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**Hit-and-Run
Victim Remains
Critical in
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Leads Country's Class of
2026 of Top Academic
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NOT ENOUGH GIRLS



**Local Miss Universe Pageant Cancelled After
Just 2 Confirmed Contestants**

**A Miss Universe Representative Will be
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>>> STORY ON PG5

Hit-and-Run Victim Remains Critical in Hospital

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

A man who was knocked from his bicycle along the Leeward Highway in Providenciales by a hit-and-run driver, was airlifted out of the country for further treatment, NewslineTCI was informed. The incident reportedly took place on Wednesday, June 3. It is banded that that man is a tourist. However, NewslineTCI is unable to confirm this allegation.

Up to press time, the police have not issued an official report on the incident. NewslineTCI understands that the incident took place in the vicinity of the Mervco Gas Station, near the roundabout.

Efforts to source a contact for a family member turned up futile. This newspaper understands that the man was found unresponsive along the roadway and was later transported to hospital. It is understood that officers from the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force visited the hospital and were told by medical staff there that the victim remained unresponsive, having sustained severe head injuries.

In the meantime, some individuals who have been aware of



the hit-and-run, are concerned that there has not been an official news release on the incident, which they believe could assist the authorities of apprehending the culprit.

“Why is there no reporting by the police or media about the cyclist struck on Leeward Highway last week, on June 3?” a Newsline

reader queried. “I witnessed the victim lying on the ground motionless. It appeared that two women, tourists perhaps, were with him and he was covered with a towel.

“The bicycle lay in two pieces and police were on the scene for hours. The bicycle remained long after the victim was gone, and an

obvious police investigation was underway.

“I would really like to know the condition of the person who was struck. It seems very odd that there is no reporting of this incident. Is it because tourists might have been involved? I cannot figure out any logical reason why there is no information available.”

Illegal Migrant Vessel Intercepted; 135 Apprehended

A total of 135 irregular migrants, including four minors, were apprehended on Friday, June 12, after law enforcement authorities intercepted an overloaded migrant vessel attempting to enter the Turks and Caicos Islands illegally.

According to the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF), the successful interdiction resulted from a highly coordinated maritime operation involving several local and international agencies.

The operation brought together personnel from the TCI Border Force, TCI Regiment, and multiple units within the RT&CIPF, including the Maritime Operations Centre (MOC) Coast Radar Team, Sirius Insight, the Incident Command

System, and Marine Operations personnel. Additional support was provided by the United States Coast Guard Air Support Unit.

Authorities reported that this latest interception increases the total number of migrants intercepted at sea in 2026 to 859 individuals aboard six vessels.

Acting Deputy Commissioner of Police Kendal Grant, who has responsibility for Marine Operations, said the operation highlights the effectiveness of intelligence-led policing and strong interagency cooperation in protecting the country's borders. “This successful interception demonstrates what can be achieved through teamwork, coordination, and vigilance,” Grant stated. “I wish

to thank all our local and international partners who contributed to this operation and continue to support our efforts to secure our maritime borders.”

The RT&CIPF is encouraging members of the public to remain vigilant and report any information related to illegal entry into the Turks and Caicos Islands. Reports can be made by contacting the nearest police station, calling 911, reaching the Serious Crime Unit at 231-1842, or anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477.

Authorities continue to monitor the nation's maritime borders as part of ongoing efforts to combat illegal migration and transnational criminal activity in the region.



A RTICPF-released photo shows the illegal vessel laden with migrants being intercepted by local authorities



Misick... "When individuals are absent without adequate justification or without a commitment to ensuring continuity of service, the burden falls upon colleagues who must carry additional responsibilities."

Premier Charles Washington Misick has issued a strong call for greater accountability and stronger leadership throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands Public Service, warning that persistent absenteeism, delayed decision-making, and tolerance for underperformance are negatively affecting government productivity and service delivery.

Addressing senior government officials at the Public Service Leadership Forum 2026 held at The Ritz-Carlton, the Premier said accountability must be the cornerstone of leadership if the public service is to meet the expectations of the people it serves. The forum was held under the theme, "Championing Accountability: Leadership for High Impact Results."

Speaking before Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam, Deputy Governor Anya Williams, Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments, Misick said lead-

ership is not defined by title, rank or authority, but by responsibility and results.

"Without accountability, authority becomes meaningless. Without accountability, strategy becomes paperwork. Without accountability, vision becomes rhetoric. Without accountability, leadership itself loses its purpose," the Premier said.

He noted that while governments often face financial, legislative and technological challenges, many of the barriers affecting productivity within the public service are leadership-related.

"The reality is that many of the barriers affecting performance and productivity across our Public Service are not primarily financial. They are not always technological. They are not always legislative. Many of them are leadership challenges," Misick stated.

Among the most significant concerns raised during his address was absenteeism, which he said continues to undermine efficiency,

Avoidable Absenteeism, Lack of Accountability Hampering Government Services – Premier

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

workplace morale and public confidence in government services.

While acknowledging the importance of accommodating legitimate illness, family obligations and personal circumstances, the Premier stressed that chronic absenteeism comes at a cost to both government workers and the public.

"However, persistent and avoidable absenteeism imposes a cost on the entire organization. When individuals are absent without adequate justification or without a commitment to ensuring continuity of service, the burden falls upon colleagues who must carry additional responsibilities," he said. "Deadlines are missed. Services are delayed. Productivity declines. Morale suffers. Citizens become frustrated."

Misick warned that a culture where attendance and reliability are treated as optional rather than essential responsibilities cannot support a high-performing public service.

"A high-performing Public Service cannot be built on such a foundation," he said, adding that reliability remains "one of the clearest expressions of accountability."

The Premier also challenged public servants to address delays in decision-making and excessive bureaucracy that often prevent government from responding effectively to the needs of residents.

"There are times when decisions that should take days take weeks," he said. "There are times when issues that require action become trapped in endless consultation, excessive caution, or bureaucratic delay."

According to Misick, citizens judge government not by policies or organizational charts but by the quality and efficiency of services they receive. Whether applying for a licence, seeking planning approval, visiting a clinic or interacting with a government office, residents expect timely and effective

service, he said.

The Premier further urged leaders to overcome what he described as an unhealthy relationship with risk. He argued that while sound governance requires diligence and proper process, leaders must also be willing to make decisions and embrace innovation.

"The people we serve do not expect perfection," Misick said. "They expect leadership. They expect judgment. They expect action."

He also criticized the tendency within some organizations to tolerate underperformance while failing to adequately recognize excellence. Effective leadership, he said, requires addressing poor performance fairly and consistently while encouraging initiative and continuous improvement.

Throughout his address, Misick encouraged public service leaders to take ownership of problems rather than waiting for direction from others.

"Our nation cannot be transformed by leaders who wait," he said. "It will be transformed by leaders who act. Leaders who anticipate. Leaders who innovate. Leaders who take ownership."

Concluding his remarks, the Premier called on leaders across government to reject complacency, strengthen collaboration between departments, and focus relentlessly on achieving results that improve the quality of life for Turks and Caicos Islanders.

"The future of our Public Service, and indeed the future of our country, depends upon leaders who are willing to accept responsibility, embrace accountability, pursue excellence, act with courage, and lead with initiative," Misick said.

"The people of the Turks and Caicos Islands deserve nothing less." The Public Service Leadership Forum forms part of ongoing efforts by the Office of the Deputy Governor to strengthen leadership capacity and foster a more responsive, accountable and results-driven public service.

120 Additional Provo Structures Marked for Demolition

A total of 120 Enforcement Notices was served on unauthorized structures across several parcels in Providenciales on Thursday, May 28, 2026, during a multi-agency operation led by the Planning Department.

The exercise was coordinated and supported by the Informal Settlements Unit (ISU), with additional support provided by the TCI Border Force and security provided by the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force. The operation formed part of ongoing efforts to address unauthorized development and ensure compliance with the Physical Planning Act.

Following a pre-operation briefing,

teams visited the identified locations and conducted inspections to verify occupancy before serving notices. Enforcement Notices were issued in both English and Creole to ensure that affected occupants clearly understood the requirements outlined therein.

The Government wishes to emphasize that planning regulations exist to promote safe, orderly, and sustainable development throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands. Compliance with these regulations helps to protect public safety, preserve community standards, and ensure that development occurs in a man-



A notice of demolition is affixed to a structure by the Informal Settlements Unit

ner consistent with national planning objectives.

The Planning Department said will continue to undertake enforcement

activities where necessary to address unauthorized development and to uphold the integrity of the territory's planning framework.

Wymara Resort + Villas Named Inaugural Winner of Condé Nast Traveler's Triple Crown

Wymara Resort + Villas, a collection of contemporary, ultra-luxury beachfront retreats in the Turks & Caicos Islands, has been named a winner of the inaugural Condé Nast Traveler Triple Crown, a new and highly selective recognition honoring hotels and resorts that have earned a place on all three of the publication's flagship lists (the Hot List, the Gold List, and the Readers' Choice Awards) over the past 30 years.

Created by Condé Nast Traveler Global Editorial Director Divia Thani, the Triple Crown was conceived to celebrate properties that have earned the trust of the publication's editors, industry insiders, and global readership alike.

"To be named a winner of the inaugural Condé Nast Traveler Triple Crown is a profound honor and one we share with every member of the Wymara Resort + Villas team," said Bruce Maclarén, Owner of Wymara Resort + Villas. "Condé Nast Traveler has set the standard for trust and authority in travel, and to have earned the recognition of their editors, their industry peers, and their readers over the years is a reflection of the consistency and care our team brings to every guest experience. We are deeply grateful to Condé Nast Traveler for this recognition and to the guests whose support made it possible."

To qualify for the Triple Crown, a hotel or resort must have been recognized across all three of Condé Nast Traveler's flagship lists: the Hot List, the pub-



lication's annual celebration of the best new hotels in the world; the Gold List, a curated selection of Condé Nast Traveler editors' personal favorites chosen each year; and the Readers' Choice Awards, voted on annually by the publication's global audience and considered one of the most trusted reader voted accolades in travel. Earning the recognition of all three audiences over a 30 year span is exceptionally rare, and places Wymara in a distinguished cohort of properties celebrated for sustained excellence.

The Triple Crown recognition adds to a growing collection of accolades for the

resort, including the prestigious Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star award for Wymara Villas, Sunset Cove, a historic first for Turks and Caicos and a distinction held by only 10 properties across the entire Caribbean. As the region's only private villa resort to earn the designation, Wymara continues to affirm its standing among the most exclusive luxury destinations in the market.

RADIATING CARIBBEAN ELEGANCE

Set along one of the most pristine stretches of Grace Bay, Wymara Resort is renowned for its breathtaking ocean views, elegant accommodations, and

an abundance of world-class amenities. Spacious suites are designed with contemporary decor and luxurious furnishings that embody the essence of Caribbean sophistication.

Tucked away on Turtle Tail Peninsula, Wymara Villas, Sunset Cove offers a more secluded escape just minutes from Wymara Resort. The private villa and beach club destination provides a level of privacy and space, each appointed with the same contemporary design and luxurious finishes that define the Wymara Resort experience, making them ideal for families, groups, and travelers seeking an intimate retreat.

Wymara's dining program emphasizes fresh, locally sourced ingredients and innovative techniques across its acclaimed restaurants, while a tranquil spa offers a sanctuary for rejuvenation, featuring a menu of treatments and an exclusive partnership with renowned skincare brand 111SKIN. For those seeking adventure, the resort offers access to water sports, private excursions, and immersive experiences that showcase the rich natural beauty and culture of the Turks & Caicos Islands.

As Wymara celebrates this milestone recognition, it reaffirms its commitment to exceptional hospitality, sustainability, and its position as a leader in the Caribbean luxury market. The resort looks forward to welcoming both new and returning guests to experience the magic of Turks & Caicos.



VALLEJO "... It simply was not practical to stage a full pageant with only two participants."



Bereniece Dickenson, the 2025 Miss Universe Turks and Caicos Winner

Lack of Contestants Forces Cancellation of Miss Universe TCI

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Miss Universe Turks and Caicos Islands Pageant will not be held this year after organizers were unable to attract enough contestants to stage a national competition.

The announcement follows the international success of Bereniece Dickenson, who represented the Turks and Caicos Islands at the 2025 Miss Universe Pageant and brought significant attention to the country on the global stage.

Speaking with Newsline TCI, Gabriela Clesca Vallejo, National Director of Miss Universe Turks and Caicos Islands, confirmed that the decision was made after only two young women applied to compete.

"This year we only had two applicants, and despite all the casting calls and promotion we conducted, we only ended up with two contestants," Vallejo explained. "To host a national competition costs a lot of money, and it simply was not practical to stage a full pageant with only two participants."

The organization had previously issued a brief statement on social media announcing the cancellation, sparking speculation among residents. Vallejo said she initially avoided publicly discussing the reason because she did not want the situation to reflect negatively on the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Following discussions with the Miss Universe Organization, however, an alternative solution has been approved.

"We reached out to Miss Universe to explain the situation, and we have now received approval to proceed with a nomination instead of a national competition," she said.

As a result, the Turks and Caicos Islands will still be represented at the next Miss Universe competition, scheduled to take place at the José Miguel Agrelot Coliseum in Puerto Rico. Rather than being selected through a pageant, this year's representative will be appointed through a nomination process.

Vallejo said details regarding the nominee will be announced at a later date as discussions continue.

"We are still deciding who will be selected as the next Miss Universe Turks and Caicos Islands representative. Once a decision is made, we will begin the necessary training, photo shoots and preparations before making a formal announcement," she said.

