

# NEWSLINE

Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage



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100% Locally Owned \$10 Million The Retreat Breaks Ground in Grace Bay





# 100% Locally Owned \$10 Million 'The Retreat' Breaks Ground in Grace Bay

## A Bold New Standard for Turks and Caicos Tourism



GROUND-BREAKING OF THE RETREAT TURKS AND CAICOS: From left – Hon. Jamell Robinson, Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services; Albert Musgrove (father to lead project developer on the project Trevor Musgrove); Hon. Washington Misick, Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands; developer and real estate specialist Trevor Musgrove; architect Rico Smith (partner), of Archipelago Development Architecture; developer and real estate specialist Sean O'Neill (partner); and Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, Minister of Tourism.



A rendering of The Retreat on Grace Bay

A powerful statement of vision, ownership, and national pride echoed through Grace Bay on Thursday evening as The Retreat, a 100% locally owned \$10 million luxury development, officially broke ground.

Set against the backdrop of Turks and Caicos' world-renowned coastline, the ceremony marked a pivotal moment in the country's tourism evolution — the rise of a fully home-grown hospitality brand.

At the heart of the project is lead developer Trevor Musgrove, a North Caicos native and industry veteran, whose personal journey embodies the spirit of resilience and ambition. Addressing an audience of government leaders, investors, family, and community members, Musgrove described the project as the realization of a dream seeded in his youth.

"As a child, I helped manage our

family's small four-bedroom guest-house on the beach," he shared. "My parents, Albert and Susan Musgrove, were among the few locals to own and operate in tourism. We always dreamed of owning something in Grace Bay. Today, that dream is alive."

More than just another hotel, The Retreat stands as a symbol of progress and promise. It is the first luxury resort in Grace Bay to be fully designed, financed, constructed, and to be operated by Turks and Caicos Islanders. Every detail, from architecture to management, reflects a deeply local vision. Musgrove, who also serves as managing partner of The Agency, made clear that this milestone is just the beginning.

"This is not a one-off," he said. "We're building a brand that belongs to Turks and Caicos Islanders

— and we're doing it with intentionality. This is the first of several locally owned developments to come."

The groundbreaking drew strong support from the highest levels of government. Premier Hon. Washington Misick praised the project as a textbook example of domestic direct investment and inclusive growth.

"This development reflects the very essence of what we strive for — opportunities that empower our own people," said the Premier. "For decades, foreign direct investment dominated this space. Now, we're witnessing Turks and Caicos Islanders taking the lead."

"This development is special to me in many ways," Musgrove added. "As a child growing up in North Caicos, I worked alongside my parents at one of the first hotels on the island — five one-bedroom units on the beach, now known as Hollywood Suites. My family built it by hand, managed it, and welcomed tourists from all over the world. It taught me the value of hard work, resourcefulness, and community."

He also paid special tribute to one of the island's trailblazers, saying, "Aside from my family, the only other locals doing that kind of business back then was Mr. Clifford Gardiner. I must say, in my eyes, he is a true pioneer in this industry — and his example has paved the way for many of us."

Deputy Premier Hon. Jamell Robinson echoed that sentiment. "This is one of our projects," he affirmed. "Trevor and his team have the full support of this government — not

just in words, but in policy and action. We want to see more ventures like this, led by more local entrepreneurs."

Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly delivered a particularly impactful message, comparing the project's significance to the breaking of the four-minute mile. "For years, the idea of a fully local luxury development seemed unreachable," he said. "But once someone does it, the mold is broken. This is the new standard — and we expect to replicate it."

Sean O'Neill, Musgrove's business partner at The Agency, described the endeavor as not only visionary, but transformative.

"This project is history in the making," O'Neill said. "From design to marketing to construction, every part of The Retreat has been led by locals. It shows the power of collaboration, belief, and local leadership." In addition to his leadership, Musgrove emphasized the importance of legacy, community, and collaboration. He acknowledged the support of his parents, his wife, his team, and his longtime mentors in the hospitality industry, noting that the project is rooted not just in ambition but in service.

"We've always had the skills and the vision," he said. "Now we've created the opportunity. And we will rise to the occasion."

He also announced plans for additional locally led hotel developments, including a future five-star property in North Caicos, aiming to expand ownership and opportunity for generations to come.

"This is about more than a building," Musgrove concluded. "This is about making Turks and Caicos Islanders proud — showing that we can be more than workers in this industry. We can be owners, leaders, and visionaries."

Meanwhile, Musgrove thanked Hon. Premier Charles Washington Misick and his team for facilitating the development agreement that helped bring the project to life. Special acknowledgment was also extended to industry leaders Nikheel Advani, Karen S. Whitt, and Michel Neutelings for their early and ongoing encouragement and mentorship.

"To my fellow hoteliers, friends, government and the wider public — we're coming," he added with a smile. "And we look forward to receiving the same support given to any international brand entering the market. Let's ensure that Turks and Caicos Islanders are not just participants in tourism, but leaders of it."



# Two Men Charged in Connection with Grand Turk Bar Shooting



Adrian Garland



B'Jhan Moxey

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force has formally charged two young men in connection with a recent shooting incident that took place at a bar on Church Folly in Grand Turk.

Adrian Garland, 22, and B'Jhan Moxey, 19, are facing multiple serious charges related to the violent episode that occurred on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Grand Turk has brought the following charges against both individuals:

- Possession of a Firearm
- Possession of Ammunition
- Discharging a Firearm
- Discharging Ammunition
- Possession of a Firearm with Intent to Endanger Life (Victim 1)
- Possession of a Firearm with In-

tent to Endanger Life (Victim 2)

- Wounding with Intent (Victim 1)
- Wounding with Intent (Victim 2)

Police confirm that Moxey was formally charged on Wednesday, May 7th. Garland was charged the day before, on Tuesday, May 6th, following a formal interview with investigators.

Both men appeared before the court earlier today and were remanded to Her Majesty's Prison, which is operated by the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation. They are expected to return to court for a Sufficiency Hearing scheduled for July 4, 2025, at the Supreme Court.

The charges stem from an altercation at a local bar which ended in gunfire, injuring two individuals. The police have not released further details about the victims, but investigations remain ongoing.

Authorities continue to appeal to the public for information that could aid in this or other violent crime investigations. Residents are strongly encouraged to come forward if they have any knowledge about the case or other criminal activity.

Information can be reported via the emergency number 911, directly to the Serious Crime Unit at 231-1842, or anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477. Additionally, tips can be submitted using the Crime Stoppers P3 mobile app, which allows users to report anonymously and securely.

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force says it remains committed to ensuring community safety and bringing perpetrators of violent crimes to justice. Their message is clear: "If you know something, say something."



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Job Requirements:

- Computer literate, with sound knowledge of working with microsoft office suite.
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Salary expectations - \$30,000 - \$35,000 per annum

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- Completing small repairs such as fixing locks, leaky taps and broken windows
- Checking and maintaining safety equipment such as fire alarms, fire extinguishers and carbon monoxide detectors
- Performing grounds maintenance such as mowing lawns, trimming bushes and replacing exterior light bulbs
- Inspecting and troubleshooting problems and issues reported by clients or colleagues
- Maintaining vehicles, tools and equipment required to perform the role effectively
- Following a maintenance schedule to ensure that all routine tasks are completed

Job Requirements:

- Must have 2-3 years working in the Maintenance or Mechanical departments
- Must have a good experience in problem solving and fixing issues as required within the hotel environment, water waste, carpentry, mechanical issues, maintenance and fixtures.

Salary expectations - \$22,000 - \$35,000 per annum

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- Build rapport and trust with all guests through direct communication via Phone and email
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- Input new bookings into systems in a timely manner and share reports of guest stays with relevant departments as needed.
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- Send weekly reservation reports to Leadership
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Job Requirements:

- Detail-oriented with multi-tasking different systems
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- Reservations or Communication experience preferred
- Phone etiquette training
- Experience with Microsoft programs (Excel, Word, Outlook, OneDrive)
- Experience with Opera and Intelity preferred.

Salary expectation - \$9.00 - 11.00 per hour



# Governor's Office Refutes UK Inquiry into TCI Governance



Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam

The Governor's Office has officially dismissed recent rumors circulating on social media that suggest a United Kingdom inquiry into governance in the Turks and Caicos Islands is underway.

In a statement issued Tuesday, the Office confirmed that no such inquiry has been initiated, describing the information being shared online as inaccurate and misleading.

"The information in question appears to be AI-generated from past media articles," the Governor's Office noted. "We advise relying only on official communications for accurate updates."

The clarification comes amid growing public concern following the rapid spread of the claims across various social platforms. Officials are urging residents and media outlets to exercise caution when consuming or sharing unverified content, especially material generated or manipulated by artificial intelligence.

The Governor's Office reiterated its commitment to transparency and encouraged the public to seek out reliable sources for information relating to governance and public affairs.

In recent weeks, social media is being flooded with purported AI-generated video images of stories about current and past local government officials either involved in criminal activities or pitching all sorts of products and investments, as they attempt to lure locals into participate in what appeared to be nefarious investments. The practice resulted in the government's public relations arm having to issue a statement, cautioning the public against believing what contents that those AIs have been generating.

And even though the Governor's Office is categorically denying that a probe has begun against the Washington Misick administration, there are some members of the public who are taking it with a grain of salt, judging from 2008, when then governor Richard Tauwhare denied speculations that a commission of inquiry was in the works, only for such inquiry to take place, resulting in the deposing of then premier Michael Misick and his government, and direct UK rule instituted through then governors Gordon Wetherell and his successor Ric Todd.

## Woman Killed in Two-Vehicle Collision Along Leeward Highway



A file photo of an accident along the Leeward Highway.

A woman has died following a serious two-vehicle collision that occurred around 10:26 p.m. on May 5 at the junction of Long Bay Highway and East Leeward Highway. Emergency responders from the

Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF) and medical personnel arrived on the scene to find two heavily damaged vehicles with deployed airbags, both facing south. Six people were transported to Cheshire Hall Medical

Centre (CHMC) for treatment. One of the victims, 40-year-old Desir Gracieuse, became unresponsive while en route to the hospital. Despite emergency medical personnel performing CPR and all life-saving efforts, she

was later pronounced dead. Initial investigations suggest that Gracieuse was traveling west-bound when her vehicle collided with a second vehicle entering Long Bay Road. The male driver of the second vehicle is currently hospitalized and assisting police with the investigation.

Four female passengers who were traveling with Gracieuse received medical attention and have since been discharged.

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force extends its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Ms. Gracieuse. The Traffic Enforcement Unit is actively investigating the cause of the crash. Authorities are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the incident or possesses video footage to contact 911, the Traffic Enforcement Unit at 232-9645, the nearest police station, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477. Reports can also be submitted anonymously through the Crime Stoppers P3 app.



# \$200M NAVAH Breaks Ground in Wheeland

By Vivian Tyson, Editor-in-Chief



The renderings of the NAVH Turks and Caicos



Hon. Kyle Knowles (centre), Minister of Health and Member of Parliament for Wheeland and developer Shmary Baumgarten (left) display containers of commemorative sand collected from the NAVAH site, presented to them by Sean O'Neill (right) of The Agency.

In what is being hailed as one of the most expansive groundbreakings in the history of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the \$200 million NAVAH Turks and Caicos resort officially broke ground on Tuesday at Northwest Point, Wheeland, Providenciales.

The momentous ceremony marked the beginning of a new era for the country's development landscape, especially for that part of the island, and reaffirmed Providenciales' position as a premier destination for world-class luxury and sustainable growth.

Dignitaries, developers, investors, and members of the local commu-

nity gathered on the ridge above the development site to celebrate the start of construction on what is being envisioned as a "modern sanctuary"—a carefully curated blend of luxury, natural beauty, and cultural integrity.

NAVAH will feature 11 private villas and 35 residences, anchored by a nine-story residential tower and complemented by a vibrant community village offering restaurants, bars, and wellness amenities.

According to Sean O'Neill of the real estate entity – The Agency which will manage the sales of the units - the project is rooted in principles of low-density, environ-

mental sensitivity, and meaningful community engagement.

"This is not merely a destination we're building. We are shaping a legacy," said O'Neill. "NAVAH is about honoring the past, embracing the present, and creating a future of grace, beauty, and connection."

According to O'Neill, the project's inception traces back to a single client request for a private beachfront property. After scouring locations across the Turks and Caicos and throughout the Caribbean—including the Bahamas, Anguilla, and St. Lucia—the development team was continually drawn back to Northwest Point. Despite global travel restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, O'Neill and his team undertook a meticulous site analysis, even filming every 50 feet of coastline and mapping coral reefs with underwater cameras to showcase the untouched beauty of the area.

That attention to detail ultimately laid the foundation for NAVAH, a project now being described as a benchmark for thoughtful luxury development in that section of the island.

"This is a place where you could swim a different reef every day for a year and still discover more," said O'Neill. "We knew this site was something special."

For Hon. Kyle Knowles, Minister of Health and Member of Parliament for Wheeland, the project is personal as well as political. Addressing the crowd, Knowles said he was proud to welcome NAVAH into his

constituency.

"This is more than just a development—it is a promise of progress," he said. "As the representative for this district, I can confidently say this is the right partnership for Wheeland and West Caicos. NAVAH aligns with our community's vision and values, and I look forward to working hand-in-hand to ensure its success."

