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RESCUE MISSION



Juvenile Prevention and Intervention Council Launched to Protect At-Risk Youth



>>> STORY ON PG5

Public Urged to Submit Views on Immigration Bill 2026 Ahead of January 23 Deadline

Residents across the Turks and Caicos Islands are being encouraged to make their voices heard as the consultation period for the proposed Immigration Bill 2026 enters its final days.

According to an official public notice issued by the Ministry of Immigration and Border Services, the deadline for submissions is January 23, 2026.

The notice, which has been widely circulated online and displayed in public spaces, outlines the Government's call for public feedback on the draft legislation. Officials say the consultation process is a critical step in ensuring that the new immigration framework reflects national priorities while balancing economic needs, border security, and social cohesion.

The Immigration Bill 2026 is expected to introduce reforms to several areas of immigration policy, including residency requirements, enforcement mechanisms, and administrative processes. While the full contents of the bill are contained in supporting documents made available to the public, early discussions have generated significant interest and debate among citizens, permanent residents, and members of the wider migrant community.

The Ministry of Immigration and Border Services emphasized that public participation is essential.



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

"This consultation provides an opportunity for stakeholders to review the proposed legislation and offer constructive feedback before it is finalized," the ministry noted. "We encourage all interested parties to take advantage of this process."

Members of the public can access the draft bill and related documents by scanning the QR code provided on the

official notice or through government communication channels. Written submissions and comments can be emailed directly to immigrationrepealbill@gov.tc, the designated address for feedback on the legislation.

Community groups, business owners, and advocacy organizations have already begun mobilizing discussions around the bill. Some have welcomed

the review of existing immigration laws, citing the need for clearer rules and more efficient systems. Others have raised concerns about how potential changes could affect long-term residents, families, and the local workforce. "Immigration policy touches every part of our society," said one community representative. "It's important that people understand what is being proposed and take the time to respond. This is how policy is strengthened."

Legal analysts also point out that public consultations can influence the final shape of legislation. Submissions are typically reviewed by policymakers and may result in amendments or clarifications before a bill is debated further in the House of Assembly.

With just days remaining before the January 23 deadline, officials are reminding residents not to wait until the last minute. "This is a chance for the public to contribute meaningfully to national legislation," the ministry stressed. "Once the consultation period closes, the opportunity to influence the bill in this way will have passed."

As the deadline approaches, the Government continues to urge broad participation, underscoring its message: now is the time for the public to review the Immigration Bill 2026 and make their voices heard.

TCI Crown Land Unit Invites the Public to CLASP Outreach Event

The Crown Land Unit (CLU) is excited to invite the public to the CLASP Initiative Outreach Event on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at the Gustavus Lightbourne Sports Complex.

This event will offer residents a valuable opportunity to learn about the CLASP Initiative which is already re-defining land management in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

CLASP, which stands for the Crown Land Access Support Programme, is a national initiative designed to modernize how Crown Land is managed, allocated, and accessed across the Turks and Caicos Islands. It brings together multiple government departments to establish clearer rules and procedures, improve coordination, strengthen systems and data, and ensure better transparency and fairness in how public land is used.

The programme also places strong emphasis on improving communica-

tion with the public, including clarity around what Crown Land is used for, who can apply, and how Crown Land decisions are made.

In a statement, Alexandria Missick, Permanent Secretary of the National Land Secretariat, said, "The CLASP Initiative innovates the ways in which we manage Crown Land. As one of the country's most important resources, we must ensure that Crown Land is used in a strategic way that is equitable for the benefit of the current and future generations of Turks and Caicos Islanders. This outreach event gives residents the chance to learn more, ask questions, and better understand how CLASP can support their housing goals, and we encourage everyone to come out, engage with us, and be part of the conversation".

The event will feature an Open Day beginning at 3:30 p.m., followed by

an engaging Town Hall session at 5:30 p.m. Community members are encouraged to attend, get informed, ask questions, and connect directly with the CLASP team in a welcoming and interactive setting.

"CLASP is not just about policy; it is about people," PS Missick continued. "It is about helping residents understand where they stand, navigate the process with confidence, and access opportunities that support strong, well-planned communities".

The CLASP Initiative promotes fairness, transparency, consistency, and responsible stewardship of Crown land with a focus on people and communities. Multiple government departments are working together to reform policy, improve procedures and modernize existing systems with the goal of improving how Crown Land is managed, allocated and accessed.

During the Open Day, attendees will be able to directly interact with representatives from the various departments working on the CLASP Initiative. This unique opportunity allows community members to learn more about Crown Land programmes, new housing developments and homeownership opportunities, beach and coastal accessways and all the other important aspects of CLASP.

The Town Hall session will provide an open forum for discussion, allowing residents to ask questions and share perspectives and ideas. All members of the community are encouraged to attend and take part in both parts of this important and informative event. "We know how important it is that we connect with the community, share helpful information, and answer questions," PS Missick added. "We look forward to welcoming you all".



Multi-agency briefing prior to field assessment

Government Begins Assessment of Localised Flooding on Providenciales

The Turks and Caicos Islands Government (TCIG) continues to prioritise recovery and restoration efforts following localised flooding caused by heavy rainfall in Providenciales between 3 and 4 January 2026. In response to the flooding, a coordinated multi-agency relief operation was activated to assess damage, remove and treat standing floodwaters, and provide social assistance to

affected residents.

The effort is being led by the Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies (DDME), with support from the Public Works Department, Environmental Health Department, Health Emergency Management Unit, Social Welfare Department, the Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, the TCI Regiment, and the TCI Red Cross.



A government relief agent collects information from residents

environmental contamination and minimise the risk of water-borne illnesses. In addition, mosquito control treatments were conducted throughout the week to mitigate the risk of vector-borne diseases.

The Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies has reassured the public that all mitigation measures are being carried out in accordance with established safety and environmental protocols, and that agencies will continue monitoring affected areas until conditions return to normal.

Through this coordinated multi-agency and community-based response, the situation remains actively managed, with a continued commitment to safeguarding the health, safety, and well-being of all residents.

Members of the public are encouraged to practise proper hygiene in and around flood-affected areas. Residents should avoid contact with standing water where possible and should not use such water for drinking, cooking, or washing. Any health or environmental concerns should be directed to the Health Emergency Management Unit via email at cchiggs@gov.tc

On 9 January 2026, assessment teams conducted field evaluations in Dock Yard, the wells area of Five Cays, and several communities in Blue Hills. These assessments focused on identifying immediate community needs, evaluating environmental and public health risks, and coordinating targeted relief interventions. Residents impacted by the flooding have received relief supplies, including essential household items. The Social Welfare Department gathered information from households requiring additional support and facilitated the distribution of donated items to families in need. All participating agencies continue to work closely with community partners to ensure vulnerable individuals receive the necessary assistance. Floodwater pumping operations remain ongoing in multiple affected areas. Chlorine treatments have been applied to standing water to reduce



Government relief worker assess a section of the community on Providenciales

Turks&CaicosIslandsRedCross

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

DIRECTOR

The Turks and Caicos Islands Red Cross is dedicated to helping vulnerable people in crisis, wherever and whenever the need arises. The Director will provide strategic leadership and overall financial and operational oversight of the organization. This role is responsible for guiding the development and implementation of sustainable programmes, fundraising initiatives, and income-generation activities, while ensuring alignment with the Red Cross mandate and governance frameworks.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work with the Board to develop and implement the organization's strategic vision.
- Lead strategic and operational planning to ensure effective programme and service delivery.
- Oversee financial planning, budgeting, and controls to ensure accountability and sound financial management.
- Manage daily operations to improve organizational performance, efficiency, and impact.
- Develop and implement fundraising, partnership, and public relations initiatives to support sustainability.
- Supervise and support staff and volunteers, fostering an engaged and high-performing team.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with key stakeholders, partners, and donors.

Salary is in the range of \$45,000-\$55,000 per annum, commensurate with qualifications & experience.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Interested applicants are required to email secretary@redcross.org.tc to request an official Application Form. Once completed, the application form and all supporting documents must be submitted via email at secretary@redcross.org.tc.

**The closing date for receipt of applications is
January 23, 2026.**

FSC Warns of New UK Sanctions List

The Financial Services Commission (FSC) is telling businesses and the public that the United Kingdom (UK) will begin using one new sanctions list on Wednesday, 28 January 2026 at 9:00 a.m. (GMT).

After this date, the old OFSI Consolidated List will no longer be used. Instead, the UK Sanctions List will be the only official list for UK sanctions. UK sanctions apply in the Turks and Caicos Islands only when they are officially extended to the Overseas Territories. When this happens, all regulated businesses in TCI must follow the rules.

Kenisha Bacchus, Acting Managing Director of the FSC, said this change will make sanctions rules easier to understand and follow. She encour-

aged businesses to prepare early.

What Is a Sanctions List?

A sanctions list is a list made by a government that names people, companies, or countries that are not allowed to do business because they have broken serious rules.

A sanctions list helps stop:

- Crime
- Terrorism
- Violence and war
- Serious human rights abuses

When someone is on a sanctions list:

- Their money and property can be frozen
- Businesses are not allowed to work with them
- They may be blocked from traveling
- Trade with them may be lim-

ited or banned

Banks and other financial businesses must check the sanctions list before doing business with anyone.

What Is Changing:

- The OFSI Consolidated List will end on 28 January 2026
- The UK Sanctions List will replace it
- Each sanctioned person or company will get a new unique ID number

The list will include rules about:

- Freezing money and assets
- Travel restrictions
- Limits on trade and transport

This new system is meant to make sanctions checks simpler and clearer.

What Businesses Should Do

The FSC says businesses should start

preparing now. By 28 January 2026, they should:

- Use only the UK Sanctions List
- Stop using the old OFSI list
- Update their policies, training, and procedures
- Check that outside service providers are ready
- Make sure staff get regular sanctions updates

Why This Matters

Businesses that do not follow UK sanctions rules may face penalties. The FSC is asking everyone to prepare early and avoid problems later. For more help, businesses can contact the FSC's AML Supervision Department at amloutreachunit@tcifsc.tc or aml_supervision@tcifsc.tc.

149 Illegal Migrants Apprehended in Late-Night Marine Interception

A total of 149 illegal migrants were apprehended shortly after 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 15 January 2026, following the interception of an unlawful vessel bound for Providenciales.

The operation was carried out by the Marine Branch of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF), with support from the Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment Marine Unit. The vessel was successfully intercepted at sea and safely brought ashore.

The migrants, all Haitian nationals, included 118 males, among them five minors, and 31 females, including one minor. Following the interception, all individuals were handed over to the Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force for processing.

This interdiction marks another successful effort in the ongoing fight against irregular migration and highlights the continued collaboration among national security agencies. The RT&CIPF commended the officers involved for their professionalism, vigilance, and commitment to safeguarding the borders of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Force reiterated that illegal migration poses serious risks to life, as individuals often attempt dangerous maritime journeys aboard overcrowded and unseaworthy vessels, increasing the likelihood of injury or loss of life.

Additionally, the RT&CIPF emphasized that anyone who facilitates or participates in illegal migration is directly undermining the national security framework of the Turks and



A released Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force Photo shows the interception of the vessel with the undocumented migrants on board

Caicos Islands and will face zero tolerance under the law. Members of the public are urged to report any information relating to il-

legal entry into the country by contacting the nearest police station, calling 911, reaching the Serious Crime Unit at 231-1842, or contact-

ing Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477. Reports can be made anonymously, including through the Crime Stoppers P3 app.

Too Many Young People Have Lost Their Way, Deputy Premier Warns at JPIC Launch

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Citing the growing number of young people losing their lives or entering the prison system, the Turks and Caicos Islands Government on Thursday launched the Juvenile Prevention and Intervention Council (JPIC), a co-ordinated national initiative aimed at steering at-risk youth away from crime and violence.

JPIC encompasses eight government departments, headed by the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision, and included the Department of Education, the Department of Youth Affairs, the Department of Gender Affairs, the Department of Churches and NGOs, the Department of Behavioural and Health Services, the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force and the Department of Family and Children Services.

The launch took place on January 15 at the Gustavus Lightbourne Complex on Providenciales.

Deputy Premier Hon. Jamell Robinson asserted JPIC has been launched at a juncture when the country's youth crave guidance through their actions, which caused them either to be killed or incarcerated.

"We gather at a moment when too many of our young people have lost their way, and when, tragically, we have lost too many of our young men to gun violence," Robinson said. "These realities demand not only our attention, but our decisive action."

Robinson described prevention as a national imperative, stressing that public safety begins long before a young person enters the justice system. He said early investment in youth development, self-regulation and supportive environments can disrupt cycles of violence before they take root.

"Early intervention works because it affirms potential rather than responding only to failure," he said. "It is far more effective, and far more just, to invest in the promise of our youth than to pay the social and human cost of crime's aftermath."

The Deputy Premier said the establishment of JPIC reflects the Government's understanding that sustainable public safety is built on guidance, opportunity, accountability and care. He added that young people must be seen not as problems to be managed, but as futures to be protected.

"This is how we build safer communities, not through reaction alone, but through foresight, compassion and responsibility," Robinson said, noting that the initiative demonstrates the



Form left to right (seated) Her Excellency Deputy Governor Anya Williams; Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam; Chief Justice Mabel Agyemang; and Deputy Premier Hon. Jamell Robinson. Standing from left – Joran Harvey Head of the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision; Hon. Otis Morris, Minister of Public Service and Utilities; Dr. Alicia Malcolm, Department of Behavioural and Health Services; Minister of Education, Youth and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor; Minister of Home Affairs, Religious Affairs and Transportation; Director of youth Jatavia Howell; Mark Garland, Director of Education; and Rodney Adams, Deputy Commissioner of Police.