Despite the setback, Vallejo remains optimistic about the future of pageantry in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

A former international beauty queen herself, Vallejo obtained the Miss Universe franchise for the Turks and Caicos Islands after recognizing the country's absence from the competition for more than a decade.

She acknowledged that building support for the pageant has not been easy.

"In the beginning, many people did not fully believe in the pageant, and sponsorship has always been difficult to secure," she said. "But with each year, we've seen more interest and more understanding of the impact that pageantry can have on young women and on promoting Turks and Caicos internationally."

Vallejo believes part of the challenge lies in the country's relatively limited pageant culture compared to larger Caribbean nations.

She noted that some young women may be reluctant to participate because they fear not winning.

"Pageantry is about much more than winning a crown," she said. "It's about personal growth, confidence, learning, and representing your country. Even if you don't win the first time, the experience prepares you for future opportunities."

She pointed to Dickenson's own journey as an example. Dickenson competed in the inaugural competition and finished as second runner-up before returning the following year to capture the national title.

Vallejo also suggested that Dickenson's achievements may have inadvertently raised the bar for potential contestants. "Some girls may feel that they are not ready or may not be able to reach the standard that Bereniece set," she said.

"But every contestant has their own journey."

Despite ongoing challenges, Vallejo said her commitment to the organization remains unwavering.

She revealed that she often invests personal funds into preparing contestants and ensuring they receive professional training, wardrobe support, social media guidance, and international-level preparation.

"My goal is to ensure that every young woman representing Turks and Caicos feels she has every opportunity to compete on the world stage," Vallejo said. "No matter what happens, I will always make sure Turks and Caicos is well represented."

She also expressed hope that sponsors and supporters will continue to back the organization despite the cancellation of the local pageant.

"We are still sending a representative to Miss Universe, and we are still working to promote Turks and Caicos internationally," she said. "I hope people continue to support the vision."

While the national pageant may be absent this year, the Turks and Caicos Islands will still have a presence at one of the world's most prestigious beauty competitions, keeping alive Vallejo's long-term dream of one day bringing a Miss Universe crown, and perhaps even the Miss Universe competition itself, to the islands.

The Mortgage Corporation Bill: A Shortcut Masquerading as a Solution

Op-Ed By Paladin

There is an old principle that applies to governments as much as it does to individuals:

“You are not required to complete the work, but neither are you free to ignore it.”

Yet in the rush to announce a Mortgage Corporation for the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Government has done exactly that — ignored the real work.

We are told that the Mortgage Corporation Bill 2026 will “create pathways to home ownership,” “strengthen families,” “build a stronger middle class,” and “ensure prosperity is more broadly shared.”

But slogans are not solutions, and buzzwords are not policy.

The question is simple:

Why choose a Mortgage Corporation — the least innovative, least inclusive, least transformative model — when several proven alternatives exist across the Caribbean?

Why choose the one model that does **nothing** for the people most in need of assistance: those who do not own land?

A Mortgage Corporation Does Not Solve the Real Problem

A mortgage corporation lends **against collateral**.

Collateral means **land**.

If you do not own land, you are not on the “pathway.”

You are not even in the conversation. The Government’s announcement was not a housing strategy.

It was a shortcut — a lazy one.

Instead of:

- Studying regional models
- Presenting options
- Engaging the public
- Explaining the trade offs
- Building consensus

...the Government simply declared:

“We will create a Mortgage Corporation.”

That is not leadership.

That is administrative convenience dressed up as vision.

What Should Have Happened Instead

If the goal was truly to make housing accessible to the general population, the process should have been deliberate, transparent, and democratic.

A responsible government would have:

1. Presented the full menu of Caribbean housing finance models

Including:

- Credit unions
- Housing co operatives
- Community land trusts
- Government backed revolving funds
- Mixed equity public housing
- Shared ownership schemes
- Land lease models
- Employer assisted housing

These are not theories.

They are working systems in Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad, St. Lucia, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman, and beyond.

2. Explained each model in plain language

Not buzzwords.

Not slogans.

Not political poetry.

Actual mechanics, costs, risks, and benefits.

3. Held Town Hall meetings on every island

Not one meeting.

Not a press conference.

A real national consultation.

4. Allowed three months for public input

Let the people speak.

Let them ask questions.

Let them compare models.

Let them choose.

5. Returned for a final round of Town Halls

To confirm the people’s preference.

To refine the model.

To build legitimacy.

6. THEN legislate

Not before.

Not in haste.

Not by decree.

This is how democratic societies make major structural decisions.

This is how you build trust.

This is how you build a system that lasts.

Instead, the Government took the shortcut — and now we are left with a Bill that solves nothing and a \$20 million allocation from NIB with no transparency attached.

Where Is the Transparency?

Where Are the Safeguards?

We now have:

- A Bill
 - A funding allocation
 - A political announcement
- But we do **not** have:

- A governance structure
- A shareholder structure
- A management team
- A risk framework
- A public offering
- A business plan
- A regulatory firewall
- A guarantee of political independence

dence

And this raises the most important question in public policy:

Cui bono — who benefits?

Who are the shareholders?

Is the public allowed to buy shares to match the NIB contribution?

If not, why not?

Where is the additional capital?

Twenty million dollars is roughly equivalent to **ten houses** at \$200,000 each.

Is this a mortgage corporation or a boutique lending club?

Who are the experts hired to run this new financial institution?

Where are their CVs?

Their track records?

Their banking credentials?

Their risk management experience?

What safeguards exist to prevent another TCI Bank collapse?

We have lived this movie before.

TCI Bank failed because of:

- Rapid loan expansion
- Poor credit judgment
- Liquidity mismanagement
- Insider withdrawals
- Loss of depositor confidence

A Mortgage Corporation is not immune to these risks.

In fact, it is more vulnerable — because it is politically created, politically funded, and politically exposed.

Where is the firewall?

Where is the oversight?

Where is the independence?

The Alternatives Were Better — And Still Are

According to research, the Government had multiple viable models that would have **directly** helped the people most in need:

Credit Unions

Member owned, lower interest rates, community based lending, profit returned to members.

Housing Co operatives

Collective land purchase, shared equity, lower construction costs, long term affordability.

Community Land Trusts

Land held in trust, homes sold at affordable prices, permanent protection from speculation.

Revolving Loan Funds

Low interest, government backed, transparent, designed for first time buyers and landless applicants.

Shared Equity Models

Government and homeowner share the cost — and the benefit.

These models are not radical.

They are responsible.

They are proven.

They are people centered.

And they would have done far more to create real, sustainable home ownership than a mortgage corporation ever will.

A Keynesian Reminder

John Maynard Keynes taught us that government intervention must be:

- Targeted
- Transparent
- Counter cyclical
- Designed to maximize public benefit

A Mortgage Corporation that excludes landless citizens, lacks transparency, and risks political interference violates every one of these principles.

Keynes would call this what it is:

A misallocation of public capital.

We Are Failing at Doing the Work

The people of the Turks and Caicos Islands deserve:

- A real housing strategy
 - A real consultation process
 - A real financing model
 - A real path to ownership
 - A real chance at upward mobility
- Not shortcuts.

Not slogans.

Not political theatre.

A Mortgage Corporation is not the best possible avenue.

It is simply the easiest one for the Government to announce.

The work was not completed —


but worse, it was ignored.

And the people deserve better.

If you want, I can now prepare:

- A shorter, punchier version for radio
- A social media optimized version
- A follow up Op Ed on “What a Real Housing Strategy Would Look Like for TCI”

Just tell me the direction you want to take.



Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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HJ ROBINSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADS CLASS OF 2026 ACHIEVERS AS 327 PREPARE FOR GRADUATION

H.J. Robinson High School's Brianna Williams has emerged as the top-performing public high school student in the Turks and Caicos Islands Class of 2026, earning Valedictorian honours with an outstanding average of 93.90 percent. Williams led a strong cohort of high achievers at H.J. Robinson High School, where Shakea Forbes secured the Salutatorian position with a closely matched average of 93.76 percent, while Esmarlin Capron earned the Runner-Up spot with 91.31 percent.

The academic success continued across the country's public high schools. At Marjorie Basden High School, Ta'Halia Davidson captured the Valedictorian title with an average of 90.56 percent. Samantha Julcin followed as Salutatorian with 87.43 percent, while Abinasabia Prophet secured third place with 81.55 percent.

At Clement Howell High School, Brantley Saul topped the graduating class with an average of 89.9 percent to earn Valedictorian honours. Achenie Desir placed second with 88.0 percent, followed by Mercia Norve with 85 percent. Jaylen Bernadin was recognized as the school's top-performing General Student. Meanwhile, Raymond Gardiner High School's Tania Herrera led her graduating class with an average of 81.80 percent. Alecia Bobb achieved 79.92 percent to earn Salutatorian honours, while Lauren Oné rounded out the top three with 76.94 percent.

The outstanding performances were

highlighted by the Department of Education and the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture as they extended congratulations to the 327 students who will formally graduate from the Turks and Caicos Islands' public high schools later this month.

Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, Hon. Rachel M. Taylor, commended the graduates for their dedication and perseverance.

"I extend heartfelt congratulations to all of our graduating students across the Turks and Caicos Islands," Minister Taylor said. "Your achievements reflect not only your hard work and determination, but also the unwavering support of your families, teachers and school communities."

The minister also praised the nation's top-performing students for setting a standard of excellence within the public education system.

"I am especially proud of our top performers, whose exceptional results demonstrate the academic excellence that exists within our public education system. Each of you has set a powerful example for your peers and for the generations to come. The Ministry remains committed to strengthening our education system so that every learner is empowered to succeed. Today, we celebrate you, and we look forward to all that you will accomplish," she added. Graduating students also posted strong certification results. Across the four public high schools, 13 students earned

Distinctions, 46 achieved Merit, 146 received Credits, 95 attained Passes, 22 earned Certificates and five received Statements.

Clement Howell High School recorded five Distinctions, 23 Merits and 95 Credits. H.J. Robinson High School also produced five Distinction students and 18 Merit recipients. Marjorie Basden High School recorded two Distinctions and five Merits, while Raymond Gardiner High School contributed one Distinction and 11 Credits.

Graduation ceremonies will be held between June 29 and July 2 across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

H.J. Robinson High School will host its graduation ceremony on June 29 at the school's auditorium under the theme, "Our Journey Begins: Embracing the Road Ahead with Courage and Determination."

Marjorie Basden High School will celebrate graduates on June 30 at the Salterra Resort Ballroom with the theme, "Turning Our Moments Into Milestones."

Raymond Gardiner High School's ceremony is scheduled for July 1 at Horse Stable Beach under the theme, "Rising with Purpose, Rooted in Excellence."

Clement Howell High School will conclude the public high school graduation season on July 2 at the Gustavus Lightbourne Sports Complex under the theme, "Unyielding in Pursuit, Unmatched in Potential."

The Ministry of Education is encourag-

ing residents throughout the islands to support and celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2026 as students prepare to embark on the next chapter of their educational and professional journeys.



Brianna Williams of the H.J. Robinson High School in Grand Turk emerges as the top secondary school student in all the Turks and Caicos Islands

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND FAIR COMPETITION ADVANCES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL QUALITY POLICY

The Department of Trade, Industry and Fair Competition welcomed a team of consultants to the Turks and Caicos Islands from Monday, May 25th to Friday, May 29th, as part of ongoing efforts to implement the Turks and Caicos Islands National Quality Policy.

The National Quality Policy, which was approved by Cabinet in October 2024, has now entered its implementation phase. The policy serves as a strategic framework for establishing a national quality infrastructure in the Turks and Caicos Islands, aimed at improving quality standards, supporting trade, protecting consumers, and enhancing economic competitiveness.

The primary objective of the consultants' visit was to engage with key stakeholders across the public and private sectors to assess existing quality-related systems and practices and identify any challenges, gaps, or opportunities that may inform the development of the national quality infrastructure. Through these consultations, stakeholders were given the opportunity to share their experiences, discuss current quality management practices, and provide recom-



mendations for strengthening national quality systems.

During the week-long mission, the consultants met with representatives from

the National Quality Council, Pelican Energy TCI, the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority, the TCI Government Laboratory, the Turks and Caicos Hotel

and Tourism Association, and Turks Head Brewery. These engagements provided valuable insight into the quality standards, procedures, and systems currently operating within both the public and private sectors.

The Department of Trade, Industry and Fair Competition expressed its appreciation to all stakeholders who participated in the consultations and contributed to the discussions. Their input will play a critical role in shaping the next steps of the implementation process and ensuring that the National Quality Policy delivers meaningful and lasting benefits to the Turks and Caicos Islands. Stakeholders are encouraged to look out for upcoming initiatives arising from the implementation of the National Quality Policy, including the Quality Certification Programme and a series of educational workshops.

The Department is also pleased to announce that a second stakeholder consultation Mission is scheduled for June 2026. This mission will provide an opportunity for continued engagement and further assessment of priority areas identified during previous consultations.

Liberty Caribbean prepared for 2026 Hurricane Season

Liberty Caribbean, the operators of Flow, Liberty Business and BTC, has confirmed its state of readiness for the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season, which officially begins on June 1.

With more than a century of service across the Caribbean, the company continues to strengthen its preparedness, resilience, and emergency response capabilities to support customers, governments, and communities throughout the region during periods of crisis.

The announcement follows the significant impact of Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica last year, which reinforced the critical importance of resilient communications infrastructure and rapid response capabilities across the Caribbean.

