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	INTERIM DPP, AUDITOR GENERAL APPOINTED PG2		TWO TEACHERS ARRESTED ON CHILD ABUSE ALLEGATION PG4
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'EMERGENCY' SCAMS ON THE RISE

Scam target Vulnerable Individuals
Scotiabank Urges Customers to Stay Alert

SEE PAGE 5

INTERIM AUDITOR GENERAL, DPP APPOINTED

Her Excellency the Governor, Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam has announced the interim appointments of Auditor General and Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), following the departure of Auditor General Sandra Stephens-Malcom and Director of Public Prosecutions Mr. Philip Bennetts.

These interim arrangements are designed to provide continuity, resilience and effective leadership within two critical institutions of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Interim Auditor General Mr. Khalid Hamid has been appointed as interim Auditor General, following consultation with the Hon. Premier and Hon. Leader of the Opposition. He brings over 30 years of extensive public audit experience.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Hamid has contributed to a wide range of projects including international standard-setting and capacity development within the global supreme audit institution community. He has also served on several influential committees including chairing the Financial Audit and Accounting Subcommittee of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI).

In addition, he is currently a member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) Professional Accountancy Organization Development and Advisory Group (PA-ODAG). For the past five years, Mr. Hamid has held the role of International Director at the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), advancing public financial management and oversight.

This interim appointment ensures strong leadership and grip at a critical juncture for Office of the Auditor General and



Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam

the audit of the government accounts, safeguarding transparency and accountability during this period of transition. Interim Director of Public Prosecutions Mrs. Christine E. Johnson Spence has been appointed interim Director of Public Prosecutions, following consultation with the Hon. Premier, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and the Judicial Services Commission.

She brings more than 17 years of prosecutorial and legal experience, including her role as Se-

nior Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions in Jamaica, where she led specialized units including human trafficking and sexual offences.

She has successfully prosecuted some of Jamaica's most complex and high-profile criminal cases, including landmark cybercrime convictions and multi-appellant appeals before the Court of Appeal.

Mrs. Johnson Spence's experience extends to legislative reform, international representation, and the training of

prosecutors and law enforcement officers in trial preparation and evidence handling.

She holds advanced legal qualifications and is also a gazetted mediator, certified corporate governance and labour relations specialist, and NAGTRI International Fellow.

Her interim appointment serves to ensure immediate and robust leadership during a period of heightened demand on the criminal justice system. The appointment reflects the need for proven expertise in managing complex criminal cases and strengthening prosecutorial support to law enforcement agencies at this critical time.

Commenting on these appointments, Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam stated:

"I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to Ms. Sandra Stehens-Malcom as Auditor General, and Mr. Philip Bennetts KC as Director of Public Prosecutions, for their dedicated service to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The respective interim appointments of Mr. Hamid and Mrs. Johnson Spence are not only for the purposes of continuity, but to ensure that two of our critical institutions are equipped with the firm leadership and expertise they need at this pivotal time. Sound oversight of government finances and the effective prosecution of complex crime are central to safeguarding public trust, accountability and security.

During this period of transition, these two appointments ensure the work of both institutions will remain robust, resilient and focused firmly on upholding accountability and the delivery of outcomes that are vital to the governance and security of the Turks and Caicos Islands."



A Dynamic Mobile Service provider seeks to recruit for the following post:

VACANCY

Job Title: Country Operations Manager
Type: Permanent
Location: Digicel TCI, 991A Leeward Highway Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands

Primary objective of the job:

The Country Operations Manager (COM) is responsible for assisting the Regional CEO in delivering commercial, operational, and general management strategies within the market. The COM will collaborate closely with both regional and group teams to adapt and implement these strategies from a local perspective, providing strong leadership and proactive engagement with internal and external stakeholders. The goal is to not only meet, but surpass, the set objectives, thereby ensuring successful market performance.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Lead the implementation of Digicel Group and Regional commercial, operational, and general management strategies within the market. Liaising close ly with the Regional CEO, the Regional B2C Director, Regional Commercial Manager, Head of Mobile & D+ and Regional Head of DB.
- Provide leadership, guidance, and strategic support to the local team, inspiring and guiding them to surpass business objectives.
- Assume P&L responsibility, by ensuring approved targets set by the Regional CEO for customer numbers, revenue, and EBITDA are achieved across the Consumer (Prepaid, Postpaid, Home Internet) and Business (Mobile, Fixed, and ICT) segments are achieved based on strategies approved by the Regional CEO and Regional SMT.
- Execute high-quality, effective plans as authorized by the Regional CEO, with a view to ensuring alignment with both short-term and long-term objectives of the Atlantic Region and the overall Digicel Group team.
- Work with regional SMT, (Regional CEO, the Regional B2C Director, Regional Commercial Manager, Head of Mobile & D+ , Regional Head of DB and Regional CFO) to prepare and produce annual budgets and operational plans, ensuring alignment with Group and Regional goals, as well as local considerations.
- Build and maintain strong relationships within country key internal and external stakeholders, including but not limited to Departmental Heads/Managers/Directors, customers, business partners, distributors, suppliers, and government and regulatory authorities.
- Implement a management framework to oversee all business functions, including monitoring KPIs and conducting performance reviews against management framework approved by the Regional CEO.
- Make recommendations/suggestions for corrective actions to be taken for performance improvement and seek confirmation from the Regional CEO to implement corrective measures.
- Collaborate with the Regional legal teams to ensure compliance with legal requirements and internal policies, safeguarding the company’s legal standing and upholding business ethics.
- Represent the business as required, attending key corporate events and public meetings – ensuring that high level reports regarding the outcome/take-aways from these meetings/events are prepared and submitted to the Regional CEO with 24 hours.
- Safeguard the company’s brand equity and public image, ensuring a positive reputation with consumers, government, the wider business community, and other stakeholders.
- Work with the Regional CEO and Head of HR Atlantic Region to foster the development of the local team, motivating and engaging direct reports to enhance employee engagement and performance.
- Oversee and work collaboratively with key internal stakeholders to ensure successful execution of any and all roll-out strategies.
- Perform related duties: The tasks outlined above are illustrative of the type of work that may be required. The omission of specific duties does not exclude them from the role if they are similar, related, or logically assigned.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration, Marketing, Telecommunications, Engineering, or a related field.
- Master’s Degree (MBA or equivalent) in International Business, Strategic Management, or Marketing would be considered an asset.
- At least 5 years of relevant commercial experience.
- At least 5 years of senior management experience within the telecommunications sector.
- Extensive experience (more than 10 years) in telecommunications
- A proven track record of consistently exceeding targets in an internationally matrix-managed business environment.
- Demonstrated success in achieving ambitious targets through effective leadership of a diverse team both locally and remote.
- Experience and expertise in Sales or Business Development with a proven ability to drive results.
- Exceptional interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills, with the ability to influence, persuade, and deliver compelling arguments.

Functional Skills:

- Leadership and people management skills to lead and motivate diverse teams across departments (sales, operations, finance, etc.).
- Strong communication skills (both verbal and written) to engage with internal and external stakeholders, including senior management, government officials, and key clients.
- Financial acumen to understand budgets, forecasts, and financial reports, ensuring the business is on track to meet revenue and profitability targets.
- Strategic thinking and the ability to develop and execute business plans tailored to the specific market needs in the country.
- Problem-solving abilities to address complex issues related to operations, regulations, or market challenges.
- Adaptability and cultural sensitivity, given the need to navigate different business environments and cultural norms.

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Two Teachers Arrested in Child Abuse Investigation

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) has confirmed the arrest of two female teachers following allegations of child abuse.

On Monday, September 29, 2025, the police received a referral from the Department of Social Development after a one-year-old girl was taken to hospital with an injury.

As a result of coordinated efforts between agencies, two female caregivers of the private school on Providenciales, aged 37 and 45, were taken into custody. They are being held on suspicion of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and child abuse.

Police assured the public that the case is being treated with the highest priority, noting that the protection and welfare of children remain paramount. Support services are being extended to the

family, while investigators continue to work closely with partner agencies as part of the safeguarding process.

Authorities are also urging members of the public not to circulate photos or videos related to the incident on social media or other platforms, warning that doing so could retraumatize the child and family, infringe on their privacy, and compromise the ongoing investigation.

The RTCIPF's Safeguarding and Public Protection Unit has reiterated the importance of immediate reporting in cases of suspected child abuse. Members of the public can report concerns through the following channels:

- The nearest police station
- The Safeguarding and Public Protection Unit at 232-6696
- The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) at 338-



4013 Development at 338-4008

- The Department of Social Or by calling 911

RTCIPF Issues Wanted Notice for 38-Year-Old Man in Connection to Robbery Investigation

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) has issued a public wanted notice for Chuck Missick, 38, in connection with an ongoing robbery investigation being conducted by the Serious Crime Unit.

According to the police notice released on September 30, 2025, Missick is wanted for questioning and is urged to surrender to authorities immediately.

Missick, born February 5, 1987, in Florida, USA, holds dual nationality as an American and Turks and Caicos Islander. He was last known to be residing in Kew Town, Providenciales. Described as slim-built with a dark brown complexion, Missick's height has not been made available.

The RTCIPF is appealing to members of the public who may have information on his whereabouts to come forward. Anyone with details is asked to contact the

police directly at 911, or through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477 or via the anonymous online portal at www.crimestoppers.tc. Authorities stress that all information provided will be treated with the strictest confidence. Calls are answered by Miami-Dade Police, ensuring anonymity for tipsters, with only the information relayed to the RTCIPF.

The police also remind the public not to share sensitive information via social media platforms such as Facebook or Twitter.

The wanted notice concludes with a strong appeal for community assistance:

The RTCIPF has vowed to continued intensifying its efforts to combat serious crimes across the territory and urges citizens to cooperate in ensuring the safety and security of all residents.



WANTED

Issued September 30, 2025



DESCRIPTION:	
Age:	38 Yrs Old
Date of Birth:	February 5, 1987
Place of Birth:	Florida, USA
Nationality:	American/Turks and Caicos Islander
Last Known Address:	Kew Town, Providenciales, TCI.
Alias:	
Gender:	Male
Built:	Slim
Complexion:	Dark Brown
Height:	Unavailable

Chuck MISSICK

The subject is **WANTED** in relation to a robbery matter being investigated by the Serious Crime Unit.

A wanted poster of Chuck Missick, from the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force.

‘Emergency’ Scams on the Rise

By Todeline Defralien

Scotiabank is warning customers to be on high alert as emergency scams, commonly known as the “grandparent scam”, continue to rise, targeting vulnerable individuals with emotional trickery and fraudulent requests for money.

The bank issued a reminder this week that fraudsters are increasingly preying on seniors and unsuspecting clients by impersonating family members in urgent distress. Victims are pressured into sending funds immediately, often through untraceable methods, under the belief that a loved one has been injured, arrested, or stranded abroad. Emergency scams typically begin with a phone call, email, or text message. The scammer, posing as a relative or close friend, pleads for financial help, often saying, “Please don’t tell anyone else, I’m in trouble.” The urgency and secrecy make victims less likely to pause and question the request.

“Fraudsters know how to push emotional buttons,” a Scotiabank source explained. “They use fear and urgency to trick people into acting quickly. The best protection is to slow down, verify the story, and never send money without confirmation.”

The rise of artificial intelligence has added a dangerous twist: scammers are now using voice-cloning technology to mimic the voices of family members, making their impersonations eerily

convincing. With only a few seconds of recorded speech from a social media clip, fraudsters can generate a fake call that sounds alarmingly real.

Costly Consequences

The financial losses from these scams can be devastating. Victims have reported sending thousands of dollars through wire transfers, cryptocurrency, or prepaid gift cards, methods that are difficult, if not impossible, to recover. One Scotiabank customer described how she nearly fell victim to the scheme.

“I received a call saying my grandson was in trouble after a car accident and needed money right away,” she recalled. “My heart stopped. But when I asked a personal question only he would know, the caller hesitated. That’s when I knew it wasn’t him.”

Unfortunately, many are not as fortunate. Some victims never recover the money, while others suffer lasting emotional trauma. The Police believe such cases are underreported, as victims often feel too embarrassed to come forward.

Why the Scam Works

According to a United States fraud prevention experts, the success of emergency scams lies in their psychological manipulation. By creating a false crisis, scammers cloud judgment and push victims into hasty decisions. They exploit family loyalty, especially among grandparents who are eager to protect younger relatives.

“Scammers want you to act first and think later,” said the fraud prevention officer. “They’ll even pressure victims to keep the call secret, saying they don’t want to worry the rest of the family. That isolation is part of the trick.”

Scotiabank’s Advice to Customers

In response to the rising trend, Scotiabank is urging customers to take simple but powerful steps to protect themselves:

- Pause before acting. Stay calm and resist the urge to act immediately.
- Verify the caller. Contact the relative directly using a trusted phone number.
- Ask personal questions. Scammers may stumble when asked for details only a true family member would know.
- Never send money secretly. Talk to another family member, friend, or the bank before transferring funds.
- Be cautious of payment requests. No legitimate authority will demand gift cards, cryptocurrency, or wire transfers under pressure.

Scotiabank also encourages customers to visit its official website and branch locations for fraud awareness materials and to report any suspicious incidents.

A Community Effort

Law enforcement, banks, and community organizations are now working together to combat emergency scams through public awareness campaigns. Banks have trained frontline staff to flag unusual transactions and gently

question elderly customers making large or urgent withdrawals.

“These scams hurt more than wallets—they damage trust and create fear,” the Scotiabank spokesperson emphasized. “By educating the public and working together, we can protect our communities from these heartless criminals.”

Protecting Loved Ones

As scams grow more sophisticated, the best defense remains open family communication. Experts suggest families establish a secret “code word” that can be used during real emergencies, making it harder for imposters to succeed. “Talk about these scams before they happen,” a police source noted. “The more people know, the harder it is for fraudsters to win.”

In the meantime, Scotiabank is urging customers not to let embarrassment stop them from reporting scams, stating that early reporting helps protect others and gives law enforcement more tools to track criminal activity.

The police source pointed out that these ‘Emergency’ scams are a reminder of how far fraudsters will go to exploit compassion and fear, noting that while the tactics are evolving, the solution is timeless: awareness, caution, and communication.

“Fraudsters count on silence and panic,” Scotiabank said in its statement. “By staying alert, asking questions, and reaching out to your bank or loved ones, you can stop these scams before they cause harm.”



Business impact of a cyberattack in today's world

In today's hyper-connected world, cyberattacks are no longer rare, distant events that only hit global corporations. They are daily realities. Just ask Jaguar Land Rover in Europe, which recently shut down entire factories after a cyber breach, costing the company millions of pounds per week and shaking its entire supply chain.

Closer to home, Fortinet's latest annual report revealed that Jamaica alone faced 34 million cyberattack attempts in the past year. That's not a typo.

For micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Jamaica and the Caribbean, this should not feel like somebody else's problem. The risks and the potential costs are just as real, if not more severe.

