

**SHARKS, CHESHIRE
HALL CLASH
IN PPL
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NEWSLINE

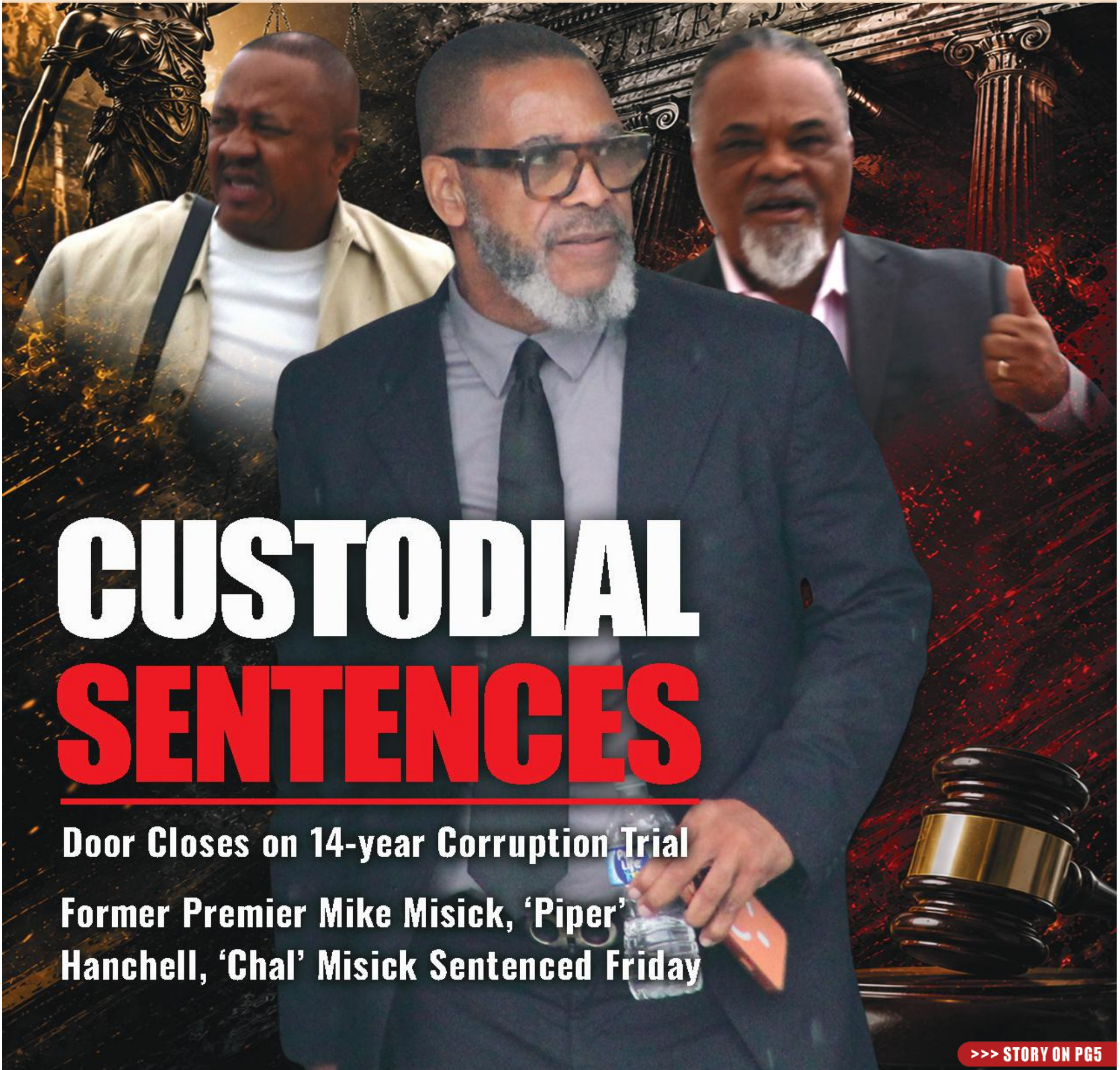
Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage



**NOAA Predicts Below
Average 2026
Hurricane Season
PG11**



**Lt. Colonel
Nimrol Beckles
Laid to Rest
PG25**



CUSTODIAL SENTENCES

**Door Closes on 14-year Corruption Trial
Former Premier Mike Misick, 'Piper'
Hanchell, 'Chal' Misick Sentenced Friday**

>>> STORY ON PG5



Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands Hon. Charles Washington Misick addresses the launch of the Statistics Authority



Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams addressing the launch of the Statistics Authority



Guest Speaker Dr. Godfrey St. Bernard, Retired Lecturer at the UWI



Shirlen Forbes, Director of the Turks and Caicos Statistics Authority addressing the event

TCI Launches Statistics Authority to Strengthen Data-Driven Governance

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands now has an official statistics-collection body, with the launch of the Turks and Caicos Islands Statistics Authority during a ceremony held at the Ritz-Carlton Resort in Providenciales on Tuesday, May 26.

Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Hon. Charles Washington Misick, officially declared the establishment of the authority, describing it as a major step toward strengthening governance, accountability, and national development.

“And so today marks an important milestone in the development of the Turks and Caicos Islands as we officially launch a strengthened and modernized national statistical system,” the Premier said. “A system designed to provide accurate, timely, credible and transparent data for the advancement of our country and people.”

Premier Misick emphasized that reliable statistics are critical for planning, policy-making, investment, social development, and national resilience, adding that the initiative reflects Government’s commitment to evidence-based governance and sustainable development.

“This launch is not merely the introduction of a technical system,” he stated. “It is a declaration that the Turks and Caicos Islands is committed to building a modern state grounded in knowledge, accountability and strategic foresight.”

The Premier also praised Director of the Statistics Authority, Shirlen Forbes, and his team for their dedication in bringing the institution to life.

“As a politician, as Minister for Finance, as a Premier, my job is to set policy and give direction. But it takes people like yourself to implement and deliver,” Misick said while congratulating Forbes and his staff. Director of the Statistics Authority, Shirlen Forbes, reflected on the vision behind the institution and stressed the importance of investing in people and building long-term institutional capacity.

“My vision has never been about one in-



Enid Capron Primary School perform at the Launch of the of the Statistics Authority

dividual,” Forbes said. “It has always been about building an institution bigger than any one person, one founded in professionalism, innovation, and service.”

Forbes said the success of the authority would depend not only on legislation, but also on the people who will lead and sustain the institution into the future.

“The staff you see before you are the future of official statistics in the Turks and Caicos Islands,” he stated. “They are the individuals who will collect the data, produce the statistics, inform national decisions, and uphold the reputation of this authority.”

He encouraged staff members to focus on developing the country’s overall capacity rather than individual achievement.

“We are only as good as the people around us that we help to develop,” Forbes said. “Let us not focus on building our own capacity, but rather the Turks and Caicos Islands’ capacity.”

During his remarks, Forbes introduced members of the Statistics Authority team

and acknowledged the role of the apprenticeship programme in helping to develop young statisticians and professionals within the institution.

Staff members also paid tribute to Forbes for his leadership and mentorship, crediting him with helping to recruit, train, and develop many of the authority’s current professionals.

They highlighted his role in advancing major milestones in the country’s statistical development, including the Statistics Act 2012 and the Statistical Authority Ordinance 2022, which paved the way for the establishment of the authority.

Chairman of the Statistics Authority Board, Pastor Bradley Handfield, welcomed attendees and described the launch as a renewed national commitment to professional excellence, transparency, and evidence-based decision-making.

“Reliable statistics are essential for national development,” Handfield said. “Quality data help governments develop effective policies, enable businesses to make in-

formed investment decisions, support researchers and development partners, and empower citizens with a better understanding of the social and economic realities of our country.”

Regional and international representatives also commended the Turks and Caicos Islands for modernizing its national statistical system.

Director of the Statistical Institute of Belize, Diana Castillo-Tirado, said the transition from a government department to an autonomous entity places the Turks and Caicos Islands among a growing number of Caribbean countries strengthening their national statistical offices.

CARICOM Director of Regional Statistics, Halim Brizan, described the establishment of the authority as “a bold and strategic step” that reflects the region’s commitment to improving governance, professional independence, and public access to reliable statistics.

Permanent Secretary of Finance Athenee Harvey-Basden said the authority would strengthen the production, coordination, and dissemination of official statistics while enhancing the country’s credibility with investors, development partners, and international institutions.

She highlighted several major statistical initiatives already completed, including the Survey of Living Conditions, Household Budget Survey, rebasing of national accounts, improvements in price statistics, and the development of a National Labour Survey Programme.

Held under the theme “Empowering Our Islands Through Data,” the ceremony celebrated what officials described as a transformative moment for the Turks and Caicos Islands and its future development. Officials said the authority will improve national data collection and analysis across all sectors while ensuring that official statistics remain accessible, transparent, and aligned with international standards.

Guest speaker at the event was Demographer, and retired lecturer at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Dr. Godfrey St. Bernard.



Premier Hon. Washington Misick who also serves as Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Investment and Trade, is expected to deliver the keynote address



Sonia Fulford Misick, President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association and a FIFA Council Member will be one of the high-profile presenters



Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor will address "Future-Ready Education for a Small Island Economy."



Mike Sands, President of NACAC is expected to attend the event

The 3rd Annual Turks and Caicos Islands Business Outlook will convene on June 5, 2026, at The Palms under the theme, "Strengthening Foundations for Long-Term Prosperity."

The event will bring together government leaders, regional executives and private sector stakeholders for discussions aimed at strengthening economic resilience and supporting long-term prosperity in the Turks and Caicos Islands and the wider Caribbean.

Premier Hon. Charles Washington Misick, who also serves as Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Investment and Trade, is expected to deliver the keynote address centered on the conference theme, continuing his role in shaping the country's economic policy agenda.

Organizers say this year's conference builds on previous editions that focused on areas such as investment reform, healthcare innovation, digital transformation, infrastructure modernization and tourism diversification. The 2026 agenda expands discussions into sectors considered increasingly vital for small island economies, including education, sports, health systems and real estate development.

Among the anticipated sessions is a discussion on sports development and its broader economic potential.

Sonia Fulford Misick, President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association and a FIFA Council Member, will join Mike

Sands, President of NACAC, in a panel discussion titled "Opportunities and Challenges for the Development of Sports."

The discussion will explore how sports can extend beyond competition and serve as a catalyst for youth empowerment, community development, tourism growth and economic opportunity.

Education and healthcare are also expected to feature prominently during the conference.

Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor will address "Future-Ready Education for a Small Island Economy," examining how education systems can adapt to meet changing workforce needs.

Meanwhile, Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Kyle Knowles will present on "Building a Healthier Nation: Access, Affordability & Prevention."

Dennis Deveaux, Chief Executive Officer of Doctors Hospital Health Systems Limited, is also expected to provide perspectives on healthcare systems and private sector collaboration aimed at improving access to affordable healthcare services.

Infrastructure development will be another major topic, with Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Arlington Musgrove scheduled to address priorities in that area.

Regional business perspectives are also expected to play a significant role. Dexter Adderley, Managing Director of FOCOL, will participate in discussions focused on cross-border investment opportunities and

TCI Business Outlook Returns with Focus on Sports, Luxury Tourism and Long-Term Economic Growth

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

private sector expansion throughout Caribbean markets.

Luxury tourism and real estate — sectors often regarded as major economic drivers for island nations — will receive focused attention beginning at midday.

Minister of Tourism Zhavargo Jolly is expected to lead discussions on "Luxury Tourism: Sustaining Exclusivity While Scaling Growth," followed by panel discussions exploring opportunities and challenges facing the luxury real estate sector across the region.

Participants will also examine regional property markets during a session titled "Overcoming Obstacles: Seizing Opportunities in Real Estate."

Additional presentations throughout the

day will feature Wilfred Mullings, Deputy Director of Sales and Marketing at Bahamasair Holdings Ltd., and Keyron Smith, President and CEO of One Eleuthera Foundation.

The event is also expected to reinforce business ties between The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands, reflecting growing collaboration between private sector entities across the region.

The 2026 Business Outlook is supported by several corporate sponsors including SunOil Ltd., Deloitte, Caribbean Wines and Spirits, Bahamasair, Doctors Hospital Health Systems, CIBC, H.G. Christie Ltd., One Eleuthera Foundation, RBC and Scotiabank. Organizers say the broad sponsorship reflects continuing regional support for discussions surrounding investment, tourism, healthcare, sports and economic development.

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Tourism Sector, Booking.com on Collision Course

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The decision by Booking.com to apply commissions to government-imposed accommodation taxes and statutory fees collected by hotels has angered local and regional tourism players.

As a result, the Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA) has joined its regional tourism counterparts in urging the online booking agency to reconsider such policy.

The Association says the proposed measure has sparked significant concern among accommodation providers throughout the Caribbean, including in the Turks and Caicos Islands, where hotels are responsible for collecting and remitting tourism-related taxes to government authorities.