Government's commitment to strong institutions that value youth and believe in their capacity for change.

He also commended Director Jaron Harvey and the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision for their leadership in bringing the council to fruition.

Minister of Public Safety and Utilities, Telecommunications and Civil Aviation, Hon. Otis "Chuck" Morris, said JPIC reflects the belief that early intervention saves lives and futures. He described the council as a mechanism to ensure no child falls through institutional gaps, supported by strong inter-agency collaboration.

Morris also highlighted the role of the Electronic Monitoring System, which he said strengthens public safety while promoting rehabilitation and accountability. The signing of Memoranda of Understanding among partner agencies, he added, symbolises shared responsibility across government, law enforcement, education, social services, healthcare, non-governmental organisations and faith-based groups.

Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, Hon. Rachel Taylor, said JPIC emerged from an urgent national call following surveys that revealed troubling levels of youth disengagement, violence exposure and vulnerability. That call, she said, was driven

through the National Security Council under the leadership of Her Excellency the Governor and the Honourable Premier.

Taylor announced that Parliament has approved full funding for a Juvenile Residential Facility under JPIC through the recently passed Supplementary Budget. She stressed that the facility will focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment, providing therapy, education, mentorship and structure. She also unveiled the "Bright Horizon" programme, named by students from A. Louise Garland Thomas High School and Raymond Gardiner High, which will directly support at-risk youth while engaging parents as essential partners. Additional prevention efforts will include "Zones of Impact" in targeted communities, beginning with a pilot in Five Cays.

While emphasising compassion, Taylor noted that recent amendments to firearms legislation send a clear message that gun-related offences carry serious consequences, even as minors are treated through a rehabilitative lens.

Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam, Governor for the TCI, described JPIC as government action in motion, pointing out that the initiative was conceptualized some two years ago. She said the initiative speaks directly to one of the most important respon-

sibilities of any national leadership, which is protecting the future of the country's young people whilst safeguarding the long-term safety and stability of our society.

"From my perspective as Governor, the significance of this programme lies not only in what it does, but in what it represents," she said. "JPIC reflects a deliberate shift towards early coordination interventions, recognising that the most effective way to reduce harm, crime and social breakdown is to act before young people become entangled in injustice."

For her Part, Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams pointed out that This launch marks an important milestone here in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

She noted that the Turks and Caicos Islands Government, recognizing the challenges faced by the young people of the country, particularly as it relates to youth in crime, as well as the difficulties encountered by individuals that had committed crime.

She pointed out that it was out of those concerns the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision was birthed, a decision she hailed as one of the best to come out of TCIG.

The deputy governor also heaped praise on Joran Harvey the Director for that department.

PROVO NEEDS A PROPER PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

By Paladin

Martini: Signora, between Austria and Italy, there is a section of the Alps called the Semmering. It is an impossibly steep, very high part of the mountains. They built a train track over these Alps to connect Vienna and Venice. They built these tracks even before there was a train in existence that could make the trip. They built it because they knew some day, the train would come. The quote above is from a Movie - Under the Tuscan Sun. In that movie it was used to confirm an idea and an ideal, that where there is a vision (by the Government) that is carried out to completion, then the people benefit. Twenty years ago, upon arrival in Turks and Caicos, I was very much impressed with the amazing Bus Stops. They were built with precision and flair, that seemed practical and well thought out. At the time there was no bus system of any kind, but I was hopeful that any government that would invest in something like this would eventually "roll out" an amazing system.

It is now, many years later and several exchanges of political parties has had their turn at "managing" the country. In all that time, not one of these parties saw fit to complete those projects and provide the people of Providenciales with a functioning mass transit system. Why is a three-letter word that has become so powerful in this context? Many of the politicians that have "come through" have visited, studied or spent time in countries where a bust system was the "back bone" of transportation. These same politicians would use the system and later, at home talk about giving anecdote of things they saw happening on these various buses. Yet when they "come home" for some, reason, it has never occurred to them that their country and Island could benefit from such an "important" system?

Development, or should I say hotels have proliferate in Providenciales and they require 24-hour staffing, which means that several hundred people have to

"move" from home to work at regular intervals every day.

A bus system could and would ensure that these people get from work to home and back efficiently and safely. However, there is none, so what just happened instead? An "illegal" cadre of jitneys has evolved. Certain residents using their personal cars to transport these workers. For this article, I will not go into the issues that this create. Suffice it to say that there are people here making a "living"....a very lucrative one...from this illegal industry.

A bus system, coupled with a well run meter cab system would make it possible for the TCI Government to eradicate the Jitney. So, I have succeeded in posting out the problem. To complete the circle, I ought to provide "one" possible solution. In this way, by putting it out in the "public domain", no one can claim that he / she did not know - yes?

Here goes, the cost of a public bus system for Providenciales and how many Buses needed to Run it

To design a bus system for transporting 5,000 people to work on Providenciales in the Turks and Caicos, considering three peak times (7-9 AM, 3-6 PM, and 12 midnight), we can follow these steps:

1. Understand Peak Demand

Since you have three peak times, we need to estimate the distribution of passengers during these times.

For simplicity, let's assume:

Morning Peak (7-9 AM): 40% of total passengers;

Afternoon Peak (3-6 PM): 40% of total passengers;

Midnight Peak: 20% of total passengers.

2. Calculate Passengers During Each Peak time

Morning Peak: $5,000 \times 0.4 = 2,000$ passengers;

Afternoon Peak: $5,000 \times 0.4 = 2,000$ passengers;

Midnight Peak: $5,000 \times 0.2 = 1,000$ passengers.

3. Determine bus capacity and trips

Bus capacity: 31 seats. Round trip time, assuming a round

trip takes 30 minutes, a bus can make (trips per bus in 2 hours) = 120 minutes - 30 minutes per trip = 4 trips.

Trips in 1 hour (for Midnight Peak): 1 bus can make 2 trips since the timeframe is 1 hour.

4. Calculate total capacity needed for each peak time

Morning peak capacity: (Total capacity needed = 2,000 passengers at 4 trips = 500 passengers needed at once).

Afternoon peak capacity: (Total capacity needed = 2,000 passengers at 4 trips = 500 passengers needed at once).

Midnight peak capacity: (Total capacity needed = 1,000 passengers at 2 trips = 500 passengers needed at once).

5. Calculate the number of buses needed.

Morning Peak: Buses Needed = 2000 31-seater at 4 trips is approximately 16.13-17 buses.

Afternoon Peak: Buses Needed = 2000 passengers at 31 seats at 4 trips, approximately 16.13-17 buses.

Midnight Peak: Buses Needed = 1000 at 31 seats at 2 per trips is approximately 6.13- 16 buses.

6. Summary of Buses Needed

Morning Peak (7-9 AM): 17 buses

Afternoon Peak (3-6 PM): 17 buses

Midnight Peak: 16 buses

7. Total Buses Needed

To ensure that all shifts are covered, you'll need a fleet that can accommodate the highest demand at any given time. Thus, you should have a total of 17 buses (this should covers both morning and afternoon peak times), and 16 buses for midnight, plus a minimum of 3 - 4 busses in reserve.

8. Depot Design

For a bus depot - Central location on Providenciales, close to major work hubs, especially in the hotel industry.

Facilities

Parking bays for the buses, maintenance area for bus repairs, driver facilities (break room, restrooms), ticketing/management office, waiting area for passengers. This design will ensure that all 5,000 people can be efficiently transported to work

during the specified peak times. Keep in mind, dear reader, that I am not a social engineer and have no training in public transportation. I have also, deliberately left out the daily movement of people that are just going about their lives, shopping, or simply to the beach. Additional busses may be needed? However, as mentioned earlier in this article, the bus system ought to be "coupled" with a meter cab system.

How much would this entire System cost to implement?

The math can be worked out by the group (Public / Private Partnership or Private) that will take on the challenge. All the "numbers" are readily available online: Cost of individual bus, cost to ship, customs etc. A simple spread sheet can be used to determine what a fare (per ride) should be? AI can be used to refined operating procedures and routes?

Once fully implemented (staffed, routes established, payment system engaged, number of buses running) the general public should reap the benefits of secure and safe transport throughout the Island.

Jitneys can then be "fazed" out. The manner determined by the TCI Police Department?

Keep in mind, dear reader, that there is no one solution to this perennial problem. What has been presented here is just an idea. In the hope that the TCI Government will take a hold of it and "follow through", so that at some point in the near future we, the residents, can have a functioning public transit system



Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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CLASP
INITIATIVE

OUTREACH EVENT

Come out and learn all about the **Crown Land Access Support Programme (CLASP)** and how it is redefining land management in the Turks and Caicos Islands!

Learn about:

- New Homes for Turks Islanders
- Environmental Protections
- Beach Access Reform
- The Crown Land Amnesty Programme
- Social Needs Assessments
- and much more!

Join Us

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

**Gustarvus Lightbourne
Sports Complex**

Open Day – 3:30 p.m.

Town Hall – 5:30 p.m.

The CLASP Initiative involves multiple departments of the TCIG working together to redefine land management in the Turks and Caicos Islands.



TCI National Trust Undergoes Rebranding

The Turks and Caicos Islands National Trust (TCINT) has announced the launch of its new branding initiative entitled “A Reintroduction to the Turks and Caicos Islands National Trust.”

This initiative marks a renewed commitment to reconnecting the community with the Trust’s enduring mission and reaffirming its role as a guardian of the nation’s culture, heritage, and environment for the enjoyment of all and for future generations.

Rather than a rebrand, this initiative represents a meaningful reintroduction; an opportunity to remind the public of the excellence of the National Trust and its unwavering dedication to safeguarding the places that shape who we are. From treasured heritage sites such as Wade’s Green

Plantation to vital natural landscapes across the islands, the Trust protects the collective story of the Turks and Caicos Islands; its history, its culture, and its natural heritage.

As part of this reintroduction, the National Trust has unveiled a refreshed logo that reflects both tradition and identity. The new design replaces the humpback whale tail with the Turks and Caicos Islands rock iguana, an iconic species indigenous to the islands, symbolising resilience, preservation, and national pride. The logo continues to feature the thatch palm, honouring its central role in traditional basket weaving and the construction of historic island homes.

The updated colour palette further reinforces the Trust’s connection to place: forest green represents



the thatch palm and environmental stewardship; pink reflects the flamingos found throughout the islands, particularly at the renowned Flamingo Pond; and cream symbolises the natural hues of the Turks and Caicos beaches.

Commenting on the initiative, Mrs. Claudia Munnings, Chair Lady of the Turks and Caicos Islands National Trust, said: “This reintroduction is about reminding our people that the National Trust belongs to them. It is about honouring our past, protecting what makes us unique, and ensuring that our heritage and environment are preserved with care and pride for generations to come.” Jasmine Thomas, Executive Director of the Turks and Caicos Islands National Trust, added:

“This process was especially meaningful because it included the voices and creativity of our young staff. Their involvement reflects the future of the Trust. One that is rooted in heritage, driven by passion, and inspired by the next generation of conservation leaders.”

The launch of “A Reintroduction to the Turks and Caicos Islands National Trust” signals more than a visual update, it is a call to reconnect, to rediscover, and to fall in love again with the places that define the Turks and Caicos Islands. Through renewed storytelling, inclusive engagement, and a strengthened visual identity, the National Trust invites the community to stand with it in protecting the nation’s irreplaceable heritage today, tomorrow, and forever.

FSC APPOINTS COURTNEY ROBINSON AS COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR

The Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission (FSC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Courtney Robinson as Communications Advisor, reinforcing the Commission’s strategic communications, public engagement, and stakeholder relations capacity.

Mr Robinson brings extensive experience in public relations, strategic communications, media management, and public-sector advisory, having served in senior leadership roles across government, statutory bodies, and international markets.

His professional background includes leading high-profile communications initiatives, managing crisis communications, shaping policy-focused messaging, and serving as an official spokesperson in complex and highly visible environments.

Most recently, Mr. Robinson worked within the tourism and travel sector

for over a decade for the Turks and Caicos Islands Government (Experience Turks and Caicos and the Turks and Caicos Tourism Board), where he led international, high-impact brand, marketing, and communications strategies that enhanced market positioning and strengthened stakeholder engagement for the destination.

He previously served as Director of the Turks and Caicos Islands Government Information Service (GIS), where he was responsible for government-wide communications, crisis response, and media relations.

In his new role, Mr. Robinson will provide strategic counsel on internal and external communications, support public education and outreach initiatives, strengthen media relations, and contribute to building public confidence in the regulatory framework governing the financial

services sector.

Commenting on his appointment, Mr Robinson said: “Joining the Financial Services Commission at this important juncture in its evolution is both an honour and a responsibility. I am deeply committed to serving the Turks and Caicos Islands through clear, transparent, and purposeful communication that builds trust, strengthens institutional credibility, and ensures stakeholders are informed and engaged.”

Kenisha Bacchus, Acting Managing Director of the Financial Services Commission, welcomed the appointment, stating: “We are pleased to welcome Mr Robinson to the Commission. His depth of experience in strategic communications and public-sector advisory will be a valuable asset as we continue to strengthen stakeholder engagement and maintain confidence in the Turks and Cai-

cos Islands’ financial services regulatory framework.”



