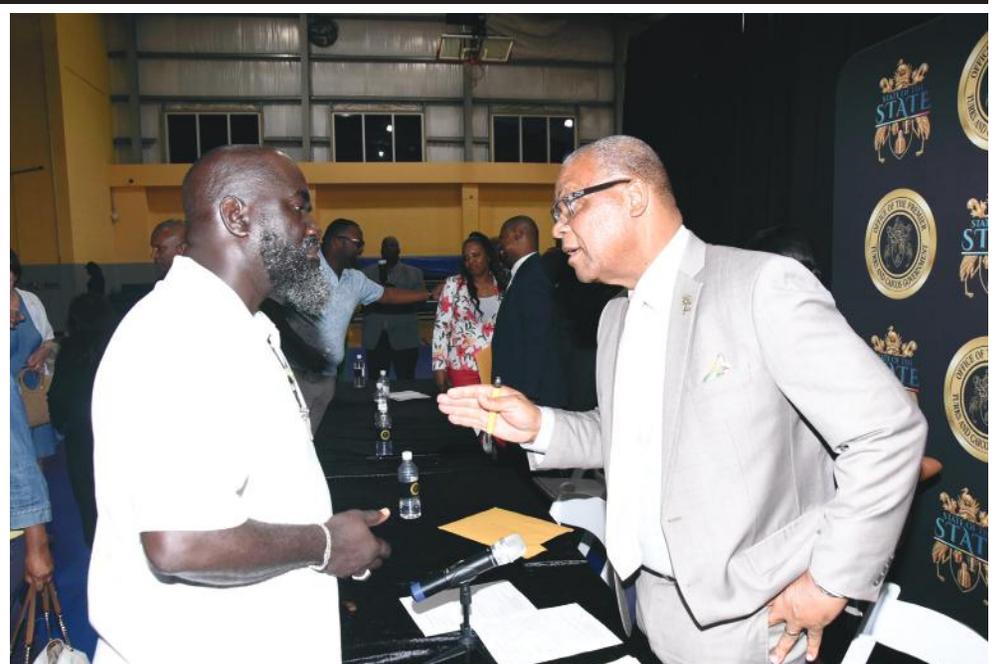
Long Service Awards: Mr. Rodney Cox (34 years) – Marjorie Basden High School; Mrs. Hyacinth Fulford (46 years) – Iris Stubbs Primary School; Mrs. Lucille Wilson (46 years) – Clement Howell High School.

Excellence in Instructional Leadership: Rachel Handfield – Principal, Oseta Jolly Primary School. Excellence in Support of Department of Education Programmes: Nelene Swann – Enid Capron Primary School. Legacy Builder Mentorship: Erleen Elliott – Principal, Iris Stubbs Primary School. Creative Excellence in Teaching (Grand Turk): Christina Williams – Eliza Simons Primary School.

The Ministry of Education once again extends its sincere appreciation to all teachers, parents, partners, and stakeholders for making Education Week 2026 a tremendous success.



Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Arlington Musgrove (left) has the attention of an attendee to the Providenciales Town Hall Meeting in Providenciales.



Premier Hon. Washington Misick (right) fields questions from contractor Phillip Robinson following the adjournment of the Providenciales Town Hall Meeting

Government to Construct 40,000 sq. ft. Arrival Terminal at Howard Hamilton International Airport

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Washington Misick Administration plans to begin construction later this year on a new 40,000 square-foot arrivals terminal at the Howard Hamilton International Airport, formerly known as the Providenciales International Airport.

The announcement was made by Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Arlington Musgrove, who outlined a phased approach to improving the country's busiest aviation gateway while maintaining fiscal prudence.

According to Musgrove, who was speaking at a Town Hall Meeting in Providenciales on Tuesday, March 10, the new facility will form Phase One of a broader redevelopment plan for the airport, focusing first on improving the arrivals experience for visitors entering the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The minister explained that government opted against proceeding immediately with a previously proposed large-scale airport redevelopment project that could have cost as much as \$500 million, saying the scale of that investment

does not align with current air traffic volumes in the country. He noted that while modern airports in neighboring jurisdictions carry large price tags, many of them operate below capacity and do not require 24-hour operations.

Musgrove referenced L.F. Wade International Airport in Bermuda, which underwent a redevelopment project valued at more than \$400 million, yet does not experience the level of traffic that would justify such an expansion for the Turks and Caicos Islands at this time. He also referenced the Sir Lynden Pindling International Airport in The Bahamas, which scaled back operations certain time of the day because of less traffic.

"We want to see a big airport to accommodate the growth of passengers," Musgrove said. "But when you look at the logic behind it and the money behind it, at this point in time it doesn't make sense."

Instead, the government has opted to move forward with the 40,000 square-foot arrivals hall, with a tender already issued for a design consultant. That procurement process closed approximately two weeks ago.

In addition to the new arrivals terminal, Musgrove said the government plans to invest between \$25 million and \$30 million to renovate the existing terminal. Once completed, the current building will function primarily as a departures-only facility, allowing for a clearer separation between arriving and departing passengers.

He pointed out that upgrades will also include improvements to the building's aesthetics and interior layout.

Musgrove also revealed that further airside infrastructure improvements are also planned. He said that the apron will be extended to the west to allow the airport to accommodate more aircraft, including larger planes. Government also intends to construct a parallel taxiway, which will allow aircraft to exit the runway more efficiently after landing.

The minister explained that once the taxiway extension is completed, most aircraft will be able to turn off the runway immediately after landing, improving operational efficiency and reducing congestion on the airfield.

The airport improvement

plans form part of a broader aviation infrastructure programme across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

At the JAGS McCartney International Airport in Grand Turk, government is planning upgrades to the terminal building, including an extension of the recently completed section.

Meanwhile, a new terminal building is under development at the Norman Saunders International Airport in South Caicos Airport, where remedial works are currently being carried out while authorities prepare a revised budget for the airport's parking facilities.

In North Caicos, Clifford Gardiner International Airport, Musgrove said a tender has already been issued for runway improvements, with government expected to move forward with procurement for a new terminal building within the next two to three months. The townhall meeting saw elected cabinet in attendance. It was held to inform members of the public on government's policies and programmes, also to get feedback from members of the public on how they believe government's services can improve their lives.

Cutting Work Permit Holders from TAP Solves a Budget Problem But Creates a Bigger One

An Op-Ed by Paladin

The Government's decision to remove work permit holders from the Treatment Abroad Programme (TAP) is being framed as fiscal responsibility. Premier Washington Misick's State of the State Address made the numbers sound dire: TAP costs rising from **\$40 million in 2024 to \$61 million in 2025**, now consuming **over 10 percent of the national budget**. In a small island state, that is indeed a heavy burden. But the applause in the room should not distract from the deeper reality: this policy shift may save money today while destabilizing the labour market, the insurance sector, and the social fabric tomorrow.

The Turks and Caicos Islands cannot have it both ways—a **labour force built on foreign workers, and a social protection system that excludes them**.

A Caribbean Outlier: How Other Islands Handle Foreign Worker Healthcare

Across the region, governments that rely heavily on expatriate labour generally follow one of two models:

- **Contribution-based access** (Barbados, Antigua, St. Kitts): If you pay into the system, you receive some level of benefit.

- **Emergency inclusion with employer obligations** (Bahamas, Cayman, Bermuda): Employers must insure workers, but the state still provides emergency or crisis support.

Even in the Cayman Islands—often cited as the strictest jurisdiction—work permit holders were not excluded from emergency medical support during COVID. Bermuda requires employers to provide insurance, but the government still steps in for catastrophic cases.

TCI's new approach is different. It says: *"We need your labour, we need your permit fees, but when catastrophe strikes, you're on your own."* This is not standard Caribbean practice. It is a departure.

Why Should Companies Bear

These Costs?

The Premier's statement that employers must now "find a way to procure major medical insurance" reframes a public health obligation as a business expense. But companies already shoulder:

- high work permit fees
- housing requirements
- transportation obligations
- rising wage pressure due to cost of living
- mandatory NHIP contributions

Adding major medical insurance for overseas treatment is not a small adjustment. It is a structural cost shift. And it raises a fundamental question: If the government cannot afford TAP, how can small and medium-sized businesses? Large resorts may absorb the cost. Construction firms, dive shops, restaurants, and domestic employers cannot. The likely outcomes are predictable:

- higher prices for consumers
- reduced hiring
- increased turnover as workers choose jurisdictions with better protections
- more undocumented or underinsured workers

This is not just a business problem. It is an economic stability problem.

Can Local Insurance Companies "Pick Up the Slack"?

The Premier suggested this shift creates "a business opportunity." But insurance companies do not operate on goodwill—they operate on risk.

For insurers to cover catastrophic overseas care, three things must happen:

- premiums must rise
- exclusions must tighten
- employers must pay more

None of this reduces national healthcare costs. It simply moves the bill from the Treasury to the private sector.

And there is a deeper issue: TCI's insurance market is small. It is not designed to absorb a sudden influx of high-risk, high-cost medical cases previously covered by government. Without regulatory reform, insurers

will do what insurers always do: protect themselves, not the vulnerable.

The Abuse Argument: Real, but Not the Whole Story

The Premier is right to address abuse—locals registering overseas family members, non-residents benefiting from a system meant for residents. Tightening residency requirements is reasonable and overdue.

But the abuse argument does not justify excluding an entire class of legally present workers who:

- pay taxes
- pay NHIP
- pay work permit fees
- contribute to GDP
- staff the tourism industry that funds the national budget

Punishing the compliant to catch the non-compliant is not smart policy. It is blunt policy.

Expanding Local Healthcare Capacity Is Necessary—but Not Sufficient

The government's plan to acquire Family Care Medical Center and build polyclinics is a positive step. Strengthening primary care reduces long-term costs. Encouraging annual checkups is sensible.

But polyclinics do not treat:

- cancer
- heart disease
- major trauma
- complex surgeries
- neonatal emergencies

These are the very conditions that drive TAP costs.

Until TCI has a tertiary care hospital—and that is decades away—**overseas treatment will remain a necessity. And someone must pay for it.**

The Real Risk: A Two-Tier Society

By excluding work permit holders from TAP, TCI risks creating a divide between:

- **those whose lives are protected by the state, and**
- **those whose lives depend on the goodwill of employers.**

In a country where foreign workers make up a large share of the population, this is not just a policy shift. It is a social shift. And

it sends a message: *"You are essential to our economy, but not to our healthcare system."* That message has consequences.

A More Balanced Approach

TCI needs a model that protects the budget **and** the labour force. Options include:

- **Tiered eligibility** based on years of residency or contributions.

- **Cost-sharing** between government, employers, and workers.

- **A catastrophic care fund** financed by a small levy on work permits and NHIP.

- **Employer tax credits** for providing major medical coverage.

- **A reformed NHIP structure** that differentiates between primary care and catastrophic care. These are not radical ideas. They are standard tools used across the Caribbean.

Fiscal Responsibility Should Not Create Human Vulnerability

The Premier is right about one thing: TAP costs are unsustainable. But the solution cannot be to offload the burden onto the very workers who keep the country running.

A sustainable healthcare system requires shared responsibility, not exclusion.

A strong economy requires a protected labour force, not an exposed one.

And a fair society requires policies that recognize the dignity and value of every person who contributes to it.



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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department



Tessenya Pyne, (centre) of H.J. Robinson High School and winner of the 2026 DRCS Speech competition, is joined by second place winner Jonathon Malabre, (third from right) of the Precious Treasures International School, Merbelie Obei (third from left) of the Raymond Gardiner High School, Minister of Home Affairs Hon. Otis Morris, (fourth from left) Joran Harvey, (right) and sponsors of the event, for a photo op.

Tessenya Pyne of H.J. Robinson High Wins DRCS Speech Competition

Tessenya Pyne of H.J. Robinson High School in Grand Turk has been crowned champion of the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision's (DRCS) 3rd Annual Speech Competition, held Tuesday at the Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort in Providenciales.

The competition brought together students from across the Turks and Caicos Islands who delivered speeches under the theme "The Turning Point: How Early Intervention Can Change the Path for At-Risk Youth." Participants examined the importance of timely intervention, mentorship and support systems in helping vulnerable youth make positive life choices.

Pyne's speech, which drew from both research and personal reflection, resonated strongly with judges and the audience, securing her first place in the competition.