TCHTA President James McAnally described the move as both unfair and economically unreasonable.

"Hotels do not keep government taxes as revenue," McAnally said. "These funds are collected solely because properties are legally obligated to do so and are then remitted directly to government. Charging commission on those amounts creates an unnecessary financial burden on money that never belongs to the hotel."

The issue has also drawn the attention of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), which has raised objections at the regional level. According to the TCHTA, the matter must be considered within the broader context of Caribbean tourism economies, where the hospitality sector plays a major role in supporting employment, public revenue and local communities.

For the Turks and Caicos Islands, widely recognized as one of the Caribbean's premier luxury destinations, the Association says the concern extends beyond one booking platform or a single fee structure.



TCHTA President James McAnally

It highlights the need for a fair business environment for hotels, resorts, villas and other accommodation providers that sustain the country's tourism industry.

"Tourism is not only measured by visitor arrivals and occupancy levels," McAnally added. "Properties must be able to maintain high standards, invest in their staff and continue contributing to the economy and wider community. Any policy that increases operating costs by imposing commission on non-revenue items deserves careful review and a united response."

The TCHTA also warned that smaller operators, including boutique hotels and independent properties, could be disproportionately affected by changes to commission structures, particularly as operating costs continue to rise and online booking platforms remain critical to the industry.

TCHTA Marketing Chair Karen Whitt said the policy could also impact destination competitiveness, especially for small island economies already facing high operating expenses.

"Turks and Caicos has established itself as a leading high-value destination, but maintaining that reputation requires ongoing investment," Whitt said. "Our properties are expected to meet the standards of luxury travellers while also supporting destination marketing efforts. Adding commission charges to government taxes places additional strain on the very resources that make those investments possible."

Whitt also stressed that international booking platforms must recognize the unique realities of Caribbean destinations. "A global policy does not necessarily translate fairly across every market," she said. "The Caribbean is made up largely of small, tourism-dependent economies. Decisions that may appear administrative at the platform level can have much deeper consequences in destinations where tour-

ism is central to national life."


While emphasizing the importance of maintaining strong partnerships with global travel platforms, the TCHTA said such relationships must remain grounded in fair and commercially reasonable practices, including a clear distinction between hotel revenue and taxes collected on behalf of governments.

The Association said it supports the CHTA's regional advocacy efforts and encourages continued dialogue among online travel agencies, hotel associations and government stakeholders.


"This is not about opposing partnership," McAnally said. "It is about ensuring those partnerships remain equitable. Hotels should not be required to pay commission on funds they are simply collecting and passing on. The TCHTA will continue working alongside regional partners to protect the interests of our members, the tourism industry and the wider economy."



TCHTA Marketing Chair Karen Whitt



PUBLIC CONSULTATION




CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED VIRTUAL ASSETS BUSINESS BILL, 2026

The Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission (TCI FSC) invites members of the public, industry stakeholders and interested parties to submit views on the proposed **Virtual Assets Business Bill, 2026**. The Bill establishes licensing, supervisory, prudential and enforcement arrangements for Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs), stablecoin issuers and virtual-asset activities to enhance consumer protection, financial stability and compliance with international standards.

Key information

- Purpose: To obtain feedback on all aspects of the Bill so it may be refined prior to submission to Cabinet.
- Deadline for written submissions: **8 June 2026**.
- **How to submit:**
 - By email: consultation@tcifsc.tc (subject line: "Public Response: Virtual Assets Bill")
 - By post or hand: TCI FSC Offices, Providenciales or Grand Turk – sealed envelope marked "Public Written Response: Virtual Assets Bill".
- Documents: Consultation paper and draft Bill available at www.tcifsc.tc/consultation
- Privacy: The Commission may publish or summarise responses and may reference contributors' names/affiliations unless anonymity is requested in writing.

Enquiries: consultation@tcifsc.tc



Turks & Caicos Islands
Financial Services Commission
Web: www.tcifsc.tc
Email: FSC@tcifsc.tc

Former Premier, Co-Defendants Handed Custodial Sentences

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Former Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Michael Misick, has been sentenced to four years and 26 days in prison on bribery charges, ending the British-commissioned Special Investigation Prosecution and Team (SIPT) Trial that spanned more than 14 years and cost the country tens of millions of dollars.

Misick's former Cabinet colleague, McAllister Hanchell, was sentenced to three years imprisonment, while the former premier's brother, Thomas "Chal" Misick, received a four-year prison sentence.

Sentences were handed down in the Supreme Court on Friday, by belated presiding judge Rajendra Narine of Trinidad and Tobago, who assumed the case after then trial judge Paul Harrison of Jamaica died in 2021. Narine assumed the case in 2026 after a lengthy gap.

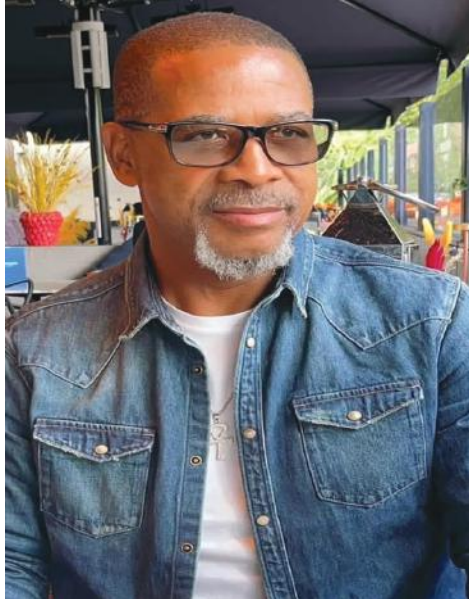
The sentences were handed down by Justice Rajendra Narine in the Supreme Court Annex on Providenciales. The judge ordered that all sentences be served concurrently and begin immediately.

Michael Misick, who was convicted on three counts of bribery, received a sentence of two years and 26 days on one count, four years and 26 days on a second count, and 26 days on a third count. Because the sentences are to run concurrently, he will serve four years and 26 days.

Thomas "Chal" Misick, who was convicted on four counts of money laundering, received four years imprisonment on one count, one year imprisonment on another count, two years imprisonment on a third count, and one year imprisonment on a fourth count. Justice Narine ordered that the sentences for the latter three counts be suspended for two years. The four-year sentence on the principal count took immediate effect, with all sentences running concurrently.

McAllister Hanchell was sentenced to three years imprisonment on each of the two bribery counts for which he was convicted. Those sentences will also run concurrently and commenced immediately.

The three men were found guilty



Former premier Mike Misick



McAllister Hanchell walks approaching the Supreme Court Annex last week.



Thomas 'Chal' Misick gives the media the thumbs up as he approached the Supreme Court Annex last week.

on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, following a lengthy corruption trial that examined allegations of bribery, fraudulent land transactions, and money laundering involving more than \$20 million.

The case was heard before Justice Narine without a jury. The charges included bribery, conspiracy to defraud the Crown and the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and breaches of the Proceeds of Crime Ordinance.

Former Premier Misick was convicted on three bribery counts connected to transactions involving the Beaches resort, Salt Cay, and West Caicos. Hanchell was convicted on two bribery counts related to land dealings on Salt Cay and West Caicos. Chalmers Misick was found guilty on four counts of money laundering.

According to evidence presented during the trial by the prosecution team led by Andrew Mitchell KC, the corruption scheme involved unlawful payments totaling approximately \$14.2 million connected to Salt Cay developments, \$4.7 million related to West Caicos projects, and \$2 million associated with transactions involving Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort.

Mitchell told the court that the defendants accepted illegal payments and other benefits from developers in exchange for favourable government decisions concerning Crown land at Salt Cay, West Caicos, and properties linked to the Beaches resort group.

The convictions and sentences

mark the conclusion of one of the most significant and far-reaching corruption investigations in the history of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Following the sentencing, a large group of supporters gathered outside the courthouse to demonstrate solidarity with the convicted men. Some expressed anger and disappointment over the custodial sentences imposed.

"They have suffered enough," one female supporter shouted. "They should not have been given a custodial sentence."

The woman also expressed frustration that the men were escorted from the building through a rear exit rather than leaving through the main entrance.

"They knew the strong support that they had, and so they did not want people to see the strong representation on their behalf. That is why they took them through the back door," she said.

Another supporter said he was relieved that the lengthy legal process had finally come to an end.

"I am glad that it is finally over. Now we can think about an appeal and see what we can get out of that. I am happy that the judge said the sentence begins now," he said.

A close family member of the defendants vowed that the family would continue fighting despite the outcome.

"Staying strong is the only thing we have left, and we will continue to stay strong and work on the matter. This is not the end of the matter,"

the relative said.

Attorneys representing the three men are expected to file appeals at the earliest opportunity and are also expected to seek bail pending the appeal process.

The men, and others, were slapped with range of charges following the yanking of the country's Constitution, recommended by a Sir Robin Auld commission of inquiry. The commissioner also recommended that charges brought against the former premier, his cabinet colleagues and others, claimed to have been associated with the then administration.

On July 9, 2025, former Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Floyd Hall and former Speaker of the House of Assembly Clayton Greene were given suspended prison sentences and ordered to pay substantial fines of \$1.18 million and \$413,000 respectively, by the Court of Appeal.

In September 2023, former Chief Justice Mabel Agyemang, convicted Hall of bribery charges, for accepting unlawful payments and advantages from developer Richard Padgett while serving in public office between 2003 and 2009. Greene was convicted of concealing the proceeds of criminal conduct, having facilitated the handling of funds derived from Hall's illicit gains.

Two other defendants, Melbourne Wilson and Jeffrey Hall, were acquitted. Hall had also faced three counts of conspiracy to defraud but was cleared of those charges.

Salt Cay: The Island We Abandoned — And the One We Need to Reclaim

Op-Ed by Paladin

Salt Cay was once the economic engine of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Not a footnote. Not a curiosity. A powerhouse. The island that produced the “White Gold” that fed armies, preserved food across continents, and kept this country alive long before tourism became our only storyline.

Yet today, Salt Cay sits in quiet decline — its ponds idle, its heritage fading, and its people left waiting for a government vision that never seems to arrive.

We talk endlessly about “diversifying the economy,” but somehow, we manage to overlook the one island whose history proves we once had a diversified economy. Salt Cay is not failing. **We failed it.**

From White Gold to National Amnesia

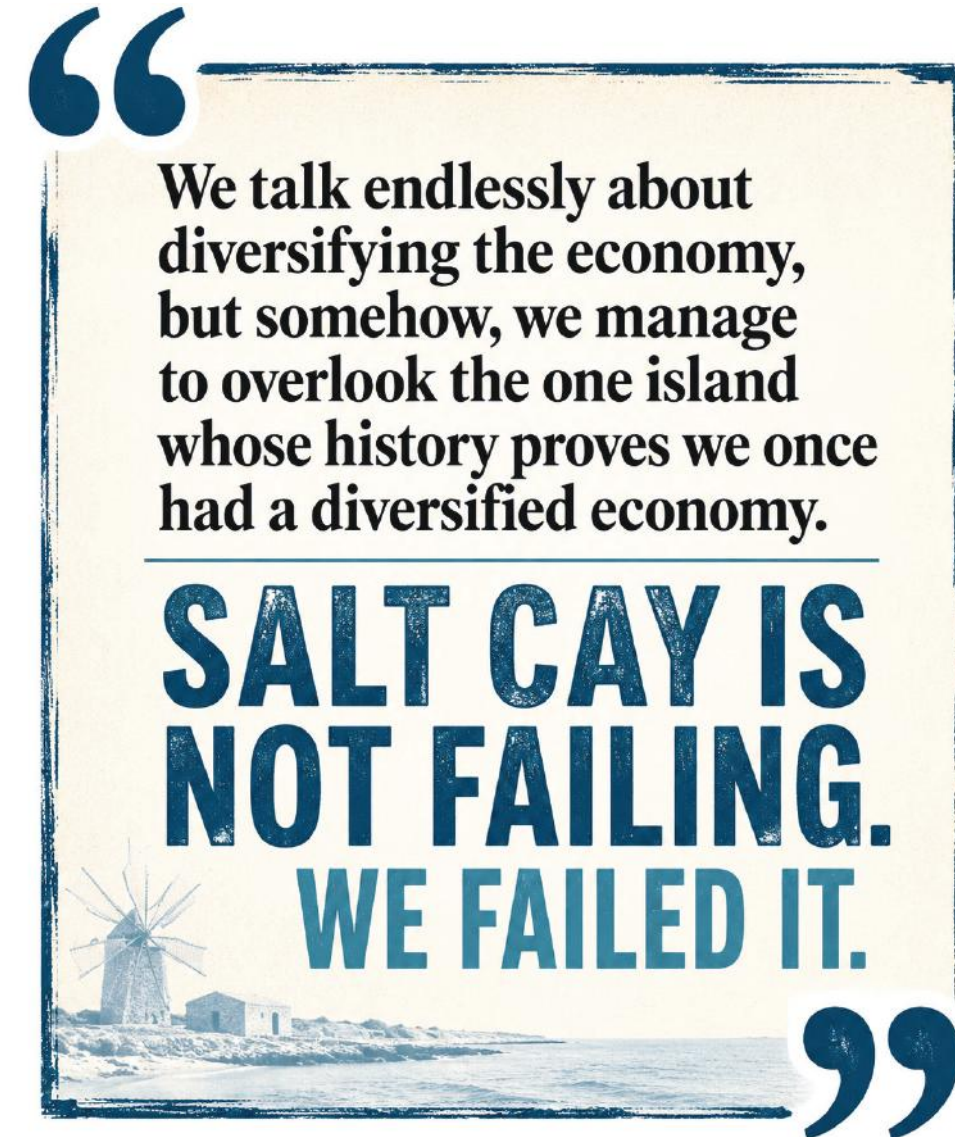
There was a time when Salt Cay mattered so much that George Washington’s army depended on its exports during the American Revolution. That is not folklore — that is documented history. But when the salt industry collapsed in the mid 20th century, the island was left without a replacement economic engine. No transition plan. No strategic investment. Just abandonment. Tourism eventually trickled in, but without infrastructure, without airlift, without accommodations, and without any serious government attention, Salt Cay became the forgotten child of the archipelago — overshadowed by Providenciales and ignored even by Grand Turk.