“Hurricane Melissa reminded us once again that connectivity is far more than technology. In moments of crisis, it becomes a lifeline for families, businesses, emergency responders, and governments,” said Inge Smidts, Chief Executive Officer, Liberty Caribbean.

“The lessons from that experience have further strengthened our resolve and accelerated our investments in network

resilience, operational preparedness, and recovery capabilities across the region. We remain committed to ensuring our customers and communities can rely on us when it matters most.”

Over the past year, Liberty Caribbean has continued to make strategic investments to strengthen its networks and improve disaster resilience across multiple markets. In Jamaica, this included major investments in a new and enhanced mobile network, expanded spectrum capabilities, strengthened transport diversity, hardened infrastructure, backup power systems, and additional redundancy measures aimed at improving reliability and accelerating recovery.

The company has also continued simulation exercises, emergency response drills, fuel and logistics readiness planning, and cross-functional coordination efforts across all operating markets to ensure rapid mobilisation if required during the hurricane season.

“Our teams have worked tirelessly to modernize our infrastructure, strengthen operational readiness, and improve how we respond during emergencies.

While no network is immune to extreme weather events, our focus remains on building stronger, smarter, and more resilient systems capable of supporting the Caribbean through disruption and recovery alike,” added Smidts.

Forecasters at the National Weather Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are predicting a below-normal hurricane season for the Atlantic basin this year.

NOAA’s forecast for the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to November 30, indicates a 35% chance of a near-normal season, a 10% chance of an above-normal season, and a 55% chance of a below-normal season.

The agency forecasts a total of 8 to 14 named storms (winds of 63 km/h or more). Of these, 3 to 6 are expected to become hurricanes (with winds of 75 mph or more), including 1 to 3 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4, or 5 with winds of 115 mph or more). An average season sees 14 named storms, including seven hurricanes, three of which are major hurricanes.

“We understand the responsibility that

comes with serving the Caribbean. Our commitment extends beyond connectivity alone. It is also about supporting the resilience of the communities we serve and standing beside them before, during, and after times of crisis,” said Smidts.

Liberty Caribbean continues to encourage customers and businesses across the region to review their own hurricane preparedness plans and remain informed throughout the season.



Inge Smidts, Chief Executive Officer, Liberty Caribbean

The Financial Intelligence Agency of the Turks and Caicos Islands Observes International FIU Day on June 9th 2026

The Financial Intelligence Agency of the Turks and Caicos Islands (FIATCI) joins Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) globally in observing the inaugural International FIU Day on 9 June 2026.

On this International FIU Day we recognize the essential role that Financial Intelligence Units play in protecting financial systems and supporting the fight against money laundering, terrorist financing, and related financial crimes.

International FIU Day provides an opportunity to highlight the work of Financial Intelligence Units worldwide and to recognize the professionals who analyze financial intelligence, support investigations, and help disrupt illicit financial flows. FIUs operate at the intersection of the financial sector and law enforcement, transforming financial data into actionable intelligence.

“Financial Intelligence Units play a critical role in safeguarding financial integrity, to identify, disrupt and bring to justice those involved in money laundering, terrorist financing and connected crime. Every day, FIU analysts and specialists work behind the scenes to identify suspicious financial activity, support investigations, and contribute to the protection of our economy and



society” said Dwayne Baker, Director of FIATCI.

Within the Turks and Caicos Islands, FIATCI serves as the national centre for the receipt, analysis, and dissemination of financial intelligence. By working closely with reporting entities, law en-

forcement agencies, regulators, supervisors, and other competent authorities, FIATCI supports effective responses to financial crime and strengthens the national AML/CFT framework.

International FIU Day also underscores the importance of cooperation. Finan-

cial crime increasingly operates across borders, requiring timely and trusted information sharing among FIUs and partners.

“In today’s threat environment, effective cooperation and information sharing are paramount if we are to achieve meaningful results in disrupting money laundering and terrorist financing,” said Dwayne Baker, Director of FIATCI. “International FIU Day highlights the value of collaboration, innovation, and strong analytical capacity in responding to evolving financial crime risks.”

As financial crime becomes more complex and technology-enabled, FIUs continue to adapt by enhancing analytical tools, leveraging data-driven approaches, and investing in skills and expertise. International FIU Day recognizes this evolution and reaffirms the importance of financial intelligence as a cornerstone of effective AML/CFT systems.

On this International FIU Day, The Financial Intelligence Agency of the Turks and Caicos Islands joins FIUs around the world in recognizing the contribution of our valued FIU staff, counterparts and stakeholders, and reaffirms a shared commitment to protecting our financial systems, supporting justice, and promoting international cooperation.

GRACE BAY CLUB

GRACE BAY RESORTS

OPEN JOB POSITIONS

POSITION: Corporate Accountant

PROPERTY: Grace Bay Club

Job overview: The Corporate Accountant will be an integral member of the Grace Bay Club Finance team. This role supports multi-entity operations, including intercompany transactions, financial reporting, and strata accounting. This position reports to the Financial Controller or such designation as directed by the Director of Finance.

Main responsibilities:

- Prepare and post intercompany invoices between hotel entities.
- Reconcile intercompany balances and resolve discrepancies.
- Maintain accurate records of intercompany transactions.
- Assist the Financial Controller with monthly Profit & Loss reporting.
- Analyze variances and provide commentary on financial performance.
- Support budgeting and forecasting activities.
- Assist with owner billing, expense allocation, and reserve fund tracking.
- Support month-end and year-end close processes.
- Prepare journal entries and account reconciliations.
- Assist with audits and internal controls.

Skills and competencies required:

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field.
- Minimum 3 years of Accounting experience, preferably in hospitality or property management.
- Strong understanding of intercompany accounting and financial reporting.
- Experience with strata or HOA accounting is a plus.
- Proficiency in accounting software (SAP Business One, QuickBooks, or similar).
- Excellent attention to detail and organizational skills.
- Strong communication and teamwork abilities
- Discretion and integrity when handling confidential information
- Must be comfortable working in a multicultural, team-oriented setting and adapting to the service standards of a luxury resort.

Full time position. Weekend and holiday work may be required.

Salary Range: \$65,000.00 - \$75,000.00 per annum

Interested persons should contact our Human Resources Department no later than June 19th 2026

Email: humanresources@gracebayclub.com

(649) 946-5050 Ext. 1020

#38 Grace Bay Circle, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies

JAGS McCartney was a Transformational Leader

An Op-Ed by Apostle Dr. Ruth Ariza

A few weeks ago, throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands, we proudly honored and celebrated the life, leadership, vision, and enduring legacy of the Right Excellent James Alexander George Smith McCartney, our National Hero and the first Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

JAGS McCartney was not merely a political figure; he emerged as a transformational leader, nation-builder, and pioneering voice who carried the hopes and aspirations of an emerging people. At only 31 years old, he stepped into leadership during a defining period in the history of the Turks and Caicos Islands and became instrumental in advancing the nation into greater self-governance, national identity, political maturity, and developmental vision.

His leadership represented more than governmental transition; it symbolized the awakening of national consciousness and the establishment of a new chapter in the destiny of these islands.

Even today, his work and sacrifice continue to echo throughout the nation as a lasting reminder that true leadership is rooted in purpose, courage, vision, and service.

As we commemorated JAGS McCartney Day in 2026, the observance carried an even greater historical and prophetic significance, because this year marks 50 years since August 31st, 1976, when JAGS McCartney officially became the first Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The rise of JAGS McCartney symbolized more than political advancement; it reflected a people stepping into greater national awareness, self-governance, vision, and purpose. It marked the beginning of a new chapter in the history of these islands, a chapter focused on growth, development, leadership, and nation-building.

When viewed through prophetic lens, the emergence of JAGS McCartney in 1976 can be seen as more than a political event; it represented a season of the laying of very important prophetic governmental foundation for the Turks and Caicos Islands, a period that represented a time of transition, establishment, and new beginnings.

It marked a season where a nation began transitioning into a greater sense of identity, leadership, structure, governance, national consciousness, and the future direction of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Prophetically, several foundational dimensions were being established in 1976.

A FOUNDATION OF NATIONAL IDENTITY:

The rise of JAGS McCartney prophetically signaled the awakening of a people to their own voice, identity, and national vision. A foundation was laid for self-awareness, self-governance, and nationhood.

A FOUNDATION OF TRANSITION:

The year 1976 represented a national crossing point. Prophetically, the nation entered a new governmental season that would shape future generations and unlock new dimensions of development and leadership.

A FOUNDATION OF GOVERNMENTAL ORDER:

From a prophetic perspective, the events surrounding 1976 represented a season of establishment, alignment, and new beginnings for the Turks and Caicos Islands. Through the introduction of ministerial government and the leadership of JAGS McCartney, important governmental foundations were being put into place that would help shape the future direction and development of the nation.

This period marked the strengthening of leadership structures, national organization, and institutional growth, creating pathways for greater progress, stability, and national advancement in the years to come.

A FOUNDATION OF PURPOSE AND DESTINY:

JAGS McCartney carried the burden of vision for a developing nation. His leadership laid seeds for future advancement, political awareness, educational development, and national aspiration.

A FOUNDATION OF VOICE:

The rise of JAGS McCartney represented the emergence of the Turks and Caicos Islands speaking with greater national clarity, dignity, and self-determination on both regional and international levels.

Now, 50 years later, we stand at another prophetic threshold. As I set in the JAGS

McCartney Day celebration today, the number 50 kept coming before me and in my hearing, as we just celebrated Pentecost Sunday yesterday, and the word Pentecost in its original Greek understanding, also means '50', and no doubt there is a connection, then the Spirit of the Lord started downloading this in my spirit.

Biblically, the number 50 represents Jubilee, a sacred season of restoration, transition, release, inheritance, liberty, and divine realignment. The fiftieth year was not simply celebratory; it marked the completion of a cycle and the beginning of a new dimension.

Prophetically, 2026 carries significant spiritual implications for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

This is not merely a commemoration of the past; it is a prophetic marker pointing toward the future.

From a Prophetic aspect, several dimensions become significant in this 50th year.

A PROPHETIC SEASON OF NATIONAL REPOSITIONING:

Jubilee seasons reposition people and nations for the next phase of destiny. This year prophetically signals a call for the Turks and Caicos Islands to reassess vision, strengthen foundations, and strategically position itself for future generations.

A SEASON OF RESTORATION:

In Scripture, Jubilee restored inheritances and realigned what had been lost or displaced. Prophetically, this season speaks to the restoration of national vision, unity, purpose, integrity, wisdom, and developmental focus.

A CALL FOR WISE AND VISIONARY LEADERSHIP:

The completion of 50 years prophetically calls for leaders who possess wisdom, discernment, integrity, courage, and strategic foresight. This is a season requiring leadership that can guide the nation with clarity and purpose in rapidly changing times.

A REAWAKENING OF NATIONAL PURPOSE: Prophetically, nations can drift from foundational vision. The 50th year becomes a trumpet call reminding the Turks and Caicos Islands of its identity, values, potential, and divine purpose.

A SHIFT INTO A NEW GENERATIONAL ERA:



Biblically, 50 marks the closing of one cycle and the opening of another. Prophetically, this suggests the emergence of new ideas, new leadership dimensions, fresh innovation, and generational transition that will shape the future direction of the nation.

A CALL FOR UNITY AND NATIONAL HEALING:

Jubilee seasons were seasons of reconciliation and restoration. Prophetically, this year calls for greater unity, collaboration, healing, and collective nation-building among the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

A SEASON OF DIVINE PRECISION:

Prophetically, precision becomes necessary in governance, economic development, national planning, youth empowerment, education, infrastructure, and spiritual direction. This is not a season for careless movement, but for strategic and intentional advancement.

A PROPHETIC OPENING FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS:

What is established in this season may shape the next half-century of national development. Therefore, this becomes a critical moment for vision, prayer, wisdom, and purposeful action concerning the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

As we honor the memory and legacy of the Right Excellent JAGS McCartney, may this historic season inspire every citizen to continue building wisely upon the foundations that were laid 50 years ago.

May God grant wisdom to our leaders, unity among the people, vision for the future, and continued favor upon these our Beautiful by Nature, Turks and Caicos Islands.

I wish that the Turks and Caicos Islands had a Happy JAGS McCartney Day.

SAUNDERS CHAMPIONS DIGITAL RESILIENCE FOR THE CARIBBEAN AT HIGH-LEVEL BELIZE WORKSHOP

The Honourable. E. Jay Saunders, Minister of Innovation, Technology and Energy, represented the Turks and Caicos Islands at the Regional Workshop on Strengthening Digital Resilience, held in Belize City, Belize, from June 2–3, 2026.

Hosted at the Grand Resort and Residences and convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in collaboration with the Government of Belize and the European Union (EU), the workshop brought together regional policymakers, technical experts, and international partners to advance collaboration on safeguarding critical government systems and ensuring the continuity of public services across the Caribbean.

Minister Saunders was specially invited to participate as a panellist in a Fireside Chat on "Political Commitment to Digital Resilience," where he joined fellow regional leaders in emphasising the importance of strong political leadership, coordinated regional action, and strategic partnerships in

building resilient digital infrastructures.

The workshop focused on strengthening the technical and policy foundations of digital resilience, including infrastructure requirements, data protection frameworks, and governance structures designed to safeguard national systems against disruption. Discussions were particularly relevant for Caribbean nations, which remain vulnerable to natural disasters impacting both physical and digital infrastructure.