“I am deeply committed to serving the Turks and Caicos Islands”

Grand Turk Voted Among Top Ten Caribbean Islands to Visit in USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice Awards

Turk has been voted one of the Top Ten Caribbean Islands to Visit in 2026 in the USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice Awards, securing the #10 spot on the prestigious list.

Minister of Tourism, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, welcomed the recognition, describing it as a proud moment for the destination.

"This recognition by USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice Awards puts a well-deserved spotlight on Grand Turk and everything that makes it special, its his-

tory, its people, and its unmistakable character. Being named among the top ten Caribbean islands to visit in 2026 affirms Grand Turk's growing appeal not just as a cruise destination, but as a place visitors want to experience, explore, and return to.

"As we welcome more than one million cruise passengers annually, we remain focused on elevating Grand Turk through thoughtful investment, heritage preservation, and experiences that allow the island to shine on its



A tourist frolics in the turquoise waters of Grand Turk, against a Carnival Cruise Ship backdrop.

own terms."

Grand Turk welcomed over one million cruise passengers in 2025 and, as the diving capital of the Turks and Caicos Islands, continues to attract divers from around the world to experience its renowned 7,000-foot wall.

Interim CEO Consultant of Experience Turks and Caicos, Mr. Paul Pennicook, noted a strategic push to increase stay-over visitation to the island.

"As we continue to emphasise our multi-island destination, we are actively encouraging visitors who arrive in Providenciales to explore our sister islands. Grand Turk, with its whale-watching, diving and other marine activities, deep history, and authentic community

vibe, is a jewel in our archipelago.

"Experience Turks and Caicos remains committed to enhancing and developing tourism products that will attract more visitors and increase visitor spend," Mr. Pennicook said.

The Turks and Caicos Islands also earned recognition across several other USA Today 10Best categories, with Ambergris Cay Private Island Resort voted #7 Best All-Inclusive Caribbean Resort, Da Conch Shack ranked #9 Best Caribbean Beach Bar, The Sands at Grace Bay placed #4 Best Caribbean Resort, The Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Course voted #2 Best Caribbean Golf Course, and Bambarra Rum ranked #10 Best Caribbean Rum.



Hu Prospere and a female model on the front page of Discover Magazine

A new chapter in Turks and Caicos fashion history unfolds as Hubert "Hu" Prospere commands the cover of the 2026 Discover Turks & Caicos magazine, an arresting visual moment that celebrates local talent, elevated resort style, and the ever-expanding global visibility of TCI Top Model.

Shot on location at the iconic The Palms Resort, Providenciales, the editorial features three of the country's premier models: Shakem Charles, TCI Top Model Cycle 6 (2026); Hu Prospere, First Runner's Up (Cycle 6) and Brittney Bien-Amie, TCI Top Model alum and long-

HU PROSPERE GRACES THE COVER OF DISCOVER TURKS & CAICOS 2026

time Discover favourite.

The cover and pictorial were photographed by Anita Marcus of Brilliant Studios, with editorial and styling by Courtney Robinson, Founder and Executive Producer of TCI Top Model, assisted by Layton Lewis, Sales and Marketing Specialist, The Hartling Group.

Discover Turks & Caicos magazine is the region's premier luxury travel and lifestyle magazine, distributed on select American Airlines flights, at resorts, and throughout Providenciales. The publication offers insider access to the islands' culture, fashion, dining, real estate, and events, serving as both a style authority and an aspirational guide to island life. The cover image captures the sculptural wicker floppy roof at SiSi Restaurant, artfully draped over the pool bar like a piece of organic architecture. The editorial unfolds across the resort, showcasing resort wear from Wish Boutique, a visual narrative that blends ease, elegance, and Caribbean sensuality.

TCI Top Model: Visibility, Legacy & Momentum

Since 2010, TCI Top Model alum have been consistently featured in Discover Turks & Caicos, beginning with Davia Chambers, TCI Top Model (ne Super-

model) 2009; Cortrina Cooper, first runner's up and Brittney Bien-Amie, who appeared in the magazine at just ten years old. With each cycle, the partnership has deepened, culminating in the 2026 issue, where Editor Marylou Vanderheide expanded editorial space and granted coveted cover placement to TCI Top Model.

Cycle 6 marks a groundbreaking moment for the franchise: top two male placers appearing on individual magazine covers within a single cycle, and the show's first male winner, Shakem on Times of the Islands autumn 2025 issue, and now Hu at Discover. The milestone reinforces TCI Top Model's ethos, that winning is not the only measure of success. Visibility, consistency, and professionalism are victories in themselves. "This is the first of many covers, and it means more than I can put into words," says Hu Prospere. "To represent Turks and Caicos on an international platform, through a magazine that celebrates our beauty and culture, is a powerful milestone in my journey. This cover isn't just about fashion, it's about purpose, growth, and what's possible when you show up fully."

Courtney Robinson underscores the

broader mission behind the moment: "TCI Top Model has always been about creating opportunity, not for one, but for many." Robinson added: "Our goal is visibility and sustainability. We want as many working models as possible, locally and internationally. This cover is consistent proof that the platform works, and that when talent is nurtured, it thrives.

The Discover Turks & Caicos 2026 issue is now being distributed on American Airlines flights at select United States East Coast departure gates to Turks and Caicos, available online, and in print at Graceway Gourmet IGA, Providenciales. TCI Top Model returns for Cycle 7 to the main stage on Saturday, May 2nd, 2026, at Brayton Hall, Providenciales. Renowned for its theatrical runway productions, bold creative direction, and commitment to cultivating globally competitive talent, the show promises another night of high fashion, spectacle, and star-making moments. As the legacy deepens and the extravaganza continues, Cycle 7 stands poised to once again redefine the fashion landscape of the Turks and Caicos, where vision meets opportunity, and new icons are born.



A group photo of some of the attendees to the dedication of a new wing of the TCICC

TCICC Provo Campus to Offer Nursing Courses as New West Campus Wing Is Dedicated

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Providenciales campus of the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC) is set to begin offering nursing courses, expanding access to critical healthcare training on the island, according to Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture.

Minister Taylor made the announcement while addressing the official dedication and commissioning ceremony for a newly constructed wing of the TCICC West Campus in Providenciales on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. While she did not provide a specific timeline for the rollout, the minister noted that interest in the nursing programme has been increasing steadily on Providenciales, even as enrollment in the programme on Grand Turk has shown signs of decline.

The expanded space, she said, will allow the college to strengthen its nursing programme and better respond to workforce shortages in the health sector, which remains a national priority. Minister Taylor further revealed that discussions are ongoing with the University of the West Indies to elevate the nursing programme from an associate degree to a bachelor's degree offering.

The new wing, owned by local historian Bill Clare and his wife, educator Claudette Clare, was officially dedicated by Bishop Sherlock Padmore. The ceremony was attended by several government officials, educators, and community stakeholders, including TCICC President and CEO Candice Williams.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Williams described the expansion as a timely and necessary response to unprecedented growth at the institution. She disclosed that for the Fall 2025 semester, TCICC recorded a 32 percent increase in enrollment, a surge she attributed to renewed confidence in the college, the relevance of its programmes, and

government-backed free tuition initiatives. "This new wing is more than additional classroom space," Dr. Williams said. "It is a declaration of momentum, resilience, and belief in the power of education to shape lives and build our nation."

She emphasized that while the expansion is an interim measure, it is essential as the government advances plans to retrofit the former Alliance Business Center in Grace Bay into the future permanent home of TCICC. That project, she said, represents a bold next chapter for tertiary education in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

During the ceremony, heartfelt tributes were paid to the Clare family for their long-standing partnership with the college. Speaking on behalf of the family, Yeshica Robinson, daughter of Claudette Clare, described the building as the fulfillment of her mother's lifelong vision to uplift students and serve the wider community through education.

"I stand as a testament to my mom's vision, perseverance, and lifelong commitment to education," Robinson said. "This building represents sacrifice, determination, and a belief in the transformative power of learning."

Minister Taylor echoed those sentiments, praising the Clares for investing not just in infrastructure, but in the potential and ambition of the nation's people. She described the new wing as a milestone moment for tertiary education in the country and a model of effective collaboration between government, community partners, and educational institutions.

Delivering the vote of thanks, Claudette Clare noted she has been a longstanding pillar of education in the Turks and Caicos, telling the audience that educating the children of the Turks and Caicos Islands is something she holds dear to her heart. She also thanked the government for their ongoing partnership with the Clare Family.



From left – Sheba Wilson, Chair of the TCICC Board of Governor; Claudette Clare, Co-owner of the building; Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor; Member of Parliament for Leeward and Long Bay Hon. Akierra Missick; Bill Clare – Co-owner of the building; and Candice Williams – President of the TCICC, cut the ribbon to officially commission a new wing of the TCICC Provo Campus.



Students from the Enid Capron Primary School performing at the event.

Advocating for Housing Stability: Legalizing Land for Indigenous Turks Islanders

An Op-Ed by Hynetta Karen Forbes

I am calling on Crown land unit Turks and Caicos Islands (The Turks and Caicos Government) to address the urgent need for the legalization of indigenous Turks Islanders who have been residing in informal settlements for over a decade (10 years).

The current legal framework, which prohibits building without proper permits, has inadvertently marginalized many local families who are simply seeking shelter and stability in a challenging economic environment.

The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) is experiencing a significant rise in the cost of living, which has driven many indigenous residents to construct decent block homes to provide shelter for their families. While the intention of existing laws may be to maintain order and regulate development, the reality is that these laws are affecting local families who have been living in these conditions for years.

These individuals and families have contributed to the community and have deep roots in the local culture.

Despite their long-term residency, these families face the constant threat of eviction from Crown Land Unit department.

Authorities have indicated that these

informal structures may be demolished, leaving residents homeless.

While indigenous families face eviction and demolition, numerous illegal wooden shacks continue to be constructed daily.

I am calling on those in authority to consider the following recommendations:

Regularization of Land: Implement a process to legalize the land occupied by indigenous Turks Islanders who have been squatting for over ten years, something they have been waiting decades for. This would provide them with security of tenure and the ability to invest in their homes.

Assistance Instead of Eviction: Rather than making our people homeless, authorities should focus on providing assistance to those living in informal settlements. This can include support in obtaining permits, access to affordable housing options, and resources for home improvement.

Review of Housing Policies: Reassess existing housing or building policies to address the needs of local residents. Consider creating affordable housing options for indigenous families.

Pricing: It is crucial for authorities to establish a land regularization pricing structure that aligns with the minimum wage in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

This will enable long-term residents to secure their homes without financial burden or eviction threats, while pro-

moting stability.

This should be a matter of urgency for our people.



A TURKS AND CAICOS WE CAN ALL BE PROUD OF

An Op-Ed by Alicia Swann

What's on my mind is a Turks and Caicos that deserves to be celebrated, not reshaped into something unrecognizable.

Yes, Providenciales has grown. It has welcomed businesses, ideas, and people from all over the world, and in many ways, it reflects the beauty of a melting pot. But growth should not mean erasure. Progress should not require us to trade away the very soul of who we are.

There is a moment we are standing in right now that calls for intention. Stop. Pause. Preserve. Think ahead for the generations to come. All is not lost, but it can be, if we do not choose wisely.

Each Islander is unique to the island they are from. Even our dialogue carries the imprint of where we come from. Our accents, expressions, rhythms, and ways of telling stories quietly reveal our home islands. That is our power. That is our beauty.

The true richness of Turks and Caicos lives in its people as much as in its landscapes. Exploring and preserving our islands must also mean exploring and preserving their inhabitants, their

knowledge, their traditions, and their ways of life.

We are not here to invent something foreign. We are here to shape and mold what we have already been given. God has already provided the blueprint. We only need to slow down long enough to see what is right in front of us.

No one knows your country or your product better than you who have lived it. Why try to be something we are not? Each time we attempt to imitate another place, we lose a piece of our own lifestyle. A lived experience is what gives us the authority to shape our present and our future.

I envision the marketing and development of our family islands not as replicas of somewhere else, but as island treasures. Places where businesses rise from culturally focused initiatives, designed first with residents in mind, and where visitors are welcomed into an authentic haven that reflects what Turks and Caicos truly represents.

North Caicos as a living sanctuary. Lush, green, and respected. A place for nature trails, wildlife exploration, farming traditions, and environmen-

tal exhibitions, where development works with the land, not against it.

Middle Caicos safeguarded for its history and natural wonders. Its caves protected not only as attractions, but as classrooms. Its flamingos preserved as symbols of the fragile beauty we are responsible for protecting.

South Caicos honored as the salt and fishing capital. The rhythm of boats, salt ponds, and sea life forming the heart of its identity. A working island where maritime culture and sustainable fishing are supported, celebrated, and passed down.

Grand Turk restored and respected as a cultural and historical anchor. Front Street with its light and British flare revived with intention. The return of a strong public library and cultural spaces for those who adore history, storytelling, and research.

Salt Cay protected in its quiet uniqueness. A picturesque island lifestyle centered on stillness, craftsmanship, heritage, and community. The heart of this vision is not tourism alone. It is our people. Celebrate our island cultures. Create small businesses that allow islanders to thrive with dignity,

love, and respect. Build economies that sustain us without displacing us.