This is not an accident. It is the result of choices.

The Barriers We Pretend Not to See

Salt Cay’s challenges are not mysterious. They are obvious, fixable, and long overdue for action:

- **Airlift is unreliable and insufficient.** Visitors cannot fall in love with an island they can-



not reach.

- **There is no modern hotel.** Guesthouses alone cannot sustain a tourism economy.

- **Housing stock is deteriorating.** Historic homes sit in disrepair, limiting Airbnb potential and erasing cultural heritage in slow motion.

- **General neglect of infrastructure and Cultural Landmarks.**

- **Marina in disrepair.** Ferry Service irregular. No proper docking. We cannot keep pretending that “market forces” will magically fix this. Markets follow infrastructure. Markets follow access. Markets follow government signals. Salt Cay has received none. **A Real Plan for Revival — Not Another Slogan**

Salt Cay does not need mass tourism. It does not need concrete towers. It does not need to become another Grace Bay. What it needs is **intentional, low**

density, heritage centered development that respects the island’s soul while giving its people a future.

Seven steps — all achievable — would change everything:

1. **Restore reliable airline service. Not once-a-week roulette.** A real schedule that allows real tourism.
2. **Build a single boutique hotel.** Fewer than 30-50 rooms. Eco friendly. Architecturally respectful. A property that anchors the economy without overwhelming the island.
3. **Fund the restoration of historic homes.** Grants or low interest loans would preserve culture, expand Airbnb options, and put income directly into the hands of Salt Cay families.
4. **Cleanup and restore ONE of the SALT PONDS.** Rake this salt and bottle it for SALE as mementos for the Visitors.
5. **Collaborate with the Dive**

Company to “manage” Tours that respect the environment.

Scuba diving and Whale Watching

6. **Invest in the LOCAL Festivals held annually.** Encourage Locals to travel and explore this amazing piece of History.

7. **Cruise Ship Excursions.** Limited Number for a Curated Tour of the Island.

This is not radical. It is responsible. It is realistic. It is a simple start.

Why This Matters for the Entire Country

Salt Cay is a living museum — one of the most intact examples of Caribbean salt producing history anywhere in the region. Its ponds, windmills, colonial ruins, and whale migration routes are assets that cannot be replicated or imported. They are ours. And we are letting them decay.

If we are serious about diversifying tourism, about spreading opportunity beyond Providenciales, about honoring our heritage instead of paving over it, then Salt Cay must be part of the national plan — not an afterthought.

Salt Cay deserves more than nostalgia. It deserves investment. It deserves infrastructure. It deserves a future.

And the Turks and Caicos Islands deserve a government willing to build one.

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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

ROCK HOUSE

TURKS & CAICOS
GRACE BAY RESORTS

Director of Operations

Job Overview: The Director of Operations is responsible for overseeing and integrating the operational performance of the Food & Beverage, Rooms Division including the Culinary department and Coco Boutique at Rock House.

This role ensures exceptional guest experiences, strong financial performance, and seamless coordination across all operational departments. The position requires a strategic leader with strong operational expertise, and a hands-on leadership style to drive service excellence, team engagement, and profitability.

Responsibilities:

1. Operational Leadership:

- Oversee daily operations of F&B, Rooms Division, Culinary, and Coco Boutique.
- Ensure consistent service standards across all guest touchpoints.
- Drive operational excellence aligned with Leading Hotels of the World standards.
- Lead cross-departmental coordination to ensure seamless guest experience.

2. Guest Experience & Service Excellence:

- Champion a culture of personalized luxury service.
- Monitor guest feedback and implement corrective actions where necessary (AQS)
- Ensure all departments proactively anticipate guest needs and preferences.
- Lead service recovery processes when required.

3. Financial Management:

- Develop and manage annual budgets.
- Drive revenue growth, cost control, and profitability across all divisions.
- Analyze monthly P&L performance and implement corrective strategies.
- Ensure accurate forecasting and financial reporting in collaboration with Finance.

4. Leadership & Team Development:

- Lead, coach, and develop department heads and key leaders across all operational areas.
- Foster a high-performance culture focused on accountability, service excellence, and teamwork.
- Conduct performance reviews and ensure succession planning is in place.
- Oversee recruitment, onboarding, and training programs.

5. Food & Beverage Operations:

- Oversee all F&B outlets, including Vita restaurants, Cave bar, and in-room dining.
- Ensure menu engineering, concept development, and product innovation.
- Work closely with F&B VP and MD to maintain quality and creativity.
- Optimize revenue generation through upselling and concept activation.

6. Culinary Oversight:

- Provide strategic direction to the Executive Chef and culinary team.
- Ensure consistency, quality, and innovation in all food offerings.
- Oversee cost control, waste management, and supplier relationships.
- Support seasonal menu development and special events.

7. Rooms Division Oversight:

- Oversee Front Office, Housekeeping, Guest Services, and Reservations.
- Ensure flawless arrival, in-stay, and departure experience.
- Monitor occupancy, ADR, RevPAR, and service KPIs.
- Drive continuous improvement in operational efficiency and guest satisfaction.

8. Coco Boutique Operations:

- Oversee boutique strategy, merchandising, and sales performance.
- Ensure strong retail experience aligned with resort positioning.
- Ensure inventory control, reporting, and visual standards.

Requirements:

- Must possess and demonstrate excellent time management skills.
- Strong leadership background with ability to manage diverse teams.
- Deep understanding of luxury service standards (Forbes / LHW preferred).
- Experience in lifestyle hotel operations is an advantage.
- Strong communication, organizational, and decision-making skills.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, guest-centric environment.

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Qualified candidates should submit their Resumes to our Human Resources Department via Email: humanresources@rockhouseressort.com or hand deliver applications at our office on #1 International Drive, Providenciales. Positions marked with an * are currently being held by a work permit holder. Deadline for submission: June 8, 2026

Owners Fined After Deadly Dog Fight

Two dog owners have been fined after a dog altercation at Taylor Bay Beach in Chalk Sound, Providenciales, resulted in the death of one of the animals, prompting authorities to issue a warning on responsible pet ownership.

The incident occurred on Monday, May 18, 2026, after a group of dogs reportedly became involved in a fight in a public area of the beach. The confrontation, which took place in the presence of residents and visitors, caused concern among beachgoers.

An investigation by the Department of Agriculture found that the dogs involved were registered and owned by residents of the Chalk Sound community. Officials from the Department, accompanied by officers from the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, later visited the owners as part of the investigation.

Both individuals were issued tickets under the Dog Control Ordinance, with each receiving fines totaling USD \$1,500.

The violations included allowing a dog to roam in a public space without a leash under Section 12(a), carrying

a fine of USD \$1,000, and nuisance charges under Section 21(d) for having a dog in a public space exhibiting aggressive behaviour, resulting in an additional USD \$500 fine.

Minister with responsibility for Agriculture, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, said authorities acted swiftly and stressed that the Government views incidents involving uncontrolled animals seriously.

“The Government takes incidents involving uncontrolled or aggressive animal behaviour in public spaces very seriously. While this was an isolated incident, it is unacceptable and swift enforcement action was taken by the Department of Agriculture and the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force,” Minister Jolly said.

He also reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to ensuring public spaces remain safe and welcoming for both residents and visitors.

The Department of Agriculture reminded pet owners that dogs must be kept properly secured and on leashes in public areas and encouraged owners to ensure their pets are registered and microchipped.



Integrity Commission, Civil Service Association Lauds Integrity-Driven Public Servants

The TCI Integrity Commission, in partnership with the Civil Service Association, is extending heartfelt appreciation to the many hard-working civil servants across the Turks and Caicos Islands who continue to serve the public with integrity, professionalism, and dedication — often without recognition or applause.

Under the theme “Thank You for Serving with Integrity,” the President of the Civil Service Association is encouraging public officers throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands to remain committed to the highest standards of public service and to continue striving toward the “gold standard” of excellence championed by the Office of the Deputy Governor, the Head of the Public Service which was echoed in the Orientation Training in April.

Civil servants are the backbone of national development and public trust. Every day, many officers quietly go beyond the call of duty to ensure services are delivered fair-



Demarco Williams, President of the Civil Service Association, and Deputy Director of the Department of Survey and Mapping

ly, transparently, efficiently, and respectfully. Their commitment to ethical leadership, accountability, openness, and honesty plays a critical role in strengthening confidence in the public service and advancing good governance throughout the country.

Demarco Williams, President of the

Civil Service Association noted that while the work of public officers is not always publicly acknowledged, their contributions do not go unnoticed.

“To every civil servant who continues to serve with professionalism, compassion, fairness, and integrity — even during challenging

moments — we see you, and we appreciate you,” Williams noted. “Your integrity matters, your service matters, and your commitment to excellence is helping to build a stronger Turks and Caicos Islands.”

Together, the Civil Service Association and the Integrity Commission encourage all civil servants to continue pursuing excellence and serving as positive examples for future generations of public officers.

We hope that this message reminds public officers that their service matters, their integrity matters, and their hard work is seen and appreciated.

“Thank You for Serving with Integrity.”

The Integrity Commission invites each civil servant to watch, share, and reflect on the important role you play in upholding integrity, honesty, accountability, and good faith throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands in the service you provide to the public.

CARPHA Closely Monitors Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak Through Early Warning and Surveillance Mechanisms

Following the World Health Organization's (WHO) declaration on May 16th 2026 that the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) assesses that the current risk to the Caribbean Region is low.

The declaration of a PHEIC underscores the need for heightened international and regional vigilance and coordination. CARPHA continues to monitor this outbreak closely through its global scanning early warning mechanisms.

Additionally, CARPHA leverages its integrated suite of regional early warning and surveillance tools to support timely detection and situational awareness. These include event-based and indicator-based surveillance systems with early warning alerts, such as the Tourism and Health Information System (THIS), the Caribbean Vessel Surveillance System (CVSS), national syndromic surveillance through the District Health Information System (DHIS) and the Talkwalker social listening platform.

This outbreak is caused by a relatively rare strain known as the Bundibugyo ebolavirus for which there are currently no licensed vaccines nor specific treatments. Furthermore, Ebola transmission requires close, direct physical contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person who is already showing symptoms, or with contaminated materials.

Speaking on the WHO declaration of



Health workers at the weekend prepare to transport the body of an Ebola victim for a safe burial at a hospital in Bunia, Ituri province, DRC.

the EVD as a PHEIC and the Region's preparedness, Dr. Lisa Indar, CARPHA's Executive Director shared, "Despite the low risk, CARPHA is urging its Member States to maintain a high state of readiness. Because the Caribbean is a major global travel hub, the primary way the virus could arrive is through an infected traveler. CARPHA provides a layered, yet proactive approach to early warning, supporting Member States in the early detection, verification, and response to emerging health threats".

CARPHA continues to work with a wide range of international and regional partners that share information on cross-boundary spread of diseases to promote health security. On May 18th, CARPHA partnered with the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS) to reactivate an advanced electronic screening system at border entry points to securely flag and review the travel history of passengers coming from or passing through the affected areas in Africa, without disrupting normal travel and trade.

What is Ebola and What are the Symptoms?

Ebola is a severe, often fatal illness. The current outbreak is caused by the Bundibugyo strain, which historically has a lower death rate than some other Ebola strains, but still causes severe illness.