Hackers today don't look like hooded teenagers of Hollywood movies. They are organised, professionalised, and often operate like businesses themselves. Many are part of criminal groups with dedicated teams for customer service, negotiation, and even marketing. Their motive is simple: money. The Caribbean has become an attractive target because many local businesses have weaker defences, limited budgets, and high-value data, from financial records to customer information. Criminals don't care if your business has 10 employees or 10,000. If they can lock you out of your systems and demand a ransom, they will.

Why MSMEs Are at Risk

Large corporations may make the headlines, but smaller businesses often suffer more when they are hit. Here's why:

1) Limited resources: Few MSMEs have a dedicated IT department, much less a cybersecurity officer.

2) Thin margins: A single week of downtime could mean lost

contracts, delayed shipments, or missed payroll.

3) Reputation risk: Customers are quick to lose trust if their personal data is leaked. Rebuilding that reputation can take years.

4) Regulatory exposure: With Jamaica's Data Protection Act now in force, businesses face legal obligations to report breaches and safeguard customer data. Non-compliance can lead to fines and sanctions.

The Cost of Doing Nothing

Let's return to the Jaguar Land Roversituation. Their shutdown is estimated to cost around £50 million per week. Now scale that down to our context. Imagine a local manufacturer in Kingston hit by ransomware. Production halts. Orders pile up. Customers turn to competitors. Staff can't work because the systems are offline. Even if the company refuses to pay ransom, the downtime alone could bleed it dry.

And there are other hidden costs:

- Data recovery and forensic investigations
- Legal and regulatory fines
- Increased insurance premiums
- Permanent loss of business partners or contracts

For an MSME, a single major incident could be the difference between growth and closure.

Lessons for the Caribbean

The Caribbean has its own unique vulnerabilities. Many businesses rely heavily on cloud-based services without strong backup strategies. Internet connections can be unreliable, making resilience planning even more crucial. Add to that our growing dependence on e-commerce, online banking, and digital government services, and you see how a cyberattack can quickly become a national or regional problem.

The 34 million cyberattack attempts against Jamaica reported by Fortinet are not random noise. They are signals. Criminals are probing, testing, and looking for weak spots every single day.

Practical Steps MSMEs Can Take

The good news is that cybersecurity doesn't have to break the bank. It requires planning, awareness, and steady investment — not extravagance. Here are a few actionable steps for MSMEs:

- Start with training. Employees are often the weakest link. Regular awareness sessions about phishing e-mail, suspicious links, and password hygiene can block many attacks before they start.

- Use strong authentication. Multi-factor authentication is a simple, low-cost tool that makes it harder for attackers to break into accounts.

- Back up your data. Store backups offline or in a secure cloud. Test them regularly. A backup is useless if it doesn't work when you need it.

- Patch and update. Outdated systems and unpatched software are wide open doors for hackers.

- Have an incident response plan. Even a simple playbook — who to call, how to isolate systems, how to notify customers — can save precious time during a crisis.

- Seek managed services. If hiring a full-time IT team is unrealistic, consider managed security service providers. They offer affordable, scalable protection that grows with your business.

Cybersecurity as a Business Enabler

Too often business owners see cybersecurity as a cost. In reality, it is an enabler. A company that can demonstrate strong data protection practices gains

trust with clients, partners, and regulators. It can compete for larger contracts, especially with international firms that demand compliance.

Think of cybersecurity as insurance for your reputation and continuity. Just as you wouldn't drive without brakes, you shouldn't operate in today's digital economy without basic cyber safeguards.

The Road Ahead

Cyberattacks will continue to rise, and the Caribbean will remain a target. The difference between resilience and ruin lies in preparation. For MSMEs, the question is not if you will face an attack attempt, but when.

Jaguar Land Rover's billions in losses might seem distant, but the principle is the same for a Jamaican retailer, a hotel in Montego Bay, or a manufacturer in Port-of-Spain. A cyberattack can stop you in your tracks, damage your reputation, and drain your finances.

Investing in cybersecurity today is investing in survival and growth tomorrow. The message for MSMEs is clear: don't wait to be the next headline.

— **Trevor Forrest is chairman and CEO of Lignum Security Limited, a provider of cybersecurity solutions and consulting services. Send feedback to trevorforrest@lignumsecur**

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The Opportunity for Ownership.



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A Dynamic Mobile Service provider seeks to recruit for the following post:

VACANCY

Job Title: Digicel Business Service Manager
Type: Permanent
Location: Digicel TCI, 991A Leeward Highway Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands

Primary objective of the job:

The role of DB Service Manager is to provide support to the DB Sales Team and provide exceptional, professional service to our corporate clientele ensuring fast and accurate processing of service requests and coordinating with other departments to resolve account queries.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Process account applications for new mobile and fixed corporate services and products.
- Be the first point of corporate customer contact for general inquiries, products and services.
- Provide specialized support to existing corporate clients with service requests.
- Accurately enter new accounts and update existing customer accounts information in GLDS , Ecare , Sales Force etc. or such other databases or applications as may be implemented by the company
- Promptly respond to customer correspondence in an appropriate manner as per SLA agreements.
- Liaise with the sales team to ensure clear lines of communication are maintained regarding customer account status.
- Quickly and accurately resolve customer issues over the telephone and or email.
- Schedule regular calls with corporate clients to discuss services.
- Build good business relationships with clients by providing prompt and accurate service so as to promote customer loyalty.
- Upsell to existing and current customers where a billing review or account issues present an opportunity
- Records details of inquiries, comments and complaints within the call log platform.
- Maintain customer records by updating account information.
- Follow-up on fault reports and provide feedback to clients within 24 hours of the query.
- Ensure corporate clients receive monthly invoices in a timely manner for payments.
- Maintain frequent contact with customers and work closely with the Credit and Collection Executive to ensure prompt payment of invoices and proper debt management.
- Process and maintain accurate records of sales and payments.
- Organize workflow to meet customer timeframes.
- Follow all company procedures and guidelines.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- A Bachelor’s degree in any discipline
 - Previous experience in customer support in the telecommunications industry is preferred but not mandatory
 - Experience handling customer complaints and resolving issues efficiently
 - An understanding of ECare, GLDS and Salesforce would be a plus
- Functional Skills:

The ideal candidate must:

- Be able to think quickly and logically to ensure expedient responses to customer inquiries.
- Be able to work with patience and courtesy in customer relations.
- Be flexible to respond to customer queries on weekends.
- Be a team player with strong business and commercial awareness.
- Be an organized self-starter with drive, excellent time management skills
- Be willing to take the initiative.
- Have strong communication, interpersonal and analytical skills at a senior level.
- Have excellent creative skills and a proven track record of achievement in customer care.
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and department specific systems.
- Have a proven track record of delivering on time with tight reporting deadlines
- Requires a strong knowledge of relevant business practices and procedure
- Ability to work unsupervised and handle multiple priority assignments simultaneously
- Excellent troubleshooting and analytical skills
- Ability to meet deadlines while paying attention to detail
- High degree of initiative and creativity

DISCLAIMER:

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A Dynamic Mobile Service provider seeks to recruit for the following post:

VACANCY

Job Title: Public Sector Sales Executive
Type: Permanent
Location: Digicel TCI, 991A Leeward Highway Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands

Primary objective of the job:

The Public Sector Sales Executive is accountable for the end-to-end management and life cycle of all public sector / Government accounts. The primary role is to grow our existing base through selling ICT and mobility solutions and effective management of aged debt. Finding new business is a critical part of the role of Public Sector Sales Executive through networking and building a pipeline of new opportunities.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Responsible for managing the end to end billing cycle and dealing with under agreed contractual SLA’s any queries the account may have.
- Accountable for managing the handset allocation fund as well as effectively communicating with the customer through the agreed lines of communication.
- Responsible for debt management. 90-day debtors are to be kept to a minimum and where necessary, ensuring that agreed payment plans are put in place and enforced.
- Conduct regular account reviews, quarterly at a minimum or monthly if the size of the account dictates such.
- Document all customer meetings in Sales Force ensuring that actions, owners and timelines are noted and tracked.
- Responsible for maintaining a strong relationship with the areas that drive demand into Sales and Service Directorate, and for ensuring an up to date roadmap of demand is maintained to allow planning and alignment of priorities and resources in Sales and Service channels.
- Required to influence the shape and scope of programs to ensure they create outcomes which are aligned with the Sales & Service goals and strategy.
- Employ strong relationship management skills as well as robust project/program planning, governance, tools and techniques to ensure all risks, issues and dependencies are managed and impacted stakeholders are always appropriately engaged through clear engagement and communication strategies.
- Take the lead on all change demands from assigned accounts, influencing the scope, outcomes, planning and delivery of change programs and initiatives to lead the business in any integration.
- Liaise with wider delivery teams beyond Sales and Service, ensuring they are aware of and focused on the strategic goals of the directorate and that the wider teams in Sales and Service are engaged through effective communications and timely engagement of Sales & Service subject matter experts.
- Must build strong and credible relationships with key stakeholders, owners and sponsors across Sales & Services directorate and wider business, influencing and being personally accountable for communicating progress and driving action to ensure achievement of deliverables and business benefits.
- Required to maintain and improve an excellent segment, commercial and channel knowledge across S&S, owning and managing cross channel alignment meetings, ensuring proposition and category alignment is maintained and dependencies are identified and managed.

Academic Qualifications and Experience Required:

- At least 5 years experience selling into the public sector and government accounts. Knowledge of framework agreements and the ability and gravitas to work with and navigate government departments.
- Minimum 2-3 years B2B or B2C direct sales & field based or telephone cold calling experience.
- Ideally, a first degree in Management / Marketing / Sales or equivalent qualifications.
- A Diploma in Management Studies or equivalent or management training incorporating the management of Human Resources and the concepts of Managerial Accounting and Budgetary Analysis.
- Knowledge of functions & operations of the Telecommunications industry.
- Knowledge of security, cloud, mobile, wireless, fixed voice & data products & service offerings.
- Working knowledge of CRM & contact management systems, e.g. Salesforce.com

Functional Skills:

You will have strong leadership and influencing skills, including communication to senior stakeholders, as you will be expected to communicate at CEO / Ministerial Direct Report level, plus excellent relationship management skills and the ability to negotiate and build effective relationships across Sales & Service and Digicel Group.

- Knowledge of Cloud, Virtualization, Cloud telephony, WAN, MPLS, IPLC, DPLC
- Experience of managing and reporting pipeline through use of Salesforce.com
- Proven track record in B2B & Business Solutions Sales
- Provide consultancy, design and development services to Digicel’s Corporate Clients
- Interface directly with customers on technical issues where necessary
- Experience in understanding and positioning Business Solutions to the Corporate market
- Excellent analytical and organizational skills
- Ability to assist in the design of networks, services, systems architecture, systems as well as the development and integration of overall solutions
- Experience of selling telecoms products and services (namely GSM, 3G, DSL, DIA, IP, PBX, VoIP, M2M services, Security services)
- Become and expert BAM in at least one ICT/Business product and service so that you can assist customers and colleagues to better understand and sell this product.
- Full CSI and CSR programs to be run throughout the lifecycle

You should have a strong commercial awareness and a proven track record in defining and scoping business requirements and ensuring benefit tracking mechanisms are in place, hold the ability to think strategically and align delivery activity to channel priorities and goals.

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A coordinated enforcement operation in Kew Town early this morning saw suspected illegal migrants fleeing from informal settlements as security forces advanced. The operation was led by the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) Tactical Unit, with support from the Drone Unit, the TCI Regiment, and the TCI Border Force. Officers targeted makeshift settlements located north of Rudy Malcolm Yard and Walter

Cox Road, areas long believed to harbor migrants living illegally in the country. According to police, the mission had several objectives: to build intelligence on migrant movements, strengthen collaboration between law enforcement and border agencies, and assess the terrain for future security operations. During the sweep, officers searched and cleared a total of 22 shacks. No individuals were found inside the struc-

Illegal Migrants Flee as Security Forces Raid Kew Town Settlement



tures; however, several people believed to be illegal migrants were seen fleeing on foot toward the north and west of the settlement shortly after the officers' arrival. They escaped into thick vegetation and surrounding terrain before they could be detained. Authorities also discovered additional shacks and footpaths linking the Kew Town site to other informal areas, underscoring the complexity of disman-

ting illegal networks and the challenges of monitoring remote or hidden settlements. The RTCIPF confirmed that the raid was carried out without incident and that no officers or civilians were harmed. The intelligence gathered during the operation is expected to play a key role in shaping upcoming missions, as the territory continues its fight against illegal migration and related security concerns. Illegal migration has remained a persistent issue in the Turks and Caicos Islands, placing pressure on public services and raising concerns about human trafficking, exploitation, and safety in vulnerable communities. Security forces have intensified their operations in recent months in an effort to disrupt smuggling networks and prevent further unlawful entry into the islands. In a statement following the raid, the police emphasized their commitment to community safety and border protection. "The safety of our communities remains our highest priority," the RTCIPF said. "We will continue to work closely with partner agencies to address illegal migration and its impact, while maintaining a strong presence in vulnerable areas." Authorities are urging the public to report suspicious activity and to cooperate with ongoing operations, noting that community support is vital in the wider effort to secure the islands.



Nigerian Judge Tunde Ademola Bakre Bids Farewell to Antigua & Barbuda Bench, Heads to Turks & Caicos Islands

After less than two years on the bench, Justice Tunde Ademola Bakre has left Antigua and Barbuda, closing a brief but consequential chapter in the country's judicial history. His farewell ceremony, held Thursday at the High Court of Justice, drew judges, attorneys, government officials, and friends, all gathered to honor a jurist whose rulings reshaped the criminal court and stirred spirited debate across the nation.

Bakre, a Nigerian-born High Court judge of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC), is relocating to the Turks and Caicos Islands, where he will take up residence and continue serving in another jurisdiction of the regional court. His tenure in Antigua and Barbuda began on September 29, 2023, when he was sworn in just in time to preside over the country's first-ever judge-alone murder trial. In less than two years, he authored judgments that unsettled the state, freed the condemned, advanced critical debates on fairness, and tested the outer limits of law.

Historic Beginnings

Justice Bakre's Antigua chapter began with a landmark case that marked the island's adoption of judge-alone trials. The COVID-19 pandemic had created deep backlogs, and Antigua and Barbuda joined other jurisdictions in allowing murder and serious indictable trials to be determined solely by a judge.

Two months into his appointment, Bakre sentenced 30-year-old Jeffrey Daniel to 20 years' imprisonment for killing his girlfriend's stepfather, Robinson Roberts, during an altercation in Newfield. The trial demonstrated the prosecutorial skill of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, then led by acting Director Shannon Jones-Gittens, while also showing how judge-alone trials could streamline justice.

But while Daniel's conviction affirmed the potential efficiency of the new system, Bakre would soon expose its flaws in a very different case.

Ray John: A Stunning Reversal

The state vs. Ray John became one of the most talked-about trials of the decade. John, a suspended police superintendent, faced allegations of forging passport bio-pages in a conspiracy that had captivated the public.

After four weeks of testimony and legal arguments, Justice Bakre stunned court observers by striking out the case. He ruled that without a jury, the charges could not be properly tried under the Criminal Proceedings (Trial by Judge Alone) Act. The oversight had gone unnoticed by the state prosecutors, but Bakre's decision made it impossible to proceed.