Jonathon Malabre of Precious Treasures High School placed second, while Merbelie Obei of Raymond Gardiner High School secured third place.

For winning the title, Pyne received \$500 cash from the Rotary Club, a gift voucher from Business Solutions, \$100 cash from Lt. Bourne, a blender bottle from Max Kitchen, a \$128 voucher from Flow, a \$200 Hero's Gift voucher

and a tablet from the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision.

Second-place finisher Jonathon Malabre received a Business Solutions gift voucher, a Cruise and Style Rental Company gift voucher, a Cash Rental voucher, a Flow voucher, a tablet from Flow and \$300 cash from the Rotary Club.

Third-place winner Merbelie Obei received a tablet from Flow, \$200 from the Rotary Club, a \$50 gift voucher, a \$100 gift voucher from Business Solutions and a voucher from Jessie's Hair and Beauty Lounge.

Speaking after the competition, Pyne said the theme resonated deeply with her own life experiences.

"When I first heard the theme about intervention, I wasn't always a perfect child. I wasn't always the best, and it brought me back to that point in my life," she said.

She explained that while research is often part of preparing for competitions, she chose to draw inspiration from her personal journey.

"Research can be done, but the research stands right here today. Sometimes when we see competitions like this we think we have to look deep and

search everywhere, but sometimes you just have to look at your life and see how it resonates with you. That's how my speech came about," Pyne said.

Pyne also revealed that the trip to Providenciales included an unexpected moment of stress after she realized she had left her tie behind in Grand Turk.

"I left my tie all the way in Grand Turk. I was stressed about everything else but my speech, and my teacher, Ms. Lonsis, reminded me that I needed to place my focus on God. The same God who did things before will do it again," she said.

Her preparation for the competition included several late evenings refining her speech, including a final round of adjustments the night before the event.

"The day before we came to Providenciales I was at my teacher's house until 10 o'clock, and even the night before the competition I made changes to my speech because I wanted it to be perfect," she added.

Asked how she plans to celebrate the victory, Pyne said she expects a warm reception when she returns home to the capital.

"I'm going back to the nation's capital,

so I don't even have to plan anything. I know once I get there I will be celebrated," she said.

The annual speech competition forms part of the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision's ongoing efforts to encourage young people to reflect on rehabilitation, personal responsibility and the critical role early intervention can play in changing the trajectory of at-risk youth.

Hon. Otis Morris

For his part, Minister of Public Safety and Utilities, and under whose aegis the DRCS falls, Hon. Otis Morris, said his government remains committed to strengthening programs that support prevention, mentorship, and community engagement.

"...Because the best way to build safer communities is to invest in our young people before they fall into difficult circumstances," he said.

He also commended the DRCS for its dedication and vision.

"Your work is not always easy, but it is deeply meaningful," he said. "Through initiatives like this competition, you are demonstrating that rehabilitation is not just about correcting behavior, it is about restoring hope, rebuilding lives, and preventing future harm."



The bus shelter located Downtown Providenciales, which was vandalized by unscrupulous individuals

The Ministry of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development wishes to express its deep disappointment regarding the recent act of vandalism at one of the newly refurbished bus shelters located in Downtown Providenciales.

Through the Government's Community Enhancement Programme (CEP), the Ministry has been actively investing public funds to improve community infrastructure across the islands, including the refurbishment and installation of bus shelters to provide

VANDALISM OF GOVERNMENT PUBLIC FACILITIES

safe and comfortable public spaces. Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that one of the newly installed glass panels at this bus shelter has been deliberately damaged. Acts of vandalism such as this are both disheartening and costly, as they divert public funds away from other important community improvements and place an unnecessary burden on government resources.

These facilities are installed for the benefit of the public, and it is imperative that we all play a role in protecting and preserving them. The Ministry therefore strongly urges members of the public to desist from engaging in

any form of vandalism or destructive behaviour toward public infrastructure. We also encourage residents to report any suspicious or destructive activity to the relevant authorities so that those responsible can be held accountable.

Protecting our public spaces is a shared responsibility, and with the support of the community we can ensure that these facilities remain safe, functional, and beneficial to everyone. The Ministry remains committed to continuing improvements across our communities and thanks the public for their cooperation in safeguarding these investments.

Government Kickstarts Participatory Poverty Assessment Engagement Meetings

The Department of Community Support and Engagement (DCSE), in collaboration with the Turks and Caicos Islands Statistics Authority and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), has started the Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA), a critical national exercise as part of the Enhanced Country Poverty Assessment (e-CPA).

The Participatory Poverty Assessment is a community-driven research initiative designed to gather first-hand insights from residents across the Turks and Caicos Islands regarding their lived experiences, challenges, and perspectives on poverty, vulnerability, and access to services.

Unlike traditional data collection methods that rely solely on surveys and statistics, the PPA places community voices at the center of national planning and policy development. It complements the quantitative findings of the CPA by providing insight into the social, cultural, and institutional factors that influence poverty and vulnerability, ensuring that national poverty reduction strategies are inclusive, evidence-based, and grounded in community perspectives.

What is the Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA)? The PPA is

a structured series of community consultations and discussions that:

- Engages residents directly in identifying priority needs and challenges
- Explores the realities of income insecurity, unemployment, housing, food access, education, and social protection
- Identifies barriers to accessing public services
- Captures community-driven recommendations for solutions

The Participatory Poverty Assessment is a vital national exercise that ensures government policies and programmes are informed by the real experiences of the people they serve. By combining community voices with statistical data, the PPA strengthens evidence-based decision-making, guides resource allocation and future budgeting priorities, and supports long-term national development planning.

Over the next two months, the team from DCSE will be working across all islands to facilitate consultations and gather valuable community input. We respectfully request the full cooperation and active participation of the public, as your engagement is essential to ensuring this national exercise accurately reflects the realities, priorities, and aspirations of

our people.

Community consultation sessions have already taken place on North Caicos on March 10 at Kew Community Centre, for the Kew and Sandy Point communities, and Horsestable Beach also on that island, for the Whitby and Bottle Creek communities, on March 11.

The Middle Caicos meeting was also held, being held at the on Marh 10 at the Middle Caicos Community Centre, for the entire Middle Caicos community.

South Caicos, the meeting is scheduled for March 17, to be held at the Comrade (Seaview Market) @ 6:00 PM (for the entire South Caicos community).

For **Grand Turk**, the meeting is scheduled for March 31st, at Overback & Grand Turk North- ED1 @ 6:00 PM, with the location to be named. On April 1, the meeting will be held at Backsalina & Grand Turk South- ED2 @ 6:00 PM, also a date to be determined.

For Salt Cay, the meeting will be held on April 2, at the Salt Shed @ 2:00 PM (for the entire Salt Cay community).

On the Providenciales, the meeting will be held on the following dates:

- 24th March- The Bight Com-

munity- ED6 @ 6:00 PM (location: TBD)

- 25th March- Blue Hills Community- ED8 & 10 @ 6:00PM (location: TBD)

- 26th March- Five Cays Community- ED9 @ 6:00PM (location: TBD)

- 27th March- Kew Town Community- ED7 @ 6:00PM (location: TBD)

Additional sessions may be scheduled as necessary to ensure broad community participation.

In the meantime, the Department is calling on all residents to actively participate and lend their voices to this important national exercise.

"Your experiences, insights, and recommendations are vital to building a stronger and more equitable Turks and Caicos Islands. Community members are encouraged to attend their respective island and community sessions and contribute openly and constructively.

"Together, through collaboration and shared responsibility, we can shape policies that truly reflect the needs and aspirations of our people. For further information, please contact the Department of Community Support and Engagement," a statement from the department said.



A section of the Grace Bay Club Property



The interior of one of the newly renovated units at the resort



The Patio Area of one of the newly renovated units

Grace Bay Club proudly announces the transformation of its exclusive adults-only Hotel Building, unveiling 22 newly reimagined oceanfront suites designed by award-winning AD100 interior designer Young Huh, while also celebrating a major culinary milestone: Grace

Bay Club has been awarded a Michelin Key, making it the only hotel on Grace Bay Beach to receive this distinction. The sophisticated redesign blends contemporary Caribbean elegance with natural textures, soft tones, and materials inspired by the island's serene

Grace Bay Club Unveils Reimagined Adults-Only Hotel Building and Earns Michelin Key Distinction



Reservations Manager Krystal Malcolm giving news reporters a tour of the property. Here, she points to the model of the property

landscape. Guests can now indulge in:

- **Grace Bay Junior Suite** – a refined retreat with layouts that maximize natural light and ocean views
- **Luxury One-Bedroom Suite** – featuring elevated proportions and modern Caribbean design accents
- **Luxury Two-Bedroom Suite** – ideal for couples or small groups seeking refined elegance with ample space

Every suite has been thoughtfully rebalanced to enhance light, proportion, and connection to the sea, while new amenities include a curated espresso martini welcome, record players in select suites, and bespoke furnishings that celebrate the beauty of the Turks & Caicos Islands.

“The transformation of the Hotel Building represents our ongoing commitment to delivering unparalleled luxury and authentic Caribbean experiences,” says Nikheel Advani, Co-Founder of Grace Bay Resorts. “From design to service, every detail has been recrafted to ensure our guests feel the magic of Grace Bay Resorts at every turn.”

“In designing the Hotel Building, our goal was to create spac-

es inherently connected to the sea and natural beauty of the islands,” adds Young Huh, AD100 interior designer. “Each suite reflects a contemporary vision of Caribbean sophistication, where every detail from textures to light to layout was considered to enhance the guest experience.”

Young Huh is an internationally recognized AD100 interior designer celebrated for sophisticated, modern design infused with local inspiration. With a portfolio spanning luxury residences, boutique hotels, and curated hospitality experiences, Huh brings a distinctive vision that marries form, function, and cultural context.

Grace Bay Club is a premier luxury resort located on the pristine shores of Grace Bay Beach in Turks & Caicos. Renowned for its exceptional service, stunning oceanfront accommodation, and curated experiences, the resort seamlessly blends authentic Caribbean charm with modern sophistication. Grace Bay Club is the only hotel on Grace Bay Beach to receive a Michelin Key, underscoring its commitment to culinary excellence and world-class hospitality.

TCI Government Ends 2025–2026 Fiscal Period with Surplus Due to Underspending

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Chair of the Expenditure Committee Hon. Tamell Seymour informed the House of Assembly on Friday that the Turks and Caicos Islands Government ended the 2025–2026 fiscal period with a budget surplus largely attributed to underspending rather than revenue exceeding projections.

Presenting the committee's findings during debate on the Audited Half-Year Report for April 1 to September 30, 2025, the South Caicos Member of Parliament said the committee met on November 13, 2025, to review the government's financial performance and hear testimony from officials within the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, Investment and Trade.

Following its review, the committee concluded that while the government remains in a positive fiscal position, the surplus was primarily the result of expenditure falling below budgeted levels.

Fiscal Position and Revenue Performance

According to Seymour, the government's fiscal position remains strong despite revenue shortfalls in some areas.

"The overall fiscal position of the Turks and Caicos Islands Government is operating with a surplus due to underspending," he told the House.

However, the committee noted that revenue performance has trailed expectations in certain sectors, meaning the surplus was not achieved through stronger-than-expected income. While revenue collections performed better than in 2024, they still fell below the government's targets for 2025.

The committee also pointed to declining tourism activity as a key factor affecting other revenue streams, particularly customs

collections and the CPF.

To address possible revenue leakages, Seymour reported that a customs audit had been planned for January, describing it as a "dragnet approach" aimed at strengthening revenue oversight and improving collection systems.

Need to Diversify Revenue

The committee warned that the territory's finances remain heavily dependent on tourism, and urged government to explore options for broadening the tax base.

Members stressed that diversification would help reduce vulnerability to fluctuations in the tourism sector and create a more resilient fiscal framework.

Key Expenditure Variances

The report highlighted several areas of significant underspending, including:

- Payroll: \$6.9 million
- NHIP Transformation: \$5.7 million
- Maintenance Expenses: \$4.5 million
- Professional Consultancies: \$4.2 million
- Grants and Contributions: \$2.5 million
- Hospital Provisional Charges: \$15 million

In contrast, the government recorded overspending in a few areas, most notably:

- Social Welfare: projected overspend
- Repatriation Expenses: approximately \$215,000

Seymour also noted that a new Auditor General has recently been appointed, a development expected to strengthen financial oversight.