Symptoms usually appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure and include:

- Fever and severe headache
- Muscle pain and weakness
- Extreme tiredness (fatigue)
- Sore throat
- Vomiting and diarrhoea
- Stomach pain

Unexplained bruising or bleeding (in some cases)

Ebola is transmitted through direct contact with the blood, secretions, organs, or other bodily fluids of infected persons, as well as through contact with surfaces and materials contaminated with these fluids. Infection can also occur through exposure to infected wildlife. Persons infected with Ebola become infectious as they develop symptoms.

While this event does not meet criteria for a pandemic, it represents an extraordinary event requiring coordinated international action. CARPHA Member States are reminded to remain vigilant due to the possibility of international travel-associated cases. CARPHA will continue to monitor this evolving health threat closely and will provide regular updates to all partners across the Region as new information becomes available.

Reef Keeper Program Shows the Power of Tourism Giving Back to Nature

The Turks & Caicos Reef Fund is celebrating the continued success and growth of its Reef Keeper program, a hospitality partnership initiative that is directly funding marine conservation initiatives across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

In the first quarter of 2026 alone, participating Reef Keeper partner Wymara Resort + Villas, who's tag line is 'Luxury with a Conscience', raised nearly \$30,000 through optional guest contributions. These results demonstrate that visitors want meaningful ways to give back to the environment they came to enjoy.

The Reef Keeper program invites hotels and resorts to add a simple optional \$2-

\$5 per night conservation contribution to guest stays, with funds going directly towards local marine conservation projects led by TCRF. These include coral reef restoration and monitoring, the expansion of the country's living coral biobank, mooring and swim zone installations that protect reefs from anchor damage, and community education initiatives.

Today, the program includes active participation from Ocean Club East, Ocean Club West, and Wymara Resort + Villas. Meanwhile, Andaz Turks & Caicos at Grace Bay is preparing to enter the market as a Champion Reef Keeper partner and has already been supporting TCRF's

conservation work throughout its construction phase.

"Our reefs are not just beautiful ecosystems. They are the foundation of our tourism economy, our culture, our fisheries, and our protection from storms," said Alizée Zimmermann. "The Reef Keeper program gives visitors and the hospitality industry a direct and tangible way to invest in the protection and future of the environment that makes the Turks and Caicos Islands so special." The model is intentionally simple, scalable, and low lift for hospitality partners, while creating measurable conservation impact and strengthening guest engagement. Hotels also receive rec-

ognition, impact reporting, and opportunities for guest-facing conservation experiences. Additionally, partners are expected to uphold conservation measures from banning the sales of chemical sunscreens on their properties to managing landscaping and committing to quarterly water quality monitoring. TCRF is now calling on more hotels, resorts, villas, and tourism operators across the Turks and Caicos Islands to join the Reef Keeper family and become part of a growing movement to keep the islands truly "Beautiful by Nature."

To learn more about becoming a Reef Keeper partner, contact alizee@tcreef.org or visit www.tcreef.org.

Guyanese Community in TCI Marks Independence Milestone with Service Initiatives



Members of the Guyanese Community repaint the pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Moneygram, downtown Providenciales



Members of the Guyanese Community a pedestrian crossing downtown Providenciales

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Guyanese community in the Turks and Caicos Islands marked Guyana's Independence celebrations with a series of community-centered initiatives aimed at giving back and strengthening civic pride.

As part of activities commemorating Guyana's Independence anniversary, members of the Guyanese community joined together to repaint three of the most frequently used pedestrian crossings in downtown Providenciales. The crossings upgraded during the initiative were located at Sunny Foods in Blue Hills, the MoneyGram area downtown, and near the Sports Centre downtown.

Organizers said the effort reflected the community's commitment to contributing positively to the place they now call home.

"We value where we reside and share in the community spirit," organizers noted, emphasizing that the project was designed not only to beautify the area but also to improve



Folder file...Guyana Members of the Guyanese Community about to donate blood at the Cheshire Medical Centre in Providenciales

safety for pedestrians.

The repainting project formed part of a broader series of activities, which also included a Guyanese Association blood drive, another community-focused initiative held as part of the Independence celebrations.

Guyana celebrates its Independence Day on May 26 each year, commemorating the country's separation from British rule in 1966. Formerly known as British Guiana, the nation became independent under the leadership of its first Prime Minister,

Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham. This year's celebrations also highlighted the continued contributions of Guyanese nationals living abroad, including those residing in the Turks and Caicos Islands, who continue to play an active role in community development and social initiatives.



A member of the Guyanese Community donating blood

NOAA Predicts Below-Normal 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is forecasting a below-normal 2026 Atlantic hurricane season, citing the anticipated development of El Niño conditions as a key factor in suppressing tropical cyclone activity across the basin. According to NOAA's outlook, there is a 55 percent chance of a below-normal season, a 35 percent chance of a near-normal season, and only a 10 percent chance of an above-normal season during the six-month hurricane season, which officially runs from June 1 through November 30.

Forecasters predict 8 to 14 named storms with sustained winds of at least 39 mph. Of those systems, 3 to 6 are expected to strengthen into hurricanes, with winds of 74 mph or greater, including 1 to 3 major hurricanes classified as Category 3, 4, or 5 storms with winds exceeding 111 mph. NOAA said it has a 70 percent confidence level in these projections.

By comparison, an average Atlantic hurricane season produces 14 named storms, seven hurricanes, and three major hurricanes.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said NOAA and the National Weather Service are equipped with advanced forecasting technologies to provide timely warnings and storm information.

"With the most advanced forecast modeling and hurricane tracking technologies, NOAA and the National Weather Service are prepared to deliver real-time storm forecasts and warnings," Lutnick said. "Our experts are integrating cutting-edge tools to ensure communities in the path of storms receive the earliest, most accurate information possible."

NOAA Administrator Dr. Neil Jacobs highlighted the agency's increasing use of artificial intelligence, drones and next-generation satellite technology to improve forecast accuracy.

"NOAA's rapid integration of advanced technology, including AI-based weather models, drones, and next-generation satellite data will deliver actionable science to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of the American people," Jacobs said.

El Niño Expected to Limit Storm

Activity

NOAA said the forecast is influenced by several competing climate factors. While Atlantic Ocean temperatures are expected to remain slightly above average and trade winds may be weaker than normal—conditions that typically favor tropical cyclone formation—the anticipated development and strengthening of El Niño is expected to suppress overall storm activity.

El Niño generally increases upper-level winds across the tropical Atlantic, creating conditions that make it more difficult for tropical systems to organize and intensify.

National Weather Service Director Ken Graham cautioned that even a quiet season can produce devastating impacts.

"Although El Niño's impact in the Atlantic Basin can often suppress hurricane development, there is still uncertainty in how each season will unfold," Graham said. "That is why it's essential to review your hurricane preparedness plan now. It only takes one storm to make for a very bad season."

2026 Atlantic Hurricane Names

The World Meteorological Organization's

rotating list of storm names for the Atlantic basin in 2026 includes: Ana, Bill, Claudette, Danny, Elsa, Fred, Grace, Henri, Ida, Julian, Kate, Larry, Mindy, Nicholas, Odette, Peter, Rose, Sam, Teresa, Victor and Wanda.



Forecasters predict 8 to 14 named storms with sustained winds of at least 39 mph.

National Cancer Society TCI Hosted "A Night For The Fight"

The National Cancer Society of the Turks and Caicos Islands extends sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who came out and supported "A Night for the Fight" event, which was held at the National Stadium on Saturday, May 23, 2026.

"A Night for the Fight" is more than just an event; it is a community gathering aimed at bringing greater awareness to all forms of cancer while promoting hope, support, and unity. The initiative seeks to honor the fighters, celebrate the survivors, and remember the angels who have lost their battle with cancer. Through unity, entertainment, and community participation, the event also encourages education, early detection, and continued support for individuals and families affected by cancer throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The evening was filled with unity, love, entertainment, and community spirit as people of all ages gathered in support of the fight against cancer. The children thoroughly enjoyed the games and other activities, bringing laughter and excitement throughout the evening, while some attendees were delighted to win prizes from the entry ticket draws.

We are especially grateful to all participants, supporters, sponsors, volunteers, performers, and everyone who helped to make the event a great success.

We would like to extend heartfelt appreciation to our Master of Ceremonies, Almando Rigby, for doing an outstanding job throughout the evening. Special thanks to Raneika Lightbourne for the beautiful rendition of the National Anthem and song, and to cancer survivor, Jacqueline Sutton, for the heartfelt opening prayer.

Thanks to President Vivian Rigby for the warm welcome extended to all and the excellent job she did spearheading and



Governor Her Excellency Deputy Governor Anya Williams

putting this event together. Well done, Madam President!

We also extend sincere thanks to Her Excellency the Deputy Governor, Anya Williams, for delivering a very inspiring and meaningful address, which added great encouragement and support to the evening's proceedings.

We want to thank Marie Lovely St Vil for her musical contribution, Rachel Harvey for the inspiring poem, which was beautifully read by Comonseta Campbell-Morley, young Ardens Jean Mary for his wonderful steel pan performance and Tony Rigby for the music, which was very uplifting.

A special thank you is extended to cancer survivor, Dervent Quant, for courageously sharing his testimony of overcoming prostate cancer, bringing encouragement and hope to the men in attendance.

We also acknowledge the dance presentation by the ladies from Jesus First Christian Ministry, along with Bert Missick and



Inter-Health Canada, TCI Hospital team

Friends for their contribution to the evening's entertainment.

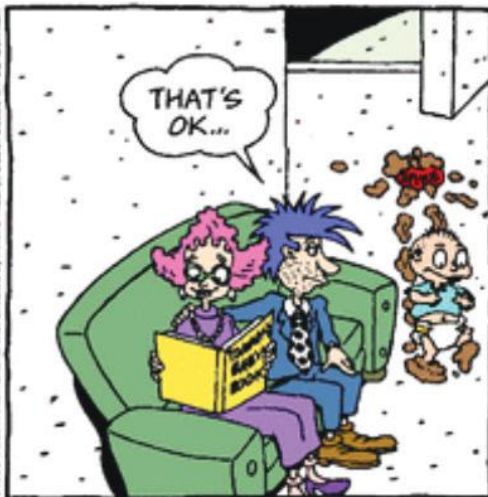
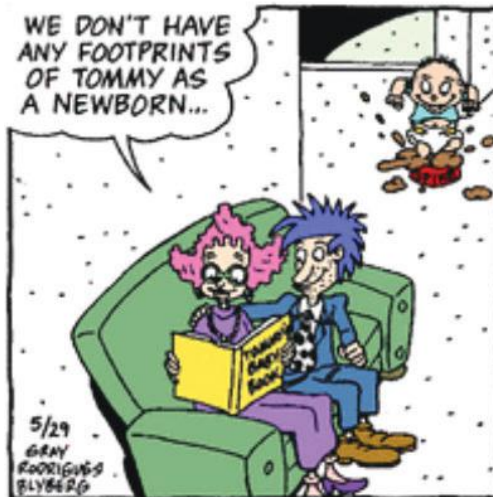
It was a wonderful feeling to have the presence and assistance of some of Graceway Communities' staff throughout the event, and we extend special thanks to Graceway Communities for the donation of \$3,991.23 presented at the event. We must say thanks to our wonderful raffle donors, SmithCo, The Flower Girl, Sunny Foods and Theresa Cox. We truly appreciate the gifts.

We appreciate the support and assistance from Dr. Denise Braithwaite-Tennant and her team from InterHealth Canada, Team

Kordell Forbes and Team Dervent Quant, for their presence and participation.

Thanks also extended to our own Renose Oreste for delivering the vote of thanks. And finally, special thanks must be expressed to the hardworking members of the National Cancer Society whose dedication, commitment, and teamwork played a vital role in ensuring the success of this memorable event. Your tireless efforts did not go unnoticed.

"A Night for the Fight" truly brought the community together as we honored the fighters, celebrated the survivors, and remembered the angels.



NEWSLINE^{TCI} COMICS

DO YOU EVER TRY TO BREATHE QUIETER WHEN WALKING UP A HILL OR SOME STAIRS SO STRANGERS DON'T HEAR YOU FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE?



HIGH-END DINING FOR KIDS



THE MAN WHO DARED TO DREAM

for Turks and Caicos:

**JAMES ALEXANDER
GEORGE SMITH
MCCARTNEY**

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

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

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

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

J.A.G.S. McCartney



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

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

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





Minister of Home Affairs Hon. Akierra Missick



Dr. Ruth Plummer

Akierra Missick to Headline 4th Annual Teen Girls Community Awareness Summit 2026

Former Deputy Premier and former Minister of Home Affairs Hon. Akierra Missick is set to headline the 4th Annual Teen Girls Community Awareness Summit 2026, an event aimed at empowering young women and inspiring the next generation of female leaders.