A key highlight of the workshop was the exploration of the Data Embassy model, an innovative approach that enables countries to securely store encrypted copies of critical government data in trusted partner states, while retaining full sovereignty over that data. This model offers a practical solution to ensuring continuity of government operations and protecting sensitive information before, during, and after crises.

Sessions throughout the workshop examined:

The strategic role of data centres in national

resilience

Institutional and governance frameworks for digital continuity

Legal considerations surrounding data sovereignty

Opportunities for adapting international best practices to the Caribbean context

Minister Saunders' participation reflects the Turks and Caicos Islands Government's continued commitment to advancing digital transformation and strengthening national resilience through regional cooperation.

The workshop will culminate in the development of the Declaration of Belize City, reinforcing a shared commitment among Caribbean nations to protect critical data assets and enhance digital resilience.

Hon. E. Jay Saunders stated, "A Data Embassy is an innovative cloud-based sovereign solution for governments that need to store their data offshore while maintaining control, resilience and continuity. For the Turks and Caicos Islands Government, this approach is highly relevant for several reasons,

particularly as we transform into a 24x7 government. I was pleased to be invited to attend the Strengthening Digital Resilience conference in Belize, as it brought the Data Embassy product solution onto our radar."



Hon. E. Jay Saunders with Prime Minister of Belize, the Hon. John Antonio Briceño at the Regional Digital Resilience Workshop in Belize.

The City Provo Is Becoming, and the Church It Will Need

An Op-Ed by Donnie Gardiner

When I was a student at Precious Treasures International School, we used to sing a song from our Caribbean School Hymn Book called "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love."

At the time, I did not grasp the weight of what we were singing. We sang it because it was part of school life, part of devotion, part of the Christian rhythm many of us grew up around in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

But the older I get, the more that simple line confronts me.

It does not say they will know we are Christians by our buildings. It does not say they will know we are Christians by how many services we hold, how loudly we sing, how often we speak religious language or how visible our churches are on Sunday mornings. The song points to something far more difficult to fake: love.

Not sentimental love. Not love as a slogan. Not love that exists only in songs and public prayers. Christian love is meant to be seen in action. It is meant to become visible in the way we care for the hungry, protect the vulnerable, visit the sick, support the abused, guide the young and stand with those who are suffering.

That childhood song has stayed with me as I think about the Providenciales now emerging around us.

For many of us, Provo is still home in the most familiar sense of the word. It is the island where we grew up, went to school, attended church, saw familiar faces and experienced the closeness of island life. Yet the Providenciales of today is no longer simply the quiet community many of us remember. It is increasingly taking on the realities of a city.

That growth brings both opportunity and responsibility. A city cannot only be measured by the buildings it puts up, the visitors it welcomes or the wealth it generates. It must also be measured by whether the people who live there are seen, protected and cared for.

With each passing year, Provo carries more of the pressures, needs and vulnerabilities of a city.

Behind the image of a thriving tourism destination are families trying to make groceries last until payday. There are elderly persons and sick residents who may spend too many days without companionship or practical support. There are women and children living with the effects of abuse. There are people facing unstable housing, job loss, and grief. There are young people looking for identity and belonging before drugs, violence or destructive influences offer them the wrong kind of community.

As Providenciales continues to grow, the church must be willing to ask a serious question: if they are to know we are Christians by our love, what must that love look like in the city Provo is becoming?

The Gospel That Does Not Change

To speak about the church meeting social needs is not to call for the church to abandon its central mission.

Providenciales does not need churches that water down biblical truth in order to appear modern or relevant. It does not need churches that become so focused on social programmes that they become silent about sin, repentance, salvation and the lordship of Jesus Christ.

The church must continue to preach the gospel clearly and unapologetically. Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, remains the only hope of salvation for sinners. No community initiative can replace that message. No act of charity can reconcile a person to God.

But the church must also remember that the gospel it preaches produces a people who love.

Scripture does not allow believers to separate faithfulness to truth from practical care for those in need. James warns against offering kind religious words to a brother or sister who is without food or clothing while doing nothing to meet the need. In Matthew 25, Jesus speaks directly of feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger and visiting the sick. In Acts 6, when widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food, the early church did not dismiss their physical need as a distraction from spiritual ministry. It organised itself to respond.

Biblical truth and active compassion are not com-

peting visions for the church. A church that truly believes the gospel should be driven by that gospel into the lives of people who are hurting.

Having had the privilege of travelling internationally, I have seen churches whose presence is felt far beyond Sunday morning. They are known in their communities because they feed families, assist those without stable shelter, visit the sick, care for survivors of abuse, mentor children and respond consistently when people face crisis.

Their service does not replace the gospel. Often, it places them close enough to hurting people for the gospel to be heard with trust.

Provo does not need a different gospel. It needs churches willing to make the gospel visible.

A Church Present Where People Hurt

The church Providenciales will need must be organised to care for people consistently, not only occasionally.

There are already Christians and churches in the Turks and Caicos Islands serving others in meaningful ways. That work should be recognised and encouraged. But the growing needs of Providenciales require this spirit of service to become broader, more coordinated and more dependable across church life.

One practical place to begin is hunger.

Imagine if churches across Providenciales coordinated a weekly community lunch initiative. In the various settlements of Provo, churches could work together to provide community food distributions. Participating churches could rotate responsibility for preparing and serving free hot meals. Some congregations may be able to host meals. Others may contribute volunteers, transportation, funding or food supplies. Hotels, supermarkets, restaurants and private citizens could be invited to sponsor meals or provide suitable donations.

The programme could reach the elderly, struggling families, unemployed persons, sick residents and shut-ins. Volunteers could deliver meals to those who are unable to travel.

This does not need to begin as a massive institution. A small group of willing churches could establish something dependable and compassionate almost immediately.

A family struggling to buy groceries should not have to wait until Christmas to experience the generosity of the church. An elderly resident living alone should not only be remembered after a hurricane or during a holiday drive. Hunger, sickness and loneliness are not seasonal problems.

There must also be greater urgency in how the church responds to domestic violence and abuse. There can be no ambiguity here: domestic violence is evil. Abuse is not simply a difficult marriage, a private family disagreement or an uncomfortable issue best kept out of public view. When a woman, man or child is being abused, the vulnerable must be protected.

A church that is unwilling to confront abuse clearly has failed at the very point where compassion and courage are most needed.

Churches should never pressure victims to remain in dangerous situations. They should never quietly protect reputations at the expense of safety. They should never attempt to manage serious abuse cases internally when trained professionals and appropriate authorities are needed. But neither should churches conclude that, because this work requires expertise, they have no role to play.

In partnership with the Ministry of Religious Affairs & Gender Affairs, churches could help form an **Abuse Survivor Support Network**. This could provide emergency transportation, temporary accommodation assistance, food, childcare support, counselling referrals and practical help for survivors of violence and abuse rebuilding their lives. Pastors and ministry leaders could receive proper safeguarding training so that when abuse is disclosed, the church responds wisely, lawfully and compassionately.

The Christian Council could also mobilise funding and support for a professionally operated domestic violence centre or emergency shelter programme. Churches may not be qualified to run every aspect of such a service, but they can help ensure that those fleeing danger are not left without options.

A person escaping abuse should never wonder whether the church will protect appearances

more quickly than it protects people made in the image of God. The church Provo will need must be a refuge to those in danger.

Not every church can do everything. But every church can ask what burden it is prepared to help carry.

A Voice for Families Under Pressure

For many families in Providenciales, the cost of living is not an abstract political debate. It is a weekly calculation.

It is standing in a grocery aisle deciding which items have to go back on the shelf. It is paying rent and wondering how much will remain for food. It is watching an electricity bill rise while income stays the same. It is working hard in an island economy that appears successful, yet still feeling as though basic stability remains just out of reach.

When families begin to struggle, churches are often among the first places they turn. A pastor may hear about the mother who needs groceries. A benevolence committee may learn of a household behind on bills. A church member may quietly help an elderly neighbour with food, transportation or a utility payment.

That is good and necessary. The church should be a place where compassion is not only preached, but practised. But if churches are repeatedly helping families who cannot meet basic needs, then the church should also be willing to speak lovingly and wisely about the pressures those families are carrying.

Proverbs 31:8-9 says, "Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

That is not a call to accusation. It is not permission for the church to become partisan, reactionary or reckless with its words. It is a call to righteous advocacy. It reminds us that there are people whose burdens are often carried quietly, whose struggles may never reach public platforms and whose needs can be overlooked in the wider story of economic success.

This is where the Christian Council could use its voice.

One important area for that advocacy is affordability. When the prices of essential goods and services become unbearable for families, churches should be willing to listen, document what they are seeing and call for meaningful action. Where unfair pricing or price gouging is proven, they should support appropriate enforcement. Where limited competition gives families few alternatives for necessities, they should call for transparency, accountability and consumer protection.

This kind of advocacy should begin close to the ground. The Christian Council could host community listening sessions with families affected by high grocery, rent, electricity and transportation costs. It could invite churches to share, without exposing private details, the kinds of needs they are seeing through food assistance, benevolence funds and pastoral care. It could produce a nonpartisan statement on family hardship and affordability. It could meet with government leaders, regulators and major service providers. It could encourage citizens to properly report credible instances of unfair practices through consumer protection channels.

None of this requires the church to point fingers recklessly. It simply requires the church to refuse silence when silence would leave struggling families unheard.

This is not the church becoming distracted from its mission. Proverbs tells God's people to open their mouths for those whose needs might otherwise be ignored. The prophets of Scripture were not silent when the vulnerable were burdened, overlooked or exploited. The church should not be silent either.

Charity helps people survive hardship. Christian advocacy should confront the conditions that make hardship unbearable.

Reaching Young People Before Crisis Does

The church Providenciales will need cannot only respond to the crises already before us. It must also invest intentionally in young people before crisis begins shaping their future.

Too often, communities become most concerned about a young person after something has already gone wrong: after drugs have taken hold,

after violence has occurred, after a child has disconnected from school or after a teenager has begun making choices that may follow them for years.

The church should be present much earlier. Music and culture could become especially powerful tools in this mission.

Imagine a National Youth Drum Corps Challenge, with young people representing Providenciales, Grand Turk, North Caicos, Middle Caicos and South Caicos. Churches could provide rehearsal space, mentors and volunteers. Businesses could sponsor drums, uniforms, transportation and instructors. Experienced musicians and worship leaders could teach students not only how to perform. Beyond that, students can learn how to grow in discipline, teamwork, confidence and pride in their island.

The Turks and Caicos Islands has already seen renewed interest in youth marching bands through school and police-supported programmes connected to the DARE programme. Similar community drum corps in the United States have also used marching music to give young people structure, teamwork, performance opportunities and a positive place to belong. Churches in Provo could help build on that kind of model by offering rehearsal space, mentors, volunteers and moral formation.

The church has a role to play in creating spaces for youth before the streets, drugs or harmful influences create alternatives.

The Church This Growing City Will Need

None of these programmes is the gospel itself.

A meal cannot forgive sin. A shelter cannot reconcile a person to God. A public statement on affordability cannot offer eternal life. A youth drum corps cannot replace the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

But Christians who have received the mercy of Christ cannot remain indifferent to the suffering around them.

A meal prepared in love can open a relationship. A survivor protected in a moment of crisis can encounter the compassion of Christ through His people. A family helped through financial hardship can be reminded that they have not been forgotten. A child mentored consistently over time may one day ask why the church cared enough to remain present.

When those moments come, the church must be ready to speak of the Saviour whose love compelled it to serve.

The city Provo is becoming will need churches organised enough to feed families consistently, courageous enough to protect abuse survivors, bold enough to advocate for struggling households and wise enough to reach young people before crisis does.

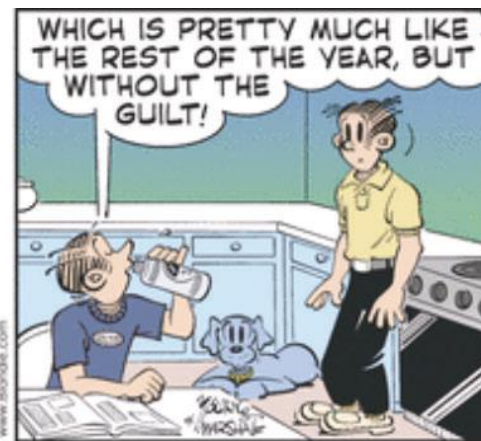
When I was a child singing that they would know we are Christians by our love, I could not have understood all that love would require. But as Providenciales grows, that line feels less like a childhood memory and more like a question placed before the church.

Will our neighbours know us by our love?

The world already knows Providenciales for Grace Bay, luxury resorts and clear turquoise water. As this island continues to grow, may the people who call it home also come to know it as a place where the church did not stand at a distance from their pain.

May they be able to say that when Provo became more crowded, more costly and more complicated, the church became more present.





NEWSLINE TCI COMICS

NEVER TELL A WOMAN TO CALM DOWN

THAT'S IT. THIS ISN'T A JOKE, I'M JUST TRYING TO SAVE YOUR LIFE.



"By clutching his pearls and making a big scene, the sheriff always gets his man."



I never allow myself to become anxious or worried about anything.

FRETLESS BASS

Wayne D Piro. 6-12-26

JOJO THE DOLPHIN

NEWSLINE TCI
Heritage

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

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

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

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

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

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



Students displaying their water bottles received from the Provo Water Company

Provo Water Company Installs Drinking Water Fountains at Clement Howell High School

Provo Water Company was pleased to install two drinking water fountains at Clement Howell High School as part of the 15th Annual Drinking Water Week, continuing its commitment to promoting safe drinking water, conservation and healthier choices across the community.