Strong Cash Position

Despite the revenue challenges, the gov-

ernment ended the reporting period with a strong cash position of approximately \$429 million across its various funds.

Breakdown of the balances included:

- Consolidated Fund: \$243 million
- Development Fund: \$88.5 million
- Capital Projects and Procurement Challenges

The committee found that many of the top ten capital projects currently underway originated in the 2024 financial year, indicating delays in project execution.

Seymour said that lengthy procurement procedures, sometimes taking up to six months, have slowed project timelines, while ministries frequently request additional funding after projects begin.

The report also pointed to challenges in accurately scoping projects and producing designs before budget approval, which contributes to implementation delays.

Key Recommendations

Among its recommendations, the committee called for:

- Revenue diversification to reduce reliance on tourism
- Improved capital project efficiency through better procurement processes and project planning
- The introduction of in-house estimators and quantity surveyors within the Physical Planning Department to reduce reliance on expensive overseas consultants
- The establishment of specialized caucuses focusing on water, electricity and infrastructure to support sustainable development and address population growth

The committee also urged the government to investigate and control rising healthcare costs, particularly expenses associated with overseas medical treatment.

Concerns Over Consultancy Costs and Hiring

Members additionally raised concerns about consultancy spending, including costs associated with the Office of the Governor, and called for greater scrutiny of such expenditures.

Another issue identified was the difficulty in filling technical positions within government, which the committee said continues to affect efficiency and project delivery. Seymour told the House that the committee will continue to monitor the implementation of its recommendations and review progress through future financial reports.

"While we acknowledge the efforts of the Ministry of Finance in managing the government's finances, the committee urges the government to proactively address challenges, particularly in diversifying revenue, improving capital project efficiency, and controlling healthcare costs," he said.



Hon. Tamell Seymour, Member of Parliament for South Caicos and Chair of the Expenditure Committee

CDB Reports Strong Surge in Development Financing Approvals Across the Region

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB / the Bank) has reported a significant increase in project financing and disbursements for 2025, approving USD 464 million in new support. The milestone marks a 50% increase in financing over 2024. The Bank disbursed USD 429 million, reflecting a 30% rise compared to the previous year.

Presenting highlights at CDB's Annual News Conference on March 3, 2026, Mr. L. O'Reilly Lewis, Director of Projects, outlined the Bank's expanded development footprint across its Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) over the past year.

"Across the Caribbean, CDB continues to support the transformation of our region. From energy security to climate-ready infrastructure, from water systems to world-class airports, these new investments represent commitments to stronger economies, empowered people, and a Caribbean that is ready to compete on a global stage," Lewis said.

CDB's investment portfolio advanced major national and regional priorities, including USD 27 million for Belize's Eighth Power Project to modernise the electricity grid for about 114,000 households and businesses. In The Bahamas, the Bank approved USD 30 million for Water Supply Improvements in the Family Islands, benefiting roughly 5,000 residents, and USD 6 million to create a Polytechnic and Accreditation Training Hub for

more than 800 youth and graduates. Elsewhere in the region, the Bank provided USD 46 million to upgrade Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' Canouan Airport to strengthen climate resilience and connectivity; USD 8.7 million for Grenada's Battery Energy Storage System to enhance grid stability for over 90% of the population; and USD 47 million for Barbados' Grantley Adams International Airport Expansion, which will double passenger throughput and improve operations. Despite ongoing challenges, CDB continued to deliver targeted investments supporting Haiti's development. The Quality Enhancement Education Project improved learning outcomes for more than 17,000 primary and secondary students, half of them girls. In agriculture, a climate-resilient initiative trained 250 farmers—48% women—and introduced a 23.5-hectare irrigation scheme to boost productivity and protect livelihoods. Meanwhile, sustainable energy investments are expanding access to reliable electricity, with a new solar installation set to provide renewable power to over 2,000 rural customers.

The Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF), CDB's flagship community development programme, delivered 92 subprojects across nine countries under its tenth cycle, strengthening essential services and resilience. Notably, it supported the first Special Education Needs School in Region 2, Esse-

quibo, Guyana. Building on these achievements, CDB approved a USD 53.6 million BNTF Eleventh Cycle to be implemented over four years in ten countries.

CDB also advanced private sector initiatives focused on expanding opportunities for youth and women. Through the DigiLab Finance Programme, delivered with the IFC and the Caribbean Association of Banks, the Bank improved data analytics and financial service delivery for more than three million people across ten institutions. Support for the cultural sector continued through the Cultural and Creative Industries Innovation Fund, which assisted 200 creatives in 14 countries and provided grants to 12 micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MS-MEs). Women entrepreneurs benefitted from SheTrades Caribbean, which equipped 1,300 women-owned firms with training and market access.

The Bank brought together regional partners across education, gender equality, risk management and sustainable infrastructure. The Second Transforming Education Symposium and Policy Dialogue resulted in the formation of the Caribbean Coalition of National Parent-Teacher Associations, strengthening parental engagement across regional education systems.

As the Caribbean continues to confront climate, economic and social vulnerabilities, the Bank's strategic focus remains on its

core sectors — transport, water and sanitation, education, and sustainable energy — alongside a deeper focus on resilience and technology-driven service delivery.

"Our work in diagnosing implementation capacity challenges will be critical, ensuring that BMCs not only design transformative projects but also implement them effectively. Together, with our partners and the communities we serve, we will continue to deliver results that strengthen resilience and create lasting opportunities for our Caribbean people," Lewis said.



Mr. L. O'Reilly Lewis, Director of Projects, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), presents highlights at the 2026 CDB Annual News Conference.



Members of the Turks and Caicos Islands Security Council discussing border security issues

National Security Council Reviews Plans to Strengthen TCI Maritime Surveillance

manent Secretary for National Security, the National Security Advisor, the Second-in-Command Officer of the Regiment, the Director General of the Border Force, the Security and Criminal Justice Lead, and the National Security Secretariat's Threat Lead. During the session, council members were briefed on proposals to enhance the Turks and Caicos Islands' Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) system. The initiative is aimed at strengthening maritime operational capacity and improving the monitoring and protection of the territory's maritime borders.

Officials presented an assessment of the current MDA capability and its operational effectiveness, highlighting areas where upgrades and improvements could further support law enforcement and border security agencies.

The briefing also outlined options for building a more resilient maritime

surveillance system, including potential technology upgrades, improved integration of monitoring sensors, enhanced information-sharing among agencies, and greater interoperability between national security partners. Council members also considered how improvements to the MDA system would align with broader national security infrastructure and operational requirements across the islands.

Enhancing maritime domain awareness is seen as a key step in strengthening the Turks and Caicos Islands' ability to monitor its territorial waters, respond to potential threats, and support coordinated border protection operations.

The National Security Council continues to play a central role in overseeing strategic security initiatives aimed at safeguarding the Turks and Caicos Islands and its maritime environment.

The Turks and Caicos Islands National Security Council (NSC) has reviewed proposals aimed at strengthening the country's maritime surveillance capabilities as part of ongoing efforts to improve border protection and national security.

The special meeting, held on Wednesday, 5 March 2026, at the Office of the Premier in Providenciales, was co-chaired by Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam and Premier Charles

Washington Misick.

Attending the meeting were the Hon. Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services, the Hon. Attorney General, and the Commissioner of Police. Apologies were received from Her Excellency the Deputy Governor and the Hon. Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development.

Also present were senior national security officials, including the Per-

PUBLIC CONSULTATION TO COMMENCE ON MORTGAGE CORPORATION BILL 2026

The Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, through the Ministry of Finance, advises that the Public Consultation on the Mortgage Corporation Bill 2026 will officially commence on 1 March 2026.

The four-week consultation period will include targeted stakeholder engagement sessions, alongside an open invitation for written submissions from members of the public, organizations, and stakeholder bodies.

This consultation provides individuals and institutions with the opportunity to formally submit comments, recommendations, and concerns regarding the proposed legislation before it proceeds for Parliamentary debate.

This engagement is specifically designed to:

- Validate the operational, governance, regulatory, and financial soundness of the Bill;
- Confirm implementation readiness; and

- Identify any minor refinements necessary to support effective enactment.

Particularly, feedback is being sought on matters relating to implementation, clarity, risk management, and operability.

Purpose

The proposed legislation responds to several structural challenges within the housing market, including:

Persistent housing affordability constraints;

- Identified market gaps not fully addressed by commercial banking institutions; and
- The broader policy rationale supporting the creation of a public-purpose mortgage corporation to expand long-term affordable home financing options.

What the Bill Does

The Mortgage Corporation Bill 2026:

- Establishes a non-deposit-taking statutory mortgage corporation;

- Provides a defined governance, capitalization, and oversight framework;

- Enables access to long-term affordable home financing; and

- Positions the entity to raise capital independently, subject to appropriate regulatory safeguards.

Key Issues for Feedback

Stakeholders are invited to provide input on:

Governance structure and operational independence;

Regulatory perimeter and supervisory arrangements;

Financial sustainability and capital framework;

Market interaction and competitive neutrality; and

Implementation sequencing and transition considerations.

The consultation is focused on ensuring that the legislation is robust, implementable, and financially sound.

Submission of Feedback

Written submissions will be accepted throughout the consultation period, from 1 March 2026 to 1 April 2026. The Government emphasizes that public participation remains a critical component of this process and encourages thoughtful, constructive submissions that will support the responsible and effective establishment of the Mortgage Corporation.

All written submissions must be received no later than 1 April 2026 and should be submitted via email to: mortgagecorpbill@gov.tc. Submissions should include the subject line: "Public Feedback – Mortgage Corporation Bill". Physical submissions will also be accepted at the Ministry of Finance offices on Providenciales and Grand Turk. Submissions should be in a sealed envelope labeled "Public Written Feedback – Mortgage Corporation Bill".

The Bill will be made available on the Government's website and can be accessed via www.gov.tc

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

HEY, GARFIELD! GUESS WHAT I GOT?

I BOUGHT A JIGSAW PUZZLE

AND NOT ONE OF THOSE 500-PIECE PUZZLES. THIS ONE IS 2,000 PIECES, BABY!

OF COURSE... IF WE OPEN IT...

LET'S JUST BACK AWAY

JIM DAVIS 3-8

HAMMIE, THAT SHIRT IS FILTHY.

YEAH.

AND SO ARE YOUR PANTS AND SOCKS.

AH, BUT MY UNDERWEAR IS CLEAN.

WHY IS THAT?

DUH! I DIDN'T PUT ANY ON TODAY.

© 2026 BUNNY BROS. LLC. DIRT BY ANDREW MARTEL. GUNNINGTON

3/13

STAFF ENTRANCE

THIS LAD HERE IS THE NEW CAPTAIN OF ANDY'S FOOTBALL TEAM. ANDY HAS REALLY TAKEN AGAINST HIM

HE CALLED A TEAM MEETING IN A BAR TO DISCUSS TACTICS

WHAT'S WRONG WITH GETTING ALL THE LADS TOGETHER IN THE PUB?

IT WAS IN A COFFEE BAR

GOLDSMITH & GARNETT

ARCHIE, I'M GIVING YOU AN HOUR'S DETENTION!

FOR WHAT?

I'VE MADE A LIST OF YOUR LATEST INFRACTIONS! CHOOSE ANY ONE YOU LIKE!

I THINK IT'S GOOD TO LET THE STUDENTS FEEL INVOLVED!

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3-13

SPRING... AND A YOUNG MAN'S FANCY TURNS TO THOUGHTS OF LOVE.

... AND BORROWING MONEY.

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3-13

NEWSLINE TCI COMICS

Remember when we were kids and we thought being an adult would be fun?



**HAHAHA
HAHAHA
HAHAHA
HAHAHA
LOL.**



"Can we do separate checks?"

Remember, son, with great mediocrity and inherited wealth comes an unshakable sense of infallibility.

Wayne P. 4 PIRRO 3-13-26

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3-10

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE NICE TO ME. SHE'S GOT THE MONEY."