The free event, designed for girls ages 14 to 20, will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at 12 noon at the Ritz Carlton Ballroom in Grace Bay, Providenciales. Organizers have adopted the theme: "Empowered Girls, Limitless Futures." Missick, who has long been recognized for her work in leadership, governance, youth advocacy and community development throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands, will deliver a featured presentation titled "Empowered to Lead: Breaking Barriers for the Next Generation of Young Women."

Missick is scheduled to share insights on leadership, resilience and overcoming challenges, encouraging young women to pursue excellence and lead with confidence and purpose.

The summit's lineup also features keynote speaker Dr. Ruth Plummer, CEO of Covenant Daughters TV Network, who will address par-



Dr. Cutella Talbot, Organizer of the event

participants on "Faith, Purpose & Influence: Empowering Girls to Walk Boldly in Their Calling."

Additional presenters include entrepreneur Cyprianna Jalesa Jackson, whose presentation "Boss Mindset: Building Confidence, Creativity & Success as a Young Woman" will focus on confidence-build-



Cyprianna Jalesa Jackson

ing and entrepreneurship, and entrepreneur, radio personality and girls' advocate Dr. Cutella Talbot, who will discuss "Empowering Girls Through Media & Leadership."

The event is organized by Amani Youth Foundation and Star Productions, which Talbot is the head. She announced that the annual occasion seeks to create a plat-

form where teenage girls can gain practical guidance, motivation and tools needed to build confidence, discover purpose and develop leadership skills.

The summit will also be streamed live on 88.5 FM The Beat Radio and CDTV.

Registration for the event is available via WhatsApp at 649-242-9897 or 344-9773-2420539.

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

END TIME HARVEST

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

For this edition of LIFELINE FEATURED CHURCH, we are highlighting End Time Harvest New Testament Church Of God located on Leeward Highway, Providenciales (adjacent to Digicel).

The pastors are Bishop Kemuel and wife Jolanda Gardiner. The church has numerous opportunities to worship. On Sunday at 9am they have their 'Worship and Warfare Encounter'; On Wednesday at 7pm, they have their 'Fire Hour Corporate Prayer Meeting' and at 8pm, 'Deeper Bible Study'; On Saturday at 5am, the church hosts 'Gatekeepers Corporate Prayer Meeting'.



Life line Church Directory

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

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

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

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

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

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

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

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

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@newslinetci.com



OSETA JOLLY PRIMARY FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY

On Friday, May 22, the Oseta Jolly Primary School in Blue Hills, Providenciales staged its Flag-Raising event, in honour of National Heroes Day, which was celebrated on Monday, 25 May 2026. The ceremony was attended by Ministry of Education officials, members of the clergy, the TCI Regiment and members of the Police High Command. The following are photo highlights of the event.





50th Anniversary of Ministerial Government (1976–2026) Series – Part 3....

The 1969 Constitution and the Awakening That Changed the TCI

Youth Unrest, Constitutional Frustration, and the Growing Voice of a People A Country Beginning to Change

A series by Joan Astwood Sutton

By the late 1960s, the Turks and Caicos Islands were beginning to change in ways many people could feel, even if they could not yet fully explain what was happening.

For generations, the Islands had existed on the margins of colonial administration, governed largely by systems designed elsewhere and administered from outside the country. Political authority remained heavily concentrated within colonial structures, while many ordinary Islanders endured hardship, migration, uncertainty, and limited opportunity.

Yet beneath the surface of everyday life, something important was beginning to happen.

A quiet awakening had begun.

The constitutional reforms introduced in 1962 opened a new political chapter by expanding elected representation and introducing new structures of local government. Further constitutional developments followed under the 1969 Constitution, which expanded aspects of local administration and political participation.

However, for many ordinary Islanders, constitutional reform on paper did not immediately transform the realities of daily life.

Across Grand Turk, South Caicos, North Caicos, Salt Cay, Providenciales, and the family islands, economic hardship continued to affect many families. The once-powerful salt industry had declined significantly. Employment opportunities remained limited. Infrastructure remained underdeveloped in several communities. Electricity and water systems were unreliable in some areas, roads were often poor, and opportunities for advancement remained limited for many young people.

Migration increasingly reshaped the country.

Many Islanders left home in search of work, education, and opportunity abroad, particularly in the Bahamas and the United States. Families were separated. Communities changed. Parents worried about the future their children would inherit.

At the same time, discussions about tourism, aviation, fisheries, roads, harbours, electricity, and modern development were becoming increasingly visible across the Islands. British officials visiting the Territory recognised that change was accelerating and that the country stood on the brink of a new era.

During the same period, British Administrator John Anthony Golding, who served from 1965 to 1967, also recognised the Turks and Caicos Islands' growing economic potential. Golding later wrote that he was selected in 1965 to help establish the Territory's first Tourist Board, reflecting the growing belief that tourism could eventually reshape the country's future beyond the declining salt industry.

The emergence of tourism discussions in the late 1960s signalled that the Turks and Caicos Islands were entering a period of transition. The country was gradually moving away from an economy heavily dependent on salt production toward one increasingly tied to tourism, infrastructure development, aviation, and foreign investment. Yet as economic possibilities expanded, constitutional questions also deepened.

Many Islanders increasingly believed that development alone would not be enough unless the people themselves had greater authority to shape the country's future.

But an important question remained unresolved: Who would truly shape the future direction of the Turks and Caicos Islands?

As constitutional discussions deepened, an increasing number of Islanders questioned how much real authority local elected representatives had under the period's constitutional arrange-



JAGS McCartney Oswald Skippings Lewis Edwin Astwood and Edward Stacks

ments.

For some emerging political voices and activists, the 1969 Constitution itself became a symbol of mounting frustration with limited local power and the slow pace of constitutional reform.

During the rising political tensions of the early 1970s, JAGS McCartney reportedly tore the 1969 Constitution in public, in the presence of the Governor, as a dramatic symbolic protest.

To supporters, the act represented far more than political defiance alone.

It reflected the frustration, impatience, and anger felt by many young people who believed the constitutional system still left too much authority outside the hands of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

For many supporters, it symbolised a growing belief that constitutional progress without meaningful local authority was no longer enough."

By the late 1960s and early 1970s, the atmosphere throughout the Caribbean was also changing rapidly.

The period was marked by political awakening, Black consciousness movements, anti-colonial discourse, labour activism, civil rights struggles, and growing demands for dignity and self-determination among formerly colonised peoples.

Those global influences did not bypass the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Young Islanders returning home from studying or working abroad brought new political discussions with them. Newspapers became more active. Radio discussions broadened. Public debate slowly expanded. Conversations about identity, representation, inequality, constitutional rights, and political advancement increasingly shaped discussions across the Islands.

The Turks and Caicos Islands remained small in population and limited in economic resources, but many people increasingly believed the country could no longer remain politically stagnant or socially dependent.

Importantly, this growing awakening did not emerge from a single organisation, a single building, or a single public group.

History must be careful not to oversimplify the broader movement unfolding during the period. While the Junkanoo Club Incident era later became one of the most visible and emotionally resonant symbols of the unrest of the 1970s, the wider awakening extended far beyond any single club or public incident.

Years later, during discussions related to the April 1980 United Nations Visiting Mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands, JAGS McCartney, alongside Oswald Skippings, Lewis Edwin Astwood, and Charles "Liam" McGuire, commented that activists associated with the wider youth awakening were among the "few groups" working to raise

ordinary people's awareness of their rights. That wording is important because it supports the view that the political awakening of the 1970s was not confined to a single organisation, building, or visible public group. In local memory, two of the known circles associated with that wider awakening were the Junkanoo boys and the Black Power Movement boys and girls, alongside other supporters who quietly assisted during a politically sensitive period.

This supports the historical understanding that the movement period had multiple layers.

That wording remains historically important.

It suggests that the political awakening of the early 1970s involved overlapping layers of political consciousness, youth activism, grassroots discussion, Black consciousness influence, private organising, community frustration, and growing demands for greater dignity, representation, and constitutional advancement. The Junkanoo Club era became one of the most publicly remembered symbols of that awakening, but the wider movement for change extended beyond any single public space or incident.

The atmosphere of change developed through youth discussions, grassroots conversations, political education, labour frustrations, community gatherings, newspaper commentary, radio discussions, quiet organising, and ordinary people increasingly questioning the country's future direction.

Many individuals became part of the wider awakening in different ways, often quietly and cautiously, during a politically sensitive period.

Some discussions reportedly took place privately in homes and gathering places away from public attention. Young people exchanged ideas about dignity, equality, leadership, constitutional reform, and the future of the Islands.

At the same time, influential figures such as JAGS McCartney, Lewis Edwin Astwood, Oswald Skippings, and others increasingly emerged as important voices in the growing national conversation surrounding political advancement and self-governance.

For many supporters, these emerging leaders represented more than politics alone.

They represented confidence.

They represented dignity.

They represented the belief that Turks and Caicos Islanders could increasingly shape their own future and exercise greater control over their national affairs.

The constitutional developments unfolding within the Turks and Caicos Islands also formed part of a wider international conversation surrounding decolonisation and self-determination.

Throughout the post-war era, the United Nations repeatedly affirmed that colonial peoples pos-

sessed the right to political advancement and self-government. International discussions increasingly stressed that small population size or limited resources should not prevent territories from advancing politically.

Within the Turks and Caicos Islands, constitutional expectations were also beginning to shift.

Many Islanders increasingly believed that meaningful national progress could not continue indefinitely without greater local authority over development, land, immigration, fisheries, resources, and national decision-making.

By the early 1970s, constitutional debate in the Turks and Caicos Islands had evolved into something far broader than legal reform alone.

It had become a national conversation about:

- identity,
- opportunity,
- fairness,
- leadership,
- dignity,
- representation,
- and the future direction of the country.

The period was not without tension.

Public frustration, demonstrations, political disagreements, youth unrest, and growing confrontation reflected the deeper social pressures building beneath the surface of society. Some feared instability, while others believed change was not happening quickly enough.

Yet despite those tensions, something important had undeniably changed within the national consciousness of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

A generation had begun challenging old limitations.

Ordinary people had begun imagining greater political responsibility and constitutional advancement.

And the country itself was slowly moving toward one of the most important turning points in its modern history.

By the mid-1970s, the demand for greater local political authority could no longer be ignored.

The road toward Ministerial Government had not begun suddenly in 1976.

It had been shaped by years of hardship, frustration, constitutional debate, political awakening, grassroots pressure, and the determination of many ordinary people who believed the Turks and Caicos Islands deserved a stronger voice in shaping its own destiny.

The story of Ministerial Government, therefore, did not begin only inside government chambers. It began in the growing hopes, frustrations, fears, and aspirations of the people themselves.

And from that awakening, a new political era would soon emerge.

Joan Astwood-Sutton, LLB (Hons.), Master's in Publishing, and Certificate in Youth & Community Studies, is a cultural heritage researcher, museum founder, storyteller, and historical preservation advocate in the Turks and Caicos Islands. She is the Founder and Director of the Hon. Lewis Edwin Astwood Research Library, Museum and Learning Facility, dedicated to preserving the political, cultural, social, and historical legacy of the Turks and Caicos Islands. She is the daughter of the late Hon. Lewis Edwin Astwood, who served in the first Ministerial Government established under the 1976 Constitution, and of the late Mildred Garland Astwood, both of whom were closely connected to the political, cultural, and community movements surrounding the rise of Ministerial Government in the Turks and Caicos Islands during the 1970s. Through decades of archival preservation, oral history documentation, historical research, and cultural interpretation, she has worked extensively to preserve the memory and identity of the Turks and Caicos Islands for future generations.



Devon Cox, CEO of Pelican Energy

Fuel Factor Rate Set to Climb Amid Global Fuel Price Surge and Middle East Tensions

“Fuel factor rates on customer bills rise when global fuel prices rise and decrease when prices fall,” the company explained. “Because fuel is purchased in advance to ensure a stable electricity supply, changes in international fuel prices can take several weeks to be reflected on customer bills.”

The projected increase also comes during the summer months, a period when electricity consumption typically rises due to greater demand for air conditioning and cooling. The company is encouraging households and businesses to adopt energy-saving practices to help reduce the impact on monthly bills.

Pelican Energy TCI President Devon Cox acknowledged the challenges facing residents and businesses as energy costs climb.

“We recognize the challenges that rising fuel prices place on households and businesses, particularly at a time when cost-of-living concerns remain front of mind,” Cox said. “We do not take these impacts lightly and remain committed to working closely with the TCI Government, our key stakeholders, and our customers. At the same time, we are accelerating efforts to diversify the Islands’ energy mix through major investments in renewable energy.”

Cox highlighted several renewable energy initiatives currently underway, including the first phase of utility-scale renewable energy installations in Providenciales, the development of new microgrids on the sister islands following the successful completion of the North Caicos solar-plus-battery project, and the continued expansion of the company’s rooftop solar partnership program.

“These investments are expected to significantly reduce reliance on imported fuel over time and help stabilize energy prices for our customers,” he added.