Knowles emphasized that the project's benefits must be inclusive, sustainable, and impactful for generations to come. He also vowed to remain involved as both a representative and steward of the community's interests.

NAVAH's lead developer, Shmary Baumgarten, spoke passionately about the years-long journey that brought the project to life—from a cold call to exploring the Caribbean, and ultimately, returning to the Turks and Caicos.

"This is the best country in the Caribbean," Baumgarten declared. "And this project will reflect that—not in scale, but in heart, in design, and in its ability to uplift everyone it touches."

In the meantime, O'Neill remarked that the development, occupying just a fraction of what the land could accommodate, is intentionally low in density to preserve the area's ecological integrity. He credited designer James Hamilton and the project team for striking a balance between luxury and environmental respect.

He said that NAVAH also holds promise for local empowerment, as Northwest Point encompasses a significant portion of crown land. Officials and developers alike emphasized the opportunity to involve Turks and Caicos Islanders in the development process—from jobs and partnerships to entrepreneurship and investment.

"As news of NAVAH has spread, we've already seen rising interest in this area," said O'Neill said. "The empowerment of this community has already begun—even before we've laid the first brick."

The ceremony concluded with the symbolic presentation of commemorative sand collected from the site, handed to both Baumgarten and Minister Knowles to mark the occasion.

"Past, present, and future—NAVAH represents all three," said O'Neill. "And today, we begin a journey that will not only reshape Northwest Point, but redefine the possibilities of what development in Turks and Caicos can look like."



# What more must they do to prove they're our enemies?

Most people accept that World War II began with the invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany in 1939. This is true, although a lot was happening with both Germany and Japan, operating in Europe, and in the Pacific region, respectfully, that would suggest an earlier date for the beginning of the crisis.

Either way, Poland was hit hard, its army brutally wiped out, the population subjugated for years, its Jewish citizens literally, and almost totally exterminated.

Despite this, there was a group of Polish citizens called the Holy Cross Mountains Brigade who supported the Nazi regime. They actively assisted the Germans to kill and control their fellow Polish citizens. This type of insanity was not limited to a group in Poland. The Vichy political movement was very much a French organisation and became the Government of France whilst it was occupied by the Germans in World War II. They

gave their support, despite the fact that French citizens were being murdered, raped, and subjugated by the Nazis for the entire occupation.

Well earlier, I said that this "insanity" was not limited to Poland. It also was not limited to World War II. During apartheid South Africa, the Inkatha Freedom Party, which was a party of blacks, openly collaborated with the apartheid Government during the 70s and 80s and up to the early 90s, before South Africa was liberated by the election of the Nelson Mandela-led African National Congress.

This was not the only black group that supported the apartheid party in their subjugation of black citizens in South Africa. As a young man, I observed cricketers I literally worshipped, from Jamaica and the wider Caribbean, give their support to apartheid South Africa by defying a position from all decent nations to desist from participating in sport against the racist Government.

I recognised that the Jamaican and Caribbean cricketers were driven by greed. I can't quite understand what drives actual citizens of a country to support an enemy against their people, or a government intent on suppressing a group.

I don't understand the aforementioned Holy Cross Mountain Brigade, the Inkatha Freedom Party, or the black consciousness movement or the members of the Vichy political party. Neither do I understand why Jamaicans For Justice (JFJ) does not condemn, with more regularity, the gangs of Jamaica. If you believe that apartheid South Africa was a more brutal group than the gangs of Jamaica, let me bring you up to speed with the activities of gangs in my neck of the woods.

I have been involved in the policing of the St Catherine South Police Division for over two decades. During that period I have witnessed the gangs in my division murder more than 2,000 people.

Let me tell you about a few of their worst pieces of work and you tell me if you think that apartheid South Africa's President PW Botha had anything on them. I was one of dozens of police who responded to the murder of two children — one teenage girl and a nine-year-old boy with Down syndrome — in Newland some years ago. They were shot dead in their home while hiding from their attackers. To this day, I can't figure out the motive, or the mind that led a sane human being to do something so evil, and cowardly.

I can also recall some years after that, responding to a scene where a brother and sister were killed because their mother was involved with an enemy of a gang. More recently, I responded to another scene where three females and a child were burned alive by gang members who lit their house and shot at them when they tried to escape.

Just this year I responded to a triple murder — three young men and a dog were killed with the brutality that would make any member of the Ku Klux Klan blush.

I don't know what more has to be done by Jamaican gang members to convince people, including JFJ, that they are brutal enough to be considered an enemy in keeping with apartheid South Africa or the Nazi party. Or even what more the gangs have to do to at least convince people that they are not worthy of support or protection.

The gangs in my division are no more brutal than gangs in Spanish Town, Hunts Bay, western Kingston, Clarendon, or Montego Bay. Brutality, cruelty, and murder are the calling cards of Jamaican street gangs. They have proven their effectiveness, and the risk they pose to innocent citizens of

Jamaica.

The demonstration by JFJ last week, despite its failure, is no less a disgrace to our country than the Inkatha Freedom Party was to South Africa, or more specifically Black South Africa.

The actions by Jamaican civilians to wear blue to counter this group is to be applauded and sets the stage for a creation of a group within civil society to oppose this group masquerading as a human rights organisation.

I have said it before and I'll say it again, if this group had any interest whatsoever in the human rights of Jamaican citizens then they would be protesting the gangs that have killed 231 for this year already.

If they find that the gangs are so deserving, then, by extension, why are the victims of the gangs so undeserving of their activism?

They need to stop ignoring this question.

The Klansman gang has, for decades, subjugated the rights of Jamaican citizens in Spanish Town. Why don't JFJ come and stage a demonstration at Dela Vega City? The police will give them protection.

Why don't they go to Tawes Pen where the One Order gang rules with an iron fist? Well, the one constant is that all of the misguided organisations that I made reference to eventually failed or changed their position.

Maybe Jamaicans For Justice will realise that Jamaica, and Jamaicans are weary of the gangs and fed up with them, and the lure of foreign funding will soon lose its flavour.

But just in case, would the Jamaicans who wore blue step up one more time, form a proper organisation, and spend some time opposing this lobby group whilst supporting the armed forces of their country and the victims of 50 years of gang atrocities?

I have my fingers crossed that you will take the next step.

Feedback: [drjasonamckay@gmail.com](mailto:drjasonamckay@gmail.com)

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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

# Flooding Incident at House of Parliament Building Linked to Janitor Room Mishap



Water can be seen streaming down on furniture and the carpeted floor in the Parliament Building.

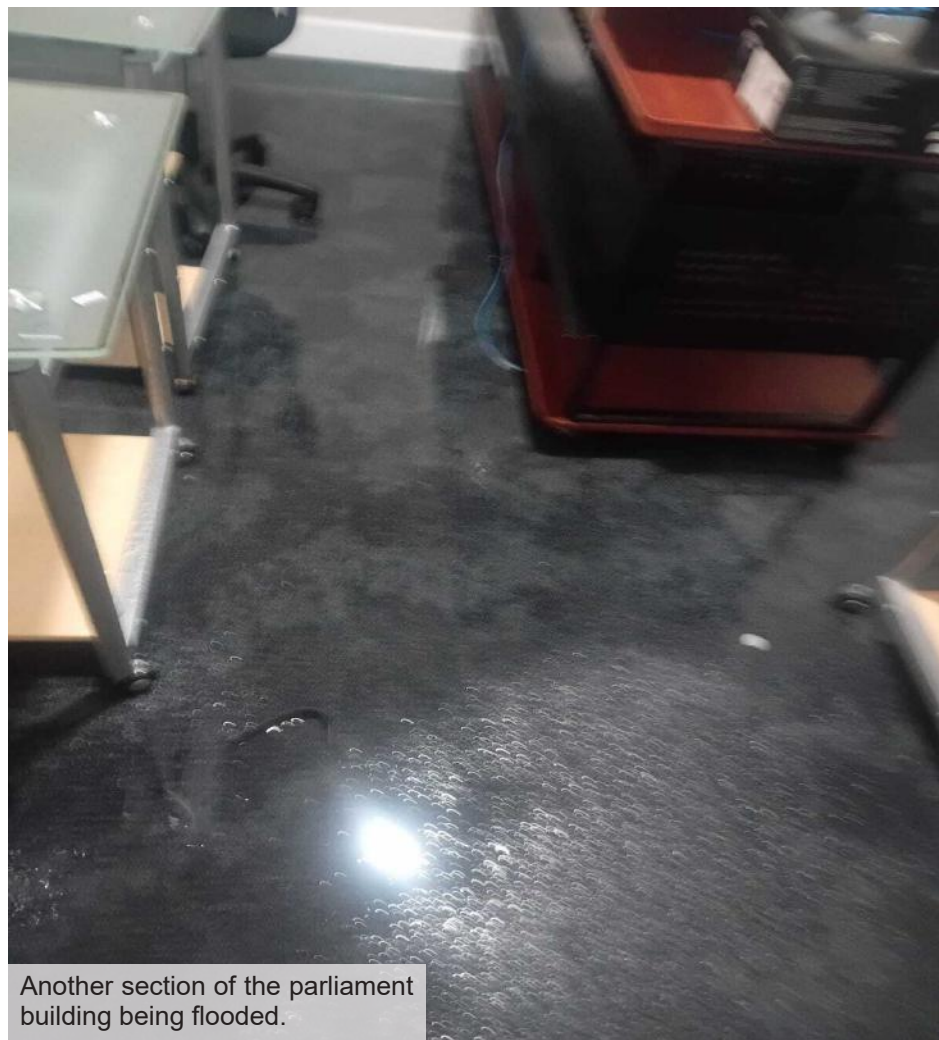
A mishap in a janitor's storage room at the NJS Francis Building — home to the House of Parliament — has resulted in significant water damage to parts of the facility, disrupting operations and prompting temporary shutdowns of electrical systems.

According to information obtained by NewslineTCI, a faucet in an upstairs janitor room was accidentally broken, allegedly after office supplies were mistakenly placed on top of it. The broken pipe reportedly went unnoticed for nearly two days, leading to extensive flooding throughout the lower level of the building.

Sources familiar with the situation shared that the leak originated in a general-use room commonly used for storing cleaning materials such as bleach, garbage bags, and other office supplies. "They make mistake, put it on a faucet, and break the faucet... and it was leaking for two days," said one staff member who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Initial signs of the flooding were observed on Monday when workers returned to the building after the weekend and noticed water dripping into the corridor below. At the time, maintenance personnel from the Property and Building Infrastructure (PBI) team reportedly misidentified the leak as being related to air conditioning or overhead brackets.

By Tuesday morning, the situation had deteriorated further. "The next morning we came and the place was flooded," the source explained. It was only then, after shifting some of the storage materials, that the true cause of the flooding — the broken faucet — was discovered. Though the flood impacted the lower floor of the NJS Francis Building, parliamentary proceedings were not immediately affected. "The House was held on Monday, because they still didn't know what was going on," the source noted. However, the damage has resulted in the postponement of certain sessions, including appropri-



Another section of the parliament building being flooded.

ations-related meetings that were scheduled for this week.

One of the most affected areas was the Office of the Premier, which is located on the ground floor. Electrical systems had to be cut off in some parts of the building as a safety precaution, due to water exposure. "That's one building — electrical and all — so they had to cut everything off for safety," the source added.

Fortunately, the actual parliamentary chamber, which is located on the upper level, remained dry and unaffected by the flooding. "It didn't affect the House, the chamber. Just downstairs... different offices were affected," the source confirmed.

While the building was not evacuated, operations in several offices have been disrupted, and cleanup efforts are ongoing. The full extent of the water damage — particularly to electronics, documents, and furniture — has yet to be publicly detailed.

No official government statement has yet been issued on the incident. However, internal communications suggest that remedial work is already underway, and some staff have shared images of the damage with media outlets to highlight the

severity of the flooding.

As of now, appropriations meetings and some other parliamentary activities are expected to resume next week, pending clearance from safety inspectors and maintenance crews. The source indicated that photos of the damage have been forwarded to relevant authorities and may be made public in due course.

Despite the disruption, parliamentary operations are largely expected to continue uninterrupted once the affected offices are restored. Still, the incident raises questions about storage practices, facility monitoring, and maintenance protocols in one of the country's most important government buildings.

It is not yet clear whether any disciplinary action will be taken or whether additional safeguards will be implemented to prevent a similar situation from recurring.

This event marks a rare logistical hiccup for the NJS Francis Building, which has historically avoided major infrastructure-related incidents. Moving forward, building management is expected to review and possibly revise its internal protocols for storage and facilities maintenance to prevent such incidents from reoccurring.



# Sandals Resorts and Travel Advisors Bring Joy and Supplies to Enid Capron Primary School



Orville Morgan (right) Public Relations Manager at Beachers TCI and members of his team, share lens with a number of United States Travel Agents at the Enid Capron Primary School.



Ms Nelene Swann, Vice Principal of the Enid Capron Primary School welcomes the United States Travel Advisors to the institution.

In a heartwarming show of generosity and community spirit, nearly 50 travel advisors visiting Beaches Turks & Caicos took time out of their schedules to visit the Enid Capron Primary School in Five Cays, Providenciales.

As part of a collaborative outreach led by Sandals Resorts and the Sandals Foundation, the group distributed donated items—such

as backpacks, books, and school supplies—and spent the morning reading to students across multiple classrooms.