JOJO THE DOLPHIN

NEWSLINE
Heritage

References

- Bernal, D. (2013). Dean and JoJo: The Dolphin Legacy.
 Currington, K. (2020). JoJo the Dolphin – a Living Treasure. Destination Magazines. <https://destination-magazines.com/jojo-the-dolphin/>
 NOAA Fisheries. (2020). Solitary Dolphins and Human Interaction.
 Turks and Caicos Islands Government. (1989). Declaration of JoJo the Dolphin as a National Treasure.
 Visit Turks and Caicos Islands. (2019). Wildlife and Marine Life of the Turks and Caicos Islands.
 Photo: Destination Magazines. JoJo the Dolphin – a Living Treasure. <https://destination-magazines.com/jojo-the-dolphin/>



For more than four decades, a single dolphin has captured the hearts of residents and visitors across the Turks and Caicos Islands. Known affectionately as JoJo the Dolphin, the wild Atlantic bottlenose dolphin became famous for his unusual habit of approaching swimmers and boats along the shores of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

JoJo first began interacting with humans in the early 1980s after appearing in the waters around Providenciales. Unlike most dolphins, which typically remain within pods, JoJo appeared to live largely alone and frequently sought out human interaction, swimming alongside boats and guiding swimmers through the clear turquoise waters of the islands.

His friendly behaviour quickly made him a beloved figure within the community and an unexpected ambassador for the natural beauty of the Turks and Caicos. Visitors often travelled specifically in hopes of encountering the dolphin, whose presence became part of the islands' folklore and tourism identity.

Recognising his cultural importance, the Turks and Caicos Government officially declared JoJo a National Treasure in 1989. Protective measures were introduced to ensure that the dolphin could live safely in local waters and to discourage harmful interference from boats or swimmers.

Over the years, JoJo's story has attracted international attention through books and documentaries that highlight his remarkable relationship with humans. His decades-long presence in the waters of the Turks and Caicos remains rare, as dolphins typically live in social groups and seldom form such sustained interactions with people.

Today, JoJo continues to symbolise the deep connection between the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands and the marine environment that surrounds them. His story serves as a reminder that the islands' natural world is not only an ecological treasure, but also an enduring part of their cultural heritage.

National Cancer Society Elects New Executive

The National Cancer Society of the Turks and Caicos Islands held its Annual General Meeting on Saturday, March 28, where members gathered to reflect on the organization's work over the past year and to elect a new Executive Committee to lead the Society forward.

During the meeting, elections were conducted, resulting in the appointment of a new executive team that will guide the organization in continuing its mission of supporting cancer awareness, advocacy, and assistance to individuals and families affected by cancer throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The newly elected Executive Committee for the upcoming term is as follows:

- President - Elizabeth Rigby
- Vice President- Rosemary Jolly
- Treasurer - Marsha Williams
- Secretary- Marc Rawlins
- Assistant Secretary - Renose Oreste
- Public Relations Officer - Gertrude Forbes
- Chaplin- Lucille Campbell
- Board Members - Terry Meneley and Selvyn Hawkins
- Immediate Past President - Veronica Rigby
- Patron & Founder- Lucille Lightbourne MBE

The Society extends congratulations to the newly elected officers and wishes them success as they undertake their responsibilities in service to the community.

The newly elected Executive Committee expressed their appreciation for the confidence placed in them by the membership and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the work of the Society. The organization looks forward to a

productive and impactful year ahead as it continues to carry out its important role within the community.

Plans for the year will include the continuation of several of the Society's well-known and meaningful initiatives. Some of which are: A Night for The Fight and Teeing For A Cure in May, Breast Cancer Awareness Walkathon, In The Pink and the Luncheon in October, as well as ongoing visits and support for cancer patients and their families across the islands.

Through these activities and other outreach efforts, the Society remains dedicated to raising awareness, promoting early detection, and providing encouragement and support to those affected by cancer.

The new Executive Committee is optimistic about the year ahead and looks forward to working together with members, volunteers, partners, and the wider community to further the mission of the National Cancer Society. With continued collaboration and community support, the Society anticipates another successful year of service and impact in the Turks and Caicos Islands.



National Cancer Society of TCI



Rosemary Jolly, Vice President



National Cancer Society of TCI



Marsha Williams, Treasurer



National Cancer Society of TCI



Marc Rawlins, Secretary



National Cancer Society of TCI



Renose Oreste, Assistant Secretary



National Cancer Society of TCI



Public Relations Officer; Gertrude Forbes



National Cancer Society of TCI



Lucille Campbell, Chaplin



National Cancer Society of TCI



Elizabeth Rigby was elected President



National Cancer Society of TCI



Lucille Lightbourne MBE, Patron & Founder,



National Cancer Society of TCI



Terry Meneley, Board Member

Life Line FEATURED CHURCH

The Community Fellowship Centre

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



Life line Church Directory

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

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

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

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

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

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

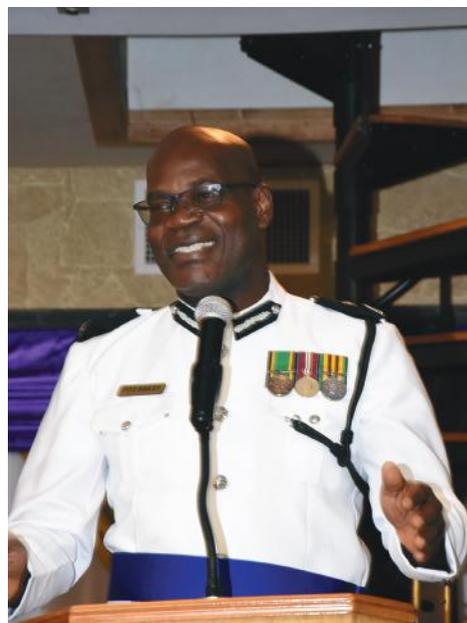
Editor's Note: If your Ministry is not listed and/or you would like for it to be part of the NEWSLINETCI Church Diary, contact us at: contact@newslnetci.com



Gender Affairs, RTCIPF Celebrate International Women's Day at ALMI Church

The Gender Affairs Unit and the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force celebrated International Women's Day (Sunday, March 8) worshipping at the Abundant Life Ministries International Church. Celebrating with them were Hon. Shaun Malcolm, the minister responsible for Gender Affairs, and Minister of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor. Reverend Claire Robinson, Bishop and President of the Bahamas Turks and Caicos Islands (BTCIC) Conference of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA), was the guest preacher. The following are photo highlights of the event.





HOW HORMONAL IMBALANCE AFFECTS ENERGY, WEIGHT, AND MOOD

Why cortisol, insulin, and estrogen need daily support

By Monica Uttamchandani
Holistic Health Coach, Turks and Caicos

Hormones influence nearly every function in the body. Energy levels, metabolism, mood, sleep, digestion, and weight regulation are all hormonally driven. When hormones fall out of balance, the effects are often subtle at first and then gradually disruptive.

Many people assume hormonal imbalance only happens during menopause or after pregnancy. In reality, daily lifestyle habits strongly influence hormones at every age.

Common Signs of Hormonal Imbalance

Hormonal issues do not always show up as a diagnosis. They often present as persistent fatigue, weight gain around the abdomen, mood swings or anxiety, PMS or painful periods, irregular menstrual cycles, low libido, trouble sleeping, and brain fog.

These symptoms are frequently linked to cortisol, insulin, estrogen, progesterone, and thyroid hormones.

Cortisol and Daily Stress

Cortisol is the body's main stress hormone. When stress becomes chronic, cortisol remains elevated. This disrupts blood sugar and directly impacts progesterone and thyroid function.

High cortisol can lead to:

- Increased inflammation
- Weight gain
- Sleep disturbances
- Anxiety and irritability



Insulin and Blood Sugar

Insulin regulates blood sugar. Repeated glucose spikes force insulin to work harder. Over time, this contributes to insulin resistance. Insulin imbalance is often linked to fatigue after meals, sugar cravings, weight gain, hormonal acne, and increased inflammation.

Estrogen and Progesterone Balance

Estrogen dominance can occur when progesterone is low or estrogen clearance is impaired. This is often influenced by stress, poor digestion, and liver overload. Symptoms may include heavy or painful periods, breast tenderness, PMS, and headaches.

Supporting Hormones Naturally

Hormonal balance begins with daily

habits. To support your hormones naturally, focus on:

- Eating protein at every meal, such as eggs, fish, poultry, yoghurt, or legumes, to stabilise blood sugar and reduce cortisol output
- Avoiding skipped meals, because irregular eating disrupts insulin and places additional strain on cortisol and thyroid hormones
- Supporting blood sugar stability, by pairing carbohydrates with fibre and fats instead of eating them alone
- Reducing caffeine on an empty stomach, as caffeine without food spikes cortisol and worsens hormonal imbalance
- Managing stress intentionally, through boundaries, breathwork, or nervous system support, since stress

hormones suppress progesterone and thyroid function

- Prioritising sleep and recovery, because hormone repair and detoxification occur primarily at night
 - Supporting liver health with fibre and vegetables, which help clear excess estrogen and metabolic waste
- Hormones respond best to consistency. Small daily shifts often create the biggest long-term improvements. For more hormone education and practical lifestyle support, follow @balancedbymonica on Instagram.

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



TCI TOP MODEL COMMERCIAL ACTING WORKSHOP EMPOWERS PERFORMERS FOR BROADCAST SUCCESS

Mrs. Levenia Bishop's 'Commercial Acting Workshop: On Camera & Radio' delivered an intensive, hands-on training experience designed to fast-track performers toward submission-ready reads for commercials, self-tapes, auditions, and radio spots.

The workshop emphasised clear, confident, and compelling delivery that reads equally well for sight and sound, giving models practical tools they could use immediately.

The workshop combined technique, practice, and real-time direction across core commercial performance areas. Line learning sessions taught beat breakdowns, anchor-word strategies, and record-and-listen routines to lock down reliable choices.

Delivery work focused on defining objectives and subtexts, practising active listening, and cultivating honest micro-reactions to create authentic connections on camera and microphone. Voice basics, tone selection, pacing, breath control, and articulation were reinforced to ensure broadcast clarity and versatility.

On-camera training covered micro-expressions, eye intent, framing and self-tape set-up, and continuity practices so performers could present consistent, camera-ready

work. Radio-focused sessions introduced basic mic techniques, vocal colour, and natural phrasing to help participants craft compelling audio-only reads. Mrs. Bishop also assigned practical in-session exercises that participants practised; these were well received and acted out, showing measurable improvements in delivery.

Throughout, emphasis was placed on making bold, specific choices quickly under direction, an essential skill for fast-paced casting rooms and tight production schedules. The workshop equipped attendees to produce polished self-tapes, improve vocal control, streamline script-breakdown methods, and heighten on-camera presence, with the intention that they gain confidence, audition efficiency, and the ability to convey brand intent with authenticity and purpose. "Great commercial acting is equal parts clarity and truth; you must move an audience in seconds while honouring the brand," said Mrs. Levenia Bishop, Founder, Director, and CEO, People Management & Development Consultant. "This workshop gave performers practical tools and repeatable exercises so they can make precise, emotionally honest choices on cue and deliver submis-

sion-ready reads every time."

"The concept behind this workshop is to bridge classroom technique with real-world commercial demands, giving emerging talent the tools to make bold, precise choices on cue and leave truly industry-ready for auditions, self-tapes, and broadcast work," said Courtney Robinson, Founder and Executive Producer, TCI Top Model.

"At TCI Top Model we're committed to providing actionable training and candid feedback, so every participant walks away confident, prepared, and able to compete in today's commercial market."

The Turks and Caicos' premier fashion event returns bigger and bolder. Cycle 7 of TCI Top Model culminates in a spectacular Grand Finale on Saturday, May 2nd, 2026, at Brayton Hall, Providenciales – expect high fashion, fierce competition and unforgettable entertainment.

Mission Catwalk, proudly sponsored by TCI Sotheby's International Realty kicks off the lead-up on Saturday, April 18th, 2026, on Grace Bay Road, Providenciales, featuring a Catwalk Competition, a Turks and Caicos Red Cross Fashion Show and an Interactive Challenge starting at 3:00 PM. Mission Cat-

walk is free and open to the public. Grand Finale tickets go on sale Tuesday, April 14th, 2026.



Convener of the workshop Mrs. Levenia Bishop



UK OFFICE OF TRADE SANCTIONS IMPLEMENTATION UNIT HOST TRADE SANCTIONS TRAINING FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

The Governor's Office and the Anti-Money Laundering Committee (AMLC) welcomed a team from the Office of Trade Sanctions Implementation (OTSI), a unit within the UK Department of Business and Trade to conduct a Trade Sanctions Training for public and private sector stakeholders across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Training for public sector stakeholders was held on February 24th-25th, 2026, and the private sector engagement was held on February 26th, 2026 at the Blue Haven Resort on Providenciales. The aim of this training was to strengthen participants' understanding of sanctions, including how and why they are used, enforcement of sanctions obligations, and the specific role of the private sector in ensuring effective implementation of sanctions in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The training covered a range of topics including, the founda-

tions of sanctions, trade sanctions implementation, global and maritime sanctions, licensing, and penalties.