The presentation took place on May 28th and brought together students, school representatives, community partners and government officials to highlight the importance of safe, reliable drinking water and the role young people can play in protecting this valuable resource.

Hon. Kyle Knowles, Minister of Health and Human Services, spoke about the importance of drinking water, staying hydrated and choosing water over sugary drinks. His message supported the wider aim of the initiative, which is to encourage healthier habits while helping students understand the value of water in everyday life.

Graceway Communities also supported the presentation and



A representative from the Provo Water Company addresses the event

were on hand to give out refillable water bottles and provide a fresh fruit station for students. Their involvement helped reinforce the message that hydration, healthy choices and reducing single-use plastic all go hand in hand.

Provo Water Company staff spoke with students about where

their water comes from, why it is safe to drink and how simple everyday actions can support conservation. These include turning off taps, reporting leaks, choosing refillable bottles and being mindful of water use at school and at home.

The installation of the fountains forms part of Provo Water Com-

pany's continued investment in the community. By helping students access safe drinking water during the school day, the company aims to support both wellbeing and environmental responsibility.

MD Robert Hall commented "Provo Water continues to promote safe drinking water and invest in community initiatives that support education, conservation and healthier choices. These fountains are a practical way to help students stay hydrated while also encouraging less reliance on single-use plastic."

Provo Water Company extends its thanks to Clement Howell High School, IGA, Hon. Kyle Knowles, the Ministry of Health and Human Services and everyone involved in supporting the initiative.

The company will continue to work with schools and community partners to raise awareness of safe drinking water, conservation and the importance of protecting one of the Turks and Caicos Islands' most valuable resources.

Life Line FEATURED CHURCH

Church of God of Prophecy, Blue Hills

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



Life line Church Directory

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

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

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

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

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

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

Anglican Church Rectory 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>.

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

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

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

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



NIGHT OF HYMNS AT ALMI

The Beauty For Ashes Women's Conference culminated on Providenciales with a Night of Hymns at the Abundant Life Ministries International Church on Sunday, June 7, featuring Rev. Christopher Roberts and Pastor Pascale Saunders both of Nassau Bahamas. The event also featured local acts such as Jay Morley and the Abundant Life Ministries International Praise Team. The following are photo highlights of the event.





The Breaking of Silence

Youth Activism, Black Consciousness, and the Emerging Movement of the 1970s in the Turks and Caicos Islands

A series by Joan Astwood Sutton

By the early 1970s, the political atmosphere within the Turks and Caicos Islands was no longer changing quietly.

Something deeper was happening beneath the surface of ordinary life.

What had once existed as scattered frustration, economic hardship, migration, constitutional dissatisfaction, and private discussion was slowly transforming into something far more powerful.

A generation was beginning to awaken.

Across the Islands, many younger Turks and Caicos Islanders no longer believed the future of their country should remain shaped almost entirely by outside authority, inherited colonial systems, or political silence.

People were beginning to think differently.

And once people begin thinking differently, history itself begins to move.

A Generation Growing Restless

The Turks and Caicos Islands in the early 1970s remained a country burdened by significant social and economic challenges.

The salt industry that had sustained generations had weakened dramatically.

Migration continued, separating families throughout the Islands.

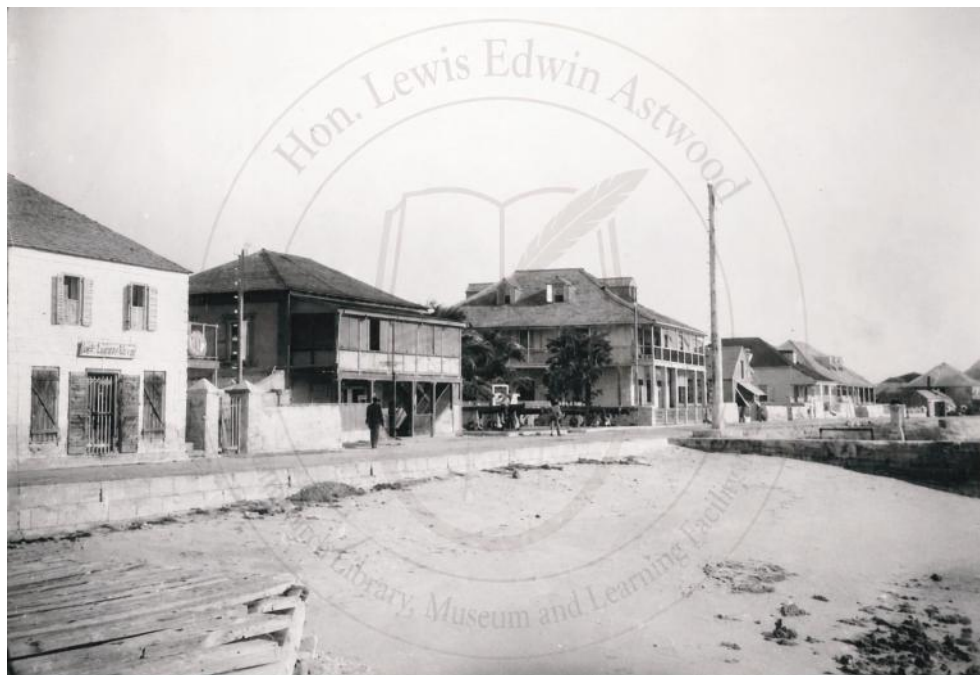
Many communities still faced poor infrastructure, limited educational opportunities, unemployment, inadequate public services, and growing economic uncertainty.

For many ordinary families, survival itself remained a daily struggle.

Children watched parents leave for work abroad in the Bahamas, the United States, and elsewhere.

Entire communities lived suspended between hardship and hope.

Barrels arriving from overseas became symbols of both survival



A photo from the Hon. Lewis Edwin Astwood Research Library, Museum and Learning Facility depicts a section of Grand Turk back in the day

and separation.

At the same time, younger Islanders increasingly questioned whether meaningful national progress could truly occur while major decisions affecting the country remained concentrated in systems largely controlled from outside the Islands.

Questions surrounding:

- opportunity,
 - fairness,
 - equality,
 - justice,
 - representation,
 - dignity,
 - development,
 - and political participation
- were becoming increasingly difficult to ignore.

The younger generation was no longer willing to inherit silence.

The Caribbean Influence

The Turks and Caicos Islands did not exist in isolation from the wider political and cultural transformations sweeping across the Caribbean during the 1960s and 1970s.

Across the region, discussions surrounding:

- Black consciousness,
- labour rights,
- democracy,
- decolonisation,
- Majority Rule,

- self-government,
 - civil rights,
 - African identity,
 - and political participation
- were reshaping the thinking of an entire generation.

Jamaica's independence in 1962 had already demonstrated that constitutional transformation within the Caribbean was possible.

The rise of Sir Lynden Pindling and Majority Rule in the Bahamas in 1967 carried an enormous psychological impact throughout the region, particularly within the Turks and Caicos Islands, where deep family, migration, educational, and cultural ties to the Bahamas already existed.

For many young Turks and Caicos Islanders, these developments shattered long-standing assumptions about power and political possibility.

The idea that ordinary Black Caribbean people could shape the future direction of their own countries no longer appeared impossible.

It was happening all around them.

Young Islanders returning home from studies and work abroad brought with them:

- broader political awareness,

- stronger racial consciousness,
- deeper confidence,
- wider worldviews,
- and growing expectations surrounding local leadership and political participation.

The atmosphere throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands slowly began to change.

Politics Enters Everyday Life

Politics gradually moved beyond government chambers and entered ordinary life.

Discussions surrounding the future of the country increasingly unfolded:

- inside homes,
- around domino tables,
- within churches,
- along waterfronts,
- inside game rooms,
- among groups of friends,
- during community gatherings,
- and among young men and women, imagining a different future for the country.

Political awareness spread steadily through:

- radio programmes,
- newspapers,
- public discussion,
- cultural gatherings,
- and ordinary conversation.

Politics was no longer viewed merely as distant government business involving officials and constitutional documents.

It was becoming connected to:

- roads,
- schools,
- migration,
- jobs,
- opportunity,
- fairness,
- development,
- identity,
- and whether ordinary people would truly possess a voice in shaping the future of their own country.

For many Islanders, politics was becoming personal.

It affected whether families remained separated by migration. Whether young people saw an opportunity at home.

Whether ordinary people felt respected.

And whether Turks and Caicos Islanders would eventually exercise greater influence over their own national destiny.

The Public Spaces and the Private Rooms

As political consciousness deepened, young people increasingly gathered across the Islands to discuss the country's future.

Some discussions unfolded publicly in social settings connected to the period's youth atmosphere, including spaces associated with the Junkanoo Club era, where political awareness, cultural pride, debate, and social discussion increasingly circulated among younger Islanders.

But beyond the visible public atmosphere, quieter forms of organising were also underway.

For decades, parts of that history remained only partially understood.

Some people later spoke of the awakening of the 1970s as though it had emerged from a single visible movement.

Yet oral histories, family testimony, archived newspapers, historical research, and even the later words of JAGS McCartney himself reveal a far deeper and more layered reality.

Years later, during discussions connected to the April 1980 United Nations Visiting Mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands, JAGS McCartney, alongside Oswald Skippings, Lewis "Louie" Edwin Astwood, and Charles "Liam" McGuire, referred to activists associated with the wider youth awakening as being among the "few groups" attempting to raise ordinary people's awareness of their rights.

That wording remains historically important.

It suggests that the political awakening of the early 1970s was not confined to a single organisation, building, or visible public group. Rather, the atmosphere of the period involved overlapping layers of:

- political consciousness,
- youth activism,
- grassroots discussion,
- Black consciousness influence,
- private organising,
- labour concerns,
- community frustration,
- cultural pride,
- and growing demands for greater dignity, representation,

and constitutional advancement. To many people living through the era, the visible atmosphere surrounding the Junkanoo Club later became one of the most recognisable symbols of the awakening.

But the wider movement extended far beyond any single building or public incident.

The Club became one visible doorway into a much broader national awakening unfolding quietly across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Behind the public atmosphere existed deeper layers of discussion, mentorship, transportation support, political education, cultural influence, private meetings, strategic conversations, and ordinary citizens encouraging one another during a politically sensitive period in the country's development. Some individuals operated publicly.

Others remained deliberately private.

Some marched openly.

Others contributed quietly behind the scenes.

Some used speeches, public meetings, and radio broadcasts.

Others carried political conversations into homes, churches, schools, dockyards, Salinas, workplaces, and communities throughout the Islands.

Many never expected history would remember their names at all.

Yet they helped shape the atmosphere that transformed the political direction of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Hidden Human Story

Among those remembered within the wider atmosphere of political and social awakening were Edward "Eddie" Seymour, Ronald "Ron" Higgs, Edward "Eddie" Swann, Carol Forbes-Durham, Dennis Durham, Rupert Robinson, Harold Robinson, Janet Adams-Fulford, Earl Fulford, Audrey Taylor, Elaine Adams, Jean "Jenny" Williams, Albert "Abbey" Williams, Rubert "Spadyboy" Gardiner, Corleen Williams, Valeria Houseman, James Ingham, Beverly Ingham, Earl "Super C" Ingham, Kathleen "Katie" Williams, Lathia "MaDokie" Steel, Lillian "Ma Lil" Swann, Norman "Normy" Parker, Kenneth Carter, Marjorie Carter, Alexander Carter, Moses Carter Sr., Rosabelle Adams, Mildred Garland Astwood, Lewis "Louie" Edwin Astwood, Leslie Musgrove,

Nola "Bea" Musgrove-Buchanan, Emmanuel "Manny" Penn, Brenda Sturup-Robinson, Edgar "Mobile" Forbes, Hyacinth Been, Barron Skippings, Raphael Graveley, Ariel Misick, Nathaniel "Bops" Francis, Sir Edward Wood, Minnie Tatem, Mary Wood, Headley Durham, Arthur Tatem, Helena Jones Robinson, James Malcolm, Vernon "Codigi" Lightbourne, Douglas "Doggie" Prospere, Carlos Simons, and many others whose names became woven into the wider human story surrounding the political awakening of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Some stories remained public.

Others survived only through fading photographs, oral histories, archived newspapers, family memories, and the recollections of those who lived through the period.

Yet fifty years later, the deeper human story surrounding the political awakening of the Turks and Caicos Islands continues to emerge piece by piece.

The Breaking of Silence

The movement period was never solely about political parties.

It was about people.

It was about ordinary Islanders beginning to believe they had a right to participate more meaningfully in shaping their country's direction.

It was about dignity.

It was about visibility.

It was about identity.

And it was about a younger generation beginning to reject the belief that silence and political passivity represented safety.

By the mid-1970s, the atmosphere across the Turks and Caicos Islands had changed profoundly.

Public frustration was growing louder.

Political discussion was spreading beyond official chambers into wider society.

A younger generation was becoming increasingly conscious of constitutional authority, local leadership, economic opportunity, and the country's future direction.

The old political silence that had shaped earlier decades was weakening.

What many later remembered simply as "the movement" was, in reality, a broader period of national awakening unfolding across multiple layers of society. The Turks and Caicos Islands

were no longer merely discussing constitutional reform.

The country was beginning to discover its political voice.

And as that voice grew stronger, tensions that had been building beneath the surface of society would soon become impossible to ignore.