The initiative was organized in celebration of Global Travel Advisor Day, officially recognized on May 7, and reflected a commitment to giving back to the local communities that host Sandals and Beaches Resorts.

“This isn’t our first time doing this,” said Ian Braun of Sandals and Beaches Resorts. “Whenever we get the opportunity, we try to bring travel advisors into the community to partner with the Sandals Foundation. It’s a way for us to connect, contribute, and really see what life is like beyond the resort walls.” Travel advisors were encouraged to travel with extra items in their

luggage for donation, and their response was generous. Collectively, they brought close to 100 pounds of supplies, including books, notebooks, pens, pencils, and other classroom essentials.

“We asked them to bring five to ten pounds of supplies each, and they delivered,” Braun noted. “While we don’t have an exact dollar value, the impact is clear. It’s a meaningful way to support education and invest in the future of the island’s children.”

The visit to Enid Capron Primary was more than just a drop-off event. Advisors took the time to visit classrooms, read aloud to the students, and engage in personal interactions that left lasting impressions on both the visitors and the children.

The outreach event served as a powerful lead-in to Global Travel Advisor Day—a moment to honor the vital role that travel advisors play in the success of Caribbean tourism.

“It’s really just a big thank-you,” Braun added. “Our travel partners do so much to promote travel to the Caribbean and support Sandals and Beaches Resorts. This is our chance to show appreciation—and to give back while doing it.”



# Justice Indra Charles Appointed as Court of Appeal Judge



Justice Indra Charles

Currently serving as a Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of The Bahamas, Justice Indra Charles commenced her legal career following her graduation from the Sir Hugh Wooding Law School in Trini-

dad & Tobago.

She subsequently pursued and completed a postgraduate Diploma in International Relations at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad & Tobago. Upon obtaining the Diploma with Honours, she entered private practice in the Chambers of Dr. Eneas Wills, SC, before relocating to Saint Lucia in July 1985.

In Saint Lucia, she held the positions of Deputy Registrar, Registrar, Magistrate and Chief Registrar. During her tenure as Chief Registrar, she also sat as a High Court Judge (Ag) on the benches of the Commonwealth of Dominica, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, St. Kitts & Nevis and the British Virgin Islands. On 6 January 2000, Justice Charles was confirmed as a High Court Judge of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, assigned to St. Lucia. In January 2005, she was assigned to the British Virgin Islands.

In both St. Lucia and the BVI, she presided over matters in the criminal and civil/administrative/commercial divisions. During her sev-

en-year tenure in the BVI and, at the request of the Chief Justice, she was assigned to other jurisdictions, most notably St. Kitts and Nevis where she presided over sensitive election petition matters in the twin-island federation. In addition, she acted as a Justice of Appeal on the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court on three separate occasions; the longest of which lasted four months in 2009.

On 6 January 2012, Justice Charles was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. She served primarily in the criminal division until April 2016, at which time she transitioned to the civil and commercial/trust division. On 1 April 2022, she was conferred with the title of Senior Justice and, in October 2022, she acted briefly as Chief Justice. On 1 February 2023, Justice Charles was appointed a Justice of Appeal (Ag) of the Court of Appeal of The Bahamas. Three months later, she was confirmed in that position.

Justice Charles is, at present, a member of the Rules Committee

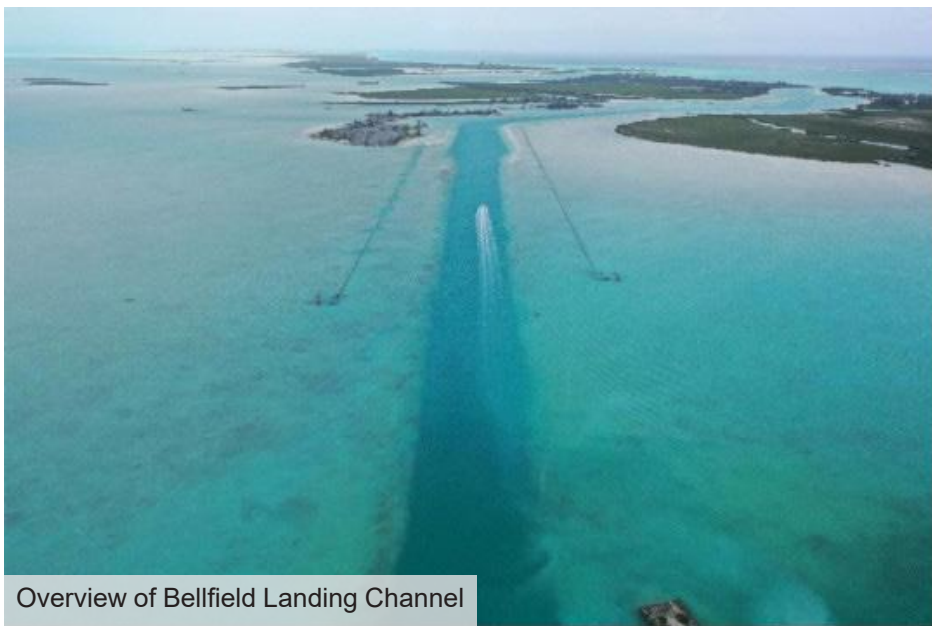
of The Bahamas. Previously, she was the Deputy Chairman of the Working Group of the Rules Committee until their implementation in August 2022 (CPR 2022). She is also a contributing editor of the Caribbean Civil Court Practice, Third Edition, which was released in April 2024.

Her Ladyship has been a longstanding member of INSOL International since 2007 and, in more recent years, she has also been affiliated with the International Insolvency Institute. She has served on several INSOL panels.

Over the years, she has delivered numerous papers at conferences held locally, regionally and internationally with a particular focus on the Civil Procedure Rules, Case Management, Insolvency Law, Asset-tracing and Asset-recovery.

Over the course of her approximately 26 years on the bench, Justice Charles has produced a substantial body of jurisprudence, comprising hundreds of judgments. She is admitted to the Bars of Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago and St. Lucia.

## PATCI Charting a Safer Course - Navigational Upgrades Coming to Bellfield Landing Channel



Overview of Bellfield Landing Channel

Ports Authority of the Turks and Caicos (PATCI) is Charting a Safer Course. Mariners utilizing the Bellfield Landing entry channel between Dellis Cay and Parrot Cay

can look forward to significantly enhanced navigational safety in the near future.

The Ports Authority of the Turks and Caicos Islands (PATCI) is em-

barking on a crucial project to install new, modern marine aids to navigation (AtoNs) throughout the channel, replacing some of the outdated lighting systems currently in place.

Along with the upgrades a comprehensive bathymetric survey of the channel entry was conducted in April 2025. This detailed survey was undertaken to gain a thorough understanding of the area's specific navigational needs, ensuring that mariners can effectively guide their vessels and enhance the safety of passage.

PATCI is partnering with Coastal and Marine Design Build LTD., a reputable firm specializing in marine infrastructure, to assist with the design and installation of these critical upgrades.

This initiative represents the forefront of PATCI's broader commitment to improving marine travel

safety across the Turks and Caicos Islands. As a key member of the Maritime Oversight Committee, the Ports Authority takes its obligations under the International Maritime Organization's III Code rules and regulations seriously.

These upgrades in Bellfield Landing Channel are a tangible step towards ensuring a safer marine environment for all maritime users, from commercial vessels to recreational boaters.

The upcoming installation of these modern marine lights and buoys will provide clearer and more reliable guidance, also allowing PATCI to monitor them more effectively. This will ultimately lead to a safer and more efficient marine travel through this important waterway. These upgrades are only the tip of the spear, more to come to secure the safety of marine travel in the Turks and Caicos Islands.



# Ministry of Innovation, Technology and Energy Marks First Major Engagement at World Bank Global Digital Summit



TCI Delegation at Global Digital Summit LAC Day

The newly established Ministry of Innovation, Technology and Energy proudly marked its first major international engagement at the World Bank Global Digital Summit, held in Washington, D.C., from March 17 – 20, 2025. This milestone participation underscores the Turks and Caicos Islands Government’s bold commitment to advancing its digital transformation agenda and embracing innovation as a cornerstone of national develop-

ment. Leading the delegation were Honourable Erwin Jay Saunders, Minister of Innovation, Technology and Energy, and Honourable Rhondalee Braithwaite-Knowles, Attorney General of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The high-level delegation engaged with global digital experts forged strategic partnerships and explored critical areas such as data governance, digital infrastructure, and legislative frameworks essential to TCI’s

digital future. “Our participation in this Summit signals the beginning of a new era for the Turks and Caicos Islands,” said Honourable Erwin Jay Saunders. “We are no longer just talking about digital transformation — we are actively positioning ourselves globally to learn, lead, and launch meaningful digital reforms. I returned from Washington inspired, equipped, and confident in our nation’s ability to implement smart, scalable, and resilient digital solutions.” Key Engagements at the Summit Included:

- Ministerial Meetings: Honourable Saunders and Honourable AG joined over 60 ministers from across the globe in high-level discussions focused on digitisation challenges and opportunities. Global Knowledge Exchange:
  - Valuable insights were gained from country case studies and panel presentations on artificial intelligence, digital public infrastructure, and national identification systems.
  - Strategic Bilaterals: Meetings were held with the World Bank, the Or-

ganization of American States Civil Registry, and delegations from Latin America and the Caribbean, laying the groundwork for future technical and financial cooperation.

- Caribbean Roundtable: The TCI delegation contributed to regional conversations on how digital tools can build climate-resilient and socially inclusive infrastructures.

The delegation returns with renewed energy and a strengthened network to support the ongoing rollout of key digital projects, including the national ID system and e-government services. The Ministry of Innovation, Technology and Energy looks forward to delivering more updates as these initiatives progress.

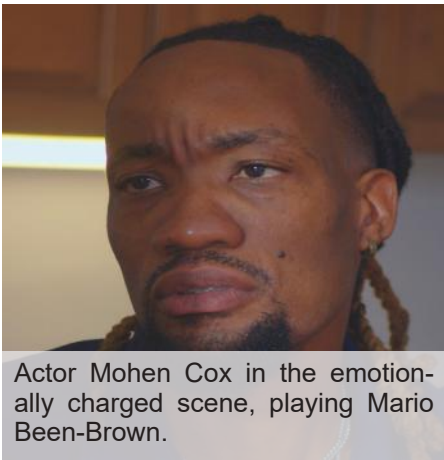
Ministerial Meeting with Leadership of WB Digital Practice Honourable Braithwaite-Knowles and Honourable Saunders at Ministerial Meeting

Honourable Braithwaite-Knowles’ interview for Global Digital Summit by World Bank Team

Honourable Saunders’ interview for Global Digital Summit by World Bank Team

# TCI Short Film Ripple Effect Selected for Caribbean Film Festival

Ripple Effect, a short film produced by the Project I.D.E.A. Media Club, has been officially selected for the Caribbean Film Festival. This marks a historic milestone as it is the first film shot and directed in the Turks and Caicos Islands by local filmmakers to be selected for a regional film festival. Commissioned by the Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission, the project was led by Project Lead Nandina Hislop and filmmaker Samuel Jules, owner of One Island Media. The Caribbean Film Festival will take place from June 11–15, 2025, at CinemaOne, Home of the IMAX, in Trinidad and Tobago. The festival, hosted by Africa Film TT, is an extension of a platform that has been supporting filmmakers for over a decade. According to organisers, the Caribbean Film Festival is a “world-class destination film festival” with a mission to “ignite and energise the region’s film and multimedia industry, fuelling a fresh wave of film production and creative content throughout the Caribbean.” Ripple Effect will be screened alongside films from countries including Panama, Guyana, and Jamaica. The selection was made by a team of seasoned critics, guided by an Advisory Board that includes Scott Sardinha, Cultural Attaché for Westbrook Pic-



Actor Mohen Cox in the emotionally charged scene, playing Mario Been-Brown.

tures and the Will Smith Circle. Ripple Effect was directed by film student Malachi Jarrett and Samuel Jules, with executive production by Samuel Jules and Nandina Hislop. The crew primarily consisted of youth between the ages of 14 and 21, mentored under the Project I.D.E.A. Media Club. Project Lead Nandina Hislop shares, “We are immensely proud of this selection as this successful short film was achieved with a minute budget, powered by immense assistance from the production company One Island Media. Over 90% of actors in the film were first-time performers, which is a testament to the raw talent on our island. We hope this selection will result



Main actress Diavion Ebanks, known as athlete Anita Been-Brown in Ripple Effect.

in a surge of public and private sector investment into the local film industry and the Project I.D.E.A. Media Club.” Director of the film Samuel Jules, adds, “The acceptance of Ripple Effect into the Caribbean Film Festival brings me immense pride—not just because of the dynamic team, including passionate teens who contributed to its success, but because it also highlights pressing social issues in our communities. I hope this latest development in the film’s journey encourages positive change, inspires greater interest in the art of cinematography among young people, and encourages more support and resources for these creative pursuits.”