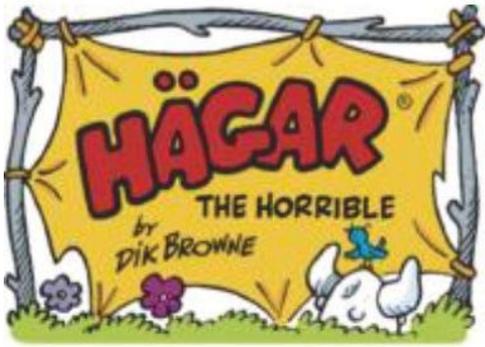
Let development work in service of community, not the other way around.

Teach our youth the trades, the arts, the skills, and the stories while our elders are still here to pass them on. Boat building, straw work, farming, fishing, cooking, music, storytelling, herbal knowledge, construction, and design. These are not relics. They are foundations.

From this, innovation is born. When young people are rooted, they can modernize tradition without losing it. They can bridge yesterday and today. They can create futures that honor the past instead of replacing it.

We do not need to become a concrete jungle to be successful. We do not need to mirror other places to be worthy. We do not need to sacrifice our identity to attract the world.

What we need is the courage to protect what is left, the wisdom to shape what is coming, and the commitment to ensure that being a Turks and Caicos Islander is not just a title, but a living experience our people can still feel, recognize, and pass on.

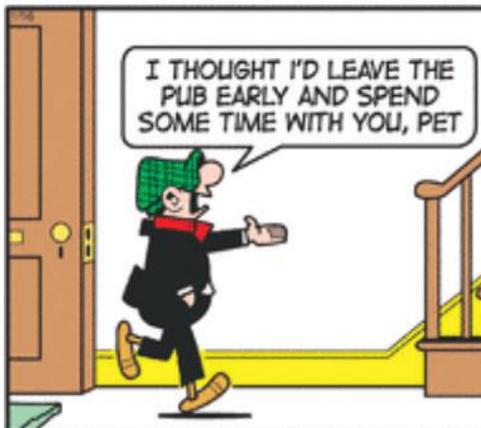


NEWSLINE^{TCI} COMICS

Today I completed a chore I've been putting off for 6 months. It took me 15 minutes. I will learn nothing from this.



"With your type of insurance coverage, this is how we check your colon."





NEWSLINE^{TCI}
Heritage

The John Glenn *Splash Down*

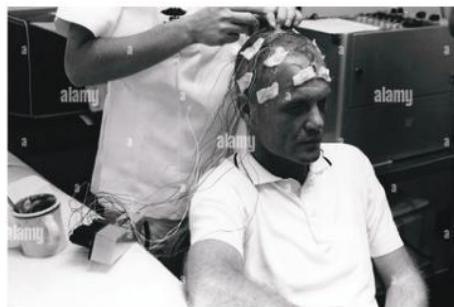
On February 20, 1962, history was made when American astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth aboard Friendship 7. After three orbits and nearly five hours in space, Glenn's spacecraft splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean, about 800 miles southeast of Cape Canaveral.

But what many don't realize is that this global moment in history has a direct and unique connection to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Following his safe retrieval from the ocean by the USS Noa, Glenn was flown to Grand Turk—our very own island—where he became the first American astronaut to set foot on land after completing an orbital flight. Grand Turk served as the primary medical evaluation and debriefing site for Project Mercury, NASA's first human spaceflight program.



John Glenn greets Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson



John Glenn receiving his physical evaluation post-landing in Grand Turk

NASA had constructed a temporary facility on Grand Turk to support the recovery of Mercury astronauts, complete with medical, technical, and communications equipment. It was here that Glenn underwent initial medical checks and made his first terrestrial steps post-spaceflight, effectively making Grand Turk the first human outpost after orbit.

Today, this pivotal moment is commemorated at the John Glenn Exhibit at the Turks and Caicos National Museum in Grand Turk, which preserves artefacts, photos, and accounts from that extraordinary day. Glenn's brief but iconic visit connects this quiet island to the intensity of the space race and the awe of cosmic exploration.

The splashdown site and Glenn's arrival on Grand Turk remain a proud chapter in Turks and Caicos heritage—a reminder that even the most remote shores can leave footprints on the stars.



Michael Saunders

Michael Saunders Named TEDxMcGill 2026 Speaker

novation, and Caribbean identity. Raised in the Turks and Caicos Islands, he offers a perspective shaped by life in a small island territory navigating environmental vulnerability, historical inequities, and the search for sustainable development pathways.

His interests sit at the intersection of climate resilience, innovation, and Caribbean identity. According to the official TEDxMcGill announcement, Saunders' talk is driven by a central question: how can historically overlooked regions transform vulnerability into opportunity and leadership?

Drawing on his lived Caribbean experience, Saunders explores how climate change and structural inequalities continue to shape the future of small island communities, while also emphasizing their potential as hubs of creativity, resilience, and global leadership. His talk challenges audiences to rethink how they view the Caribbean, not as a region defined solely by risk, but as one capable of reimagining what global progress can look like.

He also seeks to highlight ecological and historical debt as catalysts for innovation and to underscore the power of young people from small islands to influence international conversations and solutions.

TEDxMcGill is one of Canada's most

prominent independently organized TED conferences, known for elevating emerging voices alongside established thinkers. The 2026 theme, Between Worlds, centers on ideas that bridge cultures, identities, and systems, making Saunders' contribution especially timely.

His selection as a TEDxMcGill speaker represents a significant moment of international visibility for the Turks and Caicos Islands and the wider Caribbean, reflecting the growing impact of Caribbean youth on global intellectual and innovation platforms.

Michael Saunders, a fourth-year Science and Business student at the University of Waterloo and a Turks and Caicos Islander, has been announced as a speaker for TEDxMcGill 2026, scheduled for Saturday, February 8th, 2026, in Mon-

tréal, Canada.

Saunders, the son of Minister of Innovation, Technology and Information, Hon. E. Jay Saunders, brings both personal experience and academic focus to global conversations on climate change, in-

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eriktci@gmail.com

Ruth Forbes Bids Adieu to Pelican Energy (formerly Fortis TCI)

The following is a statement from former President and CEO of Pelican Energy (formerly Fortis) on her departure from the energy company.

Two Decades of Service, Leadership and Impact, with Gratitude

Today, as I conclude my tenure as President and CEO of Pelican Energy TCI (formerly FortisTCI), my heart is overflowing with gratitude for two incredible decades of learning, growth, and transformation.

What few may know is that my journey with the company began with my very first job out of high school as a cashier. I later rejoined the company with a renewed drive to contribute and make a difference. The journey has

been full of purpose and nothing short of extraordinary.

Electricity is the invisible force that sustains economies, drives innovation, and defines the rhythm of human advancement. Over the last two decades, I am humbled to have played an active role in transforming the energy sector of the Turks and Caicos Islands to support our nation's holistic development and progress.

I have had the privilege of working alongside some of the most talented, innovative, and dedicated professionals. Together, we built the utility on a foundation of operational excellence, a strong safety culture, people-centered leadership, unwavering community investment, and a

deep commitment to service excellence. These pillars have produced industry-leading performances to consistently deliver safe, reliable, and resilient energy to homes, businesses and communities across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

I am equally grateful to every stakeholder, industry partner, and the wider business community for your trust, engagement, and collaboration over the years. Through diligence and shared purpose, we addressed common goals and met the evolving energy needs of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

As the first local and female President and Chief Executive Officer of the company, Pelican Energy TCI (formerly FortisTCI) will always be

a defining period in my career. I am sincerely thankful to every colleague, leader, and mentor who have challenged me, trusted me, and helped shape my leadership journey. The standards, values, lessons, and relationships built during this time will remain with me always. To my family and friends, you have been my grounding force throughout this journey, and I am deeply grateful for your support.

As I celebrate the culmination of this incredible journey of purpose and impact, above all, I am thankful to God for his grace and guidance. I am filled with optimism for the opportunities and possibilities that lie ahead.

Wishing everyone a safe and prosperous 2026!

Life Line FEATURED CHURCH

Church of God of Prophecy, Blue Hills

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



Life line Church Directory

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

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

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

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

Church of God of Propesy,
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



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BRIGHT HORIZON JUVENILE PREVENTION & INTERVENTION COUNCIL

The Bright Horizon Juvenile Prevention and Intervention Council (JPIC), aimed at safeguarding teens, especially, from committing crimes, and drug abuse, was launched on Thursday, 15 January 2026, at the Gustarvus Lightbourne Sports Complex in Providenciales. The national event was attended by Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam, Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams, Deputy Premier Hon. Jamell Robinson, Minister of Public Service and Utilities Hon. Otis Morris (under whose aegis the council falls), Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Home Affairs, Religious Affairs and Transportation Hon. Shaun Malcolm. Her Ladyship Chief Justice Mabel Agyemang. The following are photo highlights of the event.





WHY YOU FEEL MORE ANXIOUS AFTER COFFEE

Understanding caffeine sensitivity and nervous system load

By Monica Uttamchandani

Holistic Health Coach - Turks and Caicos

Holistic Health Coach, Turks and Caicos Caffeine affects everyone differently. If you often feel anxious, shaky, or overwhelmed after coffee, it may be a sign that your nervous system is more sensitive than you realise.

This is not a flaw. It is simply how your body processes stimulation, and paying attention to it can help you enjoy coffee without draining your energy or increasing stress.

Caffeine increases cortisol, your stress hormone, which heightens nervous system activation. When your baseline stress is already elevated due to poor sleep, long days, or chronic tension, even a small amount of caffeine can push you into a state of alertness.

This can make concentration harder, increase heart rate, and trigger physical symptoms such as jitteriness, shallow breathing, or mood swings.

The timing of coffee also matters. Skipping breakfast before your morning cup intensifies its effects. Without food in your stomach, caffeine enters the bloodstream more quickly, causing sharper spikes in cortisol and blood sugar. This can lead to the familiar jit-

ters, sudden anxiety, or energy crashes later in the morning.

A gentler approach allows you to enjoy caffeine without overwhelming your system. Eating a protein-rich breakfast before your first cup helps slow absorption and stabilise glucose levels.

Trying half-caf coffee, matcha, or other lower-caffeine alternatives can give you a lift without overstimulating your nervous system. Supporting your body with minerals like magnesium and potassium can also buffer the effects of caffeine, helping your nervous system stay calmer and more resilient.

Even small shifts can make a noticeable difference. Drinking water before coffee, taking a few slow breaths, and sitting quietly for a moment before your first sip signals to your body that it is safe to metabolise caffeine. Over time, these habits help you enjoy coffee as a source of energy and ritual rather than stress.

Your Body Benefits from Slower Stimulation, Not More Force Pay attention to how you feel after caffeine. Your body communicates through these signals, guiding you toward choices that support steady energy, mental clarity, and a calmer nervous system. When you



listen and respond mindfully, coffee can be enjoyed without compromising wellbeing.

Connect with me on @balancedbymonica on Instagram for more insights on nervous system sensitivity, energy management, and building calm into daily life.

Monica Uttamchandani is a certified Holistic Health Coach based in the Turks and Caicos Islands, supporting men and women in creating grounded, nourishing lives, one breath at a time. She also consults in person at The Elephant Rooms in Salt Mills, Providenciales.

DECR to Engage Communities on Public Perspectives of Marine Environment Management

The coastal waters of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) are home to some of the most diverse and ecologically significant marine habitats in the region, including coral reefs, seagrass meadows, mangrove forests, and coastal wetlands. These ecosystems support a wide range of marine life such as sea turtles, whales, seabirds, sharks, and rays and are deeply woven into the social, economic, and cultural fabric of TCI communities. For generations, the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands have relied on the sea for food, livelihoods, and identity.

Over recent decades, the Turks and Caicos Islands have experienced rapid development and economic growth. Alongside increases in population, visitor arrivals, and infrastructure development, pressures on the natural environment have also intensified.

These local pressures are further compounded by global environmental challenges, including the impacts of climate change, which threaten the long-term sustainability of TCI's marine resources. In response, the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands has implemented various management mea-

asures, including the establishment of Marine Protected Areas, also known as National Parks.

The Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) is responsible for managing these National Parks and for promoting the protection and sustainable use of the country's natural resources on behalf of the Government and the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Over time, DECR has recognised that public views on marine resource management and the National Parks system vary widely.

With competing demands on limited marine and coastal space, decision-makers face ongoing challenges in determining the most effective and inclusive management approaches.

To address this, DECR is preparing to undertake a comprehensive community engagement initiative focused on understanding public perceptions of the marine environment. The initiative will explore questions such as: How do people in the Turks and Caicos Islands value the sea? How should marine resources be managed? What are public views on marine National Parks, and how can these areas better meet the needs of

local communities?

Beginning in January 2026, project representatives will visit all settled islands, Providenciales, North Caicos, Middle Caicos, South Caicos, Grand Turk, and Salt Cay to engage directly with community members. These visits will provide opportunities for residents to share their experiences, values, concerns, and ideas regarding the management of TCI's marine environment.

Director of DECR, Mr. Luc Clerveaux, stated: "It is essential that TCI's marine National Parks are effectively managed, as our waters are critical to our tourism economy, national fisheries, and our resilience to climate change. Ensuring that communities have a meaningful voice in shaping how these areas are managed will strengthen governance and help ensure that National Parks continue to deliver benefits for present and future generations."

DECR has partnered with the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) to implement the Community Voice Method (CVM) a documentary film-based approach designed to ensure that community perspectives directly inform laws and policies that affect them.

The method has previously been used successfully in the Turks and Caicos Islands on two occasions. Through this process, the project team will develop a guidance document for the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, reflecting how local communities wish to see their marine environment and National Parks managed in the future. This project is generously funded by the John Ellerman Foundation.