Between September 1974 and early 1975, the country would enter one of the most turbulent and consequential periods in its modern political history.

The awakening was becoming a movement.

The movement was beginning to test its strength.

And the road to 1976 was about to enter a dramatic new chapter.

About the Author

Joan Astwood-Sutton, LLB (Hons.), Master's in Publishing, and Certificate in Youth & Community Studies, is a cultural heritage researcher, museum founder, storyteller, and historical preservation advocate in the Turks and Caicos Islands. She is the Founder and Director of the Hon. Lewis Edwin Astwood Research Library, Museum and Learning Facility, dedicated to preserving the political, cultural, and historical legacy of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

She is the daughter of the late Hon. Lewis Edwin Astwood, who served in the first Ministerial Government established under the 1976 Constitution, and the late Mildred Garland Astwood, both of whom were closely connected to the political and community movements of the 1970s. Through decades of archival preservation, oral history documentation, and historical research, she has worked to preserve the memory and identity of the Turks and Caicos Islands for future generations.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT BRUNCH RAISES OVER \$35,000

10-year anniversary Brunch at Land + Sea raises funds for the charity's breakfast and food bank programmes

On Sunday 31 May 2026, on the lawn at the stunning Land + Sea restaurant at Wymara Villas, Food for Thought welcomed over 200 supporters, both loyal and new, to help celebrate its 10-year milestone.

All in attendance were treated to a delicious buffet brunch, complimentary mimosas, and the perfect musical accompaniment of ZG Acoustics.

The charity's younger guests were kept entertained by a fun art station, a variety of lawn games, and the fantastic face-painting skills of Sonnderia Forbes. As a thank you, in addition to Food for Thought branded Govino champagne flutes, supporters took home elegant centrepieces of local plants and succulents, made by the Turks & Caicos Environmental Club.

The event organisers were delighted to have Her Excellency the Honourable Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, the Honourable Deputy Premier Jamell Robinson and family, and the Minister for Education Honourable Rachel Taylor, all in attendance to show their support.

The Food for Thought team was also very pleased to welcome several of the teachers from the Government schools who help make the Breakfast Programme such a success.

Food for Thought Co-founder Karen Savory Iginii took a moment during the brunch to thank all of the charity's supporters, and to acknowledge that the achievements of the last 10 years would not be possible without the community's generous support. Plaques of appreciation were presented to Partner Sponsor Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty and Lew 1 Shipping Ltd in recognition of 10 years of support. Thanks to the attendees and sponsors' kind support, the event raised over \$35,000 through the magnificent donated silent auction and raffle items.

Food for Thought Co-founders Karen and Jeanne wish to express their deep gratitude to the event sponsors and the charity's supporters:

"First and foremost, we need to give our heart-felt thanks to Lindsay Mensen, who has recently joined the Food for Thought team, and is responsible for putting this event together, with the help of our friend and long-time supporter Laura Staniforth.

We are truly grateful to the guests, event sponsors and donors for the funds we were able to raise at this year's brunch. Thank you all. Wymara did a wonderful job hosting the event, The Wine Cellar and IGA Communities provided the delicious mimosa ingredients. Turks & Caicos



Environmental Club provided the beautiful centrepieces. The amazing ZG Acoustics and Romello Anarje photography both donated their time and talent. Food for Thought thanks the sponsors of this 10-year anniversary Brunch: Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty, KB Home Centre, Grant Thornton, Keller Williams Turks & Caicos, Turks & Caicos Banking Company, Wymara Resort + Villas, Temple Trust and Islehelp.

It also thanks also to William John, Alexander Charles, Ashton Iginii, MOSWN. "And of course, to our amazing volunteers who helped ensure the event ran as smoothly as it did: Griffen, Carolyn, Ali, Stephanie, Nataliyah, Alex, Gemma & Clemia.

"Lastly, but crucially for a successful fundraiser, our immense gratitude to all of the generous silent auction and raffle donors: Bradley Theodore, Ambergris Cay, Sacred Rock, KYN, Grace Bay Club, Dragon Cay Resort, Sharon H Photography, Fay Ninon, Big Blue Collective, WaketoWake, The Elephant Rooms, Caicos Express Airways, King Ocean, Seven Stars, Goldsmith's, Ode to Gillian, Jai's, The Palms Spa, Parallel23, Sui Ren, Atabeyra, Design Studio, Twin Island Adventures, Swell Yoga, Sunshine Nursery,

Caribbean Cruisin'."

Food for thought further noted: "Financial donations are essential for our organisation, so that we can purchase the breakfast food for nearly 400 students we reach every school day. We are able to keep costs down and reach that number of children due to the generosity of our logistics partners: Lew 1 Shipping, King Ocean Services, AI Services, and Sunny Foods.

"We take this opportunity to once again thank our Partner Sponsor Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty, as well as our other wonderful corporate sponsors: HAB Group, Ports of Call, Design Studio, Savory & Co., Sunshine Nursery, and Grace Bay Resorts. We could not run our programmes without your backing.

"However, we could also not do what we do without the support of our amazing team of volunteers and cheerleaders. Volunteers prepare the breakfast each morning, they help to sort and deliver the boxes of food to the schools, they assist at our events, and are always enthusiastic whenever they are called to help. We are very lucky to be part of such a caring community."

Visit foodforthoughttci.com for more in-

formation about the charity's work and details about donating, or contact us at info@foodforthoughttci.com or 242-FEED.





New Less Invasive Treatments Expand Care Options for Women with Endometriosis and Fibroids

Endometriosis and uterine fibroids are two of the most common gynecological conditions. While they have important differences, they also have things in common. Both can lead to serious complications, affect fertility and have symptoms related to the menstrual cycle. And both are the focus of medical innovations to give women better treatment options, explains Megan Wasson, D.O., a gynecologist and chair of gynecology at Mayo Clinic in Arizona.

“They’re both relatively common,” Dr. Wasson says. “There can be some overlapping symptoms, but the majority of symptoms vary and the diseases progress differently. Fibroids and endometriosis can run in families. Neither condition is preventable.”

Fibroids grow in the uterus. They are almost always noncancerous. You can have one or more. A fibroid may be too small to see with the eyes alone or it can grow as big as a grapefruit or larger, even filling the pelvis or stomach area and making someone appear pregnant.

“These are not just little inconveniences. These are very large, very significant masses and they can really impact quality of life,” Dr. Wasson says.

Many people do not experience symptoms and only learn they have fibroids due to a pelvic exam or ultrasound. Others may have symptoms such as heavy, painful, longer or more frequent periods; pain in the pelvis, stomach area or lower back; frequent or difficult urination; constipation; or pain during sex.

“When fibroids become very enlarged, you can actually feel them through the abdominal wall. You can get to the point that your pants do not fit, you have significant abdominal bloating, and the fi-



Advances in gynecology are broadening treatment options, supporting recovery, and helping preserve fertility for many patients.

broids are pushing on other organs such as the bladder, causing you to have to go to the bathroom all the time, among other symptoms,” Dr. Wasson explains. “You can have constipation because the fibroids are pushing on the bowel and not allowing things to move.”

In the past, women whose fibroids were problematic were commonly told that a hysterectomy — surgery that removes the uterus, also ending the ability to become pregnant — was the only treatment option.

Now, medical advances are minimizing the impact of fibroid removal surgery on patients, often preserving the uterus and fertility, Dr. Wasson says. Other fibroid treatment options include medications that shrink fibroids and procedures that do not require surgery, she adds.

For example, interventional radiologists can perform a uterine fibroid embolization to block the blood supply to fibroids, caus-

ing them to shrink. Patients can usually leave the same day. Reducing the size and alleviating symptoms can help significantly, Dr. Wasson explains.

Other minimally invasive procedures include radiofrequency ablation, which uses energy to cause fibroids to die. Minimally invasive surgeries include a robotic or laparoscopic myomectomy, a surgery to remove the fibroids and leave the uterus in place.

Endometriosis

In endometriosis, tissue similar to the inner lining of the uterus grows outside the uterus. Common symptoms are pelvic pain and cramping, including during menstruation; heavy periods or bleeding between periods; and pain during sex, bowel movements or urination. Sometimes people with endometriosis do not have symptoms and only learn they have it when they have difficulty becoming pregnant or they have surgery for another reason.

“Endometriosis symptoms usually start much earlier in life than fibroids,” Dr. Wasson says. “Endometriosis increases the risk for ovarian cancer. It can also cause infertility.”

Treatment for endometriosis often involves medication or surgery. Conservative surgery removes endometriosis tissue while aiming to preserve the uterus and ovaries and protect fertility. This surgery may be minimally invasive, using a laparoscope and a small cut. Sometimes a laparoscopic surgery is done with help from robotic devices.

Dr. Wasson is working with a Mayo research team to create a vaccine to prevent endometriosis. She and Mayo colleagues are also exploring ways to make endometriosis easier to detect with medical imaging. Potentially, a molecule could be given during imaging that causes endometriosis to light up, making it easy to see endometriosis tissue, Dr. Wasson explains.

To help detect endometriosis or fibroids as early as possible, Dr. Wasson recommends that, from the time menstrual cycles start, girls and women pay attention to any irregularities, such as unusually heavy periods, abnormally long or short cycles, missing periods, or symptoms such as pain with periods.

“Your period should be no more than a minor inconvenience,” she adds. “If you’re missing work, school and other activities, if you’re staying in bed because you’re having your period, that’s not normal. If there are any symptoms causing you to change anything in your life, that warrants a conversation with your healthcare professional. Don’t assume a change is normal or is just something you should deal with.”

InterHealth Canada – Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital Congratulates The TCI Ministry of Health on Historic EMTCT Certification

Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital extends its heartfelt congratulations to the Ministry of Health and Human Services of the Turks and Caicos Islands Government on receiving certification for the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission (EMTCT) of HIV on 3 June 2026.

This landmark achievement represents years of dedication, collaboration, and unwavering commitment to protecting the health and well-being of mothers and children throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands. It stands as a testament to the strength of the country’s healthcare system and the effectiveness of coordinated public health efforts focused on prevention, early detection, treatment, and long-term follow-up care.

InterHealth Canada is proud to have partnered with the Ministry of Health throughout this journey and applauds the remarkable efforts of the healthcare professionals whose expertise and dedication made this achievement possible.

We particularly recognise the nurses, phy-

sicians, midwives, laboratory professionals, public health practitioners, community health workers, administrators, and support staff within the Ministry of Health and across InterHealth Canada who have worked tirelessly to ensure that every pregnant woman receives comprehensive, respectful, and timely care.

The certification reflects the success of a robust healthcare framework that includes universal antenatal screening, rapid testing, prompt initiation of treatment, comprehensive case management, and continuous monitoring of mothers and infants.

Equally important has been the collaboration among healthcare providers, policymakers, community organisations, and public health stakeholders who have worked together towards a common goal.

“This achievement demonstrates what is possible when healthcare professionals, government leaders, and community partners unite around a shared vision,” said Dr Denise Braithwaite-Tennant, CEO at IHC TCI Hospital.

“We are honoured to have supported this effort and congratulate the Ministry of Health on reaching this important milestone. Most importantly, we celebrate the countless healthcare workers whose commitment has helped ensure that children in the Turks and Caicos Islands are born free from preventable HIV infection.”

Chief of Medical Services at TCI Hospital, Dr. Dawn Perry Ewing added, “This is a tremendous achievement, and congratulations are due to all Primary Care Practitioners, Midwives, Medical Technologists, Obstetricians and Neonatologists throughout the length and breadth of the healthcare system in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

“I am particularly proud of the validation team’s dedication over the past decade, meeting the challenges together as a collective, collaborative unit with the singular goal being the delivery of quality perinatal healthcare for the mothers and newborns of the Turks and Caicos Islands.”

The EMTCT certification serves as international recognition of the Turks and Caicos

Islands’ commitment to public health excellence and aligns with global efforts to eliminate new HIV infections among children. It also reflects sustained investment in primary healthcare services, strong surveillance systems, and patient-centred care.

While this achievement marks a significant milestone, TCI Hospital recognises that maintaining EMTCT status requires ongoing vigilance, continued investment, and sustained collaboration among all healthcare partners. We remain committed to supporting the Ministry of Health in preserving these gains and advancing the health outcomes of all residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

As we celebrate this accomplishment, we extend our sincere appreciation and congratulations to every healthcare worker, past and present, whose dedication contributed to this historic success.

Your efforts have made a lasting impact on the lives of mothers, children, and families across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Carlene Davis, Ken Boothe remix hit 'Why Me Lord'

Almost 40 years after their original collaboration on the gospel song Why Me Lord, veteran singers Ken Boothe and Carlene Davis-Cowan have revisited the 1980s hit, remixing and reimagining it for a wider audience in a format that is not preachy but rich in spiritual power.

The song was recorded in 1988 as part of the album, *Jesus is Only a Prayer Away*, which was the first gospel reggae album by Carlene Davis, recorded at Kingston's CRS Recording Studio. Originally released on vinyl LP, the eight-track album was then distributed by VP Records.

Now, 38 years later, vinyl has given way to its availability on all major streaming platforms. Under Glory Music's management, the video for the track was released on YouTube and features Boothe, Davis-Cowan and singers Adassa Patterson, Latoya Newell and her grandson Noah.

Davis-Cowan, who has not done many collaborations over the years, reached out to Boothe, saying his unique and distinctive vocals have been enjoyed by thousands of fans and are a testament to the many people worldwide whose lives the song has spiritually impacted.