The ruling left thousands of Antiguan frustrated, many of whom had followed the proceedings closely in hopes of

closure. For the prosecution, it was a sobering lesson in the importance of statutory limits. For Justice Bakre, it underscored his fidelity to the letter of the law, even in high-profile matters.

Abuse of Process: The Vernon Case

Another defining judgment came in the case of Jamaican national Methoni Vernon, accused of murdering farmer Roy Carridice in 2014. After years living in Dominica, Vernon had been removed in a covert operation by Antigua and Dominica police, sidestepping formal extradition protocols.

Justice Bakre condemned the maneuver as an "abuse of process," ruling that the state's failure to follow extradition law compromised the integrity of justice. He ordered Vernon's release, a decision that drew fierce criticism from officials but was hailed by Vernon's attorney, Andrew O'kola.

"Justice Bakre consistently refused to cherry-pick evidence," O'kola said at the farewell gathering. "Even when contradictions made convictions difficult, he insisted that the state play by the rules. He brought calm authority to his duties, and his reasons illuminated not only the results but the road to them. We may not have agreed with every outcome, but we respected the method."

Balancing Punishment and Mental Health

Justice Bakre also confronted thorny questions of mental health in the criminal justice system. In the case of 24-year-old Brittany Jno Bapsite, who killed Jane Finch in her home without provocation, the defense sought psychiatric confinement.

Bakre reduced the charge from murder to manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility but imposed a 27-year prison term, reasoning that while mental health contributed to the crime, full leniency was unwarranted. Attorney-at-law Wendel Alexander, who represented Bapsite, has since appealed the decision.

Yet even Alexander, in his farewell remarks, praised the judge: "Justice Bakre is a remarkable gentleman; a devil's advocate with wry humor who kept the courtroom sharp but never lost sight of the seriousness of the task."

Revisiting Old Cases

In one of his most compassionate rulings, Bakre presided over the review hearing of Mellanson Harris, convicted in the infamous "Computer Challenger Murders" of 1994. Harris, who had served decades in prison after his death sentence was commuted to 45 years, earned a reputation as a model inmate. Bakre acknowledged his conduct and time served, releasing Harris unconditionally. The ruling demonstrated his willingness to recognize rehabilitation and mercy, even in cases that once

shook the nation.

The Farewell Ceremony

Thursday's farewell was marked by warmth and camaraderie. Legendary Antiguan cricketer Sir Vivian Richards described Bakre as a "brother," saying his demeanor extended friendships beyond the bench.

Colleagues, including prosecutors, defense attorneys, and fellow judges, praised his courtesy, his clarity, and his refusal to indulge theatrics. "Those are not theatrical moments; they are the quiet grammar of justice," O'kola said. Attorney Alexander added with a smile, "I believe he would have done many more cases with me as defense counsel. There was never a dull moment."

A Legacy for Antigua and Barbuda

In under two years, Justice Bakre's courtroom became a crucible where Antigua and Barbuda wrestled with its hardest questions: how to balance speed with fairness, how far the state could go in pursuit of convictions, and how mercy could be reconciled with justice. Some of his rulings left prosecutors red-faced; others comforted defense attorneys and defendants. All, however, reflected his deep commitment to principle.



Photo: Nigerian Judge, Tunde Ademola Bakre at a farewell ceremony at the High Court of Justice in Antigua & Barbuda on Thursday September 26, 2025.

As he prepares to serve in the Turks and Caicos Islands, many believe Bakre leaves behind not only a body of case law but also a judicial ethos—one that insists justice must be transparent, accountable, and humane.

For Antigua and Barbuda, the end of Justice Bakre's tenure closes a distinctive chapter, but his impact will continue to shape arguments, appeals, and judgments for years to come.

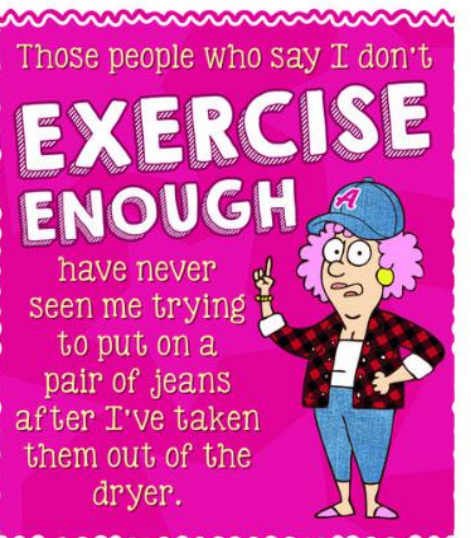
"Another Bench will gain him; we will miss him," O'kola said. "Firm in principle, gracious in manner, Justice Bakre's habits of fairness and clarity will travel well."



Photos from goodbye ceremony for judge Tunde Bakre on Thursday September 25



NEWSLINE COMICS





The Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana (Cyclura carinata) is one of the most distinctive and ecologically significant animals found in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Endemic to this region, it exists nowhere else in the world, making it an important part of the islands' natural heritage and a symbol of local biodiversity.

Appearance and Habitat

The rock iguana is a medium-sized reptile, usually gray or brown with a pale underside. Adult males can reach over 20 inches in length, including the tail. While generally shy and non-aggressive, these iguanas are an important keystone species in the local ecosystem. They primarily inhabit dry, rocky coastal areas, small cays, and scrubland. Most of the remaining wild population lives on small, uninhabited islands such as Little Water Cay (Iguana Island), Pine Cay, and Water Cay. These isolated locations have allowed them to survive without the threats found on more developed islands.

National Significance

The rock iguana is more than a rare reptile—it is a living symbol of the unique wildlife that sets the Turks and Caicos Islands apart. Its survival depends on continued public awareness and responsible environmental stewardship. As development continues across the islands, preserving native species like the Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana ensures that future generations can continue to learn from and appreciate the natural beauty that defines the TCI. As herbivores, rock iguanas feed on leaves, flowers, and fruits, playing a critical role in seed dispersal and vegetation balance. Their presence helps shape the local plant communities and contributes to the overall health of the coastal ecosystem.

Conservation Status

The Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana is currently listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Major threats include habitat loss, development, and the introduction of invasive species such as cats, dogs, and rats, which prey on iguanas and their eggs. Conservation efforts led by the Turks and Caicos National Trust, the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECRI), and international partners have focused on habitat protection, predator control, public education, and research. Little Water Cay is now a designated nature reserve and eco-tourism destination where visitors can observe the iguanas in their natural environment with minimal disturbance.

References:

Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECRI), Turks and Caicos Islands Government
Plants of the Eastern Caribbean (Botanic Gardens Conservation International / Kew Gardens Project)
The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species
"Wild Plants of the Turks and Caicos Islands" by Sara and Mark Putnam
TCI National Symbols – Turks and Caicos Islands Government Information Service (GIS)
Caribbean Biodiversity Information Network (CBIN)

Rubis Turks & Caicos Appoints First Local Managing Director In Mrs. Zaneta Burton

Rubis Turks & Caicos Limited is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Zaneta Burton as its new Managing Director, effective October 1, 2025.

This appointment marks a historic milestone as Mrs. Burton becomes the first locally appointed Managing Director in the company's history. Mrs. Burton brings more than 25 years of professional experience spanning the financial services industry, government, and the energy sector. Since joining Rubis in 2021, she has held key roles including Sales Executive and Country Representative, where she played a pivotal role in strengthening customer relationships, expanding market presence, and advancing the company's strategic objectives.

In her new role, Mrs. Burton will oversee all aspects of Rubis Turks & Caicos' operations and serve as the company's principal liaison for government and public affairs. Her proven leadership, vision, and commitment to excellence will be central to driving continued growth and innovation for the company and the commu-



Burton will oversee all aspects of Rubis Turks & Caicos' operations and serve as the company's principal liaison for government and public affairs.

nities it serves. "This is not only a proud moment for Rubis but also a milestone for

the Turks & Caicos Islands," said Mauricio Nicholls, Chief Executive Officer, RUBiS Caribbean.

"Zaneta's deep local knowledge, leadership experience, and dedication make her exceptionally well-suited to lead Rubis Turks & Caicos into the future."

"I am deeply honored to be appointed as Managing Director of Rubis Turks & Caicos," said Mrs. Zaneta Burton. "This milestone is not only a personal achievement but also a reflection of the trust Rubis has placed in local leadership. I look forward to continuing to serve our customers, partners, and communities while driving innovation, growth, and long-term value."

Mrs. Burton succeeds Mr. Raymond Samuels, who has transitioned to his new role as Managing Director of Rubis Energy Bermuda Ltd. and Bermuda Gas & Utility Company Ltd.

We extend our best wishes to Mr. Samuels in his continued leadership within the Rubis Group.

Rubis Turks & Caicos congratulates Mrs. Zaneta Burton on her well-deserved appointment and looks forward to her leadership as the company continues to strengthen its position as a leading energy provider in the region.

Liberty Caribbean concludes successful North Caribbean Leadership Summit

Leading telecoms provider Liberty Caribbean, the operators of Flow and Liberty Business, recently concluded a focused leadership summit for its North Caribbean markets, convening its senior executives and business leaders from Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Cayman Islands, St. Kitts & Nevis, the British Virgin Islands, Turks & Caicos, Montserrat and St. Maarten. The multi-day gathering at the Sonesta Resort and Conference Centre in St. Maarten was dedicated to two clear priorities: delivering service excellence for customers and strengthening adaptive leadership to drive sustainable growth across the region.

Delegates aligned on practical strategies to translate connectivity into measurable community

benefits – from improved healthcare and education services to enhanced opportunities for businesses.

A central theme of the summit was people and leadership. Discussions emphasised talent development, retention, and a stakeholder-centric approach to execution so leaders can respond rapidly to evolving customer needs and advance a culture of continuous improvement across markets.

"Our commitment to the North Caribbean is about more than networks; it is about empowering communities and enabling economic opportunity," said Susanna O'Sullivan, Vice President, North Caribbean, Liberty Caribbean.

"This summit has produced a clear, actionable roadmap – focused on

partnerships, operational discipline and innovation – to deliver reliable, future-ready connectivity to the people and businesses we serve."

Liberty Caribbean will now operationalise these outcomes across the North Caribbean over the coming months, prioritising initiatives that deliver measurable impact for communities and reinforce the company's role as a trusted partner in regional digital transformation.

"As leaders, our duty is to turn investment into opportunity," added O'Sullivan. "This summit has given us the direction, the commitment and the partnerships we need to do exactly that – to deliver reliable connectivity, empower local communities and drive sustainable

growth for the islands we serve."



Burton will oversee all aspects of Rubis Turks & Caicos' operations and serve as the company's principal liaison for government and public affairs.

Life Line



FEATURED CHURCH

Bethany Baptist Church

In this issue of Newsline Featured Church, we highlight the Bethany Baptist Church, located at 250 Bay Road, Wheeland, Providenciales.

Bethany Baptist Church is Pastored by Rev. Derek R. Hamilton. The opportunities for Worship & Fellowship during the course of the week are as follows: Sunday 11am – Service; Wednesday 7pm- Prayer & Bible Study via zoom; Friday at 7pm- Children, Youth & Women Ministry; 2nd and 4th Tuesdays- Men’s ministr; the church theme is “Connecting people to God and with each other!”



Life line Church Directory

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

Firm Foundation Ministries International Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581 Christ is the Answer Ministry, George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030 One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com. Touch of Love Ministries International Center Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731 Abundant Life Ministries International P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755 Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk, Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289 Bethany Baptist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118 Church of God of Prophecy, Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854 Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk Tel:946-1866 Calvary Baptist Church, South Caicos. Tel:946-3212 Harvest Bible Chapel TCI, Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales. Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com. https://www.harvesttci.tc.	Firm Foundation Ministries International 19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240 Church of God of Prophecy, Providenciales Tel:941-3438 Roman Catholic Church, Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136 Faith Tabernacle Church of God, Providenciales, Tel:946-4073 New Testament Church of God, Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175 New Testament Church of God, South Caicos Tel:946-3631 Methodist Church, Grand Turk Tel:946-2352 Healing Waters Ministries, Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867 House of Prayer Church of God, Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309 Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727 Mount Mariah Baptist Church, Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205 New Beginning Harvest Ministry, Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759 New Testament Church of God Orea Alley P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-1255 Airport Road, South Caicos Tel:231-2402	Firm Foundation Ministries International Waterloo Road, Grand Turk. Telephone: 649-332-624 Paradise Baptist Church, Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349 Revival Faith Center, North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349 Salem Baptist Church, Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565 Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181 St. Monica’s Anglican Church P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499 Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh Day Adventists, P.O. Box 803, Providenciales United Pentecostal Church, Brown’s Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852 Wesleyan Methodist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596 Editor’s Note: If your Ministry is not listed and/or you would like for it to be part of the NEWSLINETCI Church Diary, contact us at:contact@newslinetci.com
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Government Will Be Fearless In Charting The Next Decade

By Todeline Defralien

Premier and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Investment and Trade, Charles Washington Misick said his government will be fearless in charting the next decade, not only by building ports, schools, and roads, but by investing in its people, ideas, and boundless entrepreneurial energy. Misick also stated that the future under his government will not just be about development; it will be about transformation. “Together with Invest TCI we will position the Turks and Caicos Islands as a model of innovation, resilience, and inclusive growth for the all. The next decade is not something we wait for it is something we will create,” he said during Invest TCI’s 4th annual general meeting held at the Ritz Carlton ballroom in Providenciales, on Tuesday September 16th, 2025. Meantime, Misick said as Invest TCI marks its 10-year anniversary of driving private sector growth and supporting entrepreneurship, the government has been complementing these efforts with record levels of public investment. “These investments include the \$26.2 million South Dock Port Redevelopment, the construction of new schools, more than \$8.5 million in road and highway upgrades, and strategic utility projects such as a new SWRO plant and upgraded water distribution systems.

Together, these public and private sector initiatives underscore how Invest TCI’s decade of work has facilitated sustainable growth, with the Government reinforcing that progress through modern infrastructure, enhanced resilience, and improved competitiveness across the entire economy,” he explained. In addition, Premier Misick said as they define the next phase of growth, they must be more intentional in how they design and measure success. “True success is multifaceted: it must reflect cultural and social wellbeing, environmental stewardship, and our collective capacity to absorb new development without strain. In the case of Provo, we must do a better job of managing growth so that it empowers not overwhelms our communities,” he said. Misick added: “For too long, the emphasis has been weighted toward foreign direct investment, with insufficient attention on building domestic industries and ensuring meaningful local impact. Moving forward, we must carefully consider the carrying capacity of our economy and ensure that growth is both inclusive and sustainable, strengthening our people as much as our economy.” He continued: “As we look ahead, our vision is clear: we must diversify our economy, improve the ease of doing business, and ensure that the opportunities created through investment are accessible to all, especially our youth and small



Premier and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Investment and Trade, Charles Washington Misick.

businesses. Investment is not simply about attracting capital; it is about creating opportunities, building capacity, and ensuring prosperity is shared.”