To assist customers in managing higher energy costs, Pelican Energy TCI announced plans to expand residential support initiatives in the coming months. These will include energy-efficiency giveaways, complimentary home energy assessments, and additional energy conservation resources. Customers can also use the company’s new online Bill Estimate Calculator to gauge how changes in the fuel factor rate and energy consumption may affect their monthly bills. In addition, the utility is encouraging customers to register for My Online Account, a free web portal that allows users to view, track, and download their energy usage data.

Pelican Energy TCI is warning customers to prepare for higher electricity bills in the coming months as escalating global fuel prices, driven in part by ongoing conflict and instability in the Middle East, are expected to significantly increase the fuel factor rate charged on electricity consumption.

The utility company said the fuel factor rate is projected to rise from approximately \$0.1751 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to an estimated \$0.3112 per kWh, potentially adding between \$15 and \$140 per month to residential electricity bills, depending on energy usage and the final fuel factor rate applied.

According to Pelican Energy TCI, the increase is tied directly to rising inter-

national fuel costs and disruptions affecting global fuel supply chains and energy markets.

The company noted that the projection is based on current market conditions and available information. While the final rate may vary slightly across service territories, customers in South Caicos are expected to see the higher fuel factor rate reflected in bills issued at the end of June, while customers on all other islands will experience the increase in bills at the end of July.

Pelican Energy emphasized that the increase is not the result of changes to its base electricity rates or utility pricing decisions. Instead, the fuel factor rate fluctuates according to the cost of fuel purchased to generate electricity.

FSC Invites Public Feedback on Proposed Virtual Assets Business Bill

The Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission (TCI FSC) today launched a public consultation on the proposed **Virtual Assets Business Bill, 2026**. The Commission is seeking input from members of the public, industry stakeholders, and other interested parties to help refine and strengthen the Bill before it is submitted to Cabinet for approval next month.

The Bill proposes a comprehensive licensing, supervisory, prudential, and enforcement framework for Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs), stablecoin issuers, and virtual asset activities operating in or from the TCI. It is aligned with international standards

(including FATF, IOSCO, and FSB guidance) and is designed to protect consumers; mitigate money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation risks; and support responsible innovation.

Key points:

- Purpose: To obtain public feedback on all aspects of the Bill so it can be further refined

- prior to submission to Cabinet.

- Scope: Licensing and supervision of VASPs, AML/CFT/CPF obligations, and prudential rules for stablecoins (tiered reserve and governance requirements); ICT and cyber resilience; sanctions and enforcement; and a regulatory sandbox for innovation.

- Exemptions: The Bill sets out specific exclusions for closed loop tokens, technology providers that do not act as VASPs and certain infrastructure providers.

- Deadline: Written submissions must be received by **8 June 2026**.

- How to submit feedback

- Email: consultation@tcifsc.tc (subject line: “Public Response: Virtual Assets Bill”)

- Physical submissions:

- Delivered to the TCI FSC offices in Providenciales or Grand Turk in a sealed envelope

- marked “Public Written Response: Virtual Assets Bill.”

- Privacy and publication

The Commission may reproduce, summarise or publish consultation responses and may reference contributors’ names and affiliations. Contributors who wish to remain anonymous should indicate this in their submission. Personal data will be used only for consultation purposes and by relevant government agencies as required.

Further information

The consultation paper and draft Bill are available on the Commission’s website:

www.tcifsc.tc -

www.tcifsc.tc/consultation

For enquiries, contact consultation@tcifsc.tc.



Director of Training and Quality Assurance at Grace Bay Resorts, Leila Basam Abdi, addresses the TIDES Trainees



Fredlie from the Human Resource Department conducting a segment of the TIDES Training

About 28 Grace Bay Resorts Staff Receive TIDES Training to Enhance Visitor Experience

By Vivian Tyson
NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Approximately 28 staff members from Grace Bay Resorts have completed the first batch of TIDES (Together Individuals Delivering Excellent Service) training as the resort group strengthens efforts to enhance visitor experiences through deeper knowledge of Turks and Caicos culture, history and hospitality.

The Training took place on the on Wednesday, 27 May, on the Grace Bay Resort's property.

The training initiative, which officially launched this month, brought together representatives from the resort company's five properties, including its private villa collection, with plans to expand participation in the coming months.

Director of Training and Quality Assurance at Grace Bay Resorts, Leila Basam Abdi, said the programme is critical in ensuring staff members provide a consistent standard of exceptional service while strengthening their knowledge of the destination.

"TIDES training is highly essential for us as hoteliers to be able to provide the same level of excellent service," Abdi said. "The backbone of that would be the data and information shared during TIDES training because



David and his son Ishan Bowen, performing a cultural number

it's really about the island, the culture and the history of Turks and Caicos."

She explained that guests increasingly seek authentic experiences and meaningful interactions during their stay, making storytelling and local knowledge valuable tools for hospitality staff.

"Our guests want to feel that warm hospitality that we have on the island," she said. "Guests always look forward to activities, but part of selling those activities is providing storytelling, what's next, what they can discover and experience across the islands."

The first session featured a more

immersive approach, incorporating sensory elements including live musical performances by David Bowen and his son Ishan Bowen, to create a richer learning environment.

Grace Bay Resorts plans to distribute participation evenly among its properties, with approximately five to six representatives selected from each location.

Abdi noted that after staff become TIDES-certified, the resort will continue reinforcing the programme through its own company values, mission and service culture training, along with international standards associated with quality assurance pro-

grammes and hospitality brands. She emphasized that maintaining emotional intelligence remains an important part of staff development.

"We could become very robotic in our routines because we know what's going to happen throughout the day, but being able to maintain emotional intelligence, especially under pressure, is highly essential," she said.

While the first batch included 28 participants, Abdi said future training sessions are expected to increase in frequency.

For May, only one round was held, but beginning in June the resort anticipates conducting two to three training sessions each month, depending on occupancy levels.

Participants will also be required to complete an examination following the training. While provisions have been made for retesting, if necessary, Abdi expressed confidence in participants' preparation.

Students are provided with ambassador booklets ahead of time to allow them to study before attending the sessions.

Grace Bay Resorts said it remains committed to working closely with the Ministry of Tourism in supporting the programme and strengthening hospitality standards across the destination.



Celianise Forbes conducting a segment of the TIDES Training



Participants engage in discussion during the Tides Training



Trainees participate during the event



Some of the participants react to a trainer



Anya Pratt of the TIDES Programme, sharing her thoughts to the trainees



Janelle Desir, GBR Trainer, conducting one segment of the TIDES Training

77% of Caribbean mental health patients not getting care

Mental Health Awareness Month serves as an important reminder that mental health is just as essential as physical health. Across Jamaica and the wider Caribbean, conversations surrounding emotional well-being, stress, anxiety, depression, and psychological support are becoming increasingly necessary as more people silently struggle with mental and emotional challenges.

According to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), mental and substance use disorders remain among the leading causes of disability in the Americas.

More than 100,000 people in the region died by suicide in 2021, while over 77 per cent of persons living with mental health conditions, in Latin America and the Caribbean, do not receive the care they need.

Mental health advocate, Dr Juwell Harley emphasised the importance of awareness, education, and emotional support during Mental Health Awareness Month.

"Mental Health Awareness refers to the ongoing effort to educate people about mental health conditions, emotional well-being, and the importance of psychological support. It promotes understanding, reduces stigma, encourages early intervention, and empowers individuals to seek help when needed," Harley said.

Harley noted that today's fast-paced and demanding society has contributed significantly to rising mental health concerns.

"Mental Health Awareness Month is important because it shines a spotlight on the growing emotional and psychological challenges people face daily. In a world filled with financial pressures, social media influence, demanding careers, academic stress, and personal responsi-

bilities, many individuals silently struggle with stress, anxiety, burnout, and depression," she said.

Regional health data also show that anxiety and depressive disorders increased significantly across Latin America and the Caribbean following the COVID-19 pandemic, with depression increasing by approximately 35 per cent and anxiety by 32 per cent in 2020.

According to Harley, mental health should never be viewed as secondary to physical health. "Mental health is a person's emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how individuals think, feel, cope, communicate, and make decisions. Mental health should be viewed as equally important as physical health because both are interconnected," she said.

PAHO reports that depression remains one of the most prevalent mental disorders across the Americas, affecting women at nearly twice the rate of men.

Despite growing awareness, stigma surrounding mental illness continues to affect many Caribbean communities. "Stigma persists because of misinformation, cultural beliefs, fear, stereotypes, and a lack of education surrounding mental illness. In some communities, mental health struggles are still viewed as weakness rather than legitimate health concerns," Harley said.

She further explained that fear of judgement often prevents people from seeking help.

"Many people suffer silently because they fear being misunderstood or labelled negatively," Harley said.

Health experts across the Caribbean continue to stress the importance of normalising therapy, counselling, and emotional support. PAHO also reports that regional spending on mental health



remains critically low, with only 2.1 per cent of health budgets allocated to mental health services. Harley highlighted that good mental health directly impacts self-esteem, relationships, productivity, and overall quality of life.

"Good mental health improves confidence, emotional stability, communication, productivity, and resilience. It enables individuals to pursue goals, build meaningful relationships, manage stress effectively, and enjoy a healthier, more balanced quality of life," she said.

She also noted that unmanaged stress, anxiety, and burnout can negatively affect career growth and workplace performance. "Unmanaged mental strain can lead to fatigue, poor concentration, absenteeism, emotional exhaustion, decreased productivity, poor judgement, and strained workplace relationships," Harley said.

Harley expressed concern about the growing emotional pressures facing young people today.

"This trend is deeply concerning because many young people are experiencing heightened anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and emotional exhaustion at increasingly younger ages. Constant comparison, cyber bullying, unrealistic expectations, and pressure to succeed can significantly impact mental wellness," she said.

Across the Americas, suicide remains one of the leading causes of death among young adults ages 20 to 24 years.

Harley encouraged individuals to pay attention to warning signs in themselves and others. "Warning signs may include persistent sadness, mood swings, withdrawal

from social activities, changes in sleep or appetite, hopelessness, irritability, excessive worry, lack of motivation, difficulty concentrating, substance misuse, or talking about self-harm," she said.

She warned that untreated mental health conditions can contribute to emotional distress, relationship breakdowns, substance misuse, chronic illness, and suicidal thoughts.

Research from PAHO also notes that chronic stress, anxiety, and depression may contribute to high blood pressure, heart disease, weakened immunity, sleep disorders, and other serious physical health complications.

Harley encouraged people who may be struggling silently to seek support and remember that healing is possible. "You are not alone, and your struggles do not define your worth. Healing takes time, and it is okay to ask for help. There is strength in vulnerability, hope beyond the pain, and support available for those willing to reach out," she said.

She added that healthy coping strategies such as exercise, journaling, mindfulness, prayer, social support, therapy, and maintaining boundaries can all contribute positively to mental wellness.

As Mental Health Awareness Month continues, Harley hopes society develops a deeper understanding of mental health and emotional well-being. "I hope society begins to truly understand that mental health is a fundamental part of overall health and human well-being. Mental illness should never be met with shame or silence but with compassion, education, support, and action," she said.

Idris Elba was 'not in the race' to play James Bond

Idris Elba was tipped to replace Daniel Craig as 007 for years, but the 53-year-old actor has now insisted he was never a serious candidate for the role, after Amazon/MGM Studios recently announced that the search for the next James Bond is under way.

The Luther star told People, "My name's not getting thrown out, no way. They're going younger. And I wish them all the luck of the world. I can't wait, it's going to be amazing."

Elba insisted he was never among the contenders for the role, even though he was suggested as a possible Bond by many of his former co-stars.

He added, "I'm honestly not in the race ever. I wasn't in the race in the first place."

Meanwhile, Taron Egerton previously rubbished suggestions that he could

play Bond, insisting that he's too "messy" for the role.

The 36-year-old actor has been tipped to replace Daniel Craig, but Taron believes there are "so many cool, younger actors" who would be better suited to the role.

Asked about the possibility of playing Bond, he told Collider, "I don't think I'm a good choice for it. I think I'm too messy for that."

"I think I'm not, I really love James Bond and particularly Daniel Craig's tenure. But I think I wouldn't be good at it, and I think there's so many cool, younger actors who would be great for it. I think it would be wasted on me, probably."

Taron observed that leading the Bond franchise is "quite an undertaking". And he suggested that the scale of the



British Actor Idris Elba

project might not suit him, either.

The actor, who previously portrayed Sir Elton John in 2019's *Rocketman*, explained, "That's not to say that I don't have aspirations and plans and also that I wouldn't be interested in doing something that's more commercial, because of course I would. I think

I'm a period in my life where, as you say, I've been probably following the things that speak to me on a creative level a little bit more, but, you know, I'm sure I won't feel that way forever."