Minister of Education, Youth, Sports, and Social Services, the Hon. Rachel Taylor, also extended congratulations: “This is a proud moment for the Turks and Caicos Islands. Ripple Effect’s success on the regional stage highlights the incredible potential of our youth and the power of creative expression to tell our unique stories. I commend the Project I.D.E.A. Media Club, One Island Media, and all involved in this project for demonstrating what can be achieved through talent, mentorship, and perseverance. “Initiatives like these are vital not only for building skills and confidence but also for providing positive pathways that steer our young people away from juvenile delinquency. The Ministry remains committed to supporting the growth of creative industries as key drivers of national development and youth empowerment.” Ripple Effect has also been submitted for consideration to other Caribbean film festivals, including the Trinidad+Tobago Film Festival and the Bahamas Independent Film Festival, with hopes for continued success. For more information, email [nehislop@gov.tc](mailto:nehislop@gov.tc). The Project I.D.E.A. Media Club is currently open for summer session applications. Apply here: <https://forms.office.com/r/c53uYaAaDb>.



# Experience Turks and Caicos Push for Increased Visitation from UK Market at Unite Caribbean



Experience Turks and Caicos representatives and travel advisor mingle for a photo



From left, Victoria Cramer of Paradise Promotions, Mrs. Stacy Cox, CEO, TCHTA, Ms. Trina Adams, Chief Marketing Officer, Experience Turks and Caicos, Ms. Francine Stewart, Director, Sales and Marketing, Ambergris Cay.

Experience Turks and Caicos, along with hotel partners, continued efforts to increase visitation to the Turks and Caicos Islands from the United Kingdom through attendance at the 24th Unite Caribbean on March 10th and Destination Caribbean by the Coast on March 11th and 12th.

Unite Caribbean took place at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London's Westminster. Ms. Trina Adams, Chief Marketing Officer of Experience Turks and Caicos, led a delegation which included Mrs. Stacy Cox, CEO of the Turks and Caicos Hotels and Tour-

ism Association (TCHTA), Ms. Francine Stewart, Director of Sales and Marketing, Ambergris Cay and Ms. Victoria Cramer, Experience Turks and Caicos' UK Marketing Representative.

Unite Caribbean is a 'one-stop-shop' event for UK and European-based tour operators and Caribbean suppliers - tourist boards, hoteliers, representation companies, airlines, ground handlers and car hire companies. At the event, Experience Turks and Caicos met with 21 tour operator product managers and created strategies to build awareness and further sales

to the destination of Turks and Caicos Islands.

The overall feedback was that there is growing interest in the Turks and Caicos Islands in the UK market and some tour operators are experiencing an uptick in bookings compared to 2024. Experience Turks and Caicos identified the need for more familiarisation trips for tour operators to learn more about the destination as well as properties which drives sales to their clients.

"The UK and European markets hold tremendous potential for the Turks and Caicos Islands, and our presence at events like Unite Carib-

bean is crucial in ensuring that tour operators can effectively sell the destination across various niches.

"Strengthening our ties with these key markets will not only drive visitor growth but also enhance our tourism product for the benefit of all in our islands. I look forward to welcoming more travellers from the UK and Europe as we continue to expand our reach and showcase the unique experiences that make Turks and Caicos a premier destination," said Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Zhavargo Jolly.

"Our meetings with the tour operators were certainly fruitful and demonstrated that our work in the market through training workshops is paying off. I am very encouraged by those tour operators who are experiencing an increase in sales to the destination and while there are definitely knowledge gaps that we aim to close through FAM trips, I am confident that this year we will establish the Turks and Caicos Islands as a preferred destination for visitors from the UK," said Ms. Adams.

The contingent also attended Destination Caribbean by the Coast, a travel agent and supplier escape focused on showcasing Caribbean islands and hotels to a hand selected group of luxury travel agents in the UK at The Relais Cooden Beach, Bexhill on Sea, Sussex.



Hank Ketchum's

Dennis the Menace

Miss NO-it-all

SO YOU'RE ASTRONAUTS, HUH?

AND NOT JUST FOR HALLOWEEN EITHER! WE'RE TALKIN' REAL LIFE!

IS THAT SO?

THAT WILL MEAN YEARS OF HARD WORK.

YOU'LL HAVE TO GO TO A GOOD COLLEGE AND STUDY SCIENCE.

THEN GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL PLUS PASS A STRICT PHYSICAL EXAM.

I GUESS THAT BROUGHT THEM DOWN TO EARTH.

LUCKY EDDIE, I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WOULD MARRY THAT REDHEAD YOU DATED!

I KEPT TELLING MYSELF I'D WAIT UNTIL SOMEONE BETTER CAME ALONG!

IT HAPPENED, AND SOMEONE MARRIED HER!

OKAY, ODIE...

I HAVE DEVISED AN ELABORATE ESCAPE PLAN...

WHICH WILL BE ACTIVATED IF WE HEAR JON SAY "TOFU," "EXERCISE" OR "ROMANTIC COMEDY"

JUGHEAD'S HELPING POP THIS WEEK!

NO WONDER THE SERVICE IS SO TERRIBLE!

YOU'RE THE SLOWEST SERVER EVER!

IT'S NOT MY FAULT!

YOU ORDERED THE TURTLE SUNDAE!

NEWSLINE COMICS

LOOK AT MY BABY, IT'S SOOOOO CUTE!

NO, LOOK AT MINE, IT'S MUCH CUTER!

WHICH ONE'S MINE!?



# The Salt Industry



NEWSLINE  
Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

## HERITAGE

The Turks and Caicos consists of many small low-lying islands, and every larger island in the archipelago has at least one natural salt water pond or lagoon. These ponds often have some connection to the ocean. In some cases this is by natural inlets or channels, others are replenished by abnormally high tides or subterranean cave systems. As the trapped ocean water in these ponds evaporate in the typically hot Turks and Caicos climate, salt crystals naturally collect in places.

The salt industry began with seasonal salt rakers coming to the Islands from Bermuda in the late 1600s and lasted until commercial exploitation of the salinas ended in the 1960s. extensive salt works were built on Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos, along with the infrastructure needed to support the industry and populations.

At the height of production at the beginnings of the 1900s, total exports from the country reached nearly 2 million bushels (about 140 million pounds). About 800 acres (324 hectares) of salina was being utilized across the three islands and over 80 miles (129 km) of dividing walls stood.

What ultimately doomed the salt industry in the country was the small scale of production. The islands in the Turks and Caicos are small, with a limited number of ponds that could be developed. Necessary infrastructure such as deep water docks simply cost too much to build and maintain compared to the expected returns. Other sites such as Lake Windsor on the nearby Bahamian island of Great Inagua, proved to be far more financially viable for salt production due to its much greater size. Morton Salt currently produces over a million tons of sea salt per year at this location.



# TITO FORBES APPOINTED AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF BORDER FORCE – INLAND OPERATIONS



The Office of the Deputy Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands is

thrilled to announce the appointment of Mr. Tito Forbes to the position of Deputy Director of Border Force with responsibility for Inland Operations within the Ministry of Immigration and Border Services. This significant role reflects Mr. Forbes' exemplary track record and his unwavering dedication to the Public Service.

With an impressive career spanning over 27 years, Mr. Forbes holds certifications in: Immigration Law Enforcement, Management, Investigation Techniques and Leadership Development. His commitment to professional growth is further evidenced by his completion of numerous regional and international training courses specializing in: law enforcement, intelligence gathering and operational command.

Notably, Mr. Forbes was involved with the Ministry of Border Con-

trol's Enforcement Unit from its inception, where he served as a Senior Immigration Officer. His pivotal role in the transition from the Immigration and Customs Departments to the newly established Border Force showcases his adaptability and leadership during times of significant change. Throughout this transition, he successfully managed several critical areas, including the Enforcement Unit, the Anti-Smuggling Unit (ASU), the Investigation Unit, and the Transit Sheds, further demonstrating his capability in handling diverse responsibilities with proficiency.

In reflecting on his new role, Mr. Forbes stated, "I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity to continue serving my country in this new capacity. I look forward to embracing the challenges ahead with unwavering dedication, strong integrity, and a steadfast commit-

ment to excellence. Together with my colleagues, I am determined to continue to contribute to the safety and security of our borders, ensuring a greater future for our nation."

In congratulating Mr. Forbes on his appointment, H.E. Anya Williams, Deputy Governor and Head of the Public Service, expressed, "We are fortunate to have Mr. Forbes stepping into this vital role. His extensive experience demonstrates that he is well-prepared to tackle the challenges facing our border security and immigration systems and his proven leadership makes him an ideal fit to this leadership position. I have no doubt that with his assisted guidance, our border security initiatives will reach new levels of effectiveness and efficiency as his commitment to excellence aligns perfectly with the values of our public service."

## Ministry of Education Signs MOU with Oasis ABA to Expand Behavioural Therapy Services for Children with Special Needs



In a strategic move to enhance special education services across the country, the Ministry of Education, through its Department of Special Education Needs Services (SENS), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Melisha Williams, owner of Oasis ABA TCI. This partnership allows for the outsourcing of specialised behavioural therapy services, signalling a critical step forward in expanding access and capacity to support

children with diverse learning and developmental needs.

As part of the SENS department's Key Policy Strategy (KPS) to increase and expand therapy services, the MOU enables Oasis ABA to begin offering behavioural therapy support to students currently on waitlists, particularly those in Providenciales, with plans to extend services to Grand Turk in the very near future.

Director of SENS, Dr. Anya Mal-

colm-Gibbs, shared that this proactive partnership is a response to the growing number of children being identified for specialised support. "As we anticipate an increase in referrals, it is imperative that we act decisively to meet demand. This MOU allows us to serve more families while ensuring quality, evidence-based interventions. We are especially proud that Oasis ABA is owned by a local professional, further investing in our national human capital."

Melisha Williams, the founder and lead therapist at Oasis ABA, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to national development through her practice: "It was a lifelong goal of mine to be of service to my country, especially in the area of special needs, as individuals with special needs also have a critical role to play in advancing this great nation."

"As the government continues to enhance support in this area, I am grateful for this opportunity. I look forward to continuing our journey to ensure that individuals with special needs and their families receive the necessary support to not only function but thrive in society."

Minister of Education, Hon. Ra-

chel M. Taylor, emphasised the significance of this MOU as part of the Ministry's broader inclusion strategy: "This is more than a contract—it's a commitment to ensuring that our children has access to quality services. Behavioural therapy is a powerful tool that can improve outcomes and unlock potential, and by working with our local trusted professionals, we are not only meeting immediate needs but also strengthening the foundation of inclusive education for years to come."

This MOU aligns with the Ministry's ongoing mission to develop equitable systems that nurture all learners, particularly those requiring tailored interventions. It marks a meaningful milestone in the nation's investment in its most valuable resource—its children. Together, with partners like Oasis ABA, the SENS department is advancing inclusive education and building a brighter future for all.

For more information about our services, upcoming initiatives, or how to support our work, please contact the Department of Special Education Needs Services at [sens@gov.tc](mailto:sens@gov.tc).



Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

This week on Newsline Feat-ured Church, we turn the spotlight on All Saints Mis-sion Church, located along the Leeward Highway in Providenciales. The minis-ter for that body of Christ is Pastor James Prospere. All Saints Church, which has one of the largest member-ships of the any such body in the Turks and Caicos Islands, conducts two services on Sunday – the Sunday Morn-ing Service and the Sunday Night Service. On Wednes-day Night is Prayer Meeting and on Friday its their Youth Service.



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.

<b>Firm Foundation Ministries International</b> Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581	<b>Firm Foundation Ministries International</b> 19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240	<b>Firm Foundation Ministries International</b> Waterloo Road, Grand Turk. Telephone: 649-332-624
<b>Christ is the Answer Ministry,</b> George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030	<b>Church of God of Prophecy,</b> Providenciales Tel:941-3438	<b>Paradise Baptist Church,</b> Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349
<b>One Nation Empowerment Center</b> Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com.	<b>Roman Catholic Church,</b> Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136	<b>Revival Faith Center,</b> North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349
<b>Touch of Love Ministries International Center</b> Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731	<b>Faith Tabernacle Church of God,</b> Providenciales, Tel:946-4073	<b>Salem Baptist Church,</b> Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565
<b>Abundant Life Ministries International</b> P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755	<b>New Testament Church of God,</b> South Caicos Tel:946-3631	<b>Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries</b> International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181
<b>Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk,</b> Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289	<b>Methodist Church,</b> Grand Turk Tel:946-2352	<b>St. Monica’s Anglican Church</b> P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499
<b>Bethany Baptist Church,</b> Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118	<b>Healing Waters Ministries,</b> Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867	<b>Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh</b> Day Adventists, P.O. Box 803, Providenciales
<b>Church of God of Prophecy,</b> Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854	<b>House of Prayer Church of God,</b> Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309	<b>United Pentecostal Church,</b> Brown’s Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852
<b>Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk</b> Tel:946-1866	<b>Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses,</b> Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727	<b>Wesleyan Methodist Church,</b> Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596
<b>Calvary Baptist Church,</b> South Caicos. Tel:946-3212	<b>Mount Mariah Baptist Church,</b> Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205	<b>Editor’s Note:</b> 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
<b>Harvest Bible Chapel TCI,</b> Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales. Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com. https://www.harvesttci.tc.	<b>New Beginning Harvest Ministry,</b> Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759	
	<b>New Testament Church of God</b> Orea Alley P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-1255 Airport Road, South Caicos Tel:231-2402	



# Land and Sea Restaurant Hosts Grand Opening

Land and Sea Restaurant, located at Wymara Villas and Beach Club at Sunset Cove off Venetian Road in Providenciales, held its grand opening on Friday, May 2, 2025. A wide cross-section of the community turned out for the event, which featured not only a sampling of the restaurant’s signature delicacies but also an opportunity for guests to mingle and socialize in a vibrant, upscale setting. The following are highlights of the event.