TCHTA Members Join Millions Worldwide for World Cleanup Day 2025

The Turks & Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA) joined millions around the globe on Saturday in celebration of World Cleanup Day 2025, mobilizing its members and their teams to cover areas around the island in a wide-reaching cleanup effort. Led by the Sustainable Tourism Committee, co-chaired by Alizée Zimmerman of the Turks & Caicos Reef Fund and Craig James of Wymara Developments, TCHTA member groups tackled both land and wetland areas as part of the worldwide campaign. The effort falls under the Association’s TCI Shines program, its signature bi-annual initiative that promotes environmental stewardship, community engagement, and sustainable tourism practices. World Cleanup Day, coordinated by the global NGO Let’s Do It World and headquartered in Tallinn, Estonia, has been recognized as an official United Nations International Day since 2024. Observed annually on September 20th, the event has united more than 91 million volunteers worldwide since its inception in 2018. “We are proud to ensure Turks and Caicos is represented on the global stage

for such an important movement,” said Craig James, “Sustainability is at the very heart of the Association’s mission. The success of our industry depends on the health of our environment, and initiatives like World Cleanup Day remind us that every stakeholder has a role to play. Through TCI Shines and the work of our Sustainable Tourism Committee, we are committed to keeping the Turks and Caicos Islands pristine, resilient, and positioned as a model for responsible tourism in the region.” Through TCI Shines, the Association has long worked alongside schools, environmental organizations, and government partners to protect the country’s natural environment. The program also encourages sustainable habits through education campaigns, reusable bag distributions, and wide community involvement. “Our industry thrives because of the unmatched beauty of these islands,” said James McAnally, TCHTA President and Managing Director for the Northern Caribbean and Curaçao, Beaches Resorts. “Our members understand that preserving the beauty of our islands is not just a duty- it is the foundation of



James McAnally, TCHTA President and Managing Director for the Northern Caribbean and Curaçao, Beaches Resorts

our tourism industry and our way of life. We are grateful to all members, partners, and volunteers who rolled up their sleeves this weekend to ensure Turks and Caicos Islands continues to shine for generations to come.”

The TCHTA encourages community members and organizations to stay engaged in future cleanup events and to continue the ongoing work of environmental preservation beyond World Cleanup Day.

TAKARA BAIN APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AFFAIRS

Journalist and public relations specialist Takara Bain has been appointed by the Office of the Deputy Governor as the new Director of Public Service Affairs. In the newly established Department, Bain, according to the Governor’s Office, will be responsible for developing and implementing an internal communications strategy aligned with the Turks and Caicos Islands Public Service 2025-2030 Roadmap and other transformative initiatives. She will act as the liaison between the Public Service and the Civil Service Association, promoting open dialogue and effective issue resolution.

Bain will oversee internal communication initiatives aimed at informing and engaging public servants while ensuring consistency with public service priorities. She will be responsible for overseeing and managing content across various internal channels, including circulars, newsletters, the intranet and social media platforms to maintain professionalism.

With over 20 years of extensive experience in media, broadcasting, and strategic communications, Bain’s professional journey has been marked by significant leadership roles, most recently as the Public Relations and Marketing Manager and Senior Manager at the Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital. In that capacity, she managed both internal and external communications, actively led patient advocacy initiatives and facilitated staff relations and stakeholder projects. She served as a communications specialist for the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, where she was responsible for managing media relations and external communications. This role, according to the Governor’s Office, equipped her with essen-

tial skills in crisis communication and public messaging. Additionally, the Grand Turk native, served as the Head of Marketing for Digicel TCI, where she successfully spearheaded numerous country-wide marketing campaigns and community initiatives. Bain holds an Associate’s Degree in Broadcasting and a Bachelor’s Degree in Radio, Television and Internet Media from Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida. She further bolstered her qualifications with a Master’s Degree in Project Management from the University of the West Indies. Additionally, she is a member of the Project Management Institute and is actively pursuing Project Management certification. Her commitment to continuous learning is also reflected in her membership with the Chartered Management Institute.

In expressing her enthusiasm for her new role, Bain stated, “I am genuinely honoured to step into the role of Director of Public Service Affairs. Leading this newly established department presents a unique opportunity to shape how we communicate internally and also how we connect with the community and I am proud to be part of such an amazing transformation. I am excited to work within the Office of the Deputy Governor and I would like to extend my appreciation to H.E. Anya Williams and her amazing team for their confidence in me.”

For her part, Deputy Governor H.E. Anya Williams, in congratulatory remarks, said, “We are thrilled to welcome Ms. Bain back to the Turks and Caicos Islands Public Service in this new leadership capacity. “Ms Bain brings an impressive academic background, coupled with extensive experience in communication and project management. She is no stranger to the Office



Bain will oversee internal communication initiatives aimed at informing and engaging public servants while ensuring consistency with public service priorities

of the Deputy Governor, having previously worked on several high-impact initiatives, including the Public Service Leadership Forum, the Public Service Times newsletter, the rollout of the Public Service Roadmap and other strategic programmes aimed at strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of the public service. “Her previous work with our office has always demonstrated a high level of profes-

sionalism, commitment and innovation. I am confident that she will continue to bring fresh perspective and energy to our ongoing efforts to transform and strengthen the public service. “The Office of the Deputy Governor extends its warmest congratulations to Ms. Bain on her new appointment and looks forward to her continued contributions to the public sector.”

Carnival of Characters and Culture: Rotaract Club of Grand Turk Delivers Magic at 3rd Annual Character Breakfast

On Saturday, 27 September 2025, the H.J. Robinson High School Auditorium was transformed into a kaleidoscope of colour, laughter, and island pride as the Rotaract Club of Grand Turk hosted its 3rd Annual Character Breakfast this year, bursting with the vibrant energy of a Carnival theme to mark the grand finale of Basic Education and Literacy Month.

From the moment families arrived, the atmosphere was electric. Children lit up with joy as beloved characters which included Mickey Mouse, Princess Tiana, Spiderman, and a lively Clown made their grand entrance, dancing and interacting with the crowd. The excitement soared during the “Dance with the Characters” segment, where kids twirled and grooved alongside their favourites.

In a beautiful fusion of fantasy and heritage, the characters then took part in a cultural showcase, embracing the spirit of Turks and Caicos through music, movement, and storytelling. Adorned in island-inspired costumes, they celebrated local traditions in a way that was both entertaining and educational.

Adding to the high-energy atmosphere was a dynamic DJ, who kept the crowd moving with a lively mix of soca, reggae, and kid friendly hits. The music set the tone for a

day of nonstop fun and celebration. After a festive breakfast, the fun kicked into high gear. Children dove into a wide array of games and activities, including basketball shootouts, musical chairs, cup stacking, and more. The face painting station was a hit, with kids proudly sporting butterflies, superheroes, and carnival masks. Meanwhile, the slime-making corner added a delightfully messy twist, sparking creativity and laughter as children mixed, stretched, and squished their gooey creations.

A colorful treats table offered sweet delights throughout the morning, ensuring energy levels stayed high and smiles stayed wide. This magical event would not have been possible without the incredible support of our generous sponsors. Their unwavering commitment to youth development and literacy continues to uplift our community in meaningful ways. Thanks to your contributions, what begun as a simple breakfast blossomed into a vibrant celebration of joy, learning, and cultural pride.

We gratefully acknowledge the following sponsors: Ayesha Stephens, Hon. Akierra Missick, IGA, Island Cooler, K & R Logistics, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Tourism, Ms. Betty-Ann Been, Ms. Verneice Selver, MT Party & Accessories and Ports

Authority. As the final game wrapped and the last slime was squished, one thing was clear: The Rotaract Club of Grand Turk had once again created an unforgettable experience. We are

already dreaming up next year’s celebration and we cannot wait to welcome you back. Until then, the spirit of literacy, culture, and carnival lives on, one character, one child, one story at a time.



The Rotaract Club of Grand Turk members share lens during its 3rd Annual Character Breakfast

THE REAL REASON YOUR PERIOD FEELS AWFUL

By Monica Uttamchandani
Holistic Health Coach - Turks and Caicos

Your cycle is a window into your hormonal and nervous system health. By Monica Uttamchandani, Holistic Health Coach, Turks and Caicos. Bloating, cramps, mood swings, low energy—we’ve come to accept these as “normal” parts of the menstrual cycle. But while common, these symptoms are not inevitable. Your period reflects what’s going on beneath the surface: how you’re eating, how you’re resting, and how your body is processing hormones and stress.

Some of the root causes that worsen your period:

Blood sugar instability or too much caffeine

Spikes and crashes in blood sugar can heighten mood swings and worsen cramps.

Chronic stress

Stress lowers progesterone and raises cortisol, throwing off your cycle balance.

Low magnesium and B vitamins

These are key for muscle relaxation and mood stability. Most women are deficient.

Liver overload

Your liver processes excess estrogen. If sluggish, symptoms can flare.

Supportive changes that ease symptoms:

Eat balanced meals with protein and fat.

Stabilise blood sugar and reduce in-



flammation.

Minimise alcohol, seed oils, and processed sugar

These worsen PMS and hormonal congestion.

Increase magnesium and leafy greens

Magnesium glycinate and dark greens support hormonal calm.

Rest during your luteal and bleeding phase

Honour the natural need for more slowness before and during your peri-

od.

Your Symptoms Are Signals, Not Inconveniences

Your body isn’t broken... It’s always adapting. And sometimes that looks like cramping, fatigue, or mood swings when it’s under stress. The good news? These symptoms are guideposts. With gentle shifts in nutrition, lifestyle, and stress, you can turn your period into something that supports rest and renewal rather than something to dread.

It starts with learning how to listen. For more ways to support your hormones through everyday shifts, follow @balancedbymonica on Instagram.

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

NEWSLINETCI

DEAR ADVISOR

Dear Advisor,
I am met this guy, who I have eventually fallen in love with. I later found out from him that he is married but going to through a divorce. The thing I do not see evidence of him going through a divorce. So now, I am harbouring thoughts of whether he is truly going through a divorce. Mr. Advisor, I relay need your advice,
Best Regards,
Doubtful lover.

DEAR ADVISOR

A New Feature from NewslineTCI

You, our readers, have been asking for an advice column to help address the diverse challenges you face in everyday life. In response, we have assembled a team of advisors who have generously volunteered their time to answer your questions and concerns. Topics will include love and interpersonal relationships, psychological well-being, environmental issues, education, and more.

Is He Really Going Through a Divorce?

*Dear Doubtful Lover,
Your feelings are valid, and it is understandable that you are both hopeful and uneasy in this situation. Falling in love with someone who is still legally married — even if they claim to be going through a divorce — can be complicated and emotionally risky. The fact that you have not seen any clear evidence of a divorce process is a red flag. When someone is truly separating, there are usually tangible steps: legal documents filed, a change*

in living arrangements, or at least openness in discussing the details. If these are absent, you are right to question his honesty. Before investing further in this relationship, you may want to set clear boundaries. You deserve clarity and transparency. Ask him directly, in a calm but firm way, about where things truly stand. If he is sincere, he should be willing to provide proof or at least share specifics about his situation. Most importantly, protect your heart.

If he is not being straightforward, you risk being placed in a position where you are waiting indefinitely — or worse, being misled. Love requires honesty, and without it, trust cannot grow. Take your time, listen to your instincts, and do not ignore the doubts you are already feeling. Sometimes, those doubts are your best guide. Best wishes, Advisor

Dear Advisor is an advice column designed to offer thoughtful solutions to everyday challenges, personal dilemmas, and complex life situations. Whether the questions involve relationships, career choices, self-improvement, or navigating difficult decisions, Dear Advisor provides clear, compassionate, and practical guidance to help readers move forward with confidence. Dear Advisor uses pseudonyms rather than your real name, to protect your identity. Reach out to this column at: contactnewsline.tci.com, using the topic ‘Dear Advisor’.

TCI 2025 TOP MODEL SHAKEM CHARLES GRACES TIMES OF THE ISLANDS' MAGAZINE COVER!

History is being rewritten in the Turks and Caicos fashion scene. Fresh off his groundbreaking victory as the first-ever male winner of TCI Top Model, Cycle 6, Shakem Charles now graces the cover of Times of the Islands Fall 2025 issue—cementing his place as a trailblazer in Caribbean fashion.

Photographed by Renau Destine at the spectacular Villa Solara in Turtle Tail, Providenciales, the editorial feels as much a statement as it is a celebration. Styled with sharp creative direction from Courtney Robinson, Founder and Executive Producer of TCI Top Model, the shoot also marks another first: a winner's debut centrefold spread.

Alongside Shakem, finalists Hubert Prospere (First Runner-Up) and Britney Bien-Amie (TCI Top Muse) join in a series of bold, fashion-forward images. Hair was sculpted by Nakier Wilson, Kier's Hairapy, with beauty by Jasmine Missick of Hello Gorgeous Makeup Artistry.

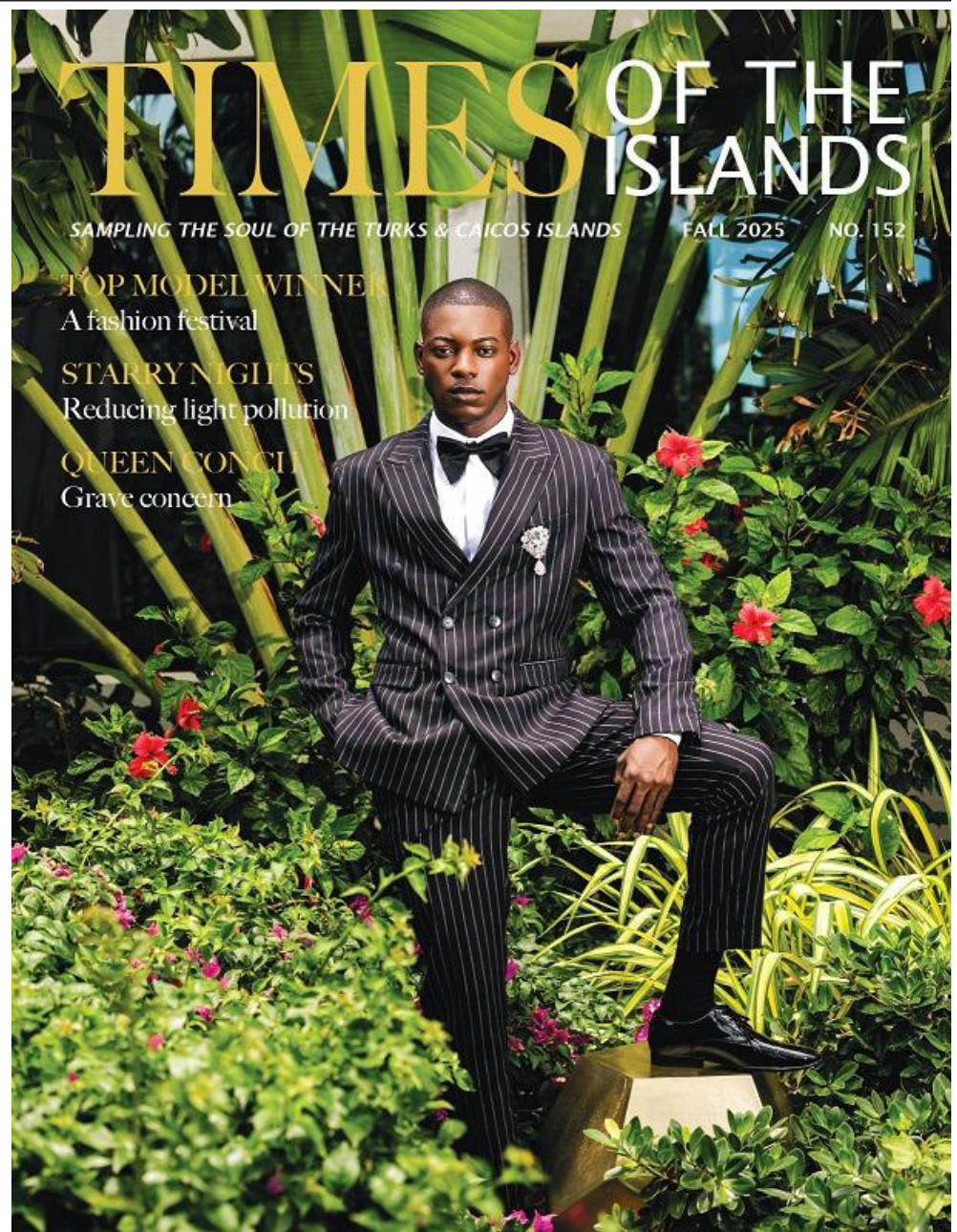
Born and raised in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Shakem migrated to the Turks and Caicos just three years ago. When TCI Top Model evolved its platform to a co-ed format—allowing both men and women to compete—he seized the moment. "I knew I had to take the chance," Shakem reflects. Shakem's bold decision was rewarded not only with his historic win but also with this iconic cover.