Approximately 50 public officials attended the two-day training representing various Departments and Agencies across the Turks and Caicos Islands Government. These included the Governor's Office, the Attorney General's Chambers, the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Financial Intelligence Agency, the Border Force, the Gaming Control Commission, the Department of Maritime and Shipping, the Financial Services Commission, the Integrity Commission, the Ports Authority, the National Security Secretariat and the AMLC Secretariat.

The private sector engagement session which was held on Thursday, February 26th, 2026 was also well-attended with 55 persons from various industry

sectors attending. There was representation from banking, corporate service providers, Trust, retail and office management, shipping, the legal profession, real estate, accounting and the NPO sector.

Hon. Rhondalee Braithwaite Knowles OBE KC, Chair of the AMLC commended the public sector stakeholders for their attendance and dynamic participation throughout the sessions, and said:

"We thank OTSI and the participants from the public and private sectors for seizing this opportunity to learn how trade-related sanctions, including those adopted in the United Kingdom and extended to the Overseas Territories are implemented and enforced within the Turks and Caicos Islands. This is only a first step in many steps to come to strengthen the effective implementation of sanctions in the Turks and Caicos Islands."

The three days of training led

by OTSI culminated with a high-level debriefing with HE Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam. Thereafter, the OTSI team met with Hon. Zharvago Jolly, Minister of Tourism, who has responsibility for Maritime, along with the Director of Maritime and his team.

Thy also met with the Attorney General and her team, Mrs. Kenisha Bacchus, Acting Managing Director of Financial Services Commission and her team, the Acting Director of Financial Intelligence Agency and the AML/CFT National Coordinator, to agree next steps on how the TCI can improve its sanctions framework so that it has the capacity and resources to implement trade sanctions, maritime sanctions, and other types of sanctions effectively if the need should arise. This includes avenues for training and technical assistance from the UK, as well as any additional resources to assist the TCI in its mandate.



RGHS Alumni Cruise Raises Funds for New Seating and Common Area

The Raymond Gardiner High School Alumni members are in the process of raising funds for a seating and common area at the North Caicos school, an initiative aimed at improving campus facilities and creating a welcoming multipurpose space for students. As part of the ongoing fundraising campaign, alumni houses Duncanson, Gardiner and Seymours hosted a special Commonwealth Day fundraising cruise, bringing together former students and supporters for a day of fellowship while raising money for the project.

According to organizers, after covering all expenses from the cruise, the event generated close to \$4,000 so far, with several pledges still pending. The funds raised will contribute toward the alumni association's broader Building 2026 initiative, which seeks to construct a lunch seating and stage common area for the school.

Lead organizer Cynclair Musgrove of Duncanson House described the cruise as a meaningful opportunity for alumni and supporters to contribute to the development of their alma mater.

"This was a golden opportunity for the countless past students or parents to contribute to the school project. Thanks to those who saw the need and jumped on board," Musgrove said.

Musgrove also encouraged former students to reflect on their



time at the institution and consider giving back.

"I implore everyone who got five years free education from RGHS or Junior High to consider giving back. You may do so directly to the alumni or the school."

She added that many supporters contributed even though they were unable to attend the cruise. "I must say a hearty thanks to the generosity of persons who were unable to cruise but donat-

ed. Imagine past students living abroad who sponsored trinkets, key rings or buttons. Everyone who gave from \$20 to \$200, \$300 or \$400 made cruising for a cause a worthwhile funday."

Musgrove also expressed appreciation to the team leaders who helped organize the event, including Madam President Edith Gray (Gardiner House), Vender Walters (Duncanson), Hopeful Campbell (Seymours), Brenda

Jones (Duncanson), and DC Jas Walkin (Gardiner House).

Special recognition was also given to Principal Janet Walkin, who endorsed the initiative and purchased the first two tickets in support of the fundraising effort. Organizers say they remain optimistic that once the remaining pledges are received, the total contribution from the cruise will increase further before the end of the month.



3 things you should know about cancer and the heart

Cancer and heart disease are two of the leading causes of death in the Caribbean. Understanding their connection can make a meaningful difference in prevention and treatment.

As cancer therapies improve and increasingly achieve cures or recurring periods of remission, preventing and managing damage to organs from cancer treatment has become a top concern. That includes injury to the heart, says Joerg Herrmann, M.D., a cardiologist and the founder and director of the Cardio-Oncology Clinic at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

As physicians and researchers work to prevent, diagnose and treat heart damage from cancer therapies, they also have learned about connections between cancer and the heart that go beyond the cardiac effects of cancer treatments. Dr. Herrmann shares three things to know:

1. There is a 'web of risk factors'

Cancer and heart disease have common risk factors, Dr. Herrmann says. Those include lifestyle habits.

"We call it the web of risk factors. Some of the very same lifestyle-related factors can set patients up for both cancer and cardiovascular disease," he explains. "Smoking is a prime example. It increases the risk of lung and other cancers and coronary artery disease, heart attacks and peripheral artery disease."

In addition to not smoking, you can reduce your risk of cancer and of heart disease by

achieving a healthy weight; avoiding or moderating alcohol use; controlling cholesterol (some cancer treatments can worsen cholesterol levels); getting enough sleep; and adopting a healthy diet with fruit and vegetables, he adds.

Physical activity is another important factor. It has been shown to reduce heart damage risk during cancer treatment, help prevent cancer recurrence and improve cardiovascular outcomes, Dr. Herrmann says.

"The more elements of a healthy lifestyle you meet, the better your health projection is for the heart and cancer," he says. "You will reduce the risks of two of the leading killers and increase life expectancy."

Cancer and heart disease can actually be risk factors for each other.

"We've realized that the relationship between cancer and heart disease works in both directions," Dr. Herrmann says. "Cancer itself can impact the cardiovascular system apart from cancer therapies, and vice versa. Patients with heart failure or other cardiovascular diseases have a higher risk of cancer."

2. A variety of things may be done during cancer treatment to reduce risk to the heart. Which treatments are given and how can affect the risk of heart damage, Dr. Herrmann says. For example, the medical team may:

- Use treatments that minimize harm to healthy tissue, such as targeted therapies or proton beam therapy.
- Stagger certain chemotherapy drugs to give the heart a chance to heal between



treatments.

- Use medications that protect the heart during chemotherapy.
- Use techniques to shield healthy tissue during radiation therapy, such as body positioning and breath-holding to provide greater separation between the tumour and the heart.

"These shielding efforts have come a long way for adults and children who have cancer," he says.

3. Artificial intelligence and wearables are promising innovations.

The goals of Dr. Herrmann's research including developing tools that predict – before treatment – who is at high risk of heart damage from certain cancer therapies. This would enable shared decision making among patients and their care teams about the approach to treatment.

He and his colleagues are also working on therapies to mend hearts broken by chemotherapy and to develop easier and more cost-effective surveillance strategies for cardiovascular side effects of cancer therapies. Early detection and intervention are likely to lead to the best outcomes, Dr. Herrmann says.

The use of wearables and artificial intelli-

gence (AI) can help, he says. Research has found, for example, that applying AI to an electrocardiogram, a test that measures the heart's electrical activity, may help detect a decline in heart function.

"We're interested in going further with AI technologies and developing simulations to show how different therapies would affect a given patient," Dr. Herrmann says.

Some patients remain at risk of heart disease for a lifetime after cancer treatment, but it's impractical to do echocardiograms to look at the heart for the rest of their lives. Wearables to alert cancer survivors and their care teams to cardiac abnormalities are another promising area of research, he says.

"We've come a long way in cardio-oncology. We have a much better understanding of what we can do to manage heart risk from cancer therapies," Dr. Herrmann says. "Patients are in much better place now than they were even 10 years ago."

Mayo Clinic is a nonprofit organization committed to innovation in clinical practice, education and research, and providing compassion, expertise and answers to everyone who needs healing. Visit the Mayo Clinic News Network for additional Mayo Clinic news.

What is depression?

Depression is more than just sadness, it is a medical condition that affects mood, thinking, behaviour, and physical health. The World Health Organization defines depression as a leading cause of disability worldwide, affecting an estimated one in eight people globally. Even with effective treatments available, many people remain undiagnosed or untreated due to stigma and barriers to support.

In Jamaica, depression is a significant public health issue. According to the Jamaica Health and Lifestyle Survey, approximately 14.3 per cent of Jamaicans aged 15 and older have depression, about one in seven adults, with higher rates observed in women (18.5 per cent) than men (9.9 per cent).

Regional data from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) indicate that one in four adults in the Caribbean has a diagnosable mental health condition, and depression and anxiety account for roughly 50 per cent of these disorders. Yet crucially, about 60 per cent of affected individuals never receive treatment, and in some countries, untreated rates exceed 90 per cent.

These numbers suggest that while depression affects a large portion of the population, many people remain unsupported, especially in communities where mental health services are scarce or stigma is high.

Clinically, depression, also called major depressive disorder, is characterised by a persistent feeling of sadness or loss of interest or pleasure in

activities that used to be enjoyable. It affects how a person feels, thinks, and functions day to day. It is not simply "feeling down," but a sustained change in mood and behaviour that can disrupt work, relationships, sleep, appetite, and physical health.

Depression can be triggered by a combination of biological, psychological and social factors, including trauma, chronic stress, bereavement, or underlying health conditions.

Although depression is often thought of as an emotional condition, it commonly produces physical symptoms that can be just as debilitating:

- Changes in appetite and weight, either reduced appetite and weight loss, or increased cravings and weight gain.
- Sleep disturbances, trouble falling asleep, frequent waking, or sleeping too much.
- Fatigue and low energy make even simple tasks feel exhausting.
- Restlessness or slowed movements, a sense of agitation, or conversely, slowed thinking and activity.
- Physical aches and pains, such as headaches, digestive problems, and muscle pain without a clear medical cause.

These physical signs often lead individuals to seek help from general practitioners first, unaware that emotional distress may be driving their symptoms.

A DOCTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Local physicians emphasise that depression can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, or background. Many people confuse depression with normal sadness, but doctors note several key differences: depression persists most of the day, nearly every day, and significantly interferes with daily life.

Primary care providers in Jamaica are encouraged to screen patients for depressive symptoms, especially those with chronic illnesses. However, research suggests that few doctors routinely screen for depression, and many feel under-trained to manage it. This gap highlights the need for stronger integration of mental health into primary care.

Depression is treatable, and early intervention leads to better outcomes.

1. Professional Support

Seeing a healthcare provider is the first step. A doctor can assess symptoms and may refer patients to psychiatrists, psychologists, or counselors. Treatment plans typically combine therapy and, if needed, medication.

2. Psychotherapy

Talk therapy, such as cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), helps individuals understand patterns of thinking and develop coping strategies.

3. Medication

For moderate to severe depression, antidepressants can be effective. A qualified doctor or psychiatrist monitors medications and adjusts as needed.

4. Lifestyle Factors

Physical activity, good sleep, healthy eating, and social support all play a role in managing depression. Exercise programmes have been shown to help reduce mild-to-moderate depressive symptoms when part of a comprehensive care plan.

5. Community and Support Networks

Reaching out to trusted friends, family members, or community supports can reduce isolation and encourage ongoing engagement with care.

Despite the availability of effective treatments, barriers remain. Stigma prevents many from seeking help; others face limited access to services in rural or under served areas. Cost can also be a hurdle for therapy or ongoing treatment.

Because of these barriers, many Jamaicans and other Caribbean residents go untreated, even though recovery is possible with appropriate support.

If you or someone you know is struggling:

- Start with a family doctor or clinic and discuss your symptoms openly.
- Request a mental health referral if needed.
- Community clinics and public health services can connect you with counselling or psychiatric support.

Breaking silence and seeking help is a strength, not a weakness. Depression is a health condition, not a personal failing and with treatment and support, many people regain hope, functionality, and quality of life.

Source- PAHO

Reggae Icons awarded in FL

The South Florida city of Miramar staged its fifth Reggae Icon Awards on February 26 with Clive Murphy of The Tennors, bass guitarist Lloyd Parks, impresario Tommy Cowan and his wife Carlene Davis the 2026 recipients.