Planned Island Visits:

- Providenciales: 8–9 January & 26–31 January
- North Caicos: 12–17 January
- Middle Caicos: 12–17 January
- Salt Cay: 19–24 January
- Grand Turk: 19–24 January
- South Caicos: 2–7 February

Members of the public who wish to learn more about the project or participate are encouraged to contact the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources at armcleod@gov.tc or ceamay@gov.tc.

For additional information on the Community Voice Method, please visit: <https://www.mcsuk.org/ocean-emergency/people-and-the-sea/community-voice-method/>



Andrew Ashcroft, President of the Turks and Caicos Real Estate Association



James McNally, Turks & Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA)



Stacy Cox, CEO of the TCHTA

TCHTA Opens 2026 with Industry Insights, Advocacy Updates, and a Focus on Sustainable Growth

Members of the Turks & Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA) opened 2026 with the first General Meeting, setting a clear and purposeful tone for the year ahead through updates on advocacy, sustainability, industry collaboration, and long-term destination development.

Held at Blue Haven Resort, the meeting saw a series of strategic updates from key committees, perspectives on the evolving tourism and real estate landscape, and a forward-looking overview of signature events, marketing opportunities, training initiatives, and member engagement programmes planned for 2026.

TCHTA President James McNally delivered an advocacy update, reaffirming the Association's continued engagement with public- and private-sector stakeholders on matters critical to the tourism industry and national development.

"Our role as an Association is to remain proactive, informed, and engaged on behalf of our members," said McNally. "Strong advocacy and collaboration are essential to ensuring that tourism continues to deliver long-term value for the Turks and Caicos Islands."

Committee updates formed a central part of the meeting, with the Sustainable Tourism Committee outlining a forward-looking agenda for 2026 focused on environmental awareness, waste reduction, recycling initiatives, and industry collaboration on responsible tourism practices.

The committee highlighted the continuation of TCI Shines, the Association's bi-annual clean-up programme, alongside campaigns

aligned with global environmental observances and coordinated industry participation. Animal welfare was also underscored as a key priority area for 2026, recognising its importance to destination image, visitor experience, and overall community wellbeing.

An example of industry-led action was shared, with a representative from Grace Bay Resorts outlining the group's transition away from plastic bottled water to canned water, implemented in partnership with local manufacturer, Provo Beverages. The initiative was presented as a practical and replicable approach to reducing single-use plastics within the tourism sector.

"The focus for 2026 is on practical action and collaboration," said Craig James, Co-Chair of the TCHTA Sustainable Tourism Committee. "Through coordinated initiatives, awareness campaigns, and industry participation, we are working to strengthen responsible tourism practices in ways that support our environment, our communities, and the long-term resilience of the destination."

The meeting's featured guest speaker, Mr. Andrew Ashcroft, President of the Turks and Caicos Real Estate Association, delivered a high-level overview of the evolving real estate landscape and its relationship to tourism performance. His remarks addressed the continued maturation of the Providenciales market, the expansion of development beyond traditional areas, and growing interest in walkable, mixed-use communities that enhance both resident and visitor experiences. He also noted the increasing relevance of the outer islands as part of the

next phase of national growth.

"Tourism and real estate are fundamentally linked," said Ashcroft. "The strength of the tourism product, the quality of the hotel sector, and the work of the Association all underpin long-term confidence, value creation, and national development."

An official update from the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority (TCIAA) was conveyed by TCHTA Chief Executive Officer, Stacy Cox, outlining the current status of airport redevelopment planning.

As the meeting moved toward its conclusion, a forward-looking re-

view of the TCHTA's 2026 calendar set out the Association's signature events, marketing initiatives, training opportunities, and webinars designed to support member visibility, professional growth, and industry alignment throughout the year.

As the tourism industry enters 2026, the TCHTA reaffirmed its role as a strategic partner to government and industry, with a continued focus on advocacy, sustainability, collaboration, and ensuring that growth across tourism, real estate, and infrastructure remains aligned with the long-term interests of the Turks and Caicos Islands.



TCHTA Members at the meeting



Inclusivity meets luxury as Elmo shares in a yoga session



Kids Camp team members at Pirates Island

Inclusivity Meets Luxury at Beaches Turks and Caicos

At Beaches Turks & Caicos, inclusivity and luxury go hand in hand. The all-inclusive resort has recognised that true family vacations must embrace every member's needs and it has redefined what it means to provide personalised experiences, especially for guests on the autism spectrum.

As the first Caribbean all-inclusive resort to earn the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES) certification, Beaches Turks & Caicos ensures that every guest, regardless of ability, enjoys a seamless and stress-free vacation. Every Kids Camp counselor and team member is trained to understand and meet the needs of neurodiverse guests and create an environment where everyone feels welcomed, understood and celebrated.

"Our goal is to educate our team about the importance of inclusion," said James McAnally, Managing Director. "When inclusivity becomes part of who we are, it shows in every interaction. It's not just about offering a vacation; it's about shaping a world where every family feels a sense of belonging."

Families visiting the resort can also take advantage of its 'Beaches Buddy' system, which provides one-on-one assistance for guests who may need extra support navigating the resort, dining or sensory-friendly spaces. This personalised service reflects Beaches' dedication to accessibility and care.

Beaches' longstanding partnership with Sesame Street adds another

layer of comfort and connection. Beloved characters, including Julia, a 4-year-old Sesame Street muppet on the autism spectrum, help build understanding and celebrate diversity through interactive activities and play experiences. Inclusivity is woven into every detail - even dining. Through IBCCES training, the resort's culinary and service teams are equipped to recognise and accommodate the sensory and dietary needs of neurodiverse guests.

"We want every meal to be more than delicious; it should feel safe and comforting," said Ancell Williams, assistant food and beverage director. "Our team members are attentive to guests who may experience visual, auditory and other sensitivities."

This commitment to inclusivity extends beyond guest experience to the professional growth of staff. Children's Programme Manager, Fedeline Julien, explained, "When we provide our team with IBCCES training, it helps them not only to grow as professionals but also to support families in their communities. Through partnerships with schools and organisations and with the help of our Sesame Street friends, we promote understanding and inclusion for children of all abilities."

For families with autistic or neurodiverse members, a luxury Caribbean vacation is no longer out of reach; it's a reality. Beaches Turks & Caicos continues to set the standard for inclusive hospitality in the region by offering a world where every family can relax, connect and create unforgettable memories together.



Oscar celebrates his birthday with guests



FSC and SNAP outside



Kenisha Bacchus, Managing Director and student

FSC STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP WITH DONATION TO SNAP CENTRE

The Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission (FSC) continues to demonstrate its commitment to corporate social responsibility and community partnership through a recent visit and donation to the Marion Williams Special Needs Association of Providenciales (SNAP) Centre in Kew Town. Senior leadership of the FSC's Providenciales office visited the SNAP Centre this week, where essential nutritional items were donated in support of the students' physical development and overall well-being. The donation was met with immediate appreciation from SNAP's staff, who described the contribution as timely and impactful in supporting daily meal planning and student care. The visit also provided an opportunity for FSC leadership to conduct a needs-based assessment and explore meaningful ways to partner with the centre moving forward.

The delegation comprised Kenisha Bacchus, Managing Director (Ag.); Camardia Higgs, Director of Human Resources & Administration; Courtney Robinson, Communications Advisor; Alidavidson Higgs, Administrative Assistant. While on-site, the team met with the principal, educators, and students; toured the classrooms and grounds; and spent time interacting with students in a welcoming and engaging atmosphere. Students responded enthusiastically to the visit, expressing visible excitement and joy throughout the engagement. Staff noted that the students were particularly happy to interact with new faces, participate in conversations, and receive individual attention; experiences that are essential to their social and emotional development. Laughter, smiles, and active participation underscored the positive atmosphere created by the interaction.

The SNAP Centre is a government-funded facility that has been operational for over 35 years and currently serves approximately 30 students between the ages of 5 and 20. The organisation provides specialised intellectual and life-



FSC delegation meet with Principal, Dr Little and teacher, Paulette Delancy Simmons



Kenisha Bacchus and Alidavidson Higgs with SNAP students

skills training for children and young people with diagnosed special needs, including autism, Down syndrome, and other neurodevelopmental challenges.

Services include therapeutic support such as speech, occupational, and behavioural therapy, as well as inclusive

education programmes designed to foster independence, socialisation, and community integration.

Speaking on the visit, Mrs Bacchus emphasised the importance of stewardship and partnership with underserved communities: "At the FSC, we recognise the importance of being good stewar-

ds within our community. Engaging with SNAP and spending time with the students firsthand was both humbling and inspiring. Seeing the students' excitement and openness to interaction reinforced how important community engagement is. We stand with SNAP in its mission to create a nurturing and empowering environment for its students, and we are committed to exploring sustainable ways to partner with the organisation as it continues its vital work."

Dr Regena Little, Principal of the SNAP Centre, welcomed the FSC's presence and acknowledged the dual impact of the donation and personal interaction: "For more than three decades, SNAP has relied on the generosity of partners to enhance the learning environment for our students. The nutritional supplies will be put to immediate use, and the interaction with the FSC team brought visible joy to our students." She further noted that such encounters play an important role in student development: "These moments of connection are essential to nurturing social and psychological growth. The students were excited, engaged, and truly enjoyed the experience."

Dr Little also emphasised that, despite its long-standing service, many individuals within the special education community across the Turks and Caicos Islands remain without adequate resources. She described SNAP as both an educational institution and a support network for families seeking comprehensive assistance.

The FSC's outreach reflects its broader ethos of collaboration, inclusion, and service to vulnerable groups, extending its impact beyond regulatory functions.

While continuing to uphold its mandate of financial services oversight across the Turks and Caicos Islands, the FSC remains committed to initiatives that foster stronger communities and promote shared responsibility, opportunity, and inclusion.



What It Means To Be Hypersexual—Plus, Tips for Managing It

Hypersexual behavior, also called hypersexuality, involves an increased sex drive and compulsive sexual behavior characterized by intense sexual feelings, thoughts, and actions. While it is not formally recognized by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), early research suggests a connection between hypersexuality and addiction.

Symptoms

About 2% of people have symptoms of hypersexuality, though the numbers may be higher in certain groups of people. For example, hypersexuality is two to three times more common in men than women, and it tends to be higher among people with certain mental health conditions.

Symptoms and behaviors associated with hypersexuality may include:

- Intense or frequent sexual thoughts or fantasies
- Strong sexual urges that feel difficult to redirect
- Spending a significant amount of time engaging with sexual content or imagery
- Feeling unable to reduce or pause certain sexual behaviors, even when they cause stress or interfere with daily activities
- Using masturbation, pornography, or sexual activity in ways that feel repetitive or hard to control
- Engaging in frequent sexual activity with partners, online, or through services such as phone sex or strip clubs, in ways that may lead to personal, relational, or financial distress

People with hypersexuality usually find that their sexual urges and behaviors interfere with one or more areas of their lives. Hypersexual behaviors can negatively affect friendships, family relationships, intimate relationships, work, school, and finances. A fixation on sex may make it hard to concentrate and complete simple tasks. Many people with hypersexual behaviors feel intense feelings of guilt and shame, which can affect their mental health.

What Causes Hypersexuality?

Experts aren't sure what causes hypersexuality. Some psychiatrists report that there are similarities between hypersexuality and substance use disorders, and that hypersexuality is similar to behavioral addiction. More research is needed to understand the potential connection. Studies have found that people with hypersexuality symptoms frequently live with psychiatric conditions such as depression and anxiety. Hypersexuality is also a symptom of mania in bipolar disorder.³ Studies have also found that people with hypersexuality have more obsessive personalities than others and more significant feelings of guilt and loneliness. There's also research pointing to an association between hypersexuality and a decreased ability to self-regulate or cope with adversity in life. Many people with symptoms of hypersexuality experience sexual development earlier than normal, begin masturbating earlier than their peers, and show sexual interest at an earlier age than average.

Risk Factors

Researchers believe certain factors may increase a person's risk of developing hypersexual behavior, but more research is needed. People with hypersexuality are more likely to have:

- Psychiatric mood disorders
- Substance use disorders
- Impulse control issues, including sexual impulsivity
- Neuropsychological impairments and executive control issues
- A history of adverse childhood experiences and trauma
- Childhood ADHD
- Attachment challenges in intimate relationships
- Early onset of masturbation
- Diagnosis and Testing

There is no single medical definition or formal diagnosis for hypersexuality, and healthcare professionals may use different terms or criteria to describe sexual behaviors that feel difficult to manage.

Many providers recognize that when sexual thoughts or behaviors begin

to cause distress or interfere with daily life, it is worth addressing.

To diagnose hypersexuality, a healthcare provider may look for a strong preoccupation with sex, where you spend a lot of your time thinking about sex or engaging in activities related to sex. They'll also be mindful of other hypersexuality symptoms you may have.

Your healthcare provider may ask you a series of questions about your thoughts and behaviors related to sex. These may include questions such as:

- Have your sexual thoughts and behaviors ever made it difficult for you to complete important tasks?
 - Have your sexual thoughts and behaviors had negative effects on your health or your relationships with others?
 - Do you ever have negative feelings about yourself as a result of your thoughts and behaviors?
 - Have your activities caused financial issues?
 - Do you have feelings of guilt and shame related to your sexual behavior?
 - Have you found yourself in embarrassing situations because of your sex drive?
- Has your behavior affected your ability to work or go to school?