"Seeing myself on my first magazine cover is surreal," he admits. "It's

proof that passion, persistence, and daring to be different can change the narrative. I hope young boys and men across the islands see this and know they too can break barriers, follow their passions, and create their own paths—even in spaces not traditionally open to them."

For Robinson, the partnership with Times of the Islands represents far more than glossy pages—it is a legacy in motion, and "we are indeed grateful for the continued partnership." He went on to add: "This visibility is life-changing. It tells the world that the Turks and Caicos has talent, vision, and unstoppable creative energy. But more than that, this shoot reinforces our philosophy: out of one show come many. It's not just about the winner—it's about creating opportunities, expanding the narrative, and giving more models a platform to be seen in editorial spaces. That in itself is groundbreaking." Back in 2012, TCI Top Model took a bold creative leap. Male model Alyx Williams was featured alongside Cycle 3 winner Washanda Registre—not simply as a nod to diversity, but as an artistic experiment in contrast, energy, and visual storytelling. The images broke convention, pairing masculine edge with feminine grace in a way that expanded the boundaries of what a Caribbean fashion narrative could look like.

That moment, daring yet deliberate, now feels prophetic. More than a decade later, Shakem Charles stands



Shakem Charles graces Times of Islands Cover

as the embodiment of that vision—a male model not just featured, but titled. His historic win as Cycle 6's champion is the natural evolution of a platform that has always sought to challenge norms, elevate talent, and spark dialogue through fashion.

This issue is a cultural milestone. For the first time, boys and young men in the Turks and Caicos can open a leading lifestyle magazine and see themselves reflected in fashion's as-

pirational spaces. It signals that modelling, style, and creative industries are not confined by gender stereotypes but instead are expansive, viable, and empowering career paths. "TCI Top Model has always been about transformation," Robinson adds. "This moment proves that our platform is evolving with the times. It's not just about who wins the title—it's about who dares to challenge norms, tell their story unapologetically, and inspire others to dream without limits."

With his luminous jet-black skin, 5'11" athletic frame, and magnetic charisma, Shakem is redefining what it means to be the Face of the Turks and Caicos. His journey—from a boy in St. Vincent to the luxurious tourism mecca, the Turks and Caicos—reminds us that fashion is not just fabric. It is freedom, identity, and self-expression.

As the Times of the Islands Fall 2025 issue hits stands, readers won't just see a young man breaking barriers—they will feel the momentum of a movement. TCI Top Model is not only producing winners; it is shaping role models, amplifying diverse voices, and charting new directions for Caribbean fashion.

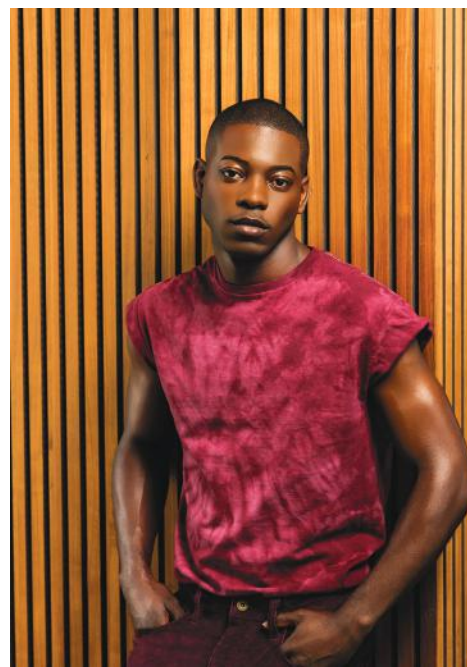
At the centre of it all stands Shakem Charles—a model, a pioneer, and now, a cover star.



Washanda Registre and Alyxandro Williams



An elegant Shakem Charles shows off his elegance



Whether it is its casual, casually elegant or formal, Shekem Charles stands tall



RTCIPF Strengthens Community Ties with Walkabout in North and Middle Caicos



The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) carried out a community walkabout on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, engaging residents and stakeholders across North and Middle Caicos. The initiative was led by Acting Assistant Superintendent Kirton Sutton, supported by Inspector

Winston Diamond, Acting Inspector Sherina Lightbourne, Sergeant Odan Douglas, and Constables D. Pordest, Hilary Hutchinson, and Estefani Diaz. As part of the RTCIPF's ongoing strategy to strengthen community relationships, enhance public safety, and address concerns, offi-

cers met with residents who welcomed the initiative and called for more frequent patrols, especially on weekends and during evening hours. Concerns raised included poor street lighting, speeding, and children operating scooters. The team visited several key institutions, including Alsada Hall

Malcolm Primary Health Care, the District Commissioner's Office in Middle Caicos, Doris Robinson Primary School, Raymond Gardiner High School, and Kew Farm. At the schools, administrators requested greater police visibility and more regular student engagement sessions focused on safety and discipline. In addition to the community walkabout, traffic operations were conducted across the islands. Officers carried out 18 vehicle checks, issued stern warnings for minor infractions, and educated motorists on road safety laws. The RT&CIPF reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening community partnerships, supporting schools, and enforcing road safety measures as part of its broader mission to ensure safer communities across the Turks and Caicos Islands.





South Bank, Turks & Caicos | Nivå Breaks Ground & Arc Nears Roof Level

This month marked an exciting milestone with the official groundbreaking of Nivå at South Bank, the most private neighbourhood at South Bank, and the newest chapter in our vision for waterfront living.

Designed by Ström Architects, this exclusive collection of six villas combines contemporary design with panoramic views across both the Caicos Bank and Juba Sound.

Momentum has been extraordinary—Nivå 2, 3, 4, and 5 are already sold, reflecting the strong demand for this rare offering. That leaves just two opportunities: Nivå 1, a rare four-bedroom villa with the option to expand to six, combining Ström's signature architecture with uninterrupted views of the coastline, and Nivå 6, the flagship seven-bedroom residence with 167 feet of prime frontage, envisioned as the crown jewel of Nivå at South Bank.

As part of the South Bank Resort community, owners of Nivå at South Bank enjoy the ultimate in privacy and seclusion in Turtle Tail, while also having access to South Bank's world-class resort amenities—from the marina, lagoon, and spa to dining, fitness, and curated guest experiences.

With only two villas remaining, Nivå at South Bank is more than a neighbourhood—it's an invitation to secure your place in one of the Caribbean's most sought-after waterfront communities.

With each new level Arc reaches, interest grows even stronger. Today, September 30th, 2025, the columns and walls of the 6th floor slab are being completed, marking another milestone on the path to roof level in October. Full completion remains on track for late 2026.



Just five Sky Villas remain—including two 2-bedrooms, two 3-bedrooms, and the extraordinary 12,630 sq ft Penthouse. Each residence is defined by sweeping views of the Caicos Bank, Juba Sound, and the South Bank Lagoon, redefining what waterfront living means in Turks and Caicos.

With Arc nearly sold out, this is your final chance to secure a home in South Bank's flagship neighbourhood.

Vibrant Flavours and Celebration at South Bank

Earlier this summer, South Bank hosted an Italian Sunset Party that brought together owners, guests, and Turks and Caicos residents for an unforgettable evening by The La-

goon. Guests sipped aperitivos, enjoyed authentic Italian dishes, and danced to the energy of a live DJ as the sun set across the water.

The celebration was filled with laughter, music, and connection—capturing the essence of South Bank as a place where memorable moments are created and shared.

If you missed this occasion, more gatherings are on the horizon. Each one offers another chance to be part of the South Bank lifestyle, surrounded by great company, stunning views, and a community that knows how to celebrate.

As we said, more gatherings are on the horizon—starting with the Spanish Sunset Party on Sunday, October 12th, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at

Lua. Following the success of the Italian Sunset Party, this upcoming evening will bring a new energy to South Bank, with family-style tapas, handcrafted drinks, and the rhythm of a live DJ.

The Spanish Sunset Party promises lively beats, authentic tastes, and the unmistakable island vibe that makes South Bank evenings so memorable. From the groundbreaking of Nivå at South Bank to Arc set to reach roof level in October 2025, South Bank is advancing rapidly, with demand stronger than ever. Windward—the visionary behind this luxury residential resort and marina community—invites you to follow every milestone and go behind the scenes on YouTube.

Reduce stress and anxiety to improve your mental health

Stress and poor mental health can negatively impact your physical and mental well-being, leading to issues like anxiety, depression, fatigue, headaches, and a weakened immune system. This can also manifest as changes in mood and behaviour, such as increased irritability, social withdrawal, and difficulty concentrating. Over time, unresolved stress can lead to chronic health problems, including heart disease and gastrointestinal issues.

According to Dr Orlando Thomas, medical doctor and functional medicine practitioner at Thomas Medical and Shockwave Centre in Old Harbour, St Catherine, stress is the natural reaction your body has when changes or challenges occur. Stress can result in many different physical, emotional and behavioural responses. Everyone experiences stress from time to time. You cannot avoid it, but stress management techniques can help you deal with it.

STRESS-RELIEF STRATEGIES

Dr Thomas says stress cannot be avoided, but persons can stop it from becoming overwhelming by practising some daily stress-relief strategies:

“Stress management starts with feeling good physically. Try getting some form of physical activity when you feel symptoms of stress coming on. Even a short walk can boost your mood. At the end of each day, take a moment to think about what you have accomplished, not what you did not get done,” Dr Thomas said.

“Set goals for your day, week and month. Narrowing your view can help you feel more in control of the moment and long-term tasks. Consider talking to a therapist or a healthcare provider about your wor-

ries,” he said.

It also helps, he said, to be around people with whom you can share information or talk about things that are bothering you, and to whom they can relate. Everyone, he said, has stress; however, if it is not managed properly, it can become a significant contributor to many diseases.

“Do you know which day of the week people have the most heart attacks – Mondays! Fridays have the least, because most are working people and they dislike their jobs so much that their bodies will not allow them to turn up for the job. That is to say how stress and your mental health can kill you,” Dr Thomas said.

He added that in Chinese medicine, it is recognised that the leading contributors of breast cancer is unforgiveness. “Women who have been hurt deeply by their partners have not reached the point of forgiving them that hurt. The organ of emotion, the breast, can manifest cancer as a result,” Dr Thomas said.

Getting outside, eating a healthy diet, taking up journaling, listening to music, even cuddling a pet can provide stress relief.

Here are some ways to relieve stress:

- Eat and drink to optimise your health

Too much caffeine can also compound the effects of stress and affect the quality of your sleep. Try to avoid or limit high-sugar foods—soda and simple carbs, too—like cakes and pastries. So, what should you eat? Consume a healthy, balanced diet (think fresh fruits and vegetables, and whole grains). There are a lot of healthy foods that can help reduce your stress, like avocados, chia seeds, dark chocolate, spinach and almonds.

- Exercise regularly

In addition to having physical health benefits, exercise has been shown to provide natural stress relief. Consider non-competitive aerobic exercise, strengthening with weights or movement activities like yoga, and set reasonable goals for yourself.

Aerobic exercise has been shown to release endorphins; natural substances that help you feel better and maintain a positive attitude.

- Spend time in nature

Taking a walk outside can also help, whether it is a quick stroll around the neighbourhood or a longer hike. Stop to smell the roses—the idea is to take a moment to appreciate your surroundings. A dose of vitamin D from the sun can also

help alleviate stress levels.

- Focus on sleep

You have probably heard this before, but getting quality sleep is important. Stress gets amplified when you do not get enough sleep. It can be a vicious cycle; you are stressed and find yourself tossing and turning, but then, you are more stressed the next day from your lack of sleep. If you find yourself too stressed to sleep, consider developing a new pre-bedtime routine, including a long bath or a cup of caffeine-free herbal tea. Stress can be a constant in your life, and knowing how to reduce stress and anxiety can be helpful. Chronic stress not only affects your mental health, but it can also contribute to a host of health issues.



Take the time you need to recover from depression

DEPRESSION CAN affect anyone, even those who seemingly have it all. The death of a loved one, loss of a job or the ending of a relationship are difficult experiences for a person to endure.

It is normal for feelings of sadness or grief to develop in response to such situations. Those experiencing loss often might describe themselves as being depressed. However, being sad is not the same as having depression. The grieving process is natural and unique to each individual and shares some of the same features of depression.

According to Dr Orlando Thomas, medical doctor and functional medicine practitioner at Thomas Medical and Shockwave Centre in Old Harbour, several factors can play a role in depression:

- Biochemical: Differences in certain chemicals in the brain (such as the neurotransmitters serotonin, dopamine and norepinephrine) may contribute to symptoms of depression.
- Genetic: Depression can run in families. For example, if one identical twin has depression, the other has a 70 per cent chance of having the illness sometime in life.
- Personality: People with low self-esteem, who are easily overwhelmed by stress, or who are generally pessimistic may be



more likely to experience depression.

- Environmental: Continuous exposure to violence, neglect, abuse or poverty can also pose risks for developing depression.

Depression is among the most treatable of mental disorders. Between 70 and 90 per cent of people with depression eventually respond well to treatment.

There are a number of things people can do to help reduce the symptoms of depression. For many people, regular exercise helps create positive feeling and improves mood. Getting enough quality sleep on a regular basis, eating a healthy diet and avoiding alcohol (a depressant) can also help reduce symptoms of depres-

sion.