"I am an admirer of this talent, and so when God laid it on the heart of Tommy [Cowan] that we should collaborate with Ken and he agreed, we didn't hesitate. There's only one Ken Boothe. His sound, his vocal style, his dance, the songs of his repertoire, his unique way of performing and, would say moreover, the way his music has affected the lives of so many worldwide." She also believes the significance of this re-release will be well received by this generation. The song was remixed and the accompanying video shot by director JP Williams and produced by Tommy Cowan.

"As time went by over the years, we

are always in touch with each other, appearing on the same stage. Ken always calls us or, whenever we meet, he would sing the song and keep reminding us that we should come again with the song. On his birthday in March 2025, I was invited to the celebration with his wife, children, family, friends, and many well-wishers, and there and then, Ken and I sang Why Me Lord."

That 2025 birthday meet-up also saw Julian Marley, Pam Hall, Max Romeo, Brinsley Ford and Bogo Herman present, and everyone there encouraged the singing duo to revisit the song. "It was truly an inspiring moment. I have always loved Ken's voice so much so that I did over his version of Everything I Own years ago. Working with Ken is smooth and easy. His family and ours are very close. We call him all the time, and he never fails to call and wish us his best. He is truly a good friend," Davis-Cowan said.



Gospel Singer Carlene Davis



Sir Idris Elba doesn't think James Bond should be "woke".

The 53-year-old actor was tipped to take over as the suave spy following Daniel Craig's exit in 2021's *Spectre*, but he has insisted the rumours were "never legit" because global audienc-

es wouldn't accept a black man playing the role and he doesn't think the character should be forced to change because of political correctness. He told Britain's *GQ* magazine: "It was

Idris Elba on why he wouldn't play James Bond

never legit. It was always just a rumour.

"I've always felt that it's not a realistic thing.

"James Bond was written how he was written for a reason. But I was complimented by it. And also, I think, in realistic terms, some markets just don't go for that. Bond is big all over the world. And [audiences] won't [all] go for a black male, an African male, playing Bond. That's not what they like in their culture. Period.

"Bond is so unrealistic, so a hint of reality is good, but let's not try and make it woke.

"I think you've got to be pure to what it is: escapism. Don't try and answer the world's taste. Just be Bond."

Elba can currently be seen playing Man-At-Arms in *Masters of the Universe* and was initially "a bit conscious" that he doesn't look anything like the usually-ginger character, but ultimately realised it didn't matter. He laughed: "Talk about recasting. I was a bit conscious about it. But then I

was like, What are you talking about?! Man-At-Arms could be any colour! He's got green legs, for God's sake!"

He accepted the role simply because of his love of He-Man and wasn't worried about the trajectory of his career. He admitted: "I did that for me, man. I remember taking it, thinking, Uhh-hh..."

"I suppose at my age, with the kind of things I've done, and the kind of things I'm doing, can I get away with being in a film like that? I thought, why not?"

The Luther star directed the 2018 crime drama, *Yardie*, and is at the helm of an upcoming adaptation of *This Is How It Goes*, and he admitted directing has given him a new wave of inspiration in his career.

He said: "If directing wasn't an option for me, I'm not sure how long I'd be acting.

"I want to be inspired again. I think the inspiration comes from watching other actors and moulding and getting people to say it differently."

Grace Bay Resorts and Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty Host Exclusive Broker and Sales Agent Preview of The Point

Grace Bay Resorts, in partnership with Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty, recently welcomed real estate brokers and sales agents to an exclusive preview of The Point by Grace Bay Resorts, offering a first-hand look at the construction progress and design vision behind one of Grace Bay Beach's most anticipated luxury residential developments.

Held on-site at The Point, the broker and sales agent event gave attendees the opportunity to tour the development, view current construction progress and learn more about the project's low-density approach to luxury residential ownership. The evening featured a presentation by Mark Durliat, Chief Executive Officer of Grace Bay Resorts, who spoke to the philosophy guiding the project and its evolution from concept to reality.

In his remarks, Durliat emphasized the intentional restraint behind The Point's design, noting that while the site could have supported a significantly larger development, Grace Bay Resorts chose to pursue a more private, lower-density vision.

"From the beginning, our vision for The Point has been to create something that respects the legacy of Point Grace while introducing a new standard of residential ownership on Grace Bay Beach," said Durliat. "Although the site could have supported a much larger development, we intentionally chose a lower-den-

sity approach focused on privacy, sophistication, and long-term value. The Point is designed to offer owners an intimate beachfront experience that reflects the character and exclusivity that have defined this location for decades."

A featured focus of the preview was The Casitas, a limited collection of just sixteen private residences within The Point. Each Casita is thoughtfully designed to offer a sense of space, privacy, and connection to the surrounding environment, with its own parcel and private pool. Together, The Casitas create a rare villa-style residential enclave within one of the most established luxury hospitality settings on Grace Bay Beach.

By preserving a boutique scale and embracing a design philosophy rooted in the history and character of Point Grace, The Point builds upon the legacy of one of the Turks and Caicos Islands' most recognizable luxury hospitality destinations.

As the exclusive brokerage partner for The Point, Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty continues to lead sales and market representation for the development. Joe Zahm, President of Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty, noted the importance of engaging the real estate broker and sales agent community as construction progresses. "The response from the broker and sales agent community reinforces what we have seen since launch: buyers are increasingly



seeking distinctive ownership opportunities that combine location, quality, and exclusivity," said Zahm. "The Point delivers on all three. Grace Bay Resorts has created a product that is thoughtfully designed, highly differentiated, and exceptionally well positioned within the luxury residential market, and we are proud to represent the development."

As construction continues, The Point remains one of the most

distinctive new residential offerings on Grace Bay Beach, combining contemporary architecture, private ownership, and the renowned service and hospitality standards that have become synonymous with the Grace Bay Resorts brand.

For more information about The Point by Grace Bay Resorts, contact the Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty team, the exclusive brokerage partner for the development.

Local Craft Vendors experience windfall at Beaches Turks and Caicos Treasure Beach Opening



One of the local craft vendor shares a smile as she prepares her space to welcome guests at the Caribbean Bloc Party



Beaches Turks and Caicos supports the creative industry especially through the local craft vendors

The recent Friday night street party transformed into a vibrant, grand market-style celebration, marking a significant economic windfall for local craft vendors. Set against the lively, music-filled backdrop of the Caribbean Block Party, the event doubled as the highly anticipated grand opening of the Treasure Beach Village at Beaches Turks and Caicos. This newly unveiled space features an innovative, spacious layout specifically designed to elevate the presence of local entrepreneurs.

As dynamic rhythms filled the air and the aroma of island cuisine wafted through the venue, artisans showcased their vibrant wares to a record number of attendees. The

redesigned marketplace seamlessly blended traditional cultural aesthetics with modern retail flow, creating an immersive experience that drew immediate praise from everyone in attendance.

Early feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive, with participants noting that the fresh layout holds immense potential for increased marketing and sales. Guests praised the intuitive design, which allowed them to easily navigate between stalls, linger comfortably and engage directly with the artisans.

For the entrepreneurs, the redesigned village represents a major step forward in how they present their businesses to an international

audience. Many vendors reported remarkable sales during the Friday night festivities, turning the community celebration into a genuine financial windfall. The energetic grand market style encouraged extended browsing, transforming casual strollers into eager buyers of authentic local crafts.

Karen Cox, head of the local vendors, expressed strong optimism about the transition and the immediate benefits her team experienced. "This new set up is different from what we have been using for many years, but the new look and design have bought a new flair to the business," Cox shared. "We are more visible and creative in our designs."

The resort's management team emphasized that this redesign was a deeply collaborative effort aimed at long-term, mutual success. Public Relations Manager Orville Morgan highlighted the importance of this relationship in shaping the new space to benefit the community. "The comfort of the local entrepreneurs means a lot to us," Morgan noted. "The new design is a fresh approach to marketing and

branding. The entrepreneurs are comfortable in the new space and the guests are able to explore a lot more." By prioritizing the vendors' operational needs, the resort has successfully fostered an environment where local commerce and guest satisfaction naturally intersect.

This strategic upgrade is already being viewed as a transformative moment for local economic integration within the hospitality sector. General Manager Deryk Meany praised the seamless fusion of authentic culture and an enhanced guest experience. "The new setup and design for our local partners is simply magical," Meany added. "These entrepreneurs have been creative in sharing the local culture, designs and souvenirs that have been providing guests with keep sakes that will keep on adding to the local economy. This approach is a 2.0 version for the industry." As the Treasure Beach village settles into its regular operations, it stands as a shining example of how thoughtful design and community partnership can create a thriving, dynamic marketplace.



Local craft vendors make final touches to their space at the Beaches Caribbean Bloc Party on a Friday evening



Natalio Wheatley

British Virgin Islands to scrap visas for work permit holders

place rights education. He said stronger partnerships with employers have also helped improve efficiency and service delivery. Wheatley said his government is also preparing to expand the programme to include sectors such as hospitality, agriculture and fisheries, marine industries, and skilled trades. He added that the initiative would complement the government's wider employment policies and help strengthen workforce participation. The planned visa reform comes as employers across several sectors continue to report challenges in recruiting and onboarding workers. In recent years, government officials have acknowledged concerns from businesses about delays associated with labour and immigration processes. The government has already implemented a number of digital reforms to modernise work permit administration and reduce processing times. Previous initiatives have included online application systems and efforts to streamline interactions between employers and government agencies.

"The government is also advancing reforms to improve the investment climate, including the proposed Investment Act and the establishment of a trade and investment promotion agency to provide a one-stop shop for local and foreign investors," Wheatley stated. "My government is 100% committed to creating a business-friendly environment that will facilitate the expansion of our economy." No specific implementation date for the removal of visa requirements was announced.

The British Virgin Islands government has announced plans to remove visa requirements for work permit holders in the coming weeks as part of efforts to improve the territory's investment climate and help businesses fill vacancies more quickly. Premier Dr Natalio Wheatley announced the move during his 2026 State of the Territory Address earlier this week, describing it as one of several reforms expected to support economic growth and improve the ease of doing business in the territory.

"In the coming weeks, we will also be removing visas for work permit holders, giving relief to businesses that cannot onboard staff quickly enough to support their operations," Wheatley said. The announcement came as part of a number of initiatives centred on economic diversification, labour market improvements and investment reforms. According to the premier, the government has already introduced digital improvements to work permit processing, increased labour outreach efforts and expanded work-

Zoe Linares Garcia

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No human rights problem in Jamaica, says Chuck

Jamaica's Justice Minister Delroy Chuck has declared that there are no human rights problems in Jamaica. He made the declaration Wednesday afternoon during his contribution to the Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives. He was responding to Opposition Spokesperson on Justice Zuleika Jess who, during her contribution to the debate last Wednesday, took Chuck to task while highlighting a range of issues she deemed to be injustice or human rights abuses. "Jamaica does not, and I hope will never have, a human rights problem," said Chuck. He pointed out that, "We have the Office of the Public Defender. If you have difficulty you can go to the Office of

the Public Defender and prosecute any human rights breach. They're empowered to prosecute any human rights breach". The justice minister told the Parliament that "human rights are a very important part of this government and of this minister". "And as I go across the country, I promote the respect for one another's human rights. And I will continue to do it," he added. Chuck shared that when Jamaica reported to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, on the Universal Periodic Review, "we got very good commendation". He also told the opposition that "anyone who claims they need justice in Jamaica needs to have their head examined".



Justice Minister Delroy Chuck

TCI Hospital Leaders Complete Advanced Accreditation Canada Internal Assessor Training in Barbados

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Three senior leaders from the Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital successfully completed an intensive Accreditation Canada International Internal Assessor Training Programme held in Barbados from June 1–3, 2026, further strengthening the organization’s commitment to quality, patient safety, and continuous improvement.

Representing InterHealth Canada TCI Limited and the Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital were: Dr. Denise Braithwaite-Tennant, Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Dawn Perry-Ewing, Chief of Medical Services and Ms. Isha Honore, Quality, Risk and Patient Safety Manager.

The three-day programme, hosted at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Barbados, brought together healthcare quality and patient safety leaders from across the Caribbean, including participants from Barbados, Saint Lucia, Bermuda, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The training was facilitated by Ms. Patricia Somers, Healthcare Improvement Advisor, International Accreditation, Dr. Ali Hojjati, Senior Clinical Advisor, International Accreditation and Dr. Heidi Elmoazzen, Regional Director of International Operations, Accreditation Canada.

The programme was designed to equip selected healthcare professionals with the knowledge, skills, and practical experience required to serve as Internal Assessors within their organizations. Participants received advanced training aligned with Accreditation Canada’s internationally recognized Qmentum accreditation programme and survey methodology. The training focused on tracer methodolo-



gy, survey preparation, quality assessment techniques, effective interviewing and observation skills, performance rating, priority processes, mock surveys, and strategies for identifying gaps and opportunities for improvement within healthcare organizations.

Unlike traditional classroom-based quality improvement programmes, the Internal Assessor Training combined theory and practical application. Participants completed a full day of classroom learning followed by a day of hands-on tracer activities within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, conducting both clinical and administrative assessments under the guidance of Accreditation Canada facilitators. The practical tracer exercises included assessments of ambulatory care services, emergency services, integrated quality management, infection prevention and control, diagnostic imaging, human capital, resource management, and other key organizational functions. The Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital team

joined a cohort of healthcare leaders and quality professionals from across the region, creating valuable opportunities for collaboration, networking, and the exchange of best practices.