"But James Bond is quite an undertaking and I think, one, as far as I'm aware, nobody's asking me to do it."



Reggae-dancehall icon Capleton

Reggae-dancehall icon Capleton is feeling the love from fans worldwide as buzz continues to build around his latest single, *Prayers Up*, featuring Derrick Sound.

The spiritually charged anthem, produced by Evidence Music, is now streaming across all major platforms

and serves as the second single from Capleton's highly anticipated upcoming album, *Heights Of Fire*, due June 26, 2026.

Known for his fiery conscious lyrics and unwavering Rastafarian message, Capleton says the track reflects Jamaica's deep spiritual roots and

Capleton generates buzz with 'Prayers Up'

his continued mission to speak out against injustice.

"Jamaica is a spiritual nation so we ah just continue to burn the fire," Capleton said. "We will always defend equal rights and justice, and wherever there is corruption, we ah go stamp it out."

The single is already gaining traction internationally, landing on several major curated playlists, including YouTube Music's reggae selections and Apple Music playlists such as *Crucial Roots*, *WorldWide Riddim* and *NMD*. The forthcoming *Heights Of Fire* project boasts an impressive lineup of reggae heavyweights and global collaborators, including Damian Marley, Stephen Marley and Eesah, alongside producers Derrick Sound, Little Lion Sound, Mista Savona, Mixing Finga and L'Entourloop.

Producer Derrick Maître, CEO of Evidence Music, says the response to the project so far has been overwhelmingly positive.

"The momentum is clearly building and the response from audiences has been extremely encouraging," he said.

Several additional singles are scheduled to roll out ahead of the album release, including *Jah Shine His Light* on May 22, *Behave Yourself* on June 5, *Highway Robbers* on June 19, and *Babylon So Evil* — a collaboration featuring Damian and Stephen Marley — on June 26.

With a career spanning more than three decades, Capleton remains one of reggae's most enduring voices. Since emerging in the late 1980s, the artiste has released more than 15 studio albums, including fan favorites *Prophecy* and *More Fire*, which spawned classics like *Jah Jah City* and *Who Dem?*.

Capleton previously earned a Grammy nomination for Best Reggae Album with *Still Blazin* in 2002.

Now, with *Heights Of Fire*, Capleton appears poised to reignite his global fan base once again. Blending roots reggae foundations with modern production textures and subtle hip-hop influences, the album stays true to the artist's signature themes of spirituality, resistance and righteousness — while pushing his sound into a new era.



POSTAL SERVICES RECOGNIZES NATIONAL FINALISTS IN INTERNATIONAL LETTER-WRITING COMPETITION

The Department of Postal Services is pleased to announce that the top three (3) winners in the 55th International Letter-Writing Competition for Young People, organized by the Universal Postal Union.

This year's competition theme, "Why Human Connection Matters in a Digital World," encourages young people to reflect on the importance of meaningful relationships and communication in an increasingly technology-driven society.

The top three are:

- Isabelle Desir – Providence International Academy
- Wisderlove François – Marjorie Basden High School
- Ldreon Williams – Providence International Academy

This marks the second time the Turks and Caicos Islands has participated in the prestigious global competition, which is expected to include entries from 192 countries. Isabelle earned the honour of representing the country after submitting a thoughtful and compelling letter that reflected the spirit of this year's theme. The inter-



national competition results are expected to be announced in October 2026 in observance of World Post Day.

A presentation ceremony was held on Friday, 15 May 2026, where the

above students were recognized for their achievements and presented with awards. Last year's third-place winner, Laila Reynolds from Best Institute, was also recognized and presented with a gift of acknowledge-

ment of her accomplishment and participation in the previous competition.

Hon. Shaun D. Malcolm, Minister of Public Safety, Religious Affairs and Social Welfare, stated: "Initiatives such as this encourage our young people to think critically, express themselves creatively, and engage meaningfully with important global issues. I am proud to see the Turks and Caicos Islands represented on the international stage and extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes to Isabelle. I also commend all students who participated for their effort, creativity, and commitment."

The Department of Postal Services extends sincere appreciation to all students, parents, educators, and schools for their support and participation in this initiative. The Department remains committed to raising awareness about the importance and relevance of postal services, while creating meaningful opportunities for young people to engage in literacy, communication, and creative expression.



LT. COLONEL BECKLES' FUNERAL PROCESSION

Former Lt. Colonel Nimrol Beckles, of the TCI Cadet Corps and former member of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, was laid to rest after a sudden death earlier this year. Prior to the funeral service, a procession was held from the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Headquarters on Airport Road, to Butterfield Square on Providenciales. The uniformed groups included the Police Force, the TCI Regiment and the TCI Cadet Corps. The following are photo highlights of the event.



Regional and International Experts to Discuss Innovative Debt Solutions for a Resilient Caribbean at CDB Annual Meeting

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB/ the Bank) will convene regional and international experts for a high-level seminar examining how innovative debt instruments can help Caribbean countries strengthen resilience, unlock fiscal space, and advance sustainable development.

The seminar, "Innovative Debt Solutions: Financing a More Resilient Caribbean," takes place on Thursday, June 4, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. local time at the 56th Annual Meeting of the Bank's Board of Governors in Nassau, The Bahamas. This highly anticipated session brings together representatives from multilateral development banks, governments, credit rating agencies, and development partners.

Against a backdrop of high public debt, climate vulnerability, and constrained fiscal space across the Caribbean Region, discussions will focus on practical and scalable financing mechanisms that can reduce debt servicing costs while supporting critical investments in resilience, climate adaptation, social protection, and sustainable development.

"Innovative debt solutions can help Caribbean countries reduce financing costs, strengthen debt sustainability, and create fiscal space for critical resilience investments," said Stefano Capodagli, Chief Risk

Officer at CDB. "This seminar will explore how coordinated regional approaches can turn financial innovation into tangible development impact."

A key area of focus will be the emerging Regional Multi-Guarantee Debt-for-Resilience (MGDR) initiative, a collaborative approach involving multilateral development banks including the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank (WB), and Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF). The initiative seeks to support sovereign debt conversion transactions that improve borrowing terms and channel savings into resilience-building investments.

The 90-minute seminar will also examine lessons learned from debt conversion and refinancing initiatives already undertaken in the Caribbean, including experiences from Barbados and other CDB Borrowing Member Countries.

"Debt-for-resilience mechanisms offer the Caribbean an important opportunity to align debt management with sustainable development priorities, while supporting long-term economic resilience and growth," said Ian Durant, Director of Economics at CDB.

The session will be a panel discussion mod-

erated by Mr. Capodagli and featuring panelists Jason Cotton, CDB Lead Economist, Gabriel Felpeto, Vice President of Finance, CAF; Joan Oriol Prats, Principal Financial Specialist, IDB; Lilia Burunciuc, World Bank Country Director for the Caribbean; Joshua Grundleger, Director, Sovereign Analytical Group, Americas, Fitch Ratings; and Hon. Ryan Straughn, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, Government of Barbados.

The discussion will explore how coordinated debt-for-resilience mechanisms and multi-guarantee structures can help Carib-

bean countries improve debt sustainability, reduce borrowing costs, and create fiscal space for strategic investment in resilience and sustainable development.

The seminar forms part of the wider programme for CDB's Annual Meeting, which runs from June 1-5, 2026, and this year centres on advancing practical, collaborative solutions to help the Caribbean navigate uncertainty, strengthen resilience, and accelerate sustainable development.

All public sessions will be livestreamed on CDB's YouTube, LinkedIn, and Facebook channels.



Patterson calls for more powerful African-Caribbean alliance

Former Prime Minister P J Patterson is calling for stronger partnerships between Africa and the Caribbean, signalling that the time has come for people of African descent to move beyond symbolic ties and build united systems that promote prosperity, environmental protection, and a stronger global voice for African and Caribbean people.

He made the call in a message from the P J Patterson Institute for Africa Caribbean Advocacy at The University of the West Indies, the full text of which appears below:

The advent of Africa Day 2026 compels all individuals of common African-derived heritage and ethnicity to honour the struggle and resilience of our ancestors and to renew our synergies for total liberation and long-overdue prosperity.

As an indispensable element of Agenda 2063, the African Union has chosen to focus this year on water availability and sanitation systems. That choice will rebound across the entire continent, but particularly from Sudan to the Sahel, as essential to life itself and a prerequisite to sustainable development. It will also resonate throughout our Caribbean. Our agenda for growth and development must be people-centred, climate-conscious, and inclusive, particularly in rural

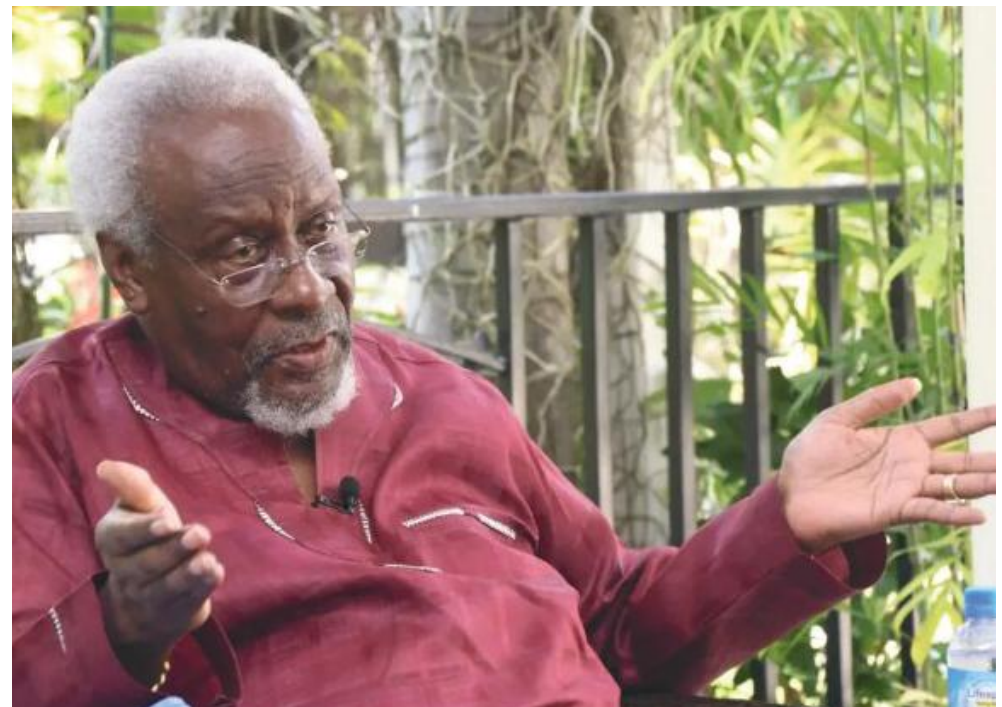
and congested urban communities.

In an era of climate change, severe droughts, excessive floodings, environmental degradation, and inadequate infrastructure, our focus must be to reduce water insecurity and public health vulnerabilities across the six regions of Africa.

The P J Patterson Institute for Africa Caribbean Advocacy (INAFRICARA) underscores the urgency of collective action and investments in sustainable systems that protect our people and the environment. The struggle for equitable access to our natural resources and promoting environmental sustainability is inextricably intertwined with the search to ensure that every child, family, and community of Global Africa enjoys constant access to safe water, sanitation, and a healthy environment.

We cannot deny that Africa Day 2026 occurs at a period of extraordinary turbulence and frightful uncertainties in the annals of our universe. Among the few certitudes is that the African continent looms as pivotal to the emerging global configuration with 54 nation states, unmatched mineral wealth, vast expanse of arable land, and increasing levels of young population.

The time has come to forge our own destiny by the collective exercise and force



Former Jamaica Prime Minister P J Patterson

of equal sovereignty. At the INAFRICARA, we contend that the relationship between the Caribbean and the African continent must move decisively from sentiment to structure for repeated declarations of kinship will not suffice. What is required now is the architecture of partnership — trade agreements that honour our complementary strengths; educational exchanges that replenish the intellectual capital of both regions; as well as investment frameworks that ensure African and Caribbean capital works effectively in the service of African and Caribbean peoples.

We must speak with united voices at the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and the multilateral institutions at which the rules of the global order are

written — too often without us, and too frequently against us.

Twenty-fifth May will come and go, but it must not take with it or dissipate the resolve of Global Africa to design an international order in which we have a commanding voice; our interests are safeguarded; where we can build with our creative minds and capable hands, common heritage with shared prosperity, rooted in sovereignty, innovation and cultural confidence.

Let us celebrate on this day the artists and athletes, the scholars and scientists, the farmers and factory workers, the mothers and the activists — all those who carry Africa's civilisational flame in their daily lives without fanfare or footnote.