“Functional treatments for depression include psychotherapy (like CBT and IPT); lifestyle changes, such as exercise; a balanced diet; and stress management techniques, like mindfulness. Other evidence-based approaches involve bright-light therapy, transcranial magnetic stimulation, and in some cases, medication. A holistic strategy focusing on identifying and addressing the underlying causes, rather than just symptoms, is a key principle,” Dr Thomas said.

THESE INTERVENTIONS SUPPORT OVERALL MENTAL WELL-BEING

- Regular physical activity: Exercise, in-

cluding walking, swimming, and cycling, can improve mood and help recovery.

- Balanced diet: An anti-inflammatory diet, rich in omega-3 fatty acids and nutrients from leafy greens and fish, can support brain health.
- Stress management: Practices like mindfulness meditation, yoga, and relaxation techniques can help manage stress and improve resilience.
- Sleep hygiene: Getting sufficient, quality sleep is crucial for mood regulation and overall mental health.
- Sunlight exposure: Daily exposure to bright light can help regulate mood and is particularly effective for seasonal affective disorder

Most functional medicine treatments can be safely used along with conventional treatment approaches to support optimal results. Your doctor will evaluate your individual diagnosis and recommend any combination of functional medicine, conventional treatments, nutrition, and complementary alternative options to support your journey to well-being.

A functional medicine approach to managing depression brings the puzzle pieces together into an individualised, comprehensive plan to help people thrive once again. The end result – a life filled with joy and happiness.

Statue of rock n’ roll queen Tina Turner unveiled in Tennessee community where she grew up

A 10-foot statue of rock n’ roll queen Tina Turner was unveiled Saturday in the rural Tennessee community where she grew up — before becoming a Grammy-winning singer, an electrifying stage performer, and one the world’s most recognizable and popular entertainers.

The statue was revealed during a ceremony at a park in Brownsville, located about an hour drive east of Memphis. The city of about 9,000 people is near Nutbush, the community where Turner went to school as a child. As a teen, she attended high school just steps from where the statue now stands.

The statue shows Turner with her signature wild hairdo and holding a microphone, as if she was singing on stage. It was designed by sculptor Fred Ajanogha, who said he tried to capture her flexibility of movement on stage, how she held the microphone with her index finger extended, and her hair style, which he compared to the “mane of a lion.”

Turner died May 24, 2023 at age 83 after a long illness in her home in Küsnacht near Zurich. Her Grammy-winning singing career included the hit songs “Nutbush City Limits,” “Proud Mary,” “Private Dancer,” and “We Don’t Need Another Hero,” from the film “Mad

Max Beyond Thunderdome.” Her movie credits also include “Tommy” and “Last Action Hero.”

Turner teamed with husband Ike Turner for hit records and live shows in the 1960s and ’70s. She survived her troubled marriage to succeed in middle age with the chart-topping “What’s Love Got To Do With It,” released in 1984.

Her admirers ranged from Mick Jagger to Beyoncé to Mariah Carey, and she was known as the “Queen of Rock ‘n’ Roll.”

The unveiling was part of the annual Tina Turner Heritage Days, a celebration of her life growing up in rural Tennessee, before she moved away as a teenager. The statue was sculpted in clay by Ajanogha in Atlanta and cast in bronze by a West Tennessee foundry, and it took about a year to complete. It is 7 feet and 9 inches tall with a base of 2 feet, making it stand about 10 feet high (3 meters).

Karen Cook said she traveled from Georgia to attend the event with her friend, a cousin of Turner’s, to honor the legendary performer.

“She’s a great artist, I love her music,” said Cook, 59. “My mom listened to her a lot. It’s a big deal and a great thing for the community to have Tina Turner in



Statue of Tina Turner in Tennessee

her small town.”

About 50 donors gave money for the statue, including Ford Motor Co., which donated \$150,000. Ford is building an electric truck factory in nearby Stanton. The statue stands near a museum honoring Turner at the the West Tennessee Delta Heritage Center in Brownsville.

The museum opened in 2014 inside the renovated Flagg Grove School, a one-room building where Turner attended classes in Nutbush. The school closed in the 1960s and was used as a barn before the dilapidated building was moved by tractor-trailer from Nutbush to Brownsville.

Bad Bunny Announced as the 2026 Super Bowl Halftime Show Performer



Statue of Tina Turner in Tennessee

The big game will take place at Levi’s Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif., on Sunday,

Feb. 8
The 31-year-old rapper, born Benito

Antonio Martínez Ocasio, will perform the halftime show during Super Bowl LX early next year.

The NFL made the announcement during halftime of the game between the Dallas Cowboys and Green Bay Packers on Sunday, Sept. 28. The sports organization teased the news with a social media post shortly before.

In an Instagram post shared by Bad Bunny, the musician could be seen sitting on a goalpost on a beach with a colorful sunset in the background. As the camera panned out, text over the video teased the upcoming halftime show performance, sponsored by Apple Music.

Bad Bunny spoke about the gig in an X post as well, writing, “I’ve been thinking about it these days, and after discussing it with my team, I think I’ll do just one date in the United States” — a reference to his decision to skip touring the country for his *Debi Tirar Más Fotos* World Tour, due to President Donald Trump’s use of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) for immigration crackdown.

Super Bowl LX will take place at Levi’s Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif., on Sunday, Feb. 8.

The most recent halftime show performer was Kendrick Lamar, whose set included guest appearances from SZA, Samuel L. Jackson, Serena Williams and Mustard. It became the most-viewed halftime show performance.

Other halftime show performers in re-

cent years have included Usher in 2024 and Rihanna in 2023. Back in 2022, Lamar, 38, appeared for a headlining set alongside Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem and Mary J. Blige.

Jay-Z and his company Roc Nation entered a partnership with the NFL in 2019, which sees the rap mogul serve as the league’s “live music entertainment strategist” and assist with social-justice reform initiatives. In his role, Jay-Z, 55, makes the final call regarding who takes the stage at the big game’s halftime show.

“What Benito has done and continues to do for Puerto Rico is truly inspiring. We are honored to have him on the world’s biggest stage,” Jay-Z said in a statement.

Added Bad Bunny: “What I’m feeling goes beyond myself. It’s for those who came before me and ran countless yards so I could come in and score a touchdown... this is for my people, my culture, and our history. Ve y dile a tu abuela, que seremos el HALFTIME SHOW DEL SUPER BOWL.”

Earlier this month, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell spoke about Taylor Swift one day headlining the coveted halftime spot.

He said during a recent Today show appearance, “We would always love to have Taylor play. She is a special, special talent. And obviously, she would be welcome at any time.”

Super Bowl LX will air on Sunday, Feb. 8.

Nicole Kidman files for divorce from Keith Urban after 19 years of marriage

Nicole Kidman has filed for divorce from Keith Urban after 19 years of marriage, bringing a surprising end to a long and seemingly successful union that brought together two superstars from the worlds of movies and music. The 58-year-old Oscar-winning actor petitioned on Tuesday to end her marriage to the 57-year-old Grammy winning country singer in a Nashville court. The documents state the couple has undergone “marital difficulties and irreconcilable differences.”

Kidman and Urban, two of the biggest stars to come out of Australia in recent decades, have been red carpet fixtures throughout their two-decade relationship, with Urban joining his wife at the Oscars and Kidman attending music events like the Academy of Country Music Awards.

The filings include a marriage dissolution and childcare plan agreed on by the couple and submitted for a judge’s approval.

“The mother and father will behave with each other and each child so as to provide a loving, stable, consistent and nurturing relationship with the child even though they are divorced,” says the permanent parenting plan, using language common in the state’s divorces. “They will not speak badly of each other or the members of the family of the other parent. They will encourage each child to continue to

love the other parent and be comfortable in both families.”

The plan asks that Kidman be the primary residential parent to the couple’s two daughters, ages 17 and 14, having them for 306 days per year with Urban taking them for the other 59.

The girls have lived in Nashville all their lives, and the documents give no indication that will change.

The filing states that each parent earns more than \$100,000 per month and neither will need childcare or spousal support.

The marriage dissolution plan lays out a roughly equal division of joint assets, with each keeping all the assets that are in their own name, including the copyrights and royalties for their artistic work.

The detailed agreements suggests that the divorce had been in the works for well over a month at the least. Urban signed the parenting plan on August 29, Kidman on September 6.

It will take at least 90 days for the divorce to become final under Tennessee law.

Representatives for Kidman and Urban did not respond to emailed requests for comment on Tuesday.

Both raised in Australia, Kidman and Urban met in 2005 at a Los Angeles event honouring Australians and were married in Sydney the following

year.

The marriage was the first for Urban and the second for Kidman, who was married to Tom Cruise from 1990 to 2001. Kidman also has two older children with Cruise.

The couple had publicly but lovingly described some marital difficulties, but there were still few if any signs they were headed for divorce. Media reports of their separation came just a day before the divorce filing.

Last year at the premiere of the Netflix series *The Perfect Couple*, Kidman told *The Associated Press* the term didn’t apply to her and Urban.

“You’re heading for trouble if you consider yourselves the perfect couple,” she said. “I’m not a believer in perfect.”

A few months earlier, Urban paid tribute to Kidman, and brought her to tears, when she received the AFI Life Achievement Award.

Urban said she showed him “what love in action really looks like” when his substance abuse problems emerged almost immediately after they wed in 2006.

“Four months into our marriage, I’m in rehab for three months,” Urban said. “Nic pushed through every negative voice, I’m sure even some of her own, and she chose love. And here we are 18 years later.”

Kidman’s film roles have included *Days*

of *Thunder*, *Eyes Wide Shut*, *Moulin Rouge* and *The Hours*, for which she won an Academy Award for playing author Virginia Woolf. She has more recently worked in television, including the series *Nine Perfect Strangers* and *Big Little Lies*, for which she won Emmys as both actor and producer.

Urban has been a major country star since the 1990s, with hits including *Somebody Like You* and *Blue Ain’t Your Color*. He has won four Grammy Awards and more than a dozen ACM Awards.

Their split was first reported by TMZ.



Keith Urban, left, and Nicole Kidman arrive at the 60th annual Academy of Country Music Awards on May 8, 2025, in Frisco, Texas.

Nesbeth says fiancée unbothered by his ‘Side Chick’ song

Nesbeth performs his hit song, ‘My Dream’, at the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness at King’s House on September 16.

Reggae artiste Nesbeth has admitted that the lyrics of his latest hit song, *Side Chicks Save Nuff Relationship*, has sparked lively conversations with his fiancée Tasha Manley, but has not led to any arguments between the loving couple, nor has it affected the highly anticipated wedding.

“We have laughed and talked about the side chick song, that’s one of the reasons I love her, her sense of humour, she is not threatened about anyone taking her space.” Nesbeth said.

“Tasha knows it is just a song and is not a situation where art will imitate life, because side chick ah side chick and wife ah wife, and my wife is my everything, there is no other,” Nesbeth said.

The *My Dream* singer said that members of the public have embraced the song which was released on the popular 2 Time rhythm. The explosive ideas expressed in the song have often ignited fierce debate across social media, radio airwaves, and even among relationship experts.

“The song has started a lively debate and we like the energy that the discussion is bringing, with some people saying the

lyrics got them thinking deep, or bussin’ up laughing, and it has even started lively arguments between the male and the females with everyone sticking to their own opinions, based on their gender,” he said.

The single is a thought-provoking exploration of contemporary relationships, layered with irony, realism, and social commentary. The song humorously explores the unspoken – and often taboo – idea that side chicks can actually help keep main relationships afloat.

Nesbeth, who got engaged last November, believes that the song does not promote infidelity, but actually attempts to “expose the reality that plenty people living, but nah talk ‘bout”.

“Mi nuh seh cheat ... mi seh truth,” Nesbeth said. “Plenty man out deh loyal to dem woman emotionally, but find peace elsewhere physically. A nuff side chick ah save marriage, believe it or not.”

The talented vocalist performed at the inauguration ceremony for Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness at King’s House two weeks ago. It was the second time performing at the event in nine years. Back in March 2016, Nesbeth graced the lawns of King’s House where he performed his breakout hit, *My Dream*, admittedly a fa-

vourite of the prime minister.

Nesbeth is pushing ahead with his promotion of *Side Chicks*, but he already has new projects and a possible album in the pipeline.

“I’m always in the studio, creating and fine-tuning. Right now, I have some fresh tracks that I believe will connect deeply with the people because they speak to real life, our struggles, triumphs, and dreams,” he said.

“I’ve been working on a body of work

that I want to represent where Jamaica ... and the wider world ... are right now in terms of mindset and values.”

The *Remove My Enemies* singer is also confirmed for a couple of live performances in Europe and Africa.

Known for blending street culture with social commentary, Nesbeth has built a brand rooted in authenticity, cultural consciousness, and lyrical integrity. He is known for songs like *My Dream*, *Remove My Enemies*, and *Blood Letter*.



Nesbeth performs his hit song, ‘My Dream’, at the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness at King’s House on September 16.

Caribbean Development Bank is Devising a Transformative Policy & Strategy to Optimise the Regional Education System

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is designing a transformative education policy and strategy to unlock the potential of the Caribbean's predominantly young population, with nearly 60% under age 30. Speaking at the opening of CDB's 2025 Regional Transforming Education Symposium and Policy Dialogue in Barbados, CDB President, Mr. Daniel Best revealed that the Bank's comprehensive transformation strategy is being devised to address the entire education ecosystem.

"The global record is unequivocal, education accounted for half of global economic growth since 1980 and two-thirds of income gains among the world's poorest people," he explained. "Education is the most powerful driver of inclusive growth known to humanity, and the Caribbean must harness this force to transform our economic trajectory."

Under the Bank's "Rebirth" vision, Mr. Best explained, CDB is seeking to ensure that every Caribbean child can read, count, think critically, and navigate the digital world with confidence by Grade 3, while simultaneously cultivating future-ready skills for renewable energy, resilient construction, agro-tech, health tech, the creative economy, and the digital frontier, positioning Caribbean youth for emerging economic opportunities.

The CDB President also revealed that the transformation strategy will promote the integration of adaptive and AI-augmented learning technologies to personalise education and lift performance. The Bank will also emphasise building a Caribbean Digital Education Ecosystem that provides equitable access to devices, connectivity, and shared learning repositories.

The enhanced approach also includes transforming universities into engines of discovery for blue and green economies, empowering teachers with comprehensive training in digital integration and ethics, and directly linking education to employment through micro-credentials and



competency-based skills development. CDB's comprehensive approach comes as stark data reveals the urgency for educational reform across the region. Fewer than one in five Caribbean adults hold university degrees, and this year's Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate results show only 44% of candidates passed five or more subjects, including Mathematics and English, well below satisfactory levels. At the same time, some Caribbean countries are losing more than 70% of their university graduates to migration, representing a critical drain on regional human capital.

The President stressed that weak educational outcomes currently constrain regional growth and deepen cycles of inequality, particularly as boys exit the education pipeline prematurely while girls' academic achievements fail to translate into leadership opportunities and pay equity. The Bank's approach, he explains, recognises that global poverty reduction over the past four decades, which saw extreme

poverty decrease from 44% in 1981 to just 9% in 2022, was driven primarily by educational advancement.