# British Red Cross Leaders Visit TCI

The Turks and Caicos Islands Red Cross (TCI Red Cross) was excited to welcome Liz Padmore, Chair of the British Red Cross, alongside Inma Lopez, Director of Partnerships and Programmes, and Kevin Studds, Country Manager for British Red Cross Overseas Territories, during their official visit to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Their visit marked a significant moment for the organization, highlighting the ongoing commitment to collaboration, mutual support, and shared values between the British Red Cross and its overseas partners.

The delegation engaged in a series of high-level courtesy calls with the Honourable Premier, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, and other key government officials.

These meetings emphasized the Red Cross's important role as an independent, impartial auxiliary to the public, working collaboratively to strengthen resilience and response capabilities across the islands.

Candianne Williams, Director of the TCI Red Cross, shared her gratitude for the visit, stating: "It was truly a privilege to host our colleagues from the British Red Cross. Their visit reaffirmed the importance of the work we do daily in communities across TCI. It also provided our volunteers with a renewed sense of encouragement and connection to the broader Red Cross movement. We are so grateful for their support and remain committed to building stronger, more resilient Turks and Caicos together."

A welcome reception was graciously hosted by Her Excellency the Governor, Dileen Daniel-Selvaratnam,



Photo with Hon Premier



Meeting with Hon Leader of the Opposition

Patron of the TCI Red Cross. The event celebrated the enduring partnership between the British Red Cross and the TCI Red Cross, and honored

the unwavering dedication of the volunteers. The reception also acknowledged and celebrated the TCI Red Cross' significant achievement in

becoming the first British Overseas Territory to complete the Minimum Standards of Good Governance and Accountability, an important





Meeting with Volunteers



Reception at Governor's Office



Reception at Governor's Office

milestone that reflects the organization's commitment to excellence, transparency, and strong leadership.

A major highlight of the visit was the opportunity for the delegation to meet with the amazing volunteers, the heart and driving force behind the TCI Red Cross. Meetings were held in both Grand Turk and Providenciales, where volunteers shared their experiences, challenges, and hopes for the future. Liz Padmore, praised the spirit of the volunteers and the impact of the TCI Red Cross, saying: "It has been inspiring to witness firsthand the dedication, professionalism, and compassion of the TCI Red Cross team. The volunteers here are making a real difference in the lives of people across the islands, and their work is a shining example of the values we share across the global Red Cross Movement."

Kevin Studds also reflected on the visit: "The TCI Red Cross continues to demonstrate how local action can drive meaningful change. We are proud to support their efforts and look forward to deepening our collaboration to build even greater resilience and preparedness across the Turks and Caicos Islands."

The Governing Board of the TCI Red Cross, made up entirely of dedicated volunteers, also engaged directly with the distinguished guests. They showcased the incredible initiatives and projects underway, aimed at enhancing disaster preparedness, community health, youth engagement, and humanitarian response throughout the islands.

The TCI Red Cross remains committed in its mission to provide humanitarian support, promote disaster resilience, and serve the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands with compassion, neutrality, and integrity.



# Sesame Workshop and Sandals Foundation Host Emotional Well-being Training for Educators



Heidi Clarke, Executive Director of the Sandals Foundation.



Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education



Dr. Keran Williams, Education Officer at the Ministry of Education



Dr. Rosemarie Truglio, Senior Vice President of Curriculum and Content at Sesame Workshop.

The Sandals Foundation, in partnership with Beaches Turks and Caicos and the Ministry of Education, hosted an impactful workshop this week focused on children's emotional well-being.

The training, supported by the globally renowned Sesame Street characters and team, provided local educators with tools to better support emotional development in early learners.

The workshop brought together early childhood educators from

across the Turks and Caicos Islands for a day of hands-on engagement, practical learning, and professional development. It also featured a live Zoom session in the evening, allowing parents and caregivers to participate virtually in the important conversation about children's emotional health. Executive Director of the Sandals Foundation, Heidi Clarke, described the initiative as part of a long-term collaboration with Sesame Workshop.

"One of our greatest partners is Sesame Workshop. We've been privileged to work with them for the last 16 years through the Sandals Foundation, which means that what we do at the resorts extends into the community," Clarke explained. "Recognizing how important the holistic development of children is, we are placing strong emphasis on emotional well-being."

Clarke noted that the training sessions focused on equipping educators with skills to support students' feelings and emotional needs in classroom settings.

"Sesame came in to help our teachers understand how to validate children's emotions, and how to help them process what they're going through," she said. "And it doesn't stop here—Sesame has made a wealth of resources freely available online, so the learning can continue."

Dr. Rosemarie Truglio, Senior Vice President of Curriculum and Content at Sesame Workshop, was also present at the event. She emphasized the importance of supporting not just children, but also the adults in their lives.

"Our resources can be found on [sesameworkshop.org](https://sesameworkshop.org)," she said. "There are tools for children, but just as importantly, there are resources for caregivers, educators, and parents. Our goal is to help children grow smarter, stronger, and kinder."

Dr. Truglio reflected on Sesame's 55-year history of global educational impact and stressed the value of reaching what she called the "circle of care." Through this initiative, she said, Sesame and its partners are reaching into communities to ensure access to quality early childhood support.

Dr. Keran Williams, Education Officer at the Ministry of Education responsible for teacher development and training, praised the workshop and the collaborative effort behind it.

"The partnership with the Sandals Foundation has been incredibly valuable," she said. "Today's session was particularly impactful for our early childhood educators. The feedback has been very positive—teachers found the strategies practical and applicable to real-life classroom situations."

Beyond emotional well-being, Clarke noted that Sesame Workshop and the Sandals Foundation have partnered on other issues such as healthy eating, and disaster preparedness—especially timely as May marks Disaster Preparedness Month in Turks and Caicos.

"We're preparing our staff on property and planning future school-based programs to emotionally prepare children for hurricane season," she said.

She added that the Foundation remains committed to resilience-building and community empowerment.

"We know we're vulnerable in this region, but we've also proven time and again that by working together, we can overcome anything."

The event underscores the growing focus on emotional intelligence and social-emotional learning in education, a crucial component of child development that continues to gain recognition globally. With the continued support of partners like Sesame Workshop, the Sandals Foundation, and the Ministry of Education, Turks and Caicos is taking meaningful steps toward nurturing a more emotionally aware and resilient generation.



Sesame Street Characters and attendees at the Workshop.



# Vitamin Sea, TCI National Trust Join Forces to Protect Half Moon Bay's Unique Biodiversity



A worker uproots a large slab embedded in the sand on the beach



A volunteer carries a piece of lumber from the beach



Vitamin Sea and National Trust Volunteers take time for a photo after the Half Moon Bay Clean-up

In a powerful demonstration of environmental stewardship, Vitamin Sea TCI and the Turks and Caicos Islands National Trust have partnered to host a cleanup at Half Moon Bay, one of the islands' most ecologically significant locations.

The initiative aims to protect the area's rich biodiversity by removing harmful trash and marine debris that threaten the delicate ecosystem. Half Moon Bay is not just a stunning

destination for visitors; it is a critical habitat for the endangered TCI Rock Iguana, a species found only in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The area's pristine beaches, lush vegetation, and crystal-clear waters are key to supporting local wildlife and promoting eco-tourism, one of the country's most valuable sustainable industries.

The cleanup event brought together volunteers, conservationists, and eco-conscious

community members to remove litter, plastic waste, and other pollutants that pose risks to the island's marine and terrestrial environment.

Speaking on the partnership, Heath Francis, Owner of Vitamin Sea TCI, emphasized the significance of working together to protect the environment. "At Vitamin Sea, we are passionate about sharing the beauty of the Turks and Caicos with visitors while ensuring we preserve it for future generations," Francis said. "This partnership with the National Trust is a perfect example of how local businesses can come together to take real action in protecting our environment. Keeping our natural spaces clean is not just about aesthetics—it's about safeguarding biodiversity and promoting sustainable tourism."

Jasmine Thomas, Executive Director of the TCI National Trust, highlighted the importance of strategic partnerships in conservation efforts.

"The Turks and Caicos Islands are 'Beautiful by Nature,' but

preserving that beauty requires action and collaboration," Thomas declared. "This cleanup initiative at Half Moon Bay is a step toward ensuring that our islands remain a sanctuary for wildlife, including the iconic TCI Rock Iguana. Through partnerships like this with Vitamin Sea, we strengthen our commitment to sustainability, raise awareness, and promote eco-tourism as a driving force for our economy and environment."

The cleanup event invites residents, tourists, and businesses to take part in protecting one of the Turks and Caicos Islands' most treasured locations. Volunteers will not only help remove trash but also learn more about environmental conservation, the importance of biodiversity, and the impact of pollution on marine ecosystems.

Together, Vitamin Sea and the TCI National Trust are calling on the community to be a part of the solution—ensuring that Half Moon Bay remains an unspoiled paradise for generations to



# Protect your hearing!



According to the World Health Organization, it is estimated that nearly 2.5 billion people worldwide or 1 in 4 persons will be living with some degree of hearing loss by 2050.

According to the World Health Organization, it is estimated that nearly 2.5 billion people worldwide or 1 in 4 persons will be living with some degree of hearing loss by 2050.

EACH YEAR, International Noise Awareness Day (INAD) reminds us of the serious damaging impact excessive noise can have on our hearing health. As we commemorate INAD 2025, the Jamaica Association for the Deaf Hearing Services (JADHS) is committed to raising awareness about the dangers of noise-induced hearing loss and providing effective solutions to safeguard auditory well-being.

From bustling streets to workplace environments, prolonged exposure to high noise levels can lead to permanent hearing damage. Many individuals unknowingly suffer from gradual hearing loss caused by unprotected exposure to loud sounds – a reality that can significantly impact quality of life.

At JADHS, we believe in prevention over cure. Our high-quality noise plugs provide a reliable barrier against harmful sound levels, ensuring protection whether you are in a loud work environment, attending events, or engaging in everyday activities. By wearing proper hearing protection, individuals and organisations can actively reduce the risk of long-term hearing damage.

Businesses and institutions play a vital role in protecting employees and members from excessive noise

exposure. Investing in noise plugs as part of workplace safety measures demonstrates a commitment to employee wellness and helps foster a healthier, more productive work environment. Organisations can also collaborate with JADHS to integrate hearing protection into their health and safety initiatives.

As we observe INAD 2025, JADHS encourages everyone – from individuals to organisations – to take proactive steps in preserving hearing health. Whether through education advocacy, or simply adopting noise plugs in daily routines, every effort contributes to a world where hearing protection is prioritised and widely accessible.

JAD Hearing Services specialises in custom-made ear plugs. These are available for everyone, including musicians, others in the entertainment industry, and industrial work-

ers. Importantly too, JAD Hearing Services provides hearing testing and hearing aids for children and adults. Let us work together to make hearing protection a habit, not an afterthought!

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# Motown legend Smokey Robinson, 85, sued for sexual assault



Smokey Robinson

Motown legend Smokey Robinson is facing a multimillion dollar lawsuit from four former housekeepers who allege the soul singer repeatedly raped and sexually assaulted them.

A lawsuit filed Tuesday in a Los Angeles court claims the 85-year-old forced himself on the women multiple times over a number of years, often when his wife was not at home.

One of the plaintiffs alleges the "Tracks of My Tears" singer would summon her to his bedroom in his Los Angeles area home, and greet her wearing only his underwear.

He would then sexually assault her, despite her protestations, with the suit claiming there were seven such attacks between March 2023 and when she felt compelled to resign in February 2024.

Another former housekeeper alleges Robinson assaulted her more than 20 times over a four-year period, while a third says in the suit that she was "sexually harassed, sexually assaulted and raped" throughout her 12-year employment to 2024.

The fourth woman says the singer began assaulting her in 2007 when she traveled with him to his Las Vegas home.

None of the women is named in the suit, which is common in cases involving claims of sexual assault.

The suit, which is seeking at least \$50 million in damages, says none of the women reported the assaults at the time because they were intimidated by Robinson's celebrity, and feared attacks on their character.

Robinson's wife, Frances, who is also named in the lawsuit for allegedly creating a hostile work environment and ignoring her husband's behavior, told AFP the suit had come as a surprise.

"I'm as shocked as you are," she said when reached by telephone, but declined to go into details.

Robinson was one of the founding members of The Miracles, a Detroit-based outfit that came together in the 1950s.

The group had dozens of chart hits, including the smash "The Tears of a Clown" in 1967.

# Indians celebrates 180 years in Jamaica



In a true reflection of the Jamaican motto, 'Out of Many One People', Jamaicans of East Indian ancestry celebrates their 180th year since arriving on the island.

May 10, 1845 was when the first group of 261 indentured labourers from India arrived in Jamaica aboard the SS Blundell at Old Harbour Bay in St Catherine.

On Sunday, May 10, the National Council for Indian Culture in Jamaica were scheduled to commemorate their arrival, also known as Indian Heritage Day, at Chedwin

Park, Old Harbour Road.

The event recognises the significant contribution of Indians to Jamaica's social and economic development.

The Jamaican government officially recognised the event in 1995, declaring May 10th as Indian Heritage Day.

The event planned a pre-show at Emancipation Park on Friday, May 9, between 6:00 and 9:00 pm.