It was held at the Miramar Cultural Center's Banquet Hall.

Ride yuh Donkey. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

"I am very grateful to be recognised/honoured for all the work I have done for 63 years. It also gives me a good feeling to know that our songs can stand the test of time," Murphy told the Jamaica Observer. "The first song with the word reggae was our song, Reggae Girl, and I was the person that spelled reggae the way it is being spelt today."

Parks' career also started during the 1960s as a vocalist with The Termites, a rock steady duo. He was presented with the Reggae Icon

Award.

Best known as the founder/leader of We The People Band, he has played on countless hit songs such as Hard Drugs and Number One by Gregory Isaacs, Should I and Ain't That Loving You by Dennis Brown, and Cottage in Negril by Tyrone Taylor.

"I am extremely elated and appreciative of this award. I am excited to be honoured at this time because most of the work has been done. It is a good time and the right time," Parks said in an interview with the Observer. Cowan and Davis were acknowledged for their work in secular and gospel music with the Marcus Garvey Award.

"I am grateful. The journey has not been an easy one and so when I receive these honours I first give thanks to God. The scripture that says in Galatians 6: 9-10, 'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the right time we will reap a harvest.' If we do not give up, therefore, as we have the oppor-



Reggae Icon Awards recipients Lloyd Parks (centre); Clive Murphy (third right), of The Tennors; Tommy Cowan (second right) and Carlene Davis (right), share the stage with Miramar City officials Maxwell Chambers (left), Yvette Coulbourne, and Eddy Edwards at the fifth staging of the awards at Miramar Cultural Center's Banquet Hall.

tunity, let's us do good to all people," Davis told the Observer.

Jamaican Eddy Edwards, a Miramar commissioner, said the Reggae Icon Awards has grown in prestige.

"The feedback from attendees have been nothing but fantastic. All honorees are elat-

ed and have expressed that, despite being honoured on many occasions, this one is special and dear to them," he said.

Past recipients of Reggae Icon Awards include Pat Chin of VP Records, Third World, Mutabaruka, and Winston "Wee Pow" Powell, founder of the Stone Love sound system.



Stephen and Cedella Marley bang 'The Gong' as they officially reopen the iconic recording studio.

The doors of Tuff Gong International Studios reopened in grand style on Thursday night as the legendary facility unveiled its newly upgraded, state-of-the-art space during an exclusive, invite-only relaunch.

Politicians, musicians, recording artistes, and media professionals gathered inside the storied Kingston compound for a first look at the revamped studio, touring the modernised rooms and production suites that the Marley family say are designed not only to honour the legacy of Bob Marley but to serve the wider Jamaican music community. The evening signalled a new chapter for the iconic studio, positioning it as a creative hub meant to nurture talent across the island rather than exist solely as the home base of one of music's most famous families.

The mood throughout the compound was relaxed and welcoming as guests mingled freely, sampling plated treats while catching up with familiar faces from across the entertainment and media landscape. Chatter and laughter drifted easily through the space, giving the gathering the feel of a reunion.

DJ Rasarella set the tone with a smooth stream of reggae selections that kept heads nodding. By the time the evening's host, Empress, took the reins patrons appeared ready to fully immerse themselves in the specially curated musical experience that lay ahead.

Still, the emcee took a moment to ground the gathering, offering a brief reminder of why the space they occupied at Tuff Gong

International Studios is regarded as something of a musical holy ground — a place steeped in history and deeply rooted in the preservation and evolution of Jamaican sound. She expertly guided patrons through the origins of the historic property, explaining that long before it became Tuff Gong International Studios, the Marcus Garvey Drive compound housed the influential Federal Records.

Established there in 1957 by music entrepreneur Ken Khouri, the facility was revolutionary for its time, operating as one of Jamaica's first fully integrated music production complexes with recording, mastering, design and vinyl pressing all under one roof. During the early 1960s Federal expanded its reach through franchise relationships with international labels such as Capitol Records, pressing global hits locally while helping to fuel the island's own growing recording industry.

"I'm not about to preach big, but I have to share this with you," Lecia Gaye Taylor said. "Years ago before reggae was the global force that it is now, a young Bob Marley walked through these gates and, like many young artistes, he was looking for an opportunity or a 'buss', but he was turned away, according to the stories we have been told. Bob, in his quiet confident way, is said to have said, 'One day I'm going to own that property.'"

That prophecy fulfilled in 1981 when Rita Marley purchased the compound and trans-

Marley family unveils upgraded Tuff Gong Int'l Studios

formed it. The studio has grown into one of the Caribbean's most important music production hubs, preserving the rare ability for artistes to rehearse, record, master and press vinyl within the same creative space while continuing to serve Jamaican talent and global collaborators alike.

With the formalities and foundation stories concluded, attention turned to the moment many had been waiting for — the unveiling of the upgraded space at Tuff Gong International Studios. But before guests began exploring the newly reimaged facility, there was one symbolic act left.

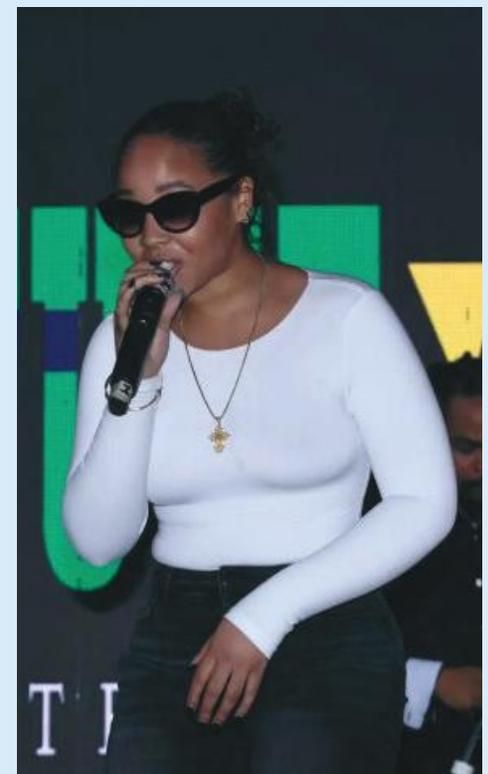
A towering metal plate, fittingly dubbed The Gong was struck in a resonant ceremonial moment led by brother-sister duo, Cedella and Stephen Marley. The gesture served as both a playful nod to the studio's name and a powerful signal that a new chapter had officially begun.

The tour led patrons into a newly designed artiste lounge, outfitted with large, comfortable couches, ash trays, a table tennis set-up and a miniature table football game, creating a relaxed environment for creatives to unwind between sessions. The room's décor was elevated by grand light fixtures and oversized framed photographs of Bob Marley alongside several local and international artistes who have recorded at the studio over the years.

From there, guests stepped into the main recording space featuring upgraded lighting and improved acoustics. The experience concluded with a stop at the vinyl pressing area, where patrons were given a first-hand look at the process that transforms recorded music into physical records.

Of course, the evening would not have been complete without live music, and members of the third-generation Marley lineage

ensured the night delivered on that front. Yohan Marley and his sister Mystic Marley took the lead, treating the intimate gathering to a selection of reggae favourites drawn from the formidable catalogue of their grandfather, Bob. Their performances were met with warm appreciation from patrons, adding a fitting musical highlight to an evening dedicated to legacy, renewal, and the enduring spirit of Jamaican music.



Mystic Marley performs at the event

Harvey Weinstein says prison is 'hell'

Disgraced movie mogul and convicted rapist Harvey Weinstein says life in prison is "hell" in an interview where he repeatedly claimed he was not guilty of any crimes.

The man who once effectively ruled Hollywood before a spectacular fall from grace at the start of the #MeToo movement said he is trapped in his cell at New York's Rikers Island, with only guards for company.

"It's too dangerous for me to be around anyone else. Other inmates get to go to the yard. But every time I'm out there, I feel like I'm under siege," Weinstein told The Hollywood Reporter in an extraordinary interview published Tuesday.

"One time while I was waiting to use the phone, I asked the guy in front of me if he was done. He got off and punched me hard in the face.

"I fell on the floor, bleeding everywhere. I was hurt really badly."

The Oscar-winning producer, who shepherded films including "Shakespeare in Love" and "Pulp Fiction" to the screen, was the ultimate power player in Hollywood for decades, credited with making careers — and blamed for breaking just as many.

Weinstein was known for his fiery tem-

per, and the industry had long been rife with suggestions that he took advantage of his power to sexually exploit women.

In 2017, blockbuster investigations by the New Yorker and the New York Times laid bare a series of claims by young women that triggered an avalanche of allegations from more than 80 complainants and prompted the global #MeToo movement.

— 'I don't want to die in here' —

Weinstein's original 2020 conviction in New York, and the resulting 23-year prison term, were thrown out, but in a June retrial, he was convicted of two counts of sexual assault.

A California court separately convicted him of rape and in 2023 sentenced him to 16 years in prison, a term the judge ordered to run after his New York sentence.

In the interview published Tuesday, Weinstein repeatedly insisted he had never sexually assaulted anyone.

"I will be proven innocent. That I promise you," he said of an upcoming retrial on a rape charge.

"The thing I was doing wrong was not sexual assault. It was cheating on my wife. I was desperate to keep that se-



In this file photo former film producer Harvey Weinstein appears for a pre-trial hearing in Manhattan Supreme Court for a hearing as his case on April 9, 2025 in New York City. Weinstein was first convicted of first-degree criminal sexual act and third-degree rape in 2020 and sentenced to 23 years in prison. The conviction was overturned on appeal last April with prosecutors electing to not drop the charges. Weinstein's re-trial is scheduled to begin on April 15.

cret from her.

"I had lots of people come see me (in a hotel room). But there were some women who knew exactly what was expected. Maybe they felt bad later, or they regretted it."

The 73-year-old said some of his accusers were simply chasing the money.

"Maybe they saw an opportunity for a payout. But not all of them were as naive as they liked to pretend.

"Yes, there was a power imbalance. I know I can be scary and difficult. But that's still a long way from sexual assault."

Weinstein, who uses a wheelchair, says he has undergone a heart operation while in prison and now has bone cancer.

He told The Hollywood Reporter that he is terrified of dying in prison.

"It scares the shit out of me," he said.

"It's incredible to have the life that I had and the things that I did for society, and not have the leniency to deal with me in a kinder way.

"Whatever they think I did bad in my life, I didn't get the death penalty. I'm going to be 74 in March. I don't want to die in here."



Rihanna's Home

Los Angeles police took a woman into custody after she fired gunshots outside Rihanna's gated home on Sunday afternoon, according to the authorities and news reports on Monday.

No one was injured, police said.

Police received a call about shots fired around 1:15 p.m. in the Beverly Hills area, Officer Charles Miller said on Monday. A 35-year-old woman was later taken into

Woman taken into custody after gunshots fired near Rihanna's LA home

custody, and investigators recovered a weapon, according to a police statement. The suspect has been booked on suspicion of attempted murder and is in jail on US\$10-million bail. The district attorney had not yet announced charges.

Miller did not say who lived in the home. Multiple local news outlets reported that it belongs to Rihanna. Public records show the property is owned by a trust run by Evan Jehle, who is a member of the advisory board for Rihanna's Clara Lionel Foundation.

Emails seeking comment were left with Rihanna's publicist and manager.

KABC-TV showed video of what appeared to be five bullet holes in the front gate of the home.

"Shooting just occurred. Ten gunshots fired from the vehicle," a police dispatch-

er told responding officers on audio obtained by KABC. The gunfire came from across the street, police said.

It was not known if the woman under arrest had any connection to Rihanna.

In 2018, a man was accused of breaking into a different home of Rihanna's in the Hollywood Hills and spending 12 hours there. The man pleaded no contest to felony counts of stalking and vandalism and a misdemeanor count of resisting arrest in 2019. He was sentenced to probation.

A nine-time Grammy Award winner, Rihanna has 14 No. 1 hits on the Billboard Hot 100, including We Found Love, Work, Umbrella and Disturbia. She founded the make-up brand Fenty Beauty in 2017.

She and A\$AP Rocky announced the birth of their third child, a girl named Rocki Irish Mayers, in September.