Hypersexuality Treatments

Some treatment options for hypersexual behavior are backed by research. First and foremost, people with hypersexuality usually benefit from psychotherapy. A combination of therapy types is used to treat this condition, including cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), relapse prevention therapy, and psychodynamic psychotherapy.⁵

Psychotherapy is occasionally combined with pharmaceutical (drug) treatments. No FDA-approved medications currently exist for people with hypersexuality. Clinicians often prescribe medications used to treat similar disorders, such as substance use disorders.

Medications may include antidepressants, commonly selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), and the opioid antagonist naltrexone. Treating underlying mood disorders that involve hypersexuality as a symptom may also help.

How Hypersexuality Can Affect

Your Life

Hypersexuality can lead to difficulties in other areas of life. These include, but are not limited to:

Physical health: Having multiple partners or engaging in frequent sexual activity without protection can increase your risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Practicing safe sex, like using condoms and getting regular STI screenings, can help support your physical health.

Relationships: When sexual behaviors become difficult to manage, they may strain relationships with partners, family members, or friends. Some partners may feel uncomfortable or hurt if boundaries are unclear or unmet needs go unaddressed, which can make intimacy and trust more difficult to maintain.

Work and school: Sexual thoughts or behaviors that feel compulsive or distracting may make it harder to focus or meet responsibilities at work or school. This can lead to missed deadlines, reduced performance, or interpersonal challenges in professional or academic settings.¹

Financial effects: Some people find themselves spending more money than they can afford on sexual activities, such as online content, subscriptions, or services. This can contribute to financial stress or instability.

Coping

If you're living with hypersexuality, know that you aren't alone. Help is available to make your sexual urges and behaviors more manageable.

Many therapists specialize in treating people with hypersexuality and sexual compulsions. You can ask your primary care provider for a recommendation. The National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) recommends using the "Find a Therapist" search function from the International Institute for Trauma and Addiction Professionals to find a therapist who specializes in compulsive sexual behaviors.

Support groups are out there for people with hypersexuality and other sexual disorders. Sex Addicts Anonymous offers support groups for people recovering from sex addiction. S-Anon International Family Groups offers support for family and friends of people with compulsive sex addictions.

Former Refugee Camp rapper John Forté dies at 50

Grammy-nominated rapper and producer John Forté, best known for his work as a member of Fugees associate Refugee Camp All-Stars, has died.

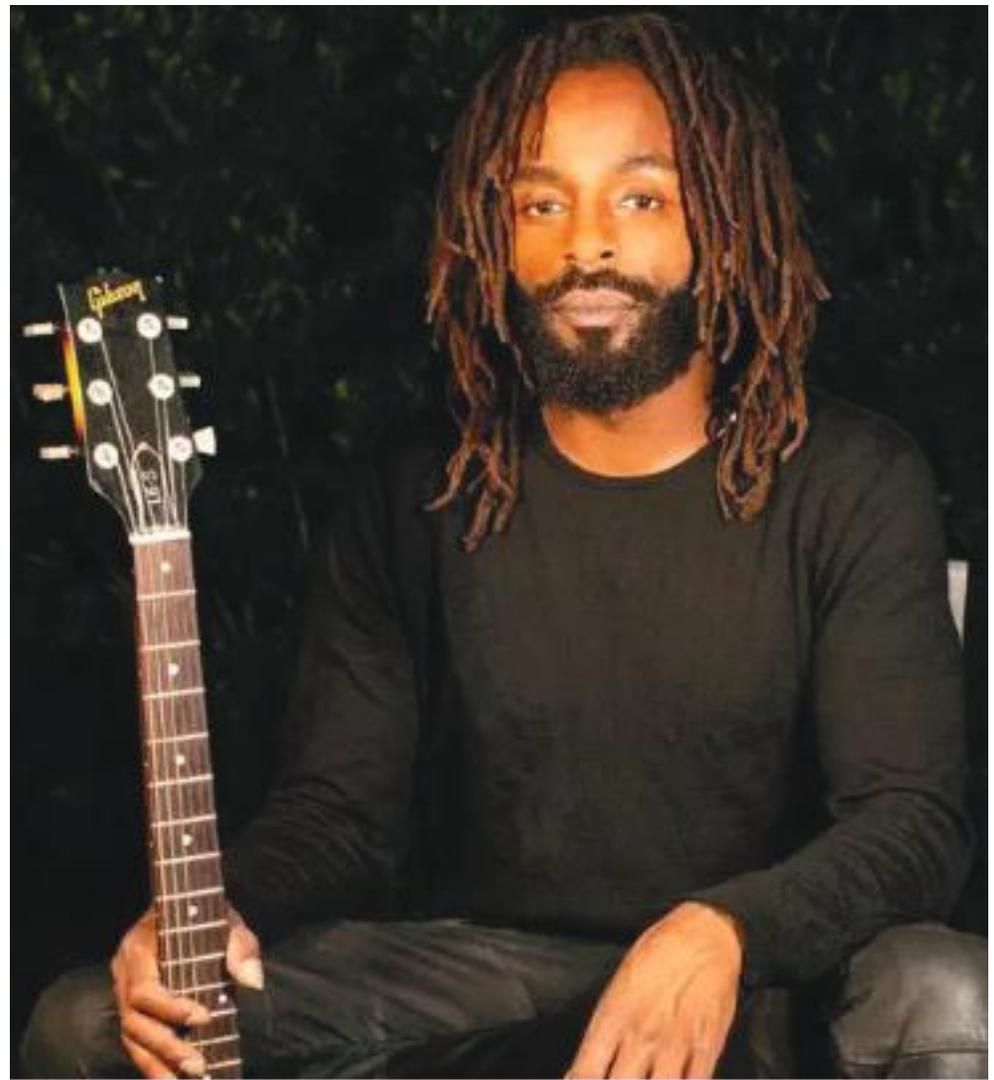
Forté died suddenly at his home in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts on Monday, according to the MV Times. He was 50 years old.

He is primarily known for his work in the 1990s as a member of the Refugee Camp All-Stars musical collective and his production on the critically-acclaimed Fugees album, *The Score*, for which he was nominated for a Grammy.

Forté was slapped with cocaine-related charges in the early 2000s and spent eight years in prison before his sentence was commuted by then US President George W Bush in 2008.

Fugees founding member Wyclef Jean paid tribute to Forté in a post to Instagram on Tuesday. "This one hurts my brother John Forté has joined the Angels," Wyclef wrote, adding "Legends never Die ... R I P my Refugee brother."

Forté was slumped over his guitar in his home on Monday, according to the MV Times. He was 50 years old.



John Forte



Ernie Smith (left), Ed Robinson (right)

One of the radio-friendly songs that defined "uptown reggae" during the 1970s, *Pitta Patta* by Ernie Smith has broad appeal 54 years after it was released. The singer recently re-recorded the track with fellow singer Ed Robinson.

Their updated version, produced by Mr Vegas, has been number one on the South Florida Reggae Chart for the past two weeks. The idea to put a fresh spin on *Pitta Patta* came from Robinson and Mr Vegas, who have always loved the

original.

"We recognised the timelessness of *Pitta Patta* and felt it was the right moment to re-introduce the song to a new generation while honouring its original spirit. It was a natural meeting of minds rooted in mutual respect," Robinson told Observer Online.

With Smith's blessing, he and Mr Vegas added a dancehall flavour they believed would capture younger ears, while not alienating older fans who grew up on the 1972 track.

Ernie Smith's re-recorded 'Pitta Patta' returns to reggae chart

"We approached the project with great care, ensuring the heart and message of *Pitta Patta* remained intact. The contemporary feel came through updated production, a richer sonic texture and subtle modern rhythms, without losing the song's authenticity," Robinson explained. "The goal wasn't to change the song, but to allow it to breathe in today's musical landscape."

Smith recorded *Pitta Patta*, *Life is Just For Living*, *Hail The Man* and *Duppy Gunman* at Federal Records during the 1970s.

Their easy-listening sound contrasted the militant roots-reggae tones of acts like Bob Marley and Burning Spear, and won him a base among conservative Jamaicans.

Robinson, best known for the 1993 hit single, *Knocking on Heaven's Door*, said Smith is pleased with the response to their collaboration.

"Ernie embraces the evolution wholeheartedly. He believes that music should grow with each generation, and allowing his work to take on a modern feel keeps it alive and relevant."



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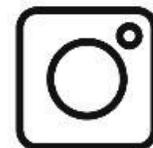
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Turks & Caicos Sotheby's Unveils the EPIC Theatre

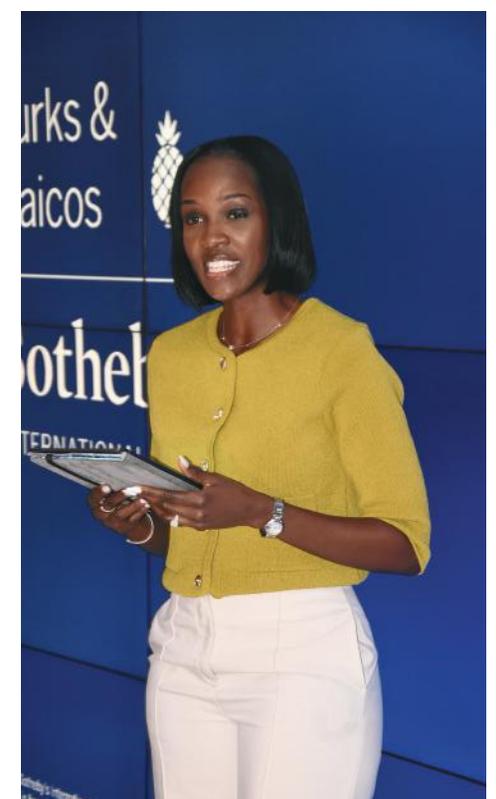
Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty officially unveiled its newest innovation in luxury real estate storytelling with the EPIC Theatre Media Launch on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at the EPIC Theatre, located at the company's Providenciales office at Venture House in Grace Bay. The invite-only media launch welcomed audiences which included Government Officials, the local media, industry partners, developers, and key stakeholders for an intimate and cinematic introduction to the EPIC Theatre, an immersive presentation space designed to elevate how extraordinary properties, communities, and lifestyles in the Turks and Caicos Islands are experienced and communicated. The EPIC Theatre represents the next evolution of Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty's commitment to innovation, blending high-impact visuals, storytelling, and experiential marketing to support developers, sellers, and global buyers alike. "The EPIC Theatre allows us to tell the story of luxury real estate in Turks and Caicos in a more powerful



and engaging way," said Joe Zahm, President of Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty. "It's not just about showcasing properties, it's about showcasing a lifestyle, a vision, and the future of the market." The evening featured welcome remarks, a brief luxury real estate market update, and a behind-the-scenes look at the vision and purpose of the EPIC Theatre. Guests also experienced a cinematic showcase high-

lighting signature listings, neighbourhoods, and lifestyle moments from across the Turks and Caicos Islands, followed by networking and dedicated media interview opportunities. Designed with a refined, cinematic ambiance, the EPIC Theatre will serve as a versatile platform for property launches, market briefings, developer presentations, community events, and curated experiences for clients and partners.

The EPIC Theatre Media Launch underscores Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty's ongoing leadership in redefining how luxury real estate is marketed and experienced in the region.



Immigration arrests at highest ever levels as raids on London restaurants and markets stepped up

Immigration arrests are at the highest levels in history, the Home Office has revealed, after raids on businesses in London were stepped up.

A crackdown on illegal working has seen enforcement officers up visits to restaurants, car washes, nail salons, barbers, markets, shops and hotels.

The number of operations targeting delivery drivers has also risen.

Raids have soared 77% since Labour came into power in July 2024, leading to an 83% increase in arrests, the government said today.

Arrests were at a record high of 8,971 last year, up nearly 59% compared to 5,647 in 2024 - the previous highest point in data published by the Home Office. However, just 1,087 of those people have been removed from the UK so far.

Eleven men were arrested on suspicion of illegal working when officers swooped on the Christmas market on December 11.

Nine men of Indian, Iraqi and Chinese nationality, were arrested at the Surrey racecourse, while two men of Indian nationality were detained at properties nearby.

Five were taken into custody pending removal from the UK and the remaining six were released on bail, the Home Office said.

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said: "There is no place for illegal working in our communities.

"That is why we have surged enforcement activity to the highest level in British history so illegal migrants in the black economy have nowhere to hide. I will stop at nothing to restore order and control to our borders."

Some 61 businesses in the capital were fined a record of more than £3.2million after employing people with no right to work in the UK between January 1 and the end of March last year.

This compares to almost 40 London businesses who were ordered to pay almost £2.8million in the last three months of 2024, Home Office data analysed by The Standard shows.

A company contracted to provide Government services was among the dozens of London businesses fined for hiring illegal workers in the first months of the year.

Sodexo, a services firm based in Camden that holds contracts with the Home Office, Ministry of Defence and HMRC, was told to pay £55,000 for hiring an illegal worker. Eddy Montgomery, Director of the Home Office's Immigration, Compliance and Enforcement teams, said: "I am hugely proud of my teams for their unwavering efforts in tackling illegal working right across the UK.

"While this is a great achievement, our activity won't stop here - we will continue to bear down on this criminality in our towns, cities and villages to ensure there is no hiding place from immigration laws." Fines for employing people without the right to work have been increased from £15,000 per employee to up to £45,000 for first offences as part of the government's crackdown.