"Our goal is to build ladders of opportunity across generations and create a sustainable legacy of prosperity for our people," Best declared. "We envision a Caribbean where young innovators harness AI and robotics, where universities fuel breakthroughs in renewable energy and climate resilience, and where our brightest minds no longer feel compelled to leave the region to succeed."

President Best also called on parents to actively engage as partners in educational transformation, noting that the region has always required collective effort for success.

"In our region, it has always taken a village to succeed. And it will take the whole Caribbean village, including parents, teachers, communities, policymakers, and the diaspora, to raise this generation into prosperity," he said. "That is why parents must have a seat at the table of transfor-

mation. Through stronger Parent-Teacher Associations, regional alliances, and community networks, we are embedding parents' voices alongside policymakers in decisions that will shape Caribbean education for decades to come."

CDB's 2025 Regional Transforming Education Symposium and Policy Dialogue, which is being held in collaboration with the Ministry of Educational Transformation, Barbados, will run from September 30 – October 2 at the Wyndham Grand Resort, Barbados.

With the theme, "Stronger Together: Empowering Parents as Partners in Caribbean Education", the event aims to strengthen the involvement of this critical group in the regional education system through capacity building, dialogue with policymakers, and the establishment of a sustainable regional Parent-Teacher framework. Close to 200 participants are in attendance, including parents, educators, administrators, development partners, and Ministers of Education.

CIBC Caribbean Uplifts Vulnerable Communities with The Sisterhood TCI

CIBC Caribbean has joined hands with The Sisterhood TCI, a nonprofit dedicated to providing resources and support to the most vulnerable, in a partnership aimed at strengthening community resilience and ensuring that no one is left behind.

The collaboration was formally highlighted this summer and continues to generate momentum as outreach is expanded across the islands.

CIBC Caribbean Country Head, Terrance Gibson, underscored the importance of the initiative.

"This partnership is about more than corporate responsibility; it is about showing up for our communities with care and commitment. At CIBC Caribbean, we believe that when we stand together, incredible things happen, and this collaboration with The Sisterhood TCI reflects that spirit," he said.

Giselle Ambrister, President of The Sisterhood TCI, also emphasized the impact of the alliance.

She said, "Our mission has always been to provide essential support, encouragement, and opportunities for those who need it most. With CIBC Caribbean's backing, our ability to reach more families and create lasting change is greatly enhanced. This partnership is proof that compassion, when shared, can transform lives."

The initiative has already mobilized community members and stakeholders, with volunteers, donors, and supporters encouraged to contribute in whatever way they can, from offering time and resources to simply spreading awareness.

Special recognition was extended to CIBC Caribbean's Monitoring and Client Review Analyst, Ticore Seymour-Rigby, for her pivotal role in bringing the organizations together and helping the partnership flourish. The collaboration between CIBC Caribbean and The Sisterhood TCI is an ongoing commitment to building a future where no one faces adversity alone.



CDB President, Mr. Daniel Best.



Kash Patel and Assata Shakur

FBI Director Kash Patel on Sunday advised Americans against mourning over late so-called black militant Assata Shakur, labelling her a “terrorist”. Shakur, who was the godmother of late rapper Tupac Shakur, died last week in Havana, Cuba, where she had been living in exile for decades after being convicted of killing a police officer in the United States. Also known as JoAnne Chesimard,

she died at the age of 78. She was a member of the Black Liberation Army, a black nationalist militant organisation that largely operated in the United States in the 1970s, fighting against white oppression. She was accused, with two others, of killing a New Jersey state trooper during a shootout at a routine traffic stop in 1973. She briefly escaped but was arrested, charged and convicted in 1977 with

FBI director urges Americans not to mourn over late black militant, Assata Shakur

murder, and sentenced to life in prison. Shakur maintained her innocence, saying that she never held a gun that morning and her arms were in the air when shots were fired. Two years later, in 1979, she managed to escape again. FBI agents spotted her in Cuba in 1984, but she was never extradited to the US. In 2013, federal officials added her to their list of most wanted terrorists, making her the first woman featured on the list. The FBI was offering a US\$1 million reward for information leading to her capture.

Shakur has been hailed as a freedom fighter by many in the black community and there has been an outpouring of tributes on social media since her passing. However, on Sunday, in a fiery post on X, Patel said mourning Shakur – who he referred to by her birth name – is “spitting on the badge and the blood of every cop who gave their life in service”. “Joanne Chesimard didn’t ‘fight for justice.’ She murdered New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster in cold blood, then fled to Cuba to escape accountability. The FBI never stopped calling her what she was: a terrorist,” he said.

New York Mayor Eric Adams abandons re-election campaign

New York Mayor Eric Adams announced Sunday he was abandoning his re-election bid after failing to gain momentum against Democratic nominee Zohran Mamdani, a self-described socialist who has been fiercely criticised by US President Donald Trump. A once-popular mayor, Adams, 65, was dogged by a slew of corruption allegations and criticized over cooperating with Trump’s immigration crack-down. Federal criminal charges were dropped against Adams earlier this year, prompting resignations at the Manhattan US attorney’s office and at the Justice Department in protest against alleged political interference by the Trump administration. Adams’s dropping out leaves the field open for a battle between Mamdani, 33, and fellow Democrat Andrew Cuomo, 67, who is running as an independent after being beaten in the Democratic primary. Also in the race is Republican Curtis Sliwa, 71, a red beret-wearing anti-crime activist whom Trump has dismissed as not ready for “prime time.” “Despite all we’ve achieved, I cannot continue my re-election campaign,” Adams said in a video statement posted to X on Sunday. “The constant media speculation about my future and the campaign finance board’s decision to withhold millions of dollars have undermined my ability to raise the funds needed

for a serious campaign.” The mayoral election will take place on November 4. Adams had been polling at less than ten percent of the vote. Veiled criticism Adams became mayor of the largest US city in 2022, and said in April he would run as an independent, a move that spared him from the competitive Democratic primary won by Mamdani. In that election, Mamdani also swept past former New York governor Cuomo, who resigned from his post in 2021 over sexual misconduct allegations. In his statement, Adams issued a veiled criticism of Mamdani, who has zeroed in on the high cost of living by promising regulated rents, free bus travel and daycare to cement his appeal. “Major change is welcome and necessary, but beware of those who claim the answer (is) to destroy the very system we built together over generations. That is not change, that is chaos,” he said. Rumors have swirled for weeks that Adams would drop out of the mayoral race to allow space for Cuomo. There were also reports the Trump administration was considering a job for Adams if he backed out of the election to give Cuomo a better chance of beating Mamdani. In a statement responding to the mayor dropping out, Mamdani referenced

those allegations of collusion between Trump, Adams and Cuomo. “Donald Trump and his billionaire donors might be able to determine Eric Adams and Andrew Cuomo’s actions but they will not dictate the results of this election,” he said. Cuomo, however, welcomed Adams’s decision and struck an alarmed tone at Mamdani’s rise. “We face destructive extremist forces that would devastate our city through incompetence or ignorance, but it is not too late to stop them,” he said. A former police officer from a modest family and New York’s second African-American mayor, Adams was

initially popular but saw his star wane under the weight of the corruption allegations, rising costs of living and other challenges. The mayor was accused of wire fraud, soliciting illegal foreign campaign donations and a bribery conspiracy involving Turkish citizens and at least one Turkish official. He denies the charges. Emil Bove, who as a top Justice Department official ordered the charges dropped, has denied allegations that the decision was a “quid pro quo” in exchange for the Democratic mayor’s support for Trump’s immigration crackdown.



Keith Urban, left, and Nicole Kidman arrive at the 60th annual Academy of Country Music Awards on May 8, 2025, in Frisco, Texas.

Jamaica's Holness welcomes UN Security Council resolution authorising Gang Suppression Force for Haiti

Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness has welcomed the adoption of the UN Security Council resolution authorising the transition of the Multinational Security Support Mission in Haiti into a Gang Suppression Force for an initial 12-month period. In a statement on social media platform X, Holness said "This, together with a new UN Mission Office represents a significant step in strengthening the international response to the crisis in Haiti." The resolution passed by the council on Tuesday provides a clear mandate for the force to work with local authorities to "neutralise, isolate, and deter" gangs, secure infrastructure, and seek to secure institutional stability. It would raise the personnel ceiling from 2,500 in the current mission, first approved in 2023, to 5,550 personnel. Holness said Jamaica has been advocating for this advancement to more structured

support, and looks forward to this new chapter of partnership through the United Nations, working in partnership with CARICOM, Organisation of American States and the wider international community. "Today's decision reaffirms that the international community has heard the cries of and on behalf of the Haitian people and underscores the value of persistent advocacy. We remain committed to standing with the people of Haiti and to working with our partners to help restore security, stability, and hope for the Haitian nation," Holness said.

According to the UN, at least 1.3 million Haitians remain internally displaced due to violence, with 5.7 million facing food insecurity. At least 3,100 people have been killed in violent incidents between January and June 2025.

The country is also in the midst of a political crisis that began with the assassination of President Jovenel Moise in 2021.



Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness.

Mottley: 'The world needs a reset'

Warns of global 'crisis of truth', demands UN reform and justice beyond Europe

IN a fiery address to the United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York City last week, Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley decried a global "crisis of truth" that is shattering trust, and condemned powerful nations for ignoring wars outside Europe, while demanding reforms so small island developing states are no longer sidelined in shaping humanity's future. Speaking on the fourth day of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly last Friday, the Bajan leader told delegates that the erosion of truth is now a greater threat to peace and stability than even pandemics or financial shocks. "When we lack truth, and we lack trust, law becomes theatre, news becomes spectacle, and science becomes just another opinion. As I've had cause to say in this great hall on a few times, our world today, worryingly, worryingly, resembles the world of 100 years ago, and this has become even more evident with the closing of our borders to both goods and to people. This has magnified the geopolitical tensions which had already taken root," she warned. Mottley accused powerful nations of selective outrage in responding to global conflicts, saying the world had been slow to act in Africa and Asia while rallying swiftly when war reached Europe. "Disturbingly, war, regrettably, has only entered the daily lexicon of the West, not when thousands were dying on the continent of Africa or in Myanmar, but when war came to Europe. Nevertheless, we still call for peace in the Ukraine. Only yesterday [last Thursday], a leading British newspaper reminded us that for 500 days, 260,000 people — virtually the population of my country — have been trapped in the Sudanese city of Al Fashir. The article reported that, while political progress stalls, those who attempt to escape are killed and those who remain inside are starved. "The world must not ignore the horror in Sudan and, of course, I don't need to remind you that it must not ignore the horror in Gaza," Mottley said.

On Gaza, she struck a balance, acknowledging the need for the release of hostages taken during Hamas's surprise attack on Israel on October 7, 2023 when militants crossed the border, killed

more than 1,200 people, and abducted around 250 others. Those taken included men, women, children, and elderly citizens — many of whom were dragged from their homes or seized at a music festival.

Dozens have since been released through mediated exchanges, but more than 100 remain in captivity under difficult and uncertain conditions. But, even as she recognised their plight, Mottley condemned what she called "continuous and disproportionate attacks" on Palestinian civilians. Quoting Bob Marley, she asked: "How can you be sitting there telling me that you care, when every time I look around the people suffer?" She urged immediate humanitarian action, pointing to UNICEF's call for US\$66 million for children in Gaza and US\$200 million for Sudan over the next three months.

"At the very least, the international community must immediately find the funding to support the children... because famine, disease and despair must not define their future... Unless we forget where others are seeking to build the peace and to preserve humanity in Gaza, as we saw, the international community must not condone the bombing of those States who look to facilitate peace. It is a red line that we must never cross. Madam President, I say simply again, another year, the world needs a reset," she said. Mottley also demanded a shake-up of the UN Security Council, arguing that its structure reflects the geopolitics of 1962, not the realities of today. "It [UN Security Council] must reflect the multi-polar world that we now live in, and it must give an opportunity to recognise that there have been substantial geopolitical shifts since 1962, when you had your last reform — three years before I was born, and I turn 60 next week. "Permanent seats for Africa and a seat that revolves for small island developing states are an essential part of that reform, because we all have perspectives that must be heard," the prime minister of Barbados said.

"You cannot ask us really to show up for family photos and votes when you need them, and then exclude us from the family's decision-making —

as if you are the grown-ups and we are the children. We are not minors. We are independent, sovereign States with full capacity, and we insist on being treated as such," Mottley demanded.

Turning to the climate crisis, she challenged leaders to stop treating pledges as performance and instead deliver tangible results.

"Even as we have witnessed this vacillation that I just referred to, we've also seen a rededication to breathing new life into high-carbon and high-polluting forms of energy. And, we have witnessed a redoubling of efforts to fund military build-ups, even at the expense of financing our way to sustainability and that of a liveable planet. Barbados does not treat climate science as a mere conjecture, and neither does the International Court of Justice nor the Inter-American Court of Human Rights," she said.

Closer to home, the Barbadian prime minister voiced alarm at growing instability in the Caribbean, while urging long-term support for Haiti, stressing that security and development must be addressed together.

"There has been a build-up in military assets in

the Caribbean by both sides — the United States and Venezuela," she noted. "Any such build-up could occasion just an accident and, if it does, a simple accident can put the southern Caribbean at disproportionate risk... Haiti, once a beacon of emancipation, is today a victim of centuries of external interference and contemporary internal conflict.

"With political will, the UN Security Council and international community have the resources and the power to deliver. Haiti needs nothing less," added Mottley.

She closed her address with a vivid image that lingered long after her speech.

"I leave you with an image of a young Palestinian girl of six or seven years old walking in the midst of the rubble in Gaza. Her eyes were hollow, full of despair, but she carried her sister on her shoulders — both shoulders — recognising that it was she who would have to carry them to safety. This is the ultimate picture of hope and resilience, and let us be inspired that even in the face of the greatest adversity, we, too, can rise," she said.



Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley addresses the United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York City on September 26, 2025.

SALT RAKERS TRIATHLON OCT. 25



See Story on Page 32

Jamaica's Mount Pleasant stay perfect ahead of final four Concacaf Caribbean Cup

Mount Pleasant's Rinaldo Biggs celebrates with teammates after scoring the second goal of a Concacaf Caribbean Cup football match against Universidad O&M at the National Stadium yesterday. Mount Pleasant won 2-0.

Mount Pleasant's Rinaldo Biggs celebrates with teammates after scoring the second goal of a Concacaf Caribbean Cup football match against Universidad O&M at the National Stadium yesterday. Mount Pleasant won 2-0.

HAVING ALREADY punched their tickets to the final four of the Concacaf Caribbean Cup, Mount Pleasant Football Academy rounded out Group A action with a perfect record, downing Universidad O&M of the Dominican Republic 2-0 yesterday at the National Stadium. Mount Pleasant made it four wins from as many games, taking the group honours with a maximum 12 points.