The Legacy Summit 2026 Ignites Powerful Conversations on Wealth, Investing, and Financial Empowerment

The Legacy Summit 2026, held under the theme “Building Wealth by Design,” delivered two powerful days of dialogue, inspiration, and practical insight into wealth creation, financial empowerment, and long-term legacy building in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The summit began on March 6, 2026, with an exclusive Legacy Summit MasterClass at On Island in Grace Bay, where a select group of attendees participated in an intimate and highly interactive session with global financial leader Thasunda Brown Duckett, President and CEO of TIAA.

Unlike a traditional lecture, the Masterclass created a dynamic environment where participants were able to engage directly with Duckett through meaningful conversation and one-on-one exchanges. Attendees explored topics ranging from leadership and financial decision-making to building long-term financial security and navigating opportunities in today’s economic landscape. The following day, March 7, the summit’s main event took place at The Shore Club Ballroom, drawing professionals, entrepreneurs, investors, and community leaders from across the islands for a day dedicated to advancing financial literacy and strategic wealth building.

The morning kicked off with the official opening ceremony and a highly anticipated Keynote Conversation with Duckett, who delivered a compelling message on financial independence, leadership, and the importance of intentional wealth creation.

Throughout her remarks, Duckett emphasized the power of financial education, disciplined investing, and creating opportunities that extend beyond individual success to build stronger families and communities.

The summit’s agenda featured two strategic panel sessions that explored practical pathways to building wealth within the Turks and Caicos context.

The first panel, “Property to Portfolio: Building Real Wealth Through Real Estate,” examined how property ownership can evolve into long-term portfolio strategy. Panelists Ian Hurdle, Walter Gardiner, and Kyle Smith, moderated by Sophia Thomas, shared insights on leveraging real estate as a wealth-building asset, managing risk, and transitioning from single property ownership to structured investment portfolios.

Following a networking lunch, the summit continued with “Beyond the Basics: Smarter Investing for Long-Term Wealth in the Turks and Caicos.” Panelists Dian-dra Mills, Samuel Dormeus, Brenesha Cox-Lightbourne, and Garrett Bathgate discussed how individuals can move beyond saving to build diversified investment portfolios that support long-term financial growth and generational wealth.

A special Legacy Spotlight segment also celebrated the entrepreneurial journey of Island Organics founders Arlene Hall and Kishanta Hall Comert, highlighting the power of family businesses and local entrepreneurship in shaping lasting legacy within the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The summit concluded with a powerful Closing Fireside Keynote by Dr. Nelson “Chris” Stokes, who challenged attendees to think boldly about scaling opportunity, building sustainable systems of wealth, and strengthening the economic future of the Caribbean.

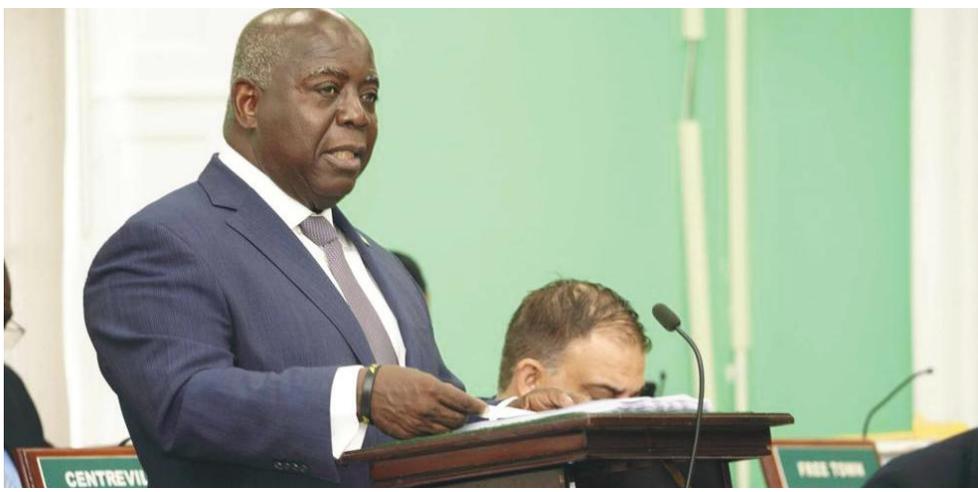
Founder of The Legacy Summit, Mary Fulford, described the event as an important milestone in creating space for honest and empowering conversations about wealth in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

“The Legacy Summit was created to start the conversations many people want to have but often don’t know where to begin,” said Fulford. “We wanted to bring together global expertise and local in-

sight to show that wealth building is not just for a select few - it is possible with the right knowledge, mindset, and strategy. Seeing the level of engagement and enthusiasm from attendees confirms that our community is ready to think differently about financial empowerment and long-term legacy. We are also deeply grateful to our sponsors and partners whose support made this vision possible.”

With its successful debut, The Legacy Summit 2026 has established itself as a meaningful platform for thought leadership, financial empowerment, and forward-thinking dialogue around wealth creation in the Turks and Caicos Islands.





Prime Minister Philip Davis has called recent instances of fraud involving Bahamian passports, NIB cards and drivers license “troubling” and said that law enforcement officers are currently doing their best to combat the crimes. “When we talk about fraud that has an element of deceit, and perpetrators are engaging in it to ensure that you won’t

discover it,” Davis said yesterday while attending a walkabout in the Southern Shores area of New Providence.

“That’s why sometimes it takes longer to figure it all out.

“We are troubled by the fact that our documents and other official instruments are being framed in a way to mislead others.

Davis says govt troubled by recent incidents of document fraud

“I know that the police have taken note of this and they are doing their best to defend against it.”

Document fraud has sparked concern from members of the public who worry that the crimes will impact the credibility of official Bahamian documents.

In February, Director of Immigration Stephen LaRoda said the department was strengthening oversight as a result of the illegal activity.

LaRoda said an officer had been assigned to passport offices for screening purposes and to confirm the validity of official documents.

Last week, a Haitian man was remanded

to prison after he was accused of fraudulently obtaining a Bahamian passport and voters’ card after he attempted to use the document at Lynden Pindling International airport.

Davis said though fraud is concerning, he does not believe it poses a threat to national security or the credibility of Bahamian documents at this time.

“I don’t think it’s a threat per se because the amount that we are talking about has not been that great,” Davis said.

“However, any fraudulent document that purports to be an official document has the potential of undermining the integrity of our national security.”

CDB preparing to finance health sector as Cuba medical exit raises concerns

THE Caribbean Development Bank is preparing to finance health sector initiatives in the Caribbean for the first time in decades, as regional governments face uncertainty over the future of Cuban medical missions.

Speaking at the bank’s annual news conference in Barbados last week, CDB President Daniel Best said the institution’s newly approved 2026-2035 strategic plan now formally recognises health as an area in which the regional lender may intervene — a notable shift for an institution traditionally focused on infrastructure, climate resilience, and economic development.

“For the first time in quite some time in the Caribbean Development Bank’s history we have actually included health as a sector that we would intervene in,” Best said.

The issue surfaced during the conference when a journalist asked how Caribbean countries might cope if Cuban medical practitioners were to exit the region.

Days later, Jamaica announced it would discontinue its decades-old medical cooperation programme with Cuba after the two countries failed to reach agreement on new terms following the expiration of their previous arrangement.

For decades the programme helped fill critical staffing gaps in Jamaica’s public health system, providing doctors, nurses, and specialists who served in hospitals and clinics across the island.

The decision has already triggered visible ripple effects. At the Jamaica-Cuba eye care clinic at St Joseph’s Hospital in St Andrew, large numbers of patients

recently turned out seeking treatment ahead of the anticipated departure of Cuban specialists who have long supported the programme.

Similar concerns have surfaced elsewhere in the Caribbean, where several health systems rely heavily on Cuban medical personnel to fill shortages in specialised care.

The issue has also drawn wider geopolitical attention. In recent years the United States has stepped up criticism of Cuba’s overseas medical missions, alleging that the programme amounts to forced labour — an accusation Cuba and many Caribbean governments have rejected.

Some countries in the region have since begun reviewing how their arrangements with Cuban medical professionals are structured, with several exploring the option of hiring doctors directly rather than through State-to-State agreements.

Best acknowledged that such shifts could create development challenges for small island states already grappling with workforce shortages and rising health-care costs.

“With Cuban medical practitioners perhaps exiting the region, this could certainly become a developmental issue,” he said. “And as the region’s development bank, we are here to support our countries.”

While the CDB is not preparing to directly build hospitals or manage medical programmes, Best said the bank intends to support governments through partnerships, technical assistance, and financing aligned with national development strategies.



BEST...For the first time in quite some time in the Caribbean Development Bank’s history, we have actually included health as a sector that we would intervene in.

“This is not to say that we are going to rush over there and build a lot of hospitals,” he said, noting that the bank currently lacks the specialised expertise required to supervise large medical infrastructure projects.

Instead, potential interventions would likely emerge through the bank’s country engagement strategies — the frameworks used to guide development financing in borrowing member states.

“If they capture within that the health concerns or challenges within the health sector, then we will seek to respond, whether directly or through partnership,” Best said.

The shift reflects a growing recognition that health outcomes are increasingly shaping economic resilience across the Caribbean.

Several countries in the region face some of the world’s highest rates of non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease — conditions that place significant strain on national health systems and public finances.

Best pointed to Barbados as an example, noting that the country consistently ranks high in global statistics on chronic

illnesses.

“For Barbados and some of our other Caribbean countries, health is actually a developmental issue,” he said.

broader development implications

Under the bank’s new strategic plan, health falls within its wider push to strengthen social resilience, one of three pillars guiding the institution’s work over the next decade alongside economic and environmental resilience.

The approach reflects a broader shift in development thinking, with institutions increasingly recognising that economic growth depends heavily on the strength of human capital, including access to reliable health care.

For Caribbean governments already operating under tight fiscal constraints, the possibility of development financing for health sector improvements could become increasingly relevant if pressures on medical systems intensify. And as the region grapples with ageing populations, chronic disease burdens, and uncertainty surrounding long-standing medical cooperation arrangements, health is emerging as a new frontier in Caribbean development policy.

Antigua to launch amnesty programme for undocumented foreign nationals

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, CMC – The Antigua and Barbuda government plans to launch a three-month immigration amnesty from April 2 this year for undocumented migrants who have been living in the country for at least four years.

Director General of Communications Maurice Merchant said Cabinet agreed that the amnesty programme would run for a limited period while authorities process applications from eligible migrants. "They also agreed that the amnesty itself will start on the 2nd of April and will run for three months," Merchant said, adding that the programme will apply to individuals who have been residing in the country for four years or more without legal status.

"The four-year start in terms of how long you've been in Antigua,



Antigua Prime Minister Gaston Browne

they think it's adequate," Merchant said, noting that research suggests most individuals likely to apply for the programme have been living in

the country for at least that length of time.

He said the Cabinet also reviewed the proposed application process,

including the required documentation and the cost to applicants. Applicants will need to submit police records covering the previous two years from their country of origin and from Antigua and Barbuda.

"They also agreed on a police record dating back two years from their country of origin," he said, adding that the government has also reduced the proposed application fee, recommending an EC\$250 processing fee.

"The original bill recommended an EC\$500 processing fee," he noted. Under the proposal, the Chief Immigration Officer would be responsible for reviewing and approving applications submitted during the amnesty period.

Parliament is expected to consider the Immigration Amendment Bill on April 23.

Cuba says Jamaica bowed to US pressure to withdraw medical professionals

Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Affairs says it regrets the decision by the government of Jamaica to discontinue the current arrangement regarding the deployment of medical professionals in the public health sector by the Government of Cuba. The ministry, in a statement late Friday evening, said Cuba has made the decision to proceed with the return of the Cuban Medical Brigade. "These health professionals leave behind an indelible mark and return to Cuba with the satisfaction of a duty fulfilled and the permanent willingness to assist wherever their spirit of solidarity is required," the ministry said.

"Cuba's work in Jamaica is an elo-

quent example of genuine cooperation. In the last 30 years alone, more than 4,700 Cuban collaborators have provided medical assistance on the Caribbean island. Currently, the brigade is composed of 277 professionals whose work has had a tangible and profound impact on strengthening the Jamaican health system," it continued.

Further, the ministry said the Jamaican government "yields to the pressures of the government of the United States, which is not concerned about the health needs of the Caribbean brothers."

"Cuba deeply regrets that in this way a history of fruitful and sustained collaboration is disregarded, one that has brought countless ben-



Cuban doctors and nurses arrive in Jamaica

efits to the Jamaican people, who are now deprived of receiving the basic and specialised health services that Cuban collaborators provided," it added.