Repeat offenders face £60,000 penalties per illegal worker.

It comes after the Home Secretary set out sweeping reforms to the immigration system in a bid to bring down the number of people coming to Britain illegally.

The reforms, billed as the most radical



CXC's Registrar and chief executive officer, Dr Wayne Wesley, speaking at news conference on Tuesday

since World War II, will see an overhaul of human rights laws and a series of other measures designed to deter people from crossing the Channel in small boats. But the plans have already sparked opposition from backbench Labour MPs. They include visa sanctions for countries that do not co-operate more on the removal of illegal migrants, changes to how the right to a family life under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) is applied in migration cases and restricting the number of appeals people are allowed against refusals for asylum.

SOURCE: THE STANDARD



(COMBO) This combination of file pictures created in Berlin on January 12, 2026, shows Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen (L, in Berlin on December 15, 2025) and US President Donald Trump (at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Palm Beach, Florida, on January 3, 2026).

Greenland would choose to remain Danish over a US takeover, its leader said Tuesday, ahead of crunch White House talks on the future of the Arctic island which President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened.

Trump has been talking up the idea of buying or annexing the autonomous territory for years, and further stoked tensions this week by saying the United States would take it "one way or the other".

"We are now facing a geopolitical crisis, and if we have to choose between the United States and Denmark here and now, we choose Denmark," Greenland's Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen said at a press conference.

"One thing must be clear to everyone: Greenland does not want to be owned by the United States. Greenland does not want to be governed by the United States. Greenland does not want to be part of the United States."

He was speaking alongside Danish leader Mette Frederiksen, who said it had not been easy to stand up to what she slammed as "completely unacceptable pressure from our closest ally".

"However, there are many indications that the most challenging part is ahead of us," Frederiksen said.

Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen and his Greenlandic counterpart Vivian Motzfeldt are to meet US Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday to discuss Greenland's future.

Lokke said they had requested a meeting with Rubio, and Vance had asked to take part and host it at the White House.

Vance made an uninvited visit to the island in March where he criticised Denmark for what he said was a lack of commitment to Greenland and security in the Arctic, and called it a "bad ally".

'We choose Denmark,' says Greenland ahead of White House talks

The comments enraged Copenhagen, which has been an ardent trans-Atlantic supporter and which has sent troops to fight US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For Nuuk and Copenhagen, Wednesday's meeting at the White House is aimed at ironing out "misunderstandings".

These relate to Greenland's defence, Chinese and Russian military presence in the Arctic, and the relationship between Greenland and Copenhagen, which together with the Faroe Islands make up the Kingdom of Denmark.

"To the uninformed American listener, the ongoing (independence) talks between Denmark and Greenland might have been construed as if Greenland's secession from Denmark was imminent," said Greenland specialist Mikaela Engell.

For these listeners, "I can understand that, in this situation, it would be better for the Americans to take hold of that strategic place", the former Danish representative on the island told AFP.

But this "discussion has been going on for years and years and it has never meant that Greenland was on its way out the door", she stressed.

Denmark's foreign minister said the reason Copenhagen and Nuuk had requested Wednesday's meeting was "to move the entire discussion... into a meeting room, where you can look each other in the eye and talk through these issues".

Greenland's location is highly strategic, lying on the shortest route for missiles be-

tween Russia and the United States. It is therefore a crucial part of the US anti-missile shield.

Washington has accused Copenhagen of doing little to protect Greenland from what it perceives as a growing Arctic threat from Russia and China, though analysts suggest Beijing is a small player in the region.

Denmark's government has rejected US claims, recalling that it has invested almost 90 billion kroner (\$14 billion) to beef up its military presence in the Arctic.

The Danish prime minister on Tuesday called for stronger cooperation with the US and NATO to improve the region's security. She also called for NATO to defend Greenland, and said that security guarantees would be "the best defence against Chinese or Russian threats in the Arctic".

Diplomats at NATO say some Alliance members have floated the idea of launching a new mission in the region, although no concrete proposals are yet on the table.

Rutte said on Monday that NATO was working on "the next steps" to bolster Arctic security.

Greenland's foreign minister and Danish Defence Minister Troels Lund Poulsen are to meet NATO's Secretary General Mark Rutte on January 19 to discuss the issue.

"We are now moving forward with the whole issue of a more permanent, larger presence in Greenland from the Danish defence forces but also with the participation of other countries," Lund Poulsen told reporters.

Antigua security chiefs pledge country will not be a transit corridor for drugs

The leadership of Antigua and Barbuda's law-enforcement and national security agencies say they will continue to work against any attempt to make the island a transit corridor for narcotics trafficking. "We will not provide shelter for those who profit from it. We remain vigilant at sea, resolute in investigation, firm in enforcement and committed to cooperation with trusted partners—guided always by the law and the national interest," they said in a joint statement. The heads of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy and Antigua and Barbuda Immigration Department are also calling

on the population to "remain alert and to report suspicious activities to law enforcement authorities". They said that Antigua and Barbuda continues to work closely with regional and international partners to address evolving threats and that the public is assured that law enforcement, border control agencies and the defence force remain "fully engaged and vigilant to protect the nation, preserve the integrity of its financial and border systems and contribute responsibly to regional and international security". In their joint statement, the leaders said that Antigua and Barbuda reaffirms its firm commitment to safeguarding national and regional security through sustained action

against drug trafficking, money laundering, firearms trafficking, and organised crime, while remaining vigilant to emerging threats related to cybercrime and irregular migration. They said they recognise that recent counter-drug efforts by the United States Government aimed at disrupting narcotics flows from producing countries to the south "have resulted in allegations reported in sections of the print and electronic media that governments and leaders of governments within the Caribbean were corrupted by narco-traffickers". The leaders said that the most recent national threat analysis continues to classify Antigua and Barbuda as a "low-risk jurisdiction,



CXC's Registrar and chief executive officer, Dr Wayne Wesley, speaking at news conference on Tuesday

reflecting a strong legal and regulatory framework, effective financial oversight, a comparatively low crime rate, and meaningful international cooperation".



Villa Manager

Job Specification:

The Villa Manager is responsible for overseeing the management, maintenance, and guest relations of our luxurious villa and residence properties.

- Serve as the primary point of contact for villa owners and guests at The Strand, delivering personalized service and addressing inquiries and concerns with promptness and professionalism.
- Oversee daily operations of designated villas and residences at The Strand, ensuring they are impeccably maintained and presented to the highest standards of luxury.
- Coordinate and manage housekeeping, maintenance, and landscaping services to uphold the aesthetic and functional integrity of the properties.
- Develop and manage budgets for villa operations, including maintenance, staffing, and amenities, ensuring fiscal responsibility while delivering high-quality services.
- Ensure that all departments within The Strand consistently adhere to Leading Hotels of the World (LHW) standards, maintaining the prestigious reputation of the property.
- Work with F&B and assist in planning and executing events held at the villas, ensuring that all details align with the expectations of both owners and guests, while showcasing The Strand's luxurious offerings.
- Collaborate and oversee the Rooms Division and Property Management Department to ensure seamless operations across all properties within The Strand.
- Recruit, train, and manage a dedicated team of villa staff, fostering a culture of excellence in hospitality that aligns with the values of The Strand.

Job Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Hospitality Management, Business Administration, or certification in related field preferred.
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in luxury villa management, hotel management, or similar hospitality roles.
- Proficiency in budget management and financial reporting tailored to luxury hospitality.

Salary expectations - \$55,000 - \$75,000 per annum

Housekeeping Supervisor

Job Specification:

- Manage the housekeeping department, employees, and operations within the facility
- Manage department budget and resources
- Manage inventory supplies and equipment
- Maintain high standards of cleanliness, hygiene, and sanitation within the facility
- Ensure all housekeeping employees follow the appropriate protocols
- Delegate housekeeping tasks to employees as needed
- Provide feedback to employees to improve performance
- Provide feedback to management on employee performance
- Supervise and oversee the performance of housekeeping employees
- Provide feedback to management on employee performance
- Oversee daily operation of the housekeeping department

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 2+ years experience as a Supervisor
- Certificates and advancement qualifications
- Must be able to work in a restaurant environment, stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.

Salary expectation - \$35,000 - \$41,100 per annum

APPLY NOW!

Send your resume to: careers@thestrandtci.com

Interested applicants for this position listed on this ad, should also send a copy of your resume to the Labour Department located Downtown, Airport Road, Providenciales

Rooms Division Manager

Job Specification:

- Lead and manage the front office and housekeeping teams ensuring these departments are provided with support as needed.
- Assist the reservation department, ensuring accurate and efficient handling of room reservations, group bookings, and guest inquiries, and implementing strategies to optimize room revenue and occupancy levels.
- Guest services enhancement
- Develop and implement guest service initiatives and standards to enhance the overall guest experience, including personalized service, VIP amenities, and special touches that exceed guest expectations.
- Housekeeping management
- Manage the housekeeping department, including room attendants, supervisors, and laundry staff, to ensure cleanliness, hygiene, and maintenance of guest rooms, public areas, and back-of-house facilities.
- Quality assurance
- Implement and maintain quality assurance standards for guest accommodations, including room cleanliness, maintenance, and amenities, conducting regular inspections and audits to ensure compliance with brand standards and guest satisfaction.
- Revenue optimization
- Develop and implement strategies to maximize room revenue and occupancy levels, including pricing strategies, distribution channel management, and upselling initiatives, to achieve revenue targets and profitability goals.
- Provide training, coaching, and professional development opportunities to front office and housekeeping staff, ensuring they have the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to deliver exceptional service and meet performance standards.
- Budget management
- Prepare and manage departmental budgets, including staffing, operating expenses, and capital expenditures, to achieve financial targets and control costs while maintaining service quality and standards.

Job Requirements:

- Must have 3-5 years experience as an Rooms Division Manager/Executive Housekeeper/Rooms Operator
- Certificates and advancement qualifications within the Rooms remit
- Must be able to meet deadlines and work under pressure

Salary expectation - \$60,000- \$70,000 per annum



GRASS ROOTS FOOTBALL RETURNS

TCIFA Developmental Football Programme Resumes
Country-Wide

CWI makes appeal to Pooran for T20 World Cup

In an effort to assemble their best-possible team for next month's ICC Men's T20 World Cup, Cricket West Indies (CWI) have reached out to Nicholas Pooran to find out whether he is interested in making a comeback. However, Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe says it does not appear as though the 29-year-old Twenty20 (T20) star is contemplating coming out of retirement to take part in the global showpiece.

Pooran shocked the world when he announced his retirement from international cricket last June and has since been plying his trade in the various T20 franchises across the globe.

With CWI set to name their World Cup squad following the completion of their upcoming three-match T20I series against Afghan-

istan later this month, Bascombe says moves had been made to contact Pooran.

He says those efforts had been unsuccessful to date.

"What I can say is that we have made every effort to ensure that we can have the best players represent the West Indies..."

"I could definitely say that we have probed. Pooran was quite aware that the World Cup was upcoming, and his decision to retire would have been with that knowledge," Bascombe said while speaking on WESN TV on Saturday.

"So, we probed and we saw that he mentioned not too long ago that he was quite happy to stick to his decision, so I could say that we probed."

When asked if CWI had enquired



In this file photo from August 2023, Nicholas Pooran of the West Indies takes the catch to dismiss Axar Patel of India during their second Twenty20 International (T20I) match at Guyana National Stadium in Providence, Guyana.

whether West Indies legends Dwayne Bravo, Kieron Pollard or Andre Russell were interested in being part of the team's management unit for the World Cup, Bascombe said they had.

He says a packed schedule was one of the reasons they had been given for not being able to make such a commitment.

"We have put out feelers," Bascombe says. "We've asked questions about availability, et cetera but, as you can understand, the World Cup pretty much flows into

the IPL [Indian Premier League], so anyone who would come on board as part of our team management would pretty much have to sacrifice a lot of time away.

"We've probed, and some of the feedback we've gotten is that it would mean that they would have to spend an extended time away... and if they go to the World Cup it would mean that they would have to spend quite a lot of time away from home because they will be at the World Cup and then going to the IPL."

Xabi Alonso leaves Real Madrid by mutual consent

Real Madrid said Monday that coach Xabi Alonso has left the Spanish giants by mutual consent, to be replaced by Alvaro Arbeloa.

A day after the team lost the Spanish Super Cup final against Barcelona, the club parted ways with the Basque coach and immediately appointed former Madrid player Arbeloa, who was coaching the reserve side.

"Real Madrid announces that, by mutual agreement between the club and Xabi Alonso, it has been decided to bring his tenure as first-team coach to an end," said the Los Blancos in a statement.