Sunday's commemoration would have included live performances by several artistes including chutney soca star Renuka Mahabir; Veejai Ramkissoon and band; the Maharaj Sangeet and Raaja Getta Bhojpuri bands and the Clarendon Tassa band.

The event was also billed to have performances by the Classical Kathak Dance group, the Padatik Bollywood Dance Troupe from India, and the Indo-Jamaican Bollywood Dances.

Other attractions will include traditional Indian dishes; Indo-Jamaican dishes, assorted roti and traditional breads and Indian and local beers and liquors.



# Reggae Sumfest unveils massive line-up for week of festival



Reggae Crooner Tarrus Riley

Jamaica's premier music festival, Reggae Sumfest, sent shockwaves through the global entertainment scene this weekend with the explosive reveal of its 2025 artiste line-up and official event graphics.

Music fans from across the world are now officially counting down to festival week, which will ignite Montego Bay, St James, from Sunday, July 13 to Saturday, July 19 at Catherine Hall Stadium and Catherine Hall Entertainment Complex — promising seven days of non-stop energy, culture, and world-class performances.

Tarrus Riley, Masicka, and Vybz Kartel have been confirmed as the headline acts for the two main nights of the festival — Friday, July

18 and Saturday, July 19 at Catherine Hall Entertainment Complex. Each artiste represents a pillar of Jamaica's powerful musical legacy, from roots reggae to the gritty edge of dancehall, ensuring fans are in for unforgettable performances beneath the Montego Bay stars.

But that's not all — Downsound Entertainment dropped a major surprise that has fans and insiders buzzing: the introduction of Global Fete, set for Thursday, July 17 at Catherine Hall Stadium. For the first time in its storied history, Reggae Sumfest will officially broaden its stage to showcase the power and influence of Afrobeats, hip-hop, reggae, and dancehall — all in

one genre-defying night.

"Reggae Sumfest has always been about evolution, excellence and elevation, and with Global Fete, we're showing just how dynamic Jamaican music culture can be when fused with global genres. We are giving the world a taste of what's next," said Karla Jankee, marketing executive and head of special events at Downsound Entertainment.

Global Fete will feature live performances by Ghana's rising star Moliy, who's set to "Shake It To The Max," viral sensation and international soca artiste Yung Bredda, and Marcy Chin, the fearless dancehall stablemate from the Downsound camp. The beats will be delivered by some of the hottest selectors in the game — CopperShot, Richie Ras, Fyah Man, and DJ Gabby, fresh off her high-energy Carnival run.

In a thrilling twist, Global Fete will also host a sound system showdown as legendary selector Tony Matterhorn takes on Notorious Sound, the reigning champions of last year's epic Reggae Sumfest Sound Clash. Expect fire, flair, and sound system supremacy that only Jamaica can deliver.

"The festival is not just a celebration of music — it's a celebration of culture, unity, and high-calibre entertainment. From our headliners to the Global Fete, fans should gear up for a production that is next-level in every way," added Jankee.

In addition to the major announcements, Reggae Sumfest organisers revealed that the iconic all-black affair, Blitz, is back — bigger, bolder, and badder than ever. Set for Wednesday, July 16 at Catherine Hall Stadium, Blitz promises a sultry, high-energy experience from 8 pm to 2 am, where fashion meets fierce performances.

Headlining the night is none other than one of dancehall's most prolific and culture-shifting artistes, Valiant, whose chart-topping hits have made him a force in the genre. He will take the stage alongside the Dancehall Doll, Stalk Ashley, whose blend of sultry vocals and unapologetic lyrics is set to deliver a captivating performance.

The musical vibes will be powered by some of the hottest selectors in the game — Code Red Sound, Bloodline Franco, Brush1, and DJ Ashile.

With Downsound Entertainment's signature flair for top-tier production, artiste curation, and electric vibes, Reggae Sumfest 2025 is shaping up to be one of the most iconic editions yet. Whether you're coming for the reggae legends, the dancehall fire, the Afrobeat rhythms, or the global clash, this is the summer stage no music lover should miss.

Tickets for the week-long activities of Reggae Sumfest are available now at [reggaesumfest.com](https://reggaesumfest.com), with early bird and advance tickets currently on sale while supplies last.

# Rihanna expecting third child



Singer Rihanna

Pop icon and entrepreneur Rihanna is expecting her third child. The singer was seen with a baby bump at the Carlyle Hotel in New York City before arriving at the 2025 Met Gala.

The pop star was seen wearing full grey. She held an umbrella sheltering herself from the rain and a grey two piece skirt set with grey stockings and grey heels.

Rihanna told the British Vogue in 2020 that she wanted a large family. This pregnancy follows the birth of her two sons RZA in May 2022 and Riot Rose in August 2023.



# Fleming Fund projects launched with CARPHA, UKHSA and PAHO to fortify the Caribbean's fight against Antimicrobial Resistance



(From left to right) Mr. Mohamed Elsherbiny, Senior Technical Advisor, CARPHA, Mr. Marcelo Galas, PAHO Technical Officer on Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance, AMR Special Program, Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director, CARPHA, Dr. Natalie Wright, Head of UK Overseas Territories Programme and CARA project lead at the UK Health Security Agency, Dr. Rhonda Sealey-Thomas, Assistant Director, PAHO, Dr. Pilar Ramon-Pardo, PAHO Chief Antimicrobial Resistance Special Program, Dr. Colin Brown, UKHSA Head of AMR, Dr. Gabriel Gonzalez Escobar, Head, CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory.



Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director, CARPHA during her remarks at the launch.

On Monday, 5 May 2025, health leaders, development partners and regional stakeholders gathered at the Hilton Barbados Resort to launch two synergistic, landmark, regional projects under the United Kingdom (UK) Government's Fleming Fund and jointly implemented by the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). The goal is to strengthen the Caribbean's ability to combat the global crisis of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). AMR occurs when microbes evolve to resist treatment, making infections harder to cure. In 2019, AMR caused 1.27 million deaths and contributed to nearly five million more—surpassing HIV/AIDS and malaria. Caribbean small island and developing states face added risks due to limited lab infrastructure, transport delays, and uneven access to antibiotics. The project, 'Strengthening Antimicrobial Resistance Response in the Caribbean', led by PAHO is designed to upgrade microbiology laboratories in

ten countries (Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Montserrat). It will also enhance capacity at the Best-dos-Santos Public Health Laboratory in Barbados. The Caribbean Antimicrobial Resistance Alliance (CARA), a partnership between the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and CARPHA, forms part of CARPHA's wider Integrated AMR Programme aimed at enhancing the region's capacity to detect and respond to antimicrobial resistance. Through this initiative, CARPHA is strengthening its regional laboratory network, expanding diagnostic capabilities, and improving the collection and use of AMR data. The project will support Member States by expanding reference laboratory services in Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia, and establishing a digital, region-wide surveillance platform. CARA also promotes regional coordination and best practice sharing, helping to align national efforts and policies to ensure timely, data-informed re-

sponses to antimicrobial resistance. Speaking in support of the launch, Professor Dame Sally Davies, UK Special Envoy on Antimicrobial Resistance noted that AMR is a global emergency that demands urgent action. "The collaboration between UKHSA and CARPHA, supported by the Fleming Fund, is a powerful testament to our shared commitment to tackling this crisis head-on. By enhancing lab capabilities, improving surveillance, and building workforce expertise, we are taking decisive steps to protect the health of Caribbean communities and beyond. Together, we can make a lasting impact in the fight against AMR."

Ashley Dalton, Minister of State for Public Health and Prevention (UK Department of Health and Social Care) highlighted: "Antimicrobial resistance is one of the most serious and complex health challenges facing our world. "The government is combating AMR through the Fleming Fund and advancing our national action plan, development models and surveillance systems. Our partnerships with the Caribbean Public Health Agency and Pan American Health Organisation are a vital for safeguarding public health and ensuring the effectiveness of life-saving treatments for future generations." Dr. Rhonda Sealey-Thomas, Assistant Director of the Pan American Health Organization noted the strong history of collaboration to address pressing public health challenges. "AMR remains a top priority for PAHO. We are actively working with an organization-wide approach on several important initiatives in this area, from surveillance to infection prevention and control, water and sanitation, food safety, access to and the appropriate use of antimicrobials and supporting our Member States in the

implementation AMR National Action Plans under a One Health approach." "Through CARA, we are strengthening our laboratory systems, expanding regional surveillance, and building a coordinated One Health approach to ensure that Caribbean countries are better equipped to detect, monitor, and respond to resistant infections, highlighted Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director of CARPHA. She stressed that AMR is one of the most serious and complex health challenges facing our region. "This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to safeguarding public health and securing the effectiveness of life-saving treatments for future generations," Dr Indar outlined. Dr Natalie Wright, Head of UK Overseas Territories Programme and CARA project lead at the UK Health Security Agency, said: "AMR is an urgent global public health and development threat, affecting all countries and regions. Sustained action is required to curb inappropriate use of antibiotics, the main driver of AMR."

"Through this programme our goal is to build sustainable systems that promote data sharing, support clinical decision-making, and create lasting resilience to the threat of AMR. The work we do today will lay the foundation for a healthier, more secure future." Bringing remarks on behalf of the Prime Minister of Barbados, H. E. Mia Amor Mottley, who chairs the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, Chief Medical Officer of Barbados, Dr Kenneth George thanked the Fleming Fund Project for supporting national and regional efforts on AMR. "Barbados has made strides in AMR Surveillance working towards full reporting to the Quadripartite Global Integrated System for surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial use. As some of you may be aware of the WHO/PAHO Designation of the Best-Dos Santos Public Health Laboratory as a Regional Influenza Centre, reflecting our commitment to global health standards and enhancing our capacity to respond to infectious diseases. In the next few months, we will be working with PAHO to have a similar type designation on AMR to ensure the Best Dos Santos Public Health Laboratory can indeed be a leader in AMR within the region." Dr George noted.

The UKHSA plays a critical role in the CARA project, sharing best practices, aligning laboratory protocols, and coordinating the roll-out of training programmes designed to strengthen laboratory capacity, antimicrobial stewardship, and AMR data analysis across the Caribbean. By bridging national and regional efforts, the projects jointly reflect a unified Caribbean commitment to protecting public health, ensuring responsible antimicrobial use, and building long-term resilience against future infectious threats.



# US is shutting down Office of Palestinian Affairs and merging it into its embassy in Jerusalem



People line up to apply for Real ID at a Real ID Supercenter in downtown Chicago, Tuesday, May 6, 2025. (AP Photo/Kiichiro Sato)

A road sign shows the way towards the US embassy in Jerusalem on April 19. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is closing the Office of Palestinian Affairs and merging it into the US embassy in Jerusalem, State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said Tuesday. "This decision will restore the first Trump term framework of a unified US diplomatic mission in Israel's capital that reports to the US ambassador to Israel," Bruce said at a department briefing. "Ambassador (Mike) Huck-

abee will take the steps necessary to implement the merger over the coming weeks." Bruce claimed the closure of the office "is not a reflection on any outreach or commitment to outreach to the people at the West Bank or to Gaza." "It really is actually very similar to what's happening here with the bureaus, with our reorganization. It is making sure that the issues that are important are all working together right, are not segmented out so that the interests of the embassy – very,

very much like the interests of our foreign aid and other actions – can work together in the Bureau as one entity," she said. Still, it appeared to be a further downgrading of relations with the Palestinian people, especially since the announcement comes one day after Israel approved plans to expand its war in Gaza. On Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "One thing will be clear: there will be no in-and-out." After more than 18 months of war, Netanyahu said the population of Gaza will be displaced to the south "to protect them." Far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said Monday that "we are finally going to conquer the Gaza Strip." Last week, Trump said he told Netanyahu, "We've got to be good to Gaza." But, so far, there has been no action to back up the rhetoric, with Israel's complete blockade of Gaza entering its third month. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, more than 52,000 Palestinians have been killed since the war began. In the first Trump administration, the US shuttered the consulate general in Jerusalem and reopened it as the Pal-

estinian Affairs Unit, which operated under the embassy. The consulate gave the Palestinian Authority a dedicated US representative and a direct line to Washington without going through the US ambassador to Israel. Such an arrangement, where Israelis and Palestinians had separate lines to Washington, was viewed as critical for the US to operate as an impartial broker between the two sides, especially in times of conflict. But David Friedman, Trump's first ambassador to Israel during his first term and a staunch advocate of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, closed the consulate. The move made Friedman, who has openly criticized the idea of a Palestinian state, the primary intermediary for the Palestinians to talk to Washington. The Biden administration did not reopen the consulate general despite claiming it would work to do so. Rubio's move to close the Office of Palestinian Affairs appears to be a further step in sidelining the Palestinian ability to engage directly with the US government, especially through Huckabee, who has said in the past that "there's really no such thing as a Palestinian."