The ministry said through the Medical Brigade, more than 8,176,000 patients were treated, 74,302 surgical procedures performed, 7,170 births attended and more than 90,000 lives saved.

Likewise, it said through the Operation Miracle programme, present in Jamaica since 2010, the sight of nearly 25,000 Jamaicans has been restored or improved. Cuban co-

operation has also been decisive in projects for the control and prevention of diseases such as malaria and in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The most recent example of this dedication was seen after the passage of Hurricane Melissa, which severely affected the island. In those difficult circumstances, the Cuban Medical Brigade remained firmly at their posts, many of its members working for more than 72 consecutive hours and actively joining the tasks of recovering hospitals and communities," the ministry said.

KICK FOR INCLUSION TAKES SPOTLIGHT



SEE PG 38



Graham Arnold attends a press conference at the CommBank Stadium in Sydney on March 20, 2024, ahead of the 2026 World Cup football qualifying match between Australia and Lebanon to be played on March 21.

Iraq coach calls for World Cup playoff to be re-scheduled

Iraq coach Graham Arnold pleaded with FIFA on Monday to postpone his team's intercontinental playoff for the World Cup because many of his players and backroom staff are stranded by the growing Iran war.

The Iraqis are due to face either Suriname or Bolivia on March 31 in the Mexican city of Monterrey for a place in the World Cup finals, but with Iraqi airspace closed until April 1, Arnold's squad is unable to gather or travel.

"If the game goes ahead in Mexico we have the difficulties of getting out of

Baghdad," Arnold, an Australian, told CNN.

"About 60% of my players play in Iraq, all my backroom staff live in Iraq, all my medical staff live in Qatar and we're having trouble getting Mexican visas at this moment," he added.

Arnold said he had already been forced to cancel a training camp in the United States.

"That has all been scrapped now, because we can't get out of Baghdad," he said.

"FIFA need to obviously make a quick

decision on this because it is a bit unfair at this moment, with what we would have to go through."

He suggested that Suriname and Bolivia could go ahead with their playoff in Monterrey on March 26 and the winner of that game could play Iraq in the United States just before the World Cup, which kicks off on June 11.

"Suriname could always play Bolivia if we can't get there, and we could always play the winner just before the World Cup and (that) lets us prepare properly and do everything required to be successful," Arnold said.

"Bolivia and Suriname can play in March, they've got no complications with flights or anything, they can get there straight

away and we could play the winner "The winner stays and plays the World Cup and the loser goes home."

Arnold said the Iraqi football authorities were in close contact with FIFA, but he admitted the situation was taking its toll. "It's one step at a time, it's stressful, (I've had) a lot of sleepless nights worrying about getting that planning right," he said.

An Iraqi source told AFP the national federation had asked for the change.

"Iraq's request came due to the inability of the delegation to travel from the capital Baghdad," they said.

"As a result of the closure of airspace and the security risks currently affecting the region," they added.

ICC calls off Doha meetings amid West Asia conflict, shifts key talks online

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has been forced to abandon its scheduled board and committee meetings in Doha later this month due to the escalating military conflict in West Asia.

The governing body confirmed that the in-person gatherings, planned for March 25-27, have been deemed impossible to host amid widespread flight disruptions and safety concerns.

With limited air connectivity to and from Qatar, a spokesperson indicated that while the physical meetings are off, the business of cricket will continue virtually.

It is understood that critical discussions,

particularly those concerning the finance committee, will be convened online over the coming weeks.

The ICC remains hopeful that board members and committee heads could still meet face-to-face in April though this contingency relies heavily on the re-opening of airspace to ensure safe passage for delegates.

The cancellation disrupts what would have been the ICC's inaugural visit to Qatar for official meetings, a significant nod to a nation reporting a staggering 447 per cent growth rate in cricket participation.

The Doha agenda was packed with



pivotal decisions regarding the sport's commercial and international future. Key topics originally slated for discussion included the next cycle of global broadcasting rights as the current deal with JioStar is set to expire in 2027. Directors were also due to hold initial talks regarding the composition of the next Future Tours Programme (FTP) and the road map for Olympic qualification ahead of the LA 2028 Games.

While formal working groups have been paused, sources indicate that informal dialogue regarding the FTP has already commenced, with several member boards engaging with counterparts to begin mapping out the four-year calendar.

The ICC delegation was set to include board directors, chief executives, various committee members, and the sport's senior leadership team.



Kian Jules



Luc Durliat



Liv McNeil



Anaiah Allayne



Hayley Williams



Ezekiel Martin



Isaac Farley



Rishith Gururaja



Ethan Gardiner



Dawn Jules - Team Manager



Jessica Soderquist - Head Coach



Lincoln Martin



Tabia Williams - Sports Performance



Chanel Murray - Media

STRONG TCI AQUATICS CARIFTA TEAM

The Turks and Caicos Islands will send a strong team of nine swimmers to compete at the 2026 CARIFTA Aquatics Championships in Martinique. Representing the country at the prestigious regional competition are Liv McNeil, Kian Jules, Luc Durliat, Anaiah Alleyne, Hayley Williams, Ezekiel Martin, Isaac Farley, Rishith Gururaja, and Ethan Gardiner. For the second time, Martinique will host the CARIFTA Aquatics Championships, which are scheduled to take place from April 3–8, 2026. The event will be staged at the Pierre Samot Community

Aquatic Centre in Le Lamentin and the Anses d'Arlet coastal area, providing top-class venues for both pool and open water competition. Recognized as the largest aquatic competition in the Caribbean, CARIFTA Aquatics brings together the region's top young athletes. Male and female competitors between the ages of 11 and 18 will compete across three disciplines: Swimming, Artistic Swimming, and Open Water. The Turks and Caicos Islands Swim Federation said it is proud to field a nine-member team at this year's champion-

ships, highlighting the growth and development of aquatics in the islands. Supporting the swimmers will be Team Manager Dawn Jules, Head Coach Jessica Soderquist, Sports Performance Specialist Tabia Williams, and Media Officer Chanel Murray. The team is scheduled to depart the Turks and Caicos Islands on April 1, 2026. President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Swim Federation, Bennett Williams, said the athletes have demonstrated tre-

mendous dedication in preparing for the regional event. "Their selection reflects months of hard work, discipline, and determination. We are confident they will represent the Turks and Caicos Islands with pride, sportsmanship, and excellence in Martinique," Williams said. He said the federation extended best wishes to the team as they prepare to compete against some of the Caribbean's finest young aquatic talent.

Police Edge Aircool Knight Riders in Tight T20 Contest

Police registered a narrow victory over the Aircool Knight Riders during the Turks and Caicos Islands Cricket Association T20 Competition at the Downtown Ball Park on Sunday, March 8.

Batting first after winning the toss, Police were dismissed for 109 runs in 19.5 overs. The innings never fully gained momentum as wickets fell at regular intervals. Nixon Lewis led the scoring with 25 runs, while Alph Edwards contributed 19 and Chris Smith added 17. Gavin Brown chipped in with 12, and Nareem Jack made 11, but the remainder of the batting line-up struggled to build lasting partnerships.

The Aircool Knight Riders' bowlers shared the workload effectively and kept the Police bat-

ting under pressure throughout the innings. Hayden Spring was the most successful bowler with three wickets, while Aaron Charley also claimed three wickets. Jayden Tyson, Shaq Livermore and Odane Douglas each made valuable contributions with the ball as Police were bowled out just short of their full allotment of overs.

Chasing a modest target of 110 runs, the Aircool Knight Riders fought hard but ultimately fell just short, being bowled out for 108 runs in 19.5 overs. Stephen Browne played the leading role in the chase with a determined 43, keeping his team in contention deep into the innings. Jason Hack contributed 19, while Sam Gardener made 17 and Shane Macdowell added 10, but

the Police bowlers maintained enough pressure to prevent the Knight Riders from completing the chase.

Odane Douglas was the pick of the Police bowlers, taking three wickets for 18 runs from his allotted four overs, delivering a match-defining spell that helped turn the contest in Police's favour. Other bowlers also played their part in maintaining the pressure as wickets fell at regular intervals during the chase.

In the end, Police held their nerve in a tense finish to secure a 10-run victory, closing out a closely contested match in the Turks and Caicos Islands Cricket Association T20 competition. Douglas's outstanding bowling performance earned him the Player of the Match award.



Odane Douglas of the Police Team collecting his Player of the Match Awards

Beaches Crush GK Foods by 67 Runs in T20 Clash

Beaches produced a commanding all-round performance to defeat GK Foods by 67 runs in one of two Turks and Caicos Islands Cricket Association T20 matches played at the Downtown Ball Park on Sunday, March 8, 2026.

After winning the toss, Beaches chose to bat first and made full use of the opportunity by producing an aggressive and well-structured innings.

The Beaches batting effort was highlighted by strong contributions from Anthony McKnight and player of the match Sidue Hunter, who helped set the platform for the big total. Support also came from Jerome Daley and others, whose runs through the middle overs kept the scoreboard moving and allowed Beaches to build momentum. Through steady partner-



Sidue Hunter collecting his Player of the Match Award



The Beaches Cricket Team

ships and attacking stroke play, Beaches eventually compiled an impressive 203 for 5 from their 20 overs, placing GK Foods under significant pressure going into the chase.

Chasing 204 for victory, GK Foods found the target difficult against disciplined bowling from Beaches. The Beaches bowlers kept tight control of the innings and struck regularly to prevent any meaningful partnerships from developing.

GK Foods attempted to fight back but continued to lose

wickets at crucial stages of the innings. The Beaches fielders supported their bowlers well, holding catches and maintaining pressure throughout the chase. In the end, GK Foods were restricted to 136 for 9 from their 20 overs, falling well short of the challenging target.

Beaches' powerful batting display combined with disciplined bowling secured them a convincing 67-run victory, completing an impressive all-round performance in this entertaining T20 encounter at DTBP.

Kick for Inclusion Soccer Festival Expands Opportunities for Special Education Students

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Special education students from several primary schools across Providenciales gathered for the second annual Kick for Inclusion Soccer Festival at the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) Field on Thursday, March 12 for the second annual Kick for Inclusion. Kick for Inclusion is an initiative designed to ensure children with special needs are included in school sporting activities.

The event was organized by Tevynn Lewis, a special education teacher at Oseta Jolly Primary School, who said the festival was created to give special education students the opportunity to participate in sports during the school's second-term sports season.

Lewis explained that while most schools host athletic competitions during the sports term, special education students are often left out of those activities.

"This is a soccer festival to allow special education children from all the primary schools across Providenciales to come together and participate," Lewis said. "Schools normally have their sports during the term, but special education children do not always get that opportunity."

The festival introduces students to football through fun agility drills and interactive activities lasting about an hour, allowing participants to learn the fundamentals of the sport while building confidence and teamwork.

Lewis noted that the event also creates opportunities for students to interact with children from other schools who may have similar needs, helping to build friendships and a sense of community.

"Sports is a way to bring the community together," she explained. "Soccer helps the children develop skills, build talent, and interact

with others who may have a special need like them. It promotes camaraderie, togetherness and inclusion."

Now in its second year, the festival has already seen growth. In its inaugural year, the event featured participation from schools in Providenciales only. This year, a school from North Caicos was also invited to take part.

Lewis said the increase in participation reflects growing interest in the initiative.

"This year the schools have sent more students, and we've seen more support from sponsors," she said.

Government representatives and corporate sponsors also showed support for the event this year, with participation from officials within the education sector.

The festival was hosted at the foot-



Members of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force also joined in the coaching sessions

ball field of the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association, which Lewis said has played an important role in supporting the initiative.

According to Lewis, the association's technical director, Dane Ritchie, helped with the planning of the inaugural event and has been instrumental in its development.

Looking ahead, Lewis hopes the festival will continue to grow and eventually lead to the creation of a dedicated sports day for special education students across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"My aim is to have all schools participate and for the government to see the initiative and consider creating a sports day that includes special education children," she said. "That way they can truly have a sense of belonging during the sports term."

The Kick for Inclusion Soccer Festival is expected to continue expanding as more schools and community partners come on board to support inclusive opportunities for children with special needs across the Turks and Caicos Islands.



President of the TCIFA Sonia Fulford-Missick guides a young player into the rudiments of dribbling