The Pope warned advanced tech risks creating “new digital slaveries”



Olah... “The questions raised by AI are bigger than the AI research community,” said Christopher Olah, co-founder of US AI giant Anthropic

Pope Leo says AI must be ‘disarmed’ in first major teaching

Pope Leo has presented the first major teaching document of his papacy, warning that artificial intelligence needs to be “disarmed”. “The word is strong, I know, but deliberately chosen because this moment needs words capable of attracting attention,” the Pope said.

Encyclicals are technically letters to Catholic bishops, but over recent decades the missives have become messages to the world from a Pope.

While this letter was largely focused on AI, Pope Leo also included one of the strongest, most comprehensive apologies from the Vatican for the Catholic Church’s role in slavery.

It was “impossible not to feel deep sorrow when contemplating the immense suffering and humiliation endured by so many,” the Pope wrote, adding that he “sincerely asked for pardon” in the name of the Church.

Leo mentioned the slave trade in relation to AI, suggesting that the world was in danger of normalising the exploitation of people again - both in its production and in its applications.

Some of the Pope’s strongest imagery in the document related to slavery, warning parallels be-

tween the historical tragedy of traditional slavery and the emerging threats of “new digital slaveries”.

He suggested a risk of similar normalisation of exploitation and that humanity was at a similar moral crossroads.

Unusually, Pope Leo chose to present the encyclical - titled “Magnifica Humanitas” (“Magnificent Humanity”) - himself, at the Vatican, alongside AI experts including Christopher Olah, co-founder of US AI giant Anthropic.

In remarks following the presentation of the encyclical, Olah said that every AI lab including his operated “inside a set of incentives and constraints that can sometimes conflict with doing the right thing”.

It would be a mistake to believe that matters of AI were best handled by computer scientists like himself, Olah added: “The questions raised by AI are bigger than the AI research community, not just in their implications, but also in their nature.”

The Pope’s encyclical - which also acknowledged the many potential pitfalls in AI - is also a stark and direct message to those in positions of power about their responsibilities in kerving the “threats” it

poses.

For example, the Pope condemned the use of AI in warfare, saying that reducing human control of weaponry makes it even harder to consider a war “just” and warned against launching an AI arms race.

“The questions raised by AI are bigger than the AI research community,” said Christopher Olah, co-founder of US AI giant Anthropic

“No algorithm can make war morally acceptable,” the Pope wrote. Not only does AI not remove the “intrinsic inhumanity” of war, he said, but it also risks sparking conflict more quickly and rendering it more impersonal by “lowering the threshold for resorting to violence, transforming defense into threat prediction and thus reducing victims to data”.

Leo also decried the way AI impacts on politics - such as the way it was used to manipulate images and videos, which he said exposed people to biased or misleading perspectives.

In the past, the Pope has likened today’s need for safeguards to protect people in the face of AI developments to those that were needed to ensure human dignity during the industrial revolution.

He suggested comparisons of failing to act against the risks of AI today with the “delay with which both society and the Church came to denounce the scourge of slavery”. He even referred to the risks of “digital colonialism,” linking the abuses of the colonial era to modern tech practices.

At one point in this document, the Pope directly issued a “special appeal” to those who develop AI.

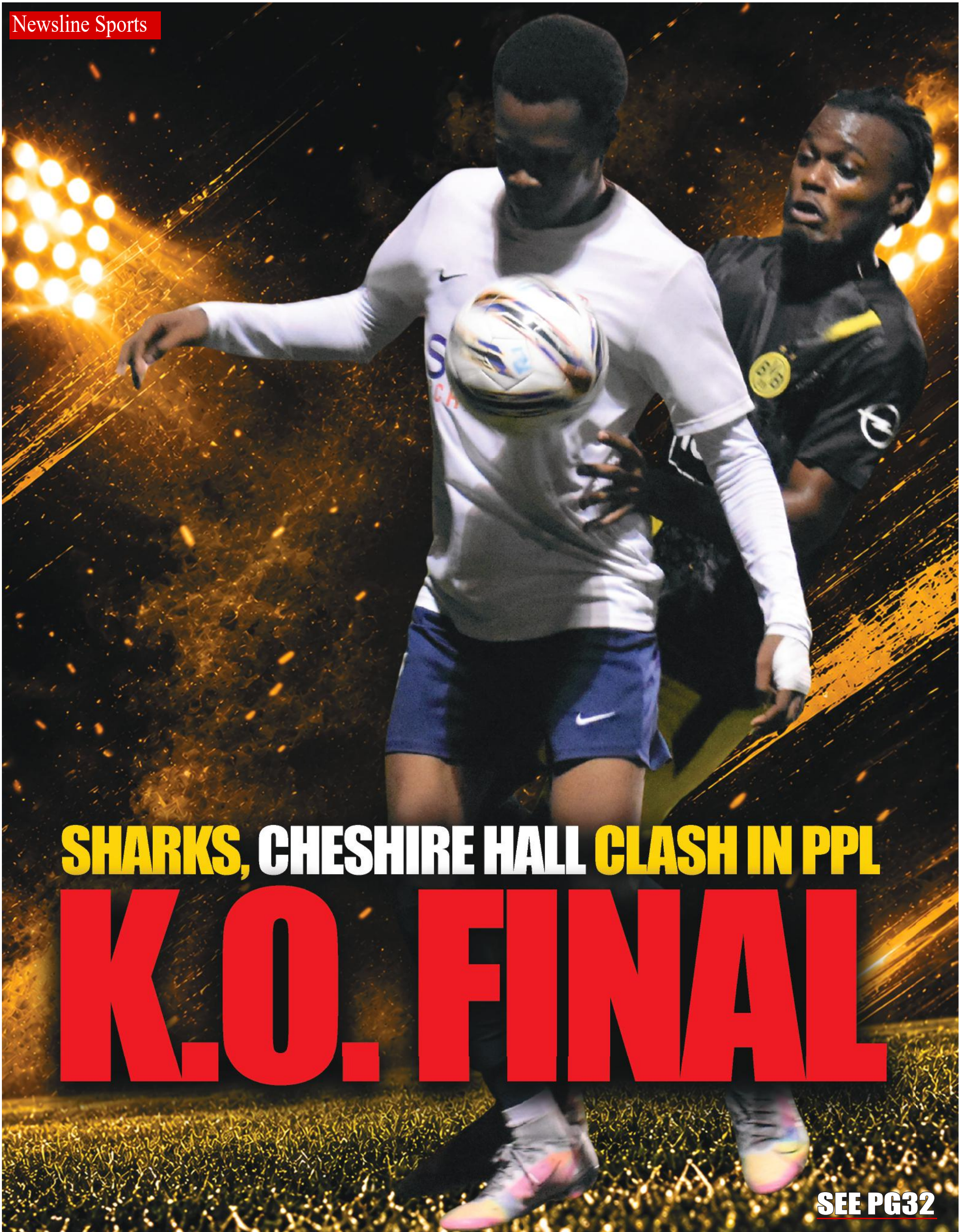
“Developers bear a particular ethical and spiritual responsibility, for every design choice reflects a vision of humanity,” he said.

But what impact will all of this have?

Pope Leo has convened a commission to take his work forward, but there are huge questions as to how effective all this will be in the face of rapid technological advances.

In 2015, the late Pope Francis wrote his encyclical *Laudato Si* which focused on the urgent need to address the climate crisis - but then followed it up in 2023 talking about his disappointment in the inaction there had been.

As passionate as he has been about the needs to rein in AI, Pope Leo may find himself issuing a similar warning in the years ahead.



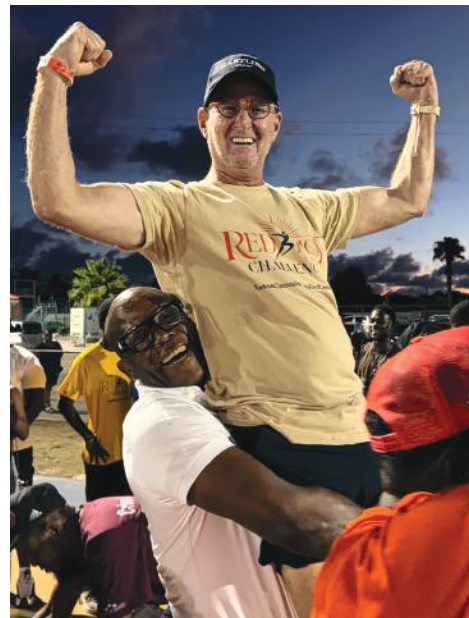
SHARKS, CHESHIRE HALL CLASH IN PPL

K.O. FINAL

SEE PG32

More **Red-Hot** Challenge Highlights

The Turks and Caicos Islands Red Cross (TCIRC) brought the community together for its 5th Annual Red Hot Challenge, held on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at the National Stadium. This year's event welcomed over 19 teams in a vibrant display of sportsmanship, teamwork, and skill. Elite Troopers (TCI Regiment) emerged the overall winners. Second was Waterloo Pulse (Waterloo Investment Holdings). Third place was NW Hamilton Hurricanes (NW Hamilton Insurance). The Best Team Spirit was The Ritz Runners (The Ritz-Carlton). The following are photo highlights of the event.





THE INAUGURAL JAGS McCARTNEY ROAD RELAY

The inaugural JAGS McCartney Road Relays were held on Saturday, May 23, in Providenciales. The race route began at the Graceway Gourmet Parking lot in Grace Bay and proceeded westward toward the Bight before turning southeast in the vicinity of the former Kids Park. Passing the Kids Park, the route then took the runners south-eastward at the intersections, exiting onto the onto the Leeward Highway near the former TCI Cinema. They then travelled east along the highway back to Graceway Gourmet in Grace Bay, where the race concluded. Quality Athletics combined with Next Generation Athletics were crowned champions. The A. Louise Garland Thomas High snatch second place. The Road Dogs ended in third position. The following are photo highlights of the event.





Cheshire Hall, SWA Sharks Square Off in PPL Knockout Final

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Cheshire Hall FC and SWA Sharks FC will battle for knockout supremacy when they meet in the Premier League (PPL) Knockout Final on Saturday night following impressive semi-final victories. Kickoff for the championship match is scheduled for 8:30 p.m., with both teams entering the final in dominant form after posting identical 3-0 wins in their respective semi-finals. Cheshire Hall FC secured its place in the title match with a convincing victory over Beaches FC. Scott Kommalapate opened the scoring in the third minute before Idelin Gardiner doubled the advantage in first-half stoppage time. Stanley Israel added a late goal in the 84th minute to complete the

3-0 triumph. Gardiner was named Player of the Match after helping lead Cheshire Hall's attack and controlling the tempo throughout the contest. SWA Sharks FC earned their finals berth with an equally impressive performance against Academy Eagles FC. Junior Belizaire scored twice in the first half, finding the net in the 10th and 33rd minutes, while Brian Gregg added a third goal just before halftime. Belizaire's two-goal effort earned him MVP honors as the Sharks advanced to the championship game. The final sets up an intriguing matchup between two sides that have shown both attacking quality and defensive discipline throughout the tournament. Cheshire Hall and SWA

Sharks combined for six goals in their semi-final victories while conceding none. Before the championship match, Beaches FC and Academy Eagles FC will face off in the third-place game at 6:30 p.m. Tournament officials have confirmed that should either match end level after regulation time, the winner will be decided immediately by penalty kicks, with no extra time to be played. Before the championship match, Beaches FC and Academy Eagles FC will battle for third place in the PPL Knockout competition. Both teams will be looking to finish the tournament on a high note after falling short in their respective semi-final encounters. Tournament officials have con-

firmed that there will be no extra time in either the third-place playoff or the championship final. If the scores are level at the end of regulation time, the matches will proceed directly to a penalty shootout to determine the winner. The evening's action will begin with the third-place playoff between Beaches FC and Academy Eagles FC at 6:30 p.m. Both sides will be eager to rebound from semi-final defeats and secure a place on the podium before attention shifts to the championship showdown. Fans can expect plenty of drama, as tournament rules stipulate that any match tied at the end of 90 minutes will go straight to penalties. No extra time will be played in either the third-place match or the final.

Royal TCI Police Force to Host National Sports Day 2026

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) is set to bring officers and community members together in a celebration of unity, teamwork and athletic excellence during its upcoming National Sports Day 2026. The highly anticipated event will take place on Saturday,

June 6, 2026, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the National Stadium on Venetian Road in Providenciales. Designed to promote camaraderie, sportsmanship and healthy competition, the day's activities are expected to feature a variety of sporting disciplines and friendly contests involving police officers and members of the wider community.

Organizers say the initiative forms part of the RTCIPF's ongoing commitment to strengthening community relations while encouraging wellness and teamwork through sports. The invitation highlights the spirit of togetherness, noting that the event will serve as a celebration where "officers and members of the community come together

in celebration." Community members, supporters and sports enthusiasts are encouraged to attend and participate in what promises to be an energetic and family-friendly occasion. For additional information and RSVP details, persons may contact Communications Officer Ms. Denyse Renne via email at denyse.renne@tcipolice.tc.