Theodore 'Tappa' Whitmore, head coach of Mount Pleasant, was a man filled with praises following his team's run in the group stage, where they also ended without conceding a single goal. "I'm very pleased with the results. I think we would have achieved our objectives by coming out of the group stage and advancing to the next stage.

"The pleasing thing again is that we haven't conceded for the past four games, and that's something I must commend



Mount Pleasant Coach Theodore Whitmore

the team for, so very pleased with the result.

Goals from Gadail Irving in the 36th minute and Rinaldo Biggs in the 63rd saw out Mount Pleasant's romp in the regional competition.

Mount Pleasant looked comfortable throughout the night, enjoying the lion's share of possession and chances created in the contest.

Their first real look at goal came in the 23rd minute when Raheem Edwards skipped past the goalkeeper to go through on goal, but the angle proved too difficult with his final effort hitting the side netting.

The St Ann-based club created another golden opportunity 10 minutes later when Daniel Green danced past his marker and fired at goal.

However, his effort was aimed directly down the throat of goalkeeper Iraitz Agirreurreta, who was able to clear his lines.

Mount Pleasant's pressure would pay off when Irving showed his dead-ball technique, curling a free kick over the wall and into the back of the net.

With the lead secured, Mount Pleasant maintained their stranglehold on the game, creating more opportunities at goal.

They doubled their lead just past the hour mark in dominant style, akin to walking the ball into the back of the net. With a showcase of mazy footwork, Edwards dribbled into the final third, rounded the goalkeeper then pulled the ball back across the face of the goal for Biggs to tap into an empty net.

Mount Pleasant will now advance to the semi-finals of the Caribbean Cup as Group A winners, with Universidad O&M also advancing as runners-up.

They will await the qualifiers from Group B where last year's beaten finalists, Cibao, have already punched their tickets to the final four.

Cavalier, the reigning Jamaica Premier League (JPL) and Caribbean Cup champions, are still in with a chance of securing the final semi-final spot when they face off against Weymouth Wales of Barbados.

West Indies lighten embarrassment with 10-wicket win over Nepal

A REVITALISED West Indies outfit delivered a crushing 10-wicket victory over Nepal in the final T20I, preventing a historic whitewash and showcasing the potent talent within their ranks.

Despite the emphatic nature of the win, the result does little to overshadow Nepal's landmark achievement in securing their first-ever series win against a full-member nation after claiming the series 2-1.

Choosing to bowl first on a sluggish Sharjah pitch offering consistent side-ways movement, the regional side were vindicated by a disciplined bowling performance.

The tone was set early, with Nepal's openers finding boundaries hard to come by against accurate bowling led by skipper Akeal Hosein.

Player of the Series Kushal Bhurtel managed to hit a few lusty blows in his top score of 39 as the visitors put a stranglehold on the home side's top order, stifling them in a powerplay that included 20 dot balls.

The pressure told quickly after the fielding restrictions eased, with Hosein and the impressive Player of the Match Ramon Simmonds exploiting the condi-

tions perfectly.

Simmonds, brought in as one of two changes for the encounter, was the game-changer, finishing with remarkable figures of 4-15 from three overs.

His impact was immediate, triggering a catastrophic middle-order collapse for Nepal. In his first two overs, Simmonds removed the dangerous-looking Rohit Paudel for 17 and Aarif Sheikh for six, while a mix-up saw Gulsan Jha run out for 10.

From a precarious position of 91-5 in the 15th over, Nepal never recovered, with Simmonds mopping up the tail to bowl them out for 122.

The West Indies chase was a masterclass in controlled aggression.

Openers Amir Jangoo and Ackeem Auguste extinguished any faint hopes of a Nepal fightback from the very first over, with Jangoo launching a Karan KC delivery onto the stadium roof.

The pair feasted on anything short or wayward, peppering the leg-side boundary. They raced to 47 in the power play, effectively ending the contest within the first six overs. A rare dropped chance by Paudel to reprieve Auguste on 29 was a symbol of Nepal's deflated energy.

Jangoo was in sublime touch, and after a solid foundation, he shifted into a devastating top gear. He brought up his 50 off just 38 balls and then unleashed a brutal assault, smashing five sixes in his last nine deliveries. The Trinidadian left-

hander would finish not out on 74.

At the other end, Auguste provided the perfect foil with 41 not out as the visitors galloped to their target with a massive 46 balls to spare, securing their first-ever 10-wicket win in T20Is.



The Rhinos' historic win against a Test nation highlights Nepal's growing talent, increasing investment in cricket infrastructure, and strengthens their bid to achieve Test status.

Barbados to host first-ever CPL final in 2026

The 2026 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) final will be held at Kensington Oval in Barbados for the first time in the competition's history, the tournament's chief executive officer Pete Russell has confirmed. Providence Stadium in Guyana hosted the previous four finals dating back to 2022, and according to reports, it generated US\$84 million in 2022 and a record US\$101.6 million in 2023. While official figures for 2025 are not yet available, based on figures and the number of tickets sold, it could be another record-breaking year. Russell said he expected Barbados to hold an equally successful tournament for the 14th edition. He said with the final slated to be held at Kensington Oval, he was

predicting a much-improved performance by the Barbados Royals, who finished last in the standings in this year's tournament. "I think the Barbados team and I'm sure the management of the Barbados team will look at it very closely, because you want the home team, the hosting team of the finals to do well. "I mean, we got Guyana in the finals here. It makes a big difference. But Barbados fans love cricket, so I'm sure they'll come and watch whoever's in the final," Russell said. "I think that franchise will get its act together and be very competitive next year. We're changing the rules, of course, so everyone goes back into the draft at the end of this tournament, so the teams will look very different going forward, which is exciting as well." (CMC)



Akeal Hosein and Kieron Pollard of Trinbago Knight Riders celebrate winning the Men's 2025 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League Final match 34 between Guyana Amazon Warriors and Trinbago Knight Riders at Guyana National Stadium on September 21, 2025 in Providence, Guyana.

Ato Boldon questions whether Thompson Herah can get back to medal-winning form

Olympic medallist and television analyst Ato Boldon says Elaine Thompson Herah has won her last individual medal on the global stage and even if she returns to track and field she will not have the impact she had before her latest injury setback. Given her impressive record, running the second-fastest time in the history of the women's 100m, 10.54 seconds, and being the only woman to have ever won back-to-back Olympic Games double sprint titles, in 2016 and 2021, Boldon says Thompson Herah has raised the bar higher than anyone else and that will be nigh impossible for her to replicate. Thompson Herah, who was third in the women's 100m when Jamaica swept the medals at the 2022 World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon, in 2022 before going on to win the sprint double at the Commonwealth Games later that year, has not competed since 2024 when she ran just two races. She has been affected by an Achilles injury that has caused her to miss considerable time from training and competition over the years. Boldon, who was a guest on Saturday's TalkSports episode, a radio show hosted by Grenadian sports journalist Michael Bascombe, said bluntly, "I think Elaine is done as a threat," reminding his audience he had made that comment before. "That did not go over well in Jamaica because they saw that as me insult-



Jamaica's Elaine Thompson Herah (centre) competes against Nigeria's Favour Ofili (right) at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England in July 2022.

ing the queen," he added. "I think we can make a case for her being the best overall sprinter, ever. She's done what nobody has done, 100m-200m at back-to-back Olympics. Nobody has done that," he said. "But maybe as a result of that, her odometer is a little higher than everybody else's, and when you see feet and Achilles and those sorts of parts giving out, do you understand the forces necessary to run 10.5 or 10.6 or 10.7? "It's like going to find a car that has a ton of miles on it, and, yeah, you

pretty it up, and then maybe it looks good and now you ask it to go and do what it used to do in the beginning, and it falls apart." Boldon explained that when he was asked the same question before, there had been no ill intent in his response and felt it was misrepresented. "When I said it, it wasn't with any malicious intent," he said. "Somebody asked me, 'is Elaine going to be a factor' and I said 'No, I think Elaine is done as a threat', well, of course, the headline is bold and says 'Elaine

is done'. Well, if that's how you want to put it, fine, but if you're asking me if I think Elaine is going to win another medal in her career individually, no, I don't." The bold-talking Trinidad and Tobago Olympian said however he was more than willing to be proven wrong. "I'll be glad," he said. "I'll eat that crow with pepper sauce if she comes back and does it. Because I would want to see her in the same way I would want to see [recently retired] Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce run one more time." He said he would also love to see Thompson Herah come back and prove him wrong and have a great year. "This is for 'the Ato Boldon prediction kind of year'. I don't think it's happening," he said.



BOLDON... when I said it, it wasn't with any malicious intent



The Omars Cricket Club shortly after their win

Defending Champions Omars Storm into Finals with Semifinal Win Over Aircool Knight Riders

The TCICA Senior Men's Cricket Competition produced another exciting chapter on Sunday, September 28, 2025, at the Downtown Ball Park, where defending champions Omars booked their place in the grand finals with a commanding victory over Aircool Knight Riders in the first semifinal clash.

Winning the toss, Omars opted to bowl first and quickly put Aircool Knight Riders on the back foot. The Knights were bundled out for just 100 runs in 17.5 overs. Gareth Butler showed some resistance with a solid 27 runs (4 fours), while Iron Mack managed 10 runs (1 four), but the rest of the batting lineup struggled against disciplined bowling.

The hero of the innings was Ramauni Chang, who tore through the Aircool lineup with a fiery spell of 5 wickets for 20 runs from 4 overs. Support came from Xavier Scott (2 for 20 in 4 overs), while Robert Johnson, Dane Richie, and Daleovaun Hardware chipped in with a wicket apiece.

In reply, the defending champions made light work of the chase, cruising to 101 for 3 in 13.2 overs. Daleovaun Hardware, continuing his fine form, top-scored with a commanding 41 runs (4 fours, 2 sixes). He was ably supported by Rohan Hines with 17 runs (2 fours), ensuring Omars never lost control of the chase.

For Aircool Knight Riders, Iron Mack fought back with the ball, claiming 2 wickets for 19 runs from 4 overs, while Zedy Lord picked up 1 for 25 from 2 overs.

The Man of the Match honor went to Ramauni Chang for his brilliant 5-wicket haul that set the tone for Omars' victory.

With this win, the defending champions Omars advance to the grand final as they continue their quest to retain the title. The competition resumes next Sunday, October 5, 2025, when beaten finalists GK Foods will face off against the mighty Police in the second semifinal at 2:00 p.m. at the Downtown Ball Park.



Man of the Match Ramauni Chang collects his man of the match award from Mrs Jean Singh

Salt Rakers Aquatic Club Set to Host Exciting Mini-Triathlon at Grace Bay

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The countdown is on for one of the most anticipated sporting events of the fall calendar. On Saturday, October 25, 2025, athletes, fitness enthusiasts, and community members will converge at The Bight Park Beach, Grace Bay, for the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club Mini-Triathlon—a day that promises adrenaline, endurance, and community spirit. The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club has earned a strong reputation for promoting swimming and aquatic sports in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Now, with their Mini-Triathlon, the club is broadening its reach to encompass the ultimate multisport challenge, combining swimming, cycling, and running into one thrilling test of stamina. “Ready to Push Your Limits?” That’s the rallying call for this year’s event. Organizers are keen to emphasize that the triathlon is not just for elite athletes,

but for everyone—from complete beginners to seasoned professionals, and even groups who want to take part as a relay team. This inclusive approach is designed to encourage wider participation, ensuring that anyone with a spirit of adventure has the opportunity to experience the excitement of a triathlon. The event kicks off with an open-water swim at the breathtaking Grace Bay, often hailed as one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. Participants will then transition to a scenic cycling course that challenges both speed and strategy before finishing with a run along the shoreline, testing endurance and determination to the very last step. Benneth Williams, Head of the club stated that hosting the Mini-Triathlon at Grace Bay will be truly special. He pointed out that the event will allow athletes to compete in one of the most iconic natural settings in the Caribbean.

He further noted that the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club is thrilled to provide this opportunity for the local community and visitors, to push themselves in such a rewarding way. In recent years, the popularity of triathlons has grown worldwide, drawing people of all ages who are looking for new ways to challenge themselves physically and mentally. For the Turks and Caicos, this event represents more than just a race—it’s a celebration of health, fitness, and the natural beauty of the islands. Families, friends, and supporters are expected to line the course, cheering on participants and adding to the festive atmosphere. The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club has also ensured that the event is accessible to newcomers. Training tips, safety measures, and guidance for first-timers are all part of the build-up, with a strong emphasis on participation and enjoy-

ment. For more competitive athletes, the Mini-Triathlon provides a chance to sharpen skills, measure progress, and compete in a vibrant, supportive environment. Spectators can look forward to a dynamic showcase of determination as competitors swim through the turquoise waters, race along the cycling course, and sprint toward the finish line. The camaraderie of relay teams and the grit of individual athletes will make for a day full of inspiring performances. Registration is already open, and spots are expected to fill quickly. Anyone interested in taking part is encouraged to reach out to the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club at (649) 241-1272 for more details. With world-class scenery, a welcoming spirit, and the thrill of competition, the Salt Rakers Aquatic Mini-Triathlon promises to be an unforgettable highlight on the Turks and Caicos sporting calendar.

Inter-High Football 2025 Begins

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The countdown is on for the return of the Inter-High School Football Championships 2025, one of the marquee events on the Turks and Caicos Islands schools’ sports calendar. The competition will unfold over four days in October at the National Stadium, bringing together the best of the islands’ youth football talent in both the boys’ and girls’ divisions. Action kicked off on Friday, October 4th, when Helena Jones Robinson High (HJRHS) were expected to face Marjorie Basden High (MBHS) in the opening match. Simultaneously, Clement Howell High (CHHS) were scheduled to go up against British West Indies Collegiate (BWIC). The schedule is packed with back-to-back clashes throughout the day, including early group fixtures involving A. Louise Garland Thomas High (ALGTHS), Providenciales International School (PTIS), and defending champions Edward Gartland High (EHS). The tournament resumes the following weekend with a full slate of fixtures on October 10th and 11th. Traditional rivalries take center stage when BWIC squares off with Maranatha Academy (MA), and CHHS meets HJRHS in what is expected to be one of the most competitive matches of the group stage. EHS also returns to action, this time against BWIC and MBHS, with their sights set on another deep run in the championship. By October 17th and 18th, the group battles intensify with matches such as



EHS vs HJRHS, MA vs CHHS, and the high-stakes showdown between TCIPS and CHHS. The results from this weekend are likely to decide semifinal qualification, with only the best schools advancing to the knockout rounds. The climax comes on October 24th and 25th, when the semifinals and finals will determine the 2025 champions. Both the boys’ and girls’ tournaments

will feature not just finals but also third-place playoffs, ensuring every team has a chance to compete for national honors. This year’s championship includes eight boys’ teams divided into Groups A and B and eight girls’ teams across two groups. The event is expected to draw large crowds of parents, alumni, and football fans, eager to cheer on their

schools. Organizers say the tournament will showcase “skill, passion, and determination,” while also giving scouts and coaches a first look at emerging talent for national programs. For the players, the Inter-High Championship is not only about bragging rights, it’s a stage to prove themselves as the future of Turks and Caicos football.