# Homeland Security chief says travellers with no REAL ID can fly for now, but with likely extra steps



People line up to apply for Real ID at a Real ID Supercenter in downtown Chicago, Tuesday, May 6, 2025. (AP Photo/Kiichiro Sato)

Travellers who haven't obtained a REAL ID by this week's deadline received assurances from the head of Homeland Security that they will be able to fly after additional identity checks. Her comments came Tuesday as people were waiting in long lines outside of government buildings from California to Chicago trying to update their IDs before the long-de-

layed deadline. Kristi Noem told a congressional panel that 81% of travellers already have IDs that comply with the REAL ID requirements. She said security checkpoints will also be accepting passports and tribal identification when the deadline hits Wednesday. Those who still lack an identification that complies with the REAL ID law

"may be diverted to a different line, have an extra step," Noem said. "But people will be allowed to fly," she said. "We will make sure it's as seamless as possible." The Transportation Security Administration warned people who don't have the REAL ID to show up early and be prepared for advanced screening to avoid causing delays. "I do not have a belief that this will cause people to miss their flights if they take that additional time in," said Thomas Carter, the TSA's Federal Security Director in New Jersey. "I think there's that self-responsibility of the law that they need to know, give themselves that extra time, and if they do that, they shouldn't have an issue." Across the country, government offices extended their hours to help meet the demand. But despite that, some people waited for hours Tuesday to get a REAL ID ahead of the long-delayed deadline.

Renel Leggett, a college student from West Chester, Pennsylvania, spent hours getting her REAL ID and was not happy about it. "I've been out here for three hours to get one ID when I've already had one that should have lasted me until about 2029," Leggett said. "You have to do it. But it feels like a waste of time," she said. REAL ID is a federally compliant state-issued license or identification card that Homeland Security says is a more secure form of identification. It was a recommendation by the 9/11 Commission and signed into law in 2005. The commission recommended the government set security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and IDs. It was supposed to be rolled out in 2008. But the implementation has been repeatedly delayed. Besides needing a REAL ID to fly domestically, people will also need one to access certain federal buildings and facilities.



# Amanyara Storms to Victory at 2025 Red Hot Challenge

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief



The Amanyara Team celebrates with their trophy after being declared the winner of the Red Hot Challenge Sports Extravaganza.



Stan Hartling, CEO of the Hartling Group, comprising the Shore Club, The Sands and the Palms, and who was the most high profile competitor, at the Red Hot Challenge captured the Plank Contest, evoking excitement not only amongst his team, but the majority of the teams present. Hartling outlasted more than 19 other competitors to take the title.

In a spectacular display of athleticism and team spirit, Amanyara

emerged as the clear champion of this year's Red Hot Challenge, top-

pling perennial champions Beaches, while topping the scoreboard with a commanding 91 points during the high-energy event hosted by the TCI Red Cross.

Held at the National Stadium in Providenciales on Saturday, May 3, 2025, the event saw 20 teams from across the Turks and Caicos corporate and civic community battling it out in a series of physical and fun-based contests, ranging from sprints and arm wrestling to egg tosses and balloon toss, allowing participants of all fitness levels to take part.

NW Hamilton made a strong impression as well, securing second place with 72 points, while Beaches Pirates followed in third with a solid 69 points. Close behind were Fortis TCI Builders (56 points), The Gate Keepers (52), and Grace Bay Medical (50), rounding out a highly competitive leaderboard.

The full scoreboard reflected the fierce but friendly rivalry that has come to define the Red Hot Challenge: Amanyara – 91 pts; NW Hamilton – 72 pts; Beaches Pirates – 69 pts; Fortis TCI Builders – 56 pts; Go Force – 55 pts; The Gate Keepers – 52 pts; Grace Bay Medical – 50 pts; The Frequent Flyers – 49 pts; The Palms Falcons – 46 pts; Beaches Marlins – 42 pts; Grace Bay Blazers – 41 pts; Investors – 40 pts; SNAP Center – 39 pts; Royal Bank of Canada – 33 pts; The Shore Club – 32 pts; The Source – 31 pts;

The Fueldkatz – 20 pts; The Sands Stargazers – 23 pts; TCREA – 23 pts (tied with Stargazers); and GBR Warriors – 18 pts

The event has grown rapidly since its inception, and this year's record team participation was matched by an enthusiastic crowd of spectators. With rising anticipation and continued support, organizers say they are already setting their sights on making next year's challenge even hotter.

Speaking shortly after the event, Director of the TCI Red Cross, Candianne Williams, described the day as "fabulous" and expressed gratitude for the ideal weather and overwhelming support.

"We had 20 teams, which is what we were hoping for," she said. "All of the different companies that really put in to sponsor these teams and come out here—whether they're athletic or not—braved it out and had a whole lot of fun."

Karen Whitt, Vice President of Sales and Marketing at the Hartling Group and a Red Cross Board Director, highlighted the growing popularity of the event.

"The competition has really grown from strength to strength," she said. "We have both athletic and non-athletic events because the whole purpose is fun, team spirit, camaraderie—and a little bit of athleticism too."

Williams noted that excitement for this year's challenge started early, even if team registrations came down to the wire.

"The interest was always there," she said, adding that participation at team captain meetings reached nearly 100%, a testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of the competitors.

This year's challenge also drew a larger crowd of spectators, adding to the atmosphere of community togetherness.

"The energy, the team spirit this year—it was more obvious," Whitt said. "We saw serious participation this year that we haven't seen in years past."

Both Williams and Whitt affirmed that the Red Hot Challenge aligns perfectly with the mission of the Red Cross, promoting health, fitness, and unity. With this year's success setting a new benchmark, organizers are already looking ahead.

"We're just looking for bigger and better next year," said Whitt.



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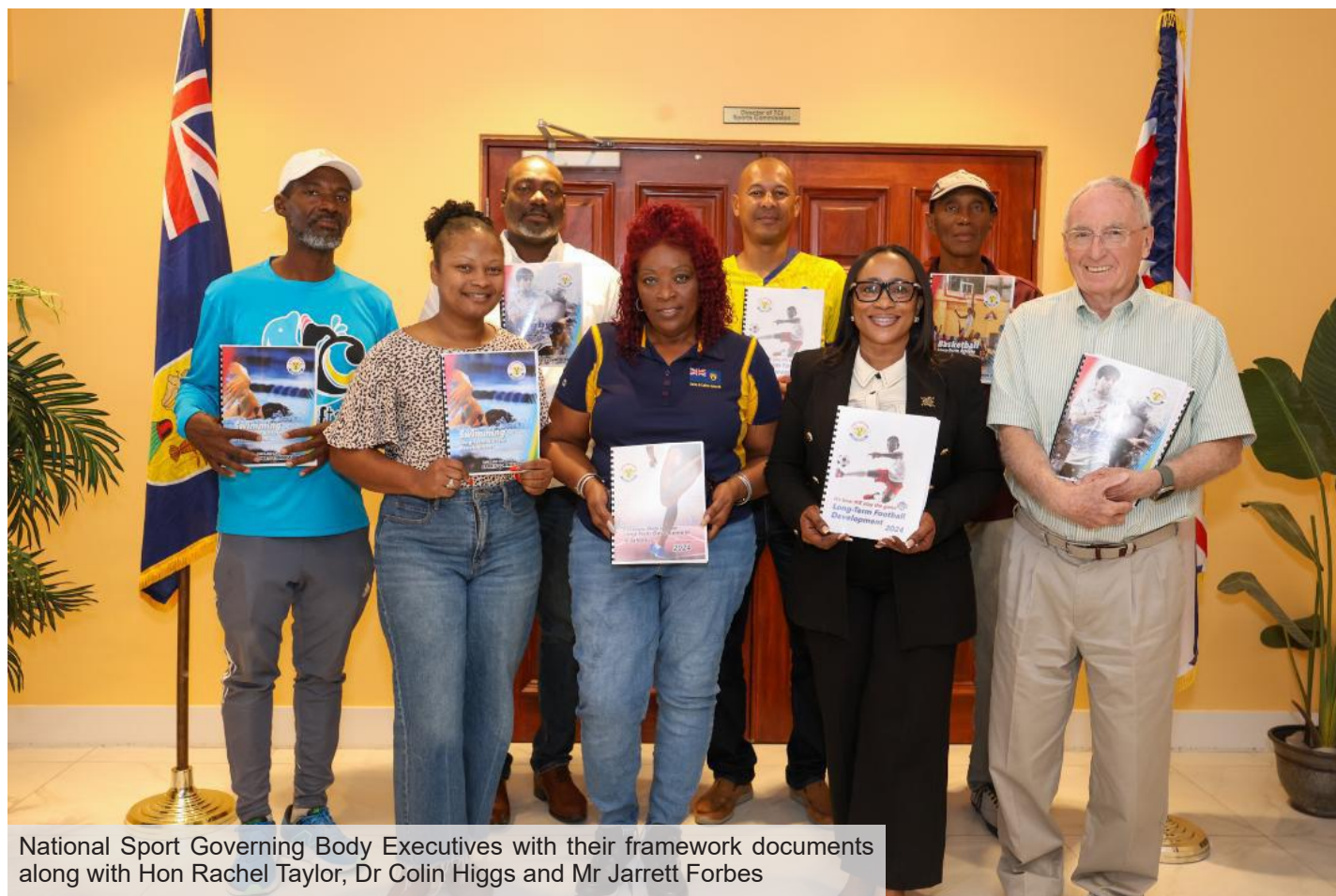
**'THREE-PEAT'**

Turks and Caicos Golf Association Dominates Caribbean  
Classic for Historic Three Straight wins

**See Story on Page 32**



# Turks and Caicos Islands Launch Long-Term Athlete Development Frameworks to Shape the Future of Sport



National Sport Governing Body Executives with their framework documents along with Hon Rachel Taylor, Dr Colin Higgs and Mr Jarrett Forbes



L-R: Director of Sport Jarrett Forbes, Hon. Rachel Taylor and Dr Colin Higgs

The future of sport in the Turks and Caicos Islands took a major leap forward in March with the official launch of the Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) Frameworks, a strategic roadmap designed to guide young athletes from grassroots participation to elite performance. After years of development, specialised LTAD frameworks have been developed for basketball, football, cricket, swimming, athletics, rugby,

along with a general provision that supports other sports. These frameworks provide science-based models to ensure athletes train and compete according to their stage of physical, mental, and emotional development.

This initiative was developed in collaboration with Dr. Colin Higgs, Professor Emeritus at the School of Human Kinetics and a nationally renowned consultant in coaching and athlete

development across Canada and the Caribbean. Dr. Higgs' extensive expertise has been instrumental in shaping a model tailored to the unique context and ambitions of TCI sport. "We started three years ago with the Long Term Athlete Development Symposium... following that, I have been working with six of the national sport governing bodies to develop their own LTAD plan," says Dr. Higgs. "Since then, I've come back and I've been working with the National Sport Governing Bodies (NSGBs) on two things. One is strengthening their administration and being more effective. Then with the sports that I had been working with, developing their LTAD plans, working with them on how they are going to implement those plans to make it a reality, not just a document that sits on a shelf."

Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Social Services, added:

"This has been a three-prong approach as it commenced 3 years ago. We had the framework development that took place and what I like about it

is that we have been able to use some of the material to assist in the development and improvement into the Physical Education curriculum within our schools from grade 3-6." Hon Taylor explains, "This speaks specifically to long-term development in athletes, so we have a framework in place for each of the sport disciplines. In discussion with Colin, he has highlighted the importance for us to ensure that we focus on grassroots sports and what we want to do is ensure that our children have the opportunity not just to focus on one sporting discipline in their life, but to start very early, giving them the opportunity to be exposed to the various disciplines. At a later stage, they will identify their niche in sports.

There is much more that can be done in terms of developing our facilities. But we are on a mission to bring up, bring about the necessary change." The LTAD documents serve as critical tools for National Sport Governing Bodies, equipping them with clear direction and consistent strategies for long-term success. Each framework outlines key components such as:

- TCI's Seven Stages of Long-Term Athlete Development
- Stage-by-stage guidance on training, competition, and recovery
- Podium Pathways to identify and support high-performance talent
- Sport-specific considerations and factors influencing success

These frameworks represent a bold commitment to excellence and sustainability in sport. By applying LTAD principles, the TCI sports community is investing in a future where young athletes are nurtured properly and positioned to thrive on the regional and international stage.

For more information and to apply the framework to your sport body, contact Compliance and Support Manager, Mrs Joddy Harvey at [jcharvey@gov.tc](mailto:jcharvey@gov.tc).



# Supporting Our Athletes, Building Pathways: Creating a Sustainable Future for TCI Athletes



Jarrett Forbes

First, I would like to sincerely thank Mr. Drexwell Seymour for his passion and advocacy for youth and sports development in the Turks and Caicos Islands. His article, "We Must Prepare Our Athletes Better So They Can Perform Better," raises important points that deserve thoughtful reflection and action. We all share a common goal: to see our athletes excel, to build national pride, and to use sports as a vehicle for uniting our people and inspiring future generations. I welcome this opportunity to provide further context about the work underway, the vision guiding us, and the realities we must confront as a nation of our size and stage of development.

## Current Sport Landscape

Over the past few years, the TCI Sports Commission has worked to lay a solid foundation for the future, including:

- Structured competition through the TCI School Sports Program (TCISS) across multiple disciplines and other youth initiatives like the Police Action League (PAL)
- Launch of the Sports Performance Centre, providing athletes with access to strength and conditioning, performance monitoring, and injury prevention services.
- Implementation of the Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) Framework, a sci-

ence-based, age-appropriate model for athlete progression.

- Establishment of the Athlete Development Fund (ADF) and other grant programmes to support athletes committed to long-term development pathways.
  - Creation of the National Athlete Database, tracking athletic growth and readiness over time.
  - 61 athletes have received athlete assistance grants or Athlete Development Funding in the last financial year
  - Over 13 million dollars have been invested in sports and recreational facilities development and refurbishment over the last five years
- These initiatives are essential building blocks, ensuring that our athletes have the systems they need to eventually succeed consistently at the regional and international levels.