In a separate statement Madrid then announced Arbeloa would take Alonso's place,

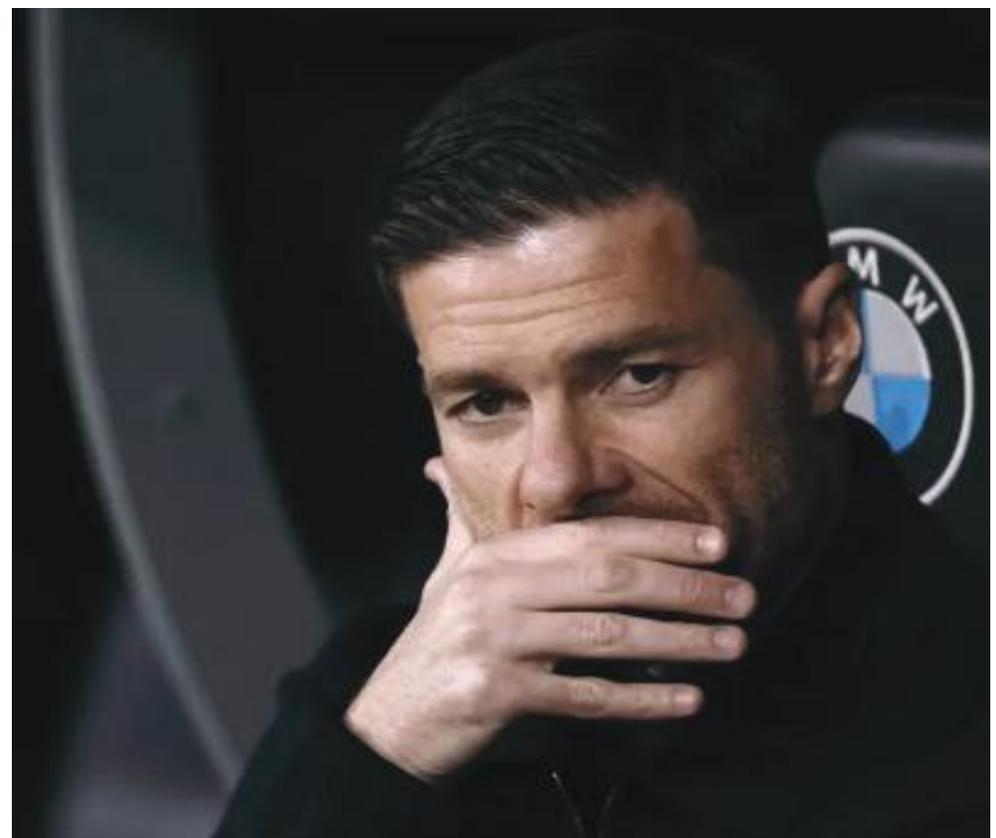
without specifying the length of the 42-year-old's contract.

"Arbeloa has been the coach of Castilla since June 2025 and has developed his entire coaching career in Real Madrid's academy since 2020," said Los Blancos.

Alonso joined in June, replacing veteran Carlo Ancelotti, but Madrid struggled to find consistency under the Basque coach and are second in La Liga, four points behind Barca.

Los Blancos were outplayed in a 3-2 defeat in Saudi Arabia on Sunday by Hansi Flick's side, the 44-year-old's last at the helm.

Alonso was close to the sack towards the end of 2025 but a run of five consecutive wins kept him in his position, until the Super Cup defeat.



Real Madrid's Spanish coach Xabi Alonso is seen before the Spanish league football match between Real Madrid CF and Sevilla FC at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid on December 20, 2025



Rooms Operations Specialist/Supervisor

Job Specification:

- Assist management in hiring, training, scheduling, evaluating, counseling, disciplining, and motivating and coaching employees; and serve as a role model and first point of contact of the Guarantee of Fair Treatment/Open Door Policy process.
- Follow all company and safety and security policies and procedures; report accidents, injuries, and unsafe work conditions to manager; and complete safety training and certifications.
- Welcome and acknowledge all guests according to company standards, anticipate and address guests' service needs, assist individuals with disabilities, and thank guests with genuine appreciation.
- Speak with others using clear and professional language.
- Develop and maintain positive working relationships with others, support team to reach common goals, and listen and respond appropriately to the concerns of other employees.
- Ensure adherence to quality expectations and standards; and identify, recommend, develop, and implement new ways to increase organizational efficiency, productivity, quality, safety, and/or cost-savings.
- Enter and locate work-related information using computers and/or point of sale systems.
- Stand, sit, or walk for an extended period of time or for an entire work shift. Move, lift, carry, push, pull, and place objects weighing less than or equal to 25 pounds without assistance.

Job Requirements:

- Must have 2- 3 years experience in related field
- Must be able to move over sloping, uneven, or slippery surfaces. Reach overhead and below the knees, including bending, twisting, pulling, and stooping. Perform other reasonable job duties as requested.t

Salary expectation - \$20,596 - \$25,167 per annum

Salah and Mane meet again with AFCON final place on the line



This combination of pictures created on January 13 shows Egypt forward Mohamed Salah (left) during the Africa Cup of Nations in Agadir on January 5, and Senegal forward Sadio Mane in Diambiadio on October 14.

Three years after they last appeared together, Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah meet again on Wednesday on opposing sides as Senegal and Egypt clash for a place in the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) final.

The last-four showdown in the Moroccan city of Tangiers will be the first time the former Liverpool teammates have shared a pitch since the Anfield club lost to Real Madrid in the UEFA Champions League final in May 2022.

Shortly after that, Mane left for Bayern Munich before moving to Al-Nassr in the Saudi Pro League a year later.

Salah, meanwhile, has been heavily linked with a move to Saudi Arabia in the near future but remains for now at Liverpool despite falling out of favour with Coach Arne Slot before coming to AFCON.

The Egypt captain is a man on a mission in Morocco, having scored four goals in four appearances on the Pharaoh's run to the semi-finals as he targets winning AFCON for the first time.

Salah, who turns 34 in June, is running out of time to win a major international honour with his country having suffered the agony of two final defeats in the competition.

After being part of the Egypt side beaten by Cameroon in the 2017 final in Gabon, Salah skippered the team beaten on penalties by Senegal in 2022 in Yaounde.

Mane had a penalty saved in normal time on that dramatic night at the Olembe Stadium, but recovered to score the decisive kick in the shoot-out as Senegal became African champions for the first time.

Salah was due to take Egypt's next penalty but would not get the chance to step up and was already on the verge of tears as Mane prepared to strike the decisive blow. Less than two months later, the teams met again in a decisive World Cup qualifying play-off and once more penalties were needed – Salah missed, Mane scored and Senegal won.

They went on to reach the last 16 in Qatar while Egypt failed to qualify for the first World Cup held in the Arab world.

Both have qualified for the upcoming

tournament in North America, providing what will perhaps be a last chance for the two veterans to star on the biggest stage of all.

For now, however, it is all about continental supremacy as Senegal chase a third final in four editions of AFCON, and Egypt aim to take a step closer to a record-extending eighth title overall.

Mane, who also turns 34 this year, will feel less pressure having already collected a Cup of Nations winner's medal.

"Nobody, even in Egypt, wants to win this trophy more than me," Salah said after helping his team beat Ivory Coast in the quarter-finals.

"I have won almost every prize. This is the title I am waiting for."

The pair played together under Jurgen Klopp for five years between Salah arriving from Roma in 2017 and Mane's departure.

They formed a formidable front line along with Roberto Firmino and together won the Champions League in 2019 and the Premier League in 2020 – there were also two defeats to Real in Champions League finals.

But Mane recently admitted that sometimes the pair found it difficult to get along on the pitch.

"I think Mo is first of all a very nice guy. I think though inside the pitch, sometimes he would pass to me and sometimes he wouldn't," Mane said on the Rio Ferdinand Presents podcast.

"Only Bobby [Firmino] was there to share the balls. Sometimes it was like this," he added with a laugh.

"I still remember one game when I was really, really angry because he doesn't pass me the ball."

This time they really are on opposing sides, as two former African footballers of the year look to lead their countries to glory – for the second time, in Mane's case.

"The pressure for me is over. Before I won the African Cup, sometimes I played badly because of the pressure," Mane, who has one goal at this AFCON, admitted on the same podcast.

"All that on your shoulders is not easy," he added, and Salah is well aware of that.

Academy Eagles Soar Past Flamingoes FC, 4–1 in TCIFA Premier League Clash

Academy Eagles FC produced a dominant display to defeat Flamingoes FC 4–1 in a Beaches Resort and Spa-sponsored Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) Premier League encounter on Wednesday night at the TCIFA Field.

The Eagles asserted control early, opening the scoring in the 10th minute through Jean Innocent (#9), who capitalized on sustained pressure to put his side ahead. Academy Eagles continued to dictate the pace and doubled their advantage in the 35th minute when Mike Legeme (#12) found the net, sending his team into halftime with a comfortable 2–0 lead.

Flamingoes FC showed greater intent after the break and reduced the deficit in the 67th minute courtesy of Matha Aldair (#23), briefly lifting hopes of a comeback. However, those hopes were quickly dashed as Legeme struck again just a minute later, completing his brace in the 68th minute to restore Academy Eagles' two-goal cushion.

As Flamingoes pushed forward, gaps opened defensively, and Academy Eagles took full advantage. Wepsdel Saintlus (#7) sealed the emphatic victory with a well-taken goal in the 84th minute.

Despite the loss, Flamingoes goalkeeper Migueron Calixte (#30) delivered an outstanding performance between the posts and was named Flamingoes FC MVP, keeping the scoreline from becoming more lopsided with a series of impressive saves.

Disciplinary issues plagued Flamingoes FC, as Sergo Vic-



The Academy Eagles Team

to (#7) was sent off after receiving a second yellow card in the 90th minute, having earlier been cautioned in the 38th minute. Jocelyn Berardin (#24) picked up a yellow card in the 80th minute, while Head Coach Leo Rosny was also cautioned in the 59th minute. For Academy Eagles FC, Hill Gedeon (#23) received a yellow card in the 63rd minute.

Jean Innocent (#9) was named Academy Eagles FC MVP following a commanding all-around performance that set the tone for the match.

The TCIFA Premier League fixture was overseen by Match Commissioner Tevynn Lewis.

With the convincing win, Academy Eagles FC continue their strong push in the Beaches Resort and Spa-sponsored TCIFA Premier League, while Flamingoes FC will look to regroup ahead of their next league outing.



Jean Innocent was named Academy Eagles Man of the Match

TCIFA Grass Roots Programme Returns Island-Wide, Reigniting Youth Football Development

The Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) has officially relaunched its Grass Roots Programme across the length and breadth of the country, marking a major boost for youth football development in 2026.

With structured sessions resuming in Grand Turk, Providenciales, North and Middle Caicos, and South Caicos, the programme once again places young players at the heart of the national football pathway.

The return of the Grass Roots Programme underscores TCIFA's continued commitment to nurturing talent from the earliest stages, providing safe, organised and age-appropriate football environments for boys and girls across multiple age groups.

Grand Turk welcomed back its Grass Roots and Youth Football activities on Monday, January 12, at the Grand

Turk Parade Grounds. Training sessions span from the Under-6 level through to Under-17, with carefully scheduled weekday and weekend sessions designed to accommodate both beginners and more advanced youth players. The programme in the nation's capital continues to serve as a vital foundation for player identification and long-term development.

In Providenciales, the Grass Roots Programme also returned on Monday, January 12, with activities based at the TCIFA National Academy. Sessions cater to Under-6, Under-8, Under-10 and Under-12 players, with weekday afternoon training and Saturday morning sessions ensuring consistent exposure to technical skills, teamwork and disciplined play.

The programme's expansion into North and Middle Caicos resumed on Wednesday, January 14, with training held on Wednesdays and Fri-

days. These sessions provide young players in the twin islands with structured access to football development, reinforcing TCIFA's island-wide approach and ensuring that talent development is not limited by geography.

Meanwhile, South Caicos also saw football return on Wednesday, January 14, with Grass Roots sessions held at Iris Stubbs Primary School and Elite Youth training at the South Caicos Parade Grounds. The dual-track approach allows younger players to be introduced to the game while more advanced youth athletes receive higher-level coaching and competitive preparation.

Alongside the resumption of training, TCIFA has opened 2026 Grass Roots Registration, with clear requirements aimed at safeguarding participants and maintaining professional standards. Parents and guardians are required to provide a valid NHIP or pri-

vate medical insurance card, a copy of the child's passport bio page, and complete online registration through the TCIFA platform. Registration fees vary depending on island and programme.

With the Grass Roots Programme now active across all major islands, TCIFA continues to strengthen the foundation of football in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Beyond developing technical ability, the programme emphasizes discipline, teamwork, healthy lifestyles and positive social engagement, key pillars in shaping both future footballers and well-rounded young citizens. As whistles blow and footballs roll once more on community fields, the return of the TCIFA Grass Roots Programme signals not just the start of another season, but the renewal of hope, opportunity and ambition for the next generation of Turks and Caicos football talent.

TCICA to Stage 2026 Annual General Meeting in Providenciales

The Turks and Caicos Islands Cricket Association (TCICA) has officially announced the staging of its 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM), scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Provo Christian School, located on Bible Street, Blue Hills, Providenciales, and is open to all members of the Association as well as the general public.

According to the formal notice issued by the TCICA Ex-

ecutive, the AGM will serve as a key forum for reviewing the Association's activities during the 2025 cricket season, while also outlining plans and strategic direction for the upcoming 2026 season. Members will be afforded the opportunity to engage directly with the Executive, raise questions, and contribute to discussions shaping the future of cricket in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

A major highlight of this year's AGM will be a strong develop-

mental focus on junior cricket, signalling the Association's intention to strengthen grass-roots programmes and long-term talent development across the islands.

The AGM agenda will include the presentation and consideration of:

- The official meeting agenda
- Minutes from the 2025 Annual General Meeting
- The 2025 Annual Report
- The Annual Financial

Statements

Members are encouraged to confirm their attendance no later than January 20, 2026, by contacting the TCICA Secretariat via email.

The TCICA Executive has emphasized that strong participation at the AGM is vital as the Association continues its efforts to grow the sport, improve governance, and expand opportunities for players, coaches, officials, and supporters throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.