## The Unique Realities We Must Navigate

It is important to highlight the realities that shape our journey, not as excuses, but as context:

- We are a nation of approximately 50,000 people, with around 15,000 Turks and Caicos Islanders eligible for national representation. That's roughly 800 to 1,500 individuals (ages 14-28) interested in playing competitive sports.
- We compete against countries with vastly larger populations,

including Jamaica (approx. 3 million), Trinidad and Tobago (approx. 1.3 million), Dominican Republic (over 11 million), Bahamas (over 400,000), Barbados (over 250,000), and others.

This difference means organic talent emergence is less likely for TCI. Growth must be intentional, strategic, and heavily supported from the grassroots up.

Historically, our successes often came from athletes who were developed externally; in Jamaica, the U.S., or elsewhere and who were able to access larger high-performance ecosystems.

Today, we stand at a critical junction:

We must build a domestic high-performance environment that can nurture athletes residing here in TCI; giving them the tools to develop at home and succeed internationally.

We fully recognise several areas that must be strengthened and acknowledge our current gaps: Specialist Coaching; Competition Exposure; Early Talent Identification; Athlete Support Services; and Strategic Planning and Monitoring. These are not new realisations, they are part of the Commission's ongoing strategic agenda; but sustained progress requires time, partnerships, and continued investment.

As much as we desire immediate medals and podium finishes, true success (the kind that becomes sustainable and reliable) requires long-term, generational investment.

Countries that dominate CARIFTA today spent decades building systems, facilities, coach development programs, and competitions before seeing consistent results.

We must be patient and persistent. We are building a sports system for the future, not just for a single season. And while we build and aim for international excellence, we must balance Sport for Development and High Performance. It is important to understand that the Sports Commission operates under a dual mandate:

1. Sport for Development – using sports as a tool to build healthier communities, engage youth, reduce crime, and foster national pride.
2. High Performance – identifying, preparing, and supporting athletes to excel at regional and international competitions.

This balanced approach ensures that while we aim for international

excellence, we are also expanding the base of participation, offering hope and opportunity to all.

Our youth population is small, and the pathway to consistent international medals requires nurturing talent from a very young age, building competition readiness over time, and surrounding athletes with a full ecosystem of support.

## Conclusion

Mr. Seymour's call for collaboration is timely. The Sports Commission is committed to working alongside national federations, athletes, private sector partners, parents, and the entire community to drive excellence.

In recent days, some have expressed disappointment, and while setting higher standards for national representation is important and necessary, it is equally important to recognize that standards without pathways are a set-up for failure.

If we want our athletes to meet higher standards, we must build structured, intentional pathways to prepare them.

Without development systems, competition exposure, coaching, and performance support, it is unrealistic and unfair to expect athletes to excel at the highest levels. We must be careful not to place blame on the very young people we are trying to inspire. Their presence at the recent CARIFTA was not a failure; it was a necessary step in the journey. Showing up matters. Growth takes time.

The responsibility for raising standards and ensuring athletes can meet them rests with all of us: administrators, coaches, national federations, government, private sector, and the wider community. We are not simply preparing athletes for a single event. We are building a sustainable system of excellence that will serve the Turks and Caicos Islands for generations to come.

We are immensely proud of every athlete who showed up and competed under the Turks and Caicos Islands flag and we honor all who do so in all our various sport disciplines. Their commitment, their courage to step onto the regional and international stage, and their willingness to represent their country deserve acknowledgment, respect and most importantly support.

If we stay committed, collaborative, and focused, the future of sports in TCI will be bright, resilient, and full of champions.



# Oliver Smith KC Steps Away from TCIFA Gen Sec Position; Tamara Hall-Worme Assumes Role



Oliver Smith KC resigned from the TCIFA General Secretary role at the TCIFA

After eight years as general secretary of the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA), attorney Oliver Smith, K.C., is stepping away. Announcing Smith's departure, the TCIFA said that Smith's tenure was distinguished by notable accomplishments, including the enhancement of youth development football programs, the expansion of both staff and specialized coaching personnel, the improvement of facilities and operational management, and the successful hosting of local events and international tournaments, which garnered global attention for the Turks and Caicos Islands. "Mr. Smith's leadership and vision have laid a strong foundation for future growth, and his efforts have been instrumental in elevating the sport within the community," the release said. The release continued: "As the TCIFA bids farewell to Mr. Smith, the association expresses its deepest gratitude for his dedication and hard work. His dedication to cultivating local talent is evidenced by his efforts to create educational opportunities that facilitate player development pathways. Promoting football as a unifying force,



Tamara Hall-Worme has been appointed as the new TCIFA General Secretary

even before his tenure as General Secretary, has left an indelible mark on the organization. While Mr. Smith embarks on other endeavors, he leaves behind a legacy of passion and progress that will continue to inspire others." To that end, the TCIFA has announced Mrs. Tamara Hall-Worme as the new General Secretary. "With Mrs. Hall-Worme stepping into the role, TCIFA is optimistic about the future. Her dynamic leadership style and innovative approach are expected to build upon the successes of her predecessor, ensuring that the Turks and Caicos Islands remain a vibrant hub for football excellence," the released continued. The TCIFA's news release continued: "Mrs. Hall-Worme's journey in football commenced in 2011 when she joined the Women's Football League as a wing defender for Revolutions Football Club. To deepen her understanding of the sport and its organizational dynamics, she undertook various courses and workshops, thereby equipping herself to contribute effectively to the development of football within the islands. "Since 2015, she has played an active role in supporting the development of

Beach Soccer, traveling as Team manager with the Men's Beach Soccer National team in over five international competitions. Her commitment to the sport has led her to assume other positions, including Match Commissioner and Match Coordinator. "As a certified FIFA/Concacaf Match Commissioner and Match Coordinator, she's had the opportunity to officiate numerous matches both locally and internationally. Most recently, Mrs. Hall-Worme served on the TCIFA Council as an elected member. "Mrs. Hall-Worme is particularly passionate about empowering young athletes, recognizing that nurturing talent from a young age is crucial for the sport's future success in the Turks and Caicos Islands. She is eager to implement strategic initiatives that will enhance the association's resources, with an aim to elevate the sport's profile and accessibility throughout the islands." Hall-Worme described herself as deeply committed to remaining actively involved, engaged, and informed; firmly believing in the importance of continuous learning and the humility to listen, pointing out that such principles

foster both personal and professional growth.

"I am thrilled to embrace the opportunity to serve as the General Secretary. With unwavering enthusiasm and dedication, I aim to bring the same passion and energy to this role that I have demonstrated throughout my contributions over the past decade," commented Hall-Worme.

With her appointment, the TCIFA said she is poised to embark on a new chapter, one that promises growth and a renewed commitment to excellence.

The TCIFA said it looks forward to the positive impact Hall-Worme will have on the future of football in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

President of the TCIFA, Sonia Fulford said that her appointment will bring a fresh perspective to the role.

"As the President of TCIFA, I am confident that the appointment of Mrs. Hall-Worme for the General Secretary position will bring fresh perspectives and energy to our organization. I extend my gratitude to the outgoing General Secretary for years of dedicated service and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

"With Mrs. Hall-Worme at the helm, we anticipate an era of innovation and collaboration, where our focus will remain on fostering local talent and expanding our reach both locally and internationally. Her proven track record and her dedication to the sport make her an ideal candidate to lead us into this exciting new phase.

"Our commitment to excellence remains unwavering, and with Mrs. Hall-Worme's leadership, we are poised to achieve new heights. Together, we will continue to work passionately towards making the Turks and Caicos Islands a beacon of football excellence," commented President Sonia Fulford.

## Salt Rakers Aquatic Club Shines at ASAJ Walter Lowi Memorial Sprint Classic in Jamaica



Samuel Martin mined bronze at the event.



Mikayla McDonald, in her first international meet, capturing a bronze.

Eighteen swimmers from the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club proudly represented their team at the ASAJ Walter Lowi Memorial Sprint Classic, held at the National Aquatic Centre in Kingston, Jamaica.

The meet, named in honor of veteran Jamaican swim coach Walter Lowi, celebrates his lasting impact on age-group swimming. It encourages athletes to challenge themselves by swimming longer distances and uniquely places swimmers into age groups based on their actual birthdate on the morning of the competition. This often results in athletes competing in new age categories, adding an extra layer of excitement and challenge.

Salt Rakers' Samuel Martin delivered

an outstanding performance, earning bronze medals in both the Boys 50m Backstroke and Boys 50m Butterfly events. Teammate Mikayla McDonald also made a strong impression at her very first international meet, capturing a bronze medal in the Girls 50m Freestyle event.

The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club congratulates both Samuel and Mikayla for their achievements and commends them for their hard work and dedication. The club also extends heartfelt thanks to all participating swimmers, encouraging them to continue training hard, improving, and striving for excellence.

Salt Rakers is proud of every swimmer's effort and looks forward to more great performances in the future.



# Turks and Caicos Golf Association Dominates Caribbean Classic for Historic 'Three-Peat' as Champions



The victorious Turks and Caicos Team with their trophy



Some members of the winning team

History was made on the greens of Casa de Campo as the Turks and Caicos Islands Golf Association (TCIGA) secured an unprecedented third consecutive championship at the 29th annual Caribbean Classic Golf Tournament, held from April 29th to May 2nd, 2025.

This remarkable achievement underscores a significant surge in the prominence of golf within the Turks and Caicos Islands, a success largely attributed to the strategic team assembled by Sean Wilson, Head Professional at the esteemed Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Club.

A strong contingent of 48 golfers proudly represented the TCIGA, competing fiercely across both the Men's and Women's divisions. Their enthusiastic participation was duly rewarded with victories in the men team category.

Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Sports, Turks and Caicos Islands

stated "On behalf of the Government and the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, I extend heartfelt congratulations to our national golf team for their outstanding achievement at the 29th Caribbean Golf Classic. Securing a third consecutive victory is a testament to the team's dedication, skill, and the growing stature of golf in our nation.

This accomplishment not only brings pride to our islands but also inspires our youth to pursue excellence in sports.

Let us celebrate this momentous victory and look forward to continued success in the years to come."

"This three-peat victory truly reflects the growing passion and increasing involvement in golf within the Turks and Caicos," commented TCIGA President Fraser Dods. "To bring home the coveted George Noon Cup for the third year run-

ning, after nearly three decades of competition, fills us with immense pride for Turks and Caicos golf."

The team's dominant performance stemmed from unwavering determination and exceptional play across all flights and categories. The men's team clinched the prestigious Robert Grell Trophy. This near clean sweep across all team divisions highlights the burgeoning depth of talent within the TCIGA membership.

The Caribbean Classic, organized annually by the Caribbean Golf Association, unites golfers from its twelve member countries. The tournament features both individual and team competitions, with each participating nation fielding an unlimited number of players who compete over three days, playing eighteen holes each day.

Having captured the George Noon Cup in 2023 for the first time in 27 years of participation in 2023, 2024 and now again in 2025, Team Turks and Caicos once again amassed the highest overall points, solidifying their reign as champions. This three consecutive victory marks a significant milestone for sports in the Turks and Caicos Islands and for the burgeoning golf community.

## Individual performances

Beyond the collective triumph, individual brilliance shone through from several TCI golfers. Andrea Todd delivered a stellar performance to win the ladies' Flight 1. On the men's side, Kurt Rivers, Jamie Gray, Dale Hodgkins, Simon Dobbs, Steven Kendrew, and Mark Fulford all showcased impressive form. Their individual successes were crucial in bolstering the team's overall victory.

"This incredible team performance speaks volumes about the dedication and talent we have within the TCIGA," stated Mark Fulford, Vice President of the TCIGA. "To witness such commitment and skill across all divisions is truly inspiring and signals a very bright future for golf in the Turks and Caicos."

## Building on a Legacy of Success

Jarrett Forbes, TCI Director of Sports, expressed his optimism for the future of the sport. "This victory underscores the tremendous potential for golf in the Turks and Caicos," he noted. "We are eager to encourage more young people in our islands to embrace this fantastic sport."

Sean Wilson, Head Golf Professional at Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Club, echoed this sentiment. "This is a truly monumental achievement for TCI golf," he said. "Bringing home trophies in two out of three divisions is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the TCIGA executive and all its players."

Special thanks to Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Club, and the hard work of golf professionals Ashley Gravett and Justin Simmons in bringing so many more new golfers into the sport.

President Fraser further commented that, "Summer kids golf camps are a great way for children to receive a fun introduction to the game. These summer clinics run in June and July and all are welcome to attend and get a taste of the fastest growing sport in TCI"

This third consecutive victory at the Caribbean Classic establishes a new and impressive legacy for golf in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The TCIGA is managed by a dedicated volunteer executive committee comprising Fraser Dods (President), Mark Fulford (Vice President), Denise Douglas (Secretary), Dale Hodgkins (Treasurer), Andrea Todd, and Roberto Stipa. Through their collective efforts and the growing enthusiasm of TCI golfers, the future of the sport in the region looks exceptionally promising.

The Caribbean Classic remains a highlight on the Caribbean Golf calendar, bringing together amateur golfers from twelve nations, including the Turks and Caicos, Puerto Rico, Guadalupe, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominican Republic, Barbados, the Cayman Islands, Martinique, St Lucia, and the USVI.