Dr. Denise Braithwaite-Tennant, Chief Executive Officer of InterHealth Canada TCI Limited, emphasized the importance of continuing to invest in healthcare quality leadership. “This programme provided an exceptional opportunity to strengthen our expertise in accreditation, quality management, and patient safety. As an organization that has maintained Accreditation Canada International accreditation at the highest level since 2012, it is essential that we continue building internal capacity and developing leaders who can drive quality improvement throughout our organization. The training also reinforced the importance of regional collaboration and learning from colleagues across the Caribbean who share a commitment to healthcare

excellence.”

Dr. Dawn Perry-Ewing, Chief of Medical Services, highlighted the value of the practical tracer exercises. “One of the most valuable aspects of the programme was the opportunity to apply Accreditation Canada survey methodologies in a real healthcare environment. The tracer activities provided practical experience in assessing the quality, safety, and consistency of care processes. These skills strengthen our ability to evaluate our own systems and identify opportunities to enhance patient outcomes and clinical effectiveness.”

Ms. Isha Honore, Quality, Risk and Patient Safety Manager, noted that the programme supports the hospital’s ongoing quality and accreditation journey. “The Internal Assessor Training served as a valuable refresher and provided additional perspectives on conducting meaningful assessments that focus not only on compliance but also on continuous improvement. The programme strengthened our ability to identify risks, evaluate processes, and support evidence-based decision-making. Most importantly, it reinforced the role that every member of the healthcare team plays in delivering safe, high-quality, people-centred care.”

The Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital remains one of the few healthcare organizations in the Caribbean to consistently achieve Accreditation Canada International accreditation at the highest level. The organization continues to use the Qmentum framework as a cornerstone of its commitment to patient safety, quality improvement, and organizational excellence.



THE STRAND
TURKS & CAICOS

Head of Finance & Accounting

Job Specification:

As a Head of Finance & Accounting, you will possess a strong foundation in auditing and accounting.

- Your main duties will include overseeing the accounting operations of The Strand Turks & Caicos.
- You will focus on financial reporting, budgeting, forecasting, compliance, and internal controls.
- You will also apply your auditing and accounting expertise to ensure financial integrity while supporting The Strand’s strategic goals.
- You will also oversee the IT and Purchasing departments, ensuring an efficient flow of both departments operations.
- Conduct in-depth financial analyses to support decision-making, including assessments of profitability, cost management, and investment opportunities

Job Requirements:

- Bachelor’s degree in Finance, Accounting, Business Administration, or a related field. A master’s degree or CPA or ACCA designation is highly preferred.
- 5-7 years of experience in financial management, auditing, and accounting, preferably in the hospitality industry
- Strong knowledge of accounting principles, financial regulations, and best practices in hotel finance.
- Proficiency in financial software and reporting tools (e.g., Microsoft Excel, accounting software).
- Excellent analytical, problem-solving, and critical-thinking skills.

Salary expectation - \$100,000 - \$130,000 per annum

Guest Service Expert/Server

Job Specification:

- Take food and drink orders from customers accurately and with a positive attitude.
- Write patrons’ food orders on order slips, memorize orders, or enter orders into computers for transmittal to kitchen staff.
- Engage with customers in a friendly manner.
- Knowledge of the menu, with the ability to make suggestions.
- Ensure tables are enjoying their meals and take action to correct any problems.
- Collect payments from tables.
- Prepare checks that itemize and total meal costs and sales taxes.
- Help food preparation staff when necessary.

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English.
- Must have 3- 5 years experience as a Server.
- Must have good interpersonal skills.
- Must have experience working in busy restaurant environment.
- Must be able to stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.

Salary expectation - \$9.00 - \$11.00 per hour

APPLY NOW!

Send your resume to: careers@thestrandtci.com

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

Guest Experience Expert/Concierge

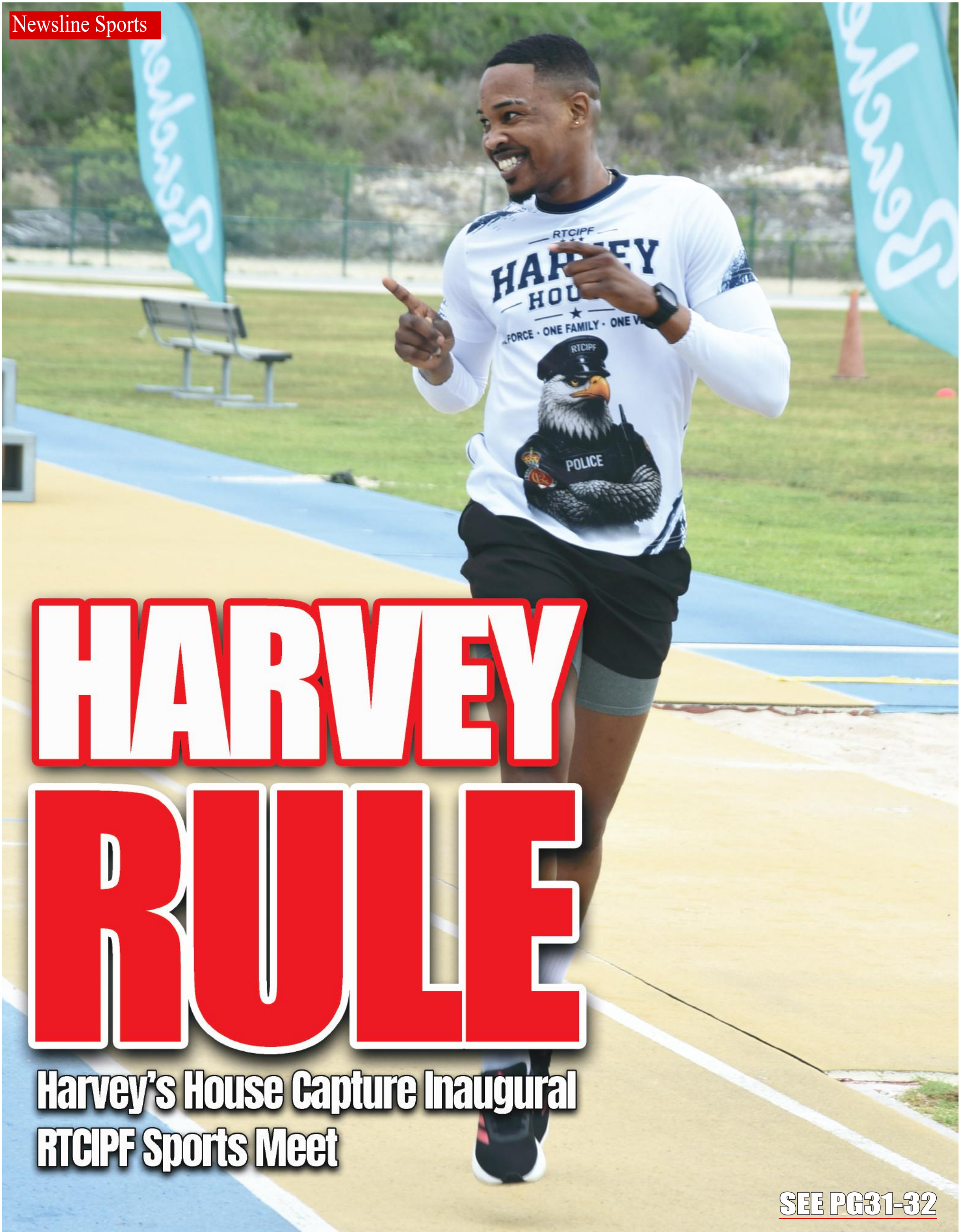
Job Specification:

- Use Intelity, Opera and Micros, Open table softwares to navigate guest stays prior to their arrival.
- Up-sell and assist in booking future stays and experiences prior to arrival
- Manage and build guest Itineraries In the GMS (Guest Management System)
- Provide seamless transition of guest onboarding to Intelity Guides to prepare for in-stay
- Build rapport and trust with all guests through direct communication via Phone and email
- Manage and navigate various calendars using Microsoft Outlook and Inter-company tools
- Interpret survey results or provide feedback on guest technology to guests
- Protect the privacy and confidentiality of all guests
- Support FO, RD and Villa teams with guest coordination
- Input new bookings into systems in a timely manner and share reports of guest stays with relevant departments as needed.
- Review and send Daily Flash reports to designated teams
- Send weekly reservation reports to Leadership
- Other work that may be assigned by management

Job Requirements:

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

Salary expectation - \$9.00 - 11.00 per hour



HARVEY RULE

Harvey's House Capture Inaugural
RTCIPF Sports Meet

SEE PG31-32

CIBC Caribbean Donates \$2,500 to Salt Rakers Aquatic Club

Young participants at The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club will benefit from continued swimming lessons throughout the remainder of 2026 following a recent \$2,500 donation.

The contribution from CIBC Caribbean will help provide continued access to valuable swim instruction while promoting water safety education, confidence and healthy development among youth.

Founded by Benneth Williams, Salt Rakers Aquatic Club has established itself as a trusted space for swimmers of all ages and abilities to learn, grow and build confidence in the water. Through his learn-to-swim programmes, swimming lessons, competitive training, and aquatic fitness activities, he creates opportunities for young people to develop valuable life skills in a safe, supportive and encouraging environment.

"Swimming is more than a recreational activity, but it is a critical life skill, especially in a country surrounded by water" said Carolaen Paula Rodriguez Business Support Officer at CIBC Caribbean, after officials from the bank made the donation.

Tamyra Missick Corporate Manager at CIBC Caribbean stated, "At CIBC

Caribbean, we are committed to investing in programmes that create meaningful opportunities for young people".

"We are pleased to support Salt Rakers Aquatic Club and the remarkable work Benneth Williams is doing to ensure more young people have access to swimming instruction and water safety education" said Alonzo Higgs Corporate Manager at CIBC Caribbean.

Williams expressed his appreciation for the donation, noting that the support will help the club to continue foster more students in receiving instruction and training. He further mentioned that access to swimming lessons can be life-changing for many children.

Furthermore, he said that his goal is to ensure every child has the opportunity to learn how to swim, gain confidence in the water and develop skills that promote both safety and personal growth.

The donation aligns with CIBC Caribbean's ongoing efforts to support programmes that foster youth empowerment, education, health and community development throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Alonzo Higgs - Corporate Manager, Parent of Salt Rakers Aquatic Club, Benneth Williams, Owner of Salt Rakers Aquatic Club, Carolaen Padua Rodriguez - Business Support Officer and Tamyra Missick - Corporate Manager

Jamaica launches ambitious movement to become 'sports capital of the global south'

Leaders from sport, business, tourism, government, investment, media, technology, education and athlete development will gather in Jamaica later this month for the inaugural Made4Goal Jamaica Global Sports Summit.

The two-day event, which will be held at the University of Technology, Jamaica on June 29 and 30, is aimed at exploring how Jamaica can move beyond producing world-class athletes to building a world-class sports industry.

In a release, organisers said the summit is being positioned as one of the most ambitious sports industry gatherings ever staged in Jamaica and forms part of a wider push to establish the country as "the sports capital of the Global South."

Organised by Absolut Ventures Limited, creators of the world's first and only televised freestyle football reality show, the summit will focus on opportunities at the intersection

of sport, tourism, investment, technology, infrastructure, media, health and wellness, youth development and economic growth.

"Jamaica has already proven that we can compete with the best in the world," said Alrick McKenzie, founder and summit director of the Made4Goal Jamaica Global Sports Summit.

"The next step is building the systems, partnerships, investment opportunities, and infrastructure that allow sport to become a stronger economic driver for the country. This summit is about bringing the right people into the same room to have those conversations and create meaningful outcomes."

Sports consultant, analyst and media officer Simon Preston said the summit represents a timely and necessary step in shaping a more structured future for Jamaica's sporting sector.

"Jamaica has an extraordinary sport-

ing brand, but the opportunity now is to build a stronger ecosystem around that brand. We have almost 50 sporting disciplines on the island and this is the perfect opportunity for the different disciplines to come together, learn from each other and move forward for a better Jamaica.

"Jamaica is number eight in the world in lacrosse, number three in the world in netball and we have the fastest man and woman alive. These are certainly points that can be used to help other sporting disciplines reach their potential," said Preston.

"The Made4Goal Jamaica Global Sports Summit creates a platform for serious conversations around athlete pathways, investment, infrastructure, technology, governance, tourism and commercial development. If Jamaica is to fully maximise its global sporting influence, we must connect talent with opportunity, and this summit is designed to help lead that process."

The summit will feature keynote presentations, fireside chats, panel discussions, workshops, networking opportunities and strategic conversations involving sporting associations, athletes, corporate leaders, investors, tourism executives, policy-makers and educators.



Founder & Summit Director CEO, Absolut Ventures Limited Alrick McKenzie



Maxine Salmon of the TCICA presents the winning trophy to the Oseta Jolly Primary School after retaining their title

OSETA JOLLY RETAIN CRICKET FESTIVAL TITLE

Oseta Jolly Primary School have successfully defended their Turks and Caicos Islands Cricket Association (TCICA) Cricket Festival 's six-over-a-side competition, defeating the Thelma Lightbourne Primary School in the final at the Downtown Ball Park on Friday, June 5.

Thelma Lightbourne who batted first, registered 33 runs in their allotted six overs. Oseta Jolly overhauled the total with the last ball, scoring 34 runs. The Male player of the tournament was T'Sean Anthony of the Thelma Lightbourne Primary. He scored overall 40 runs in the overall tournament. In the female category, Shirley Star of Enid Capron was adjudged to be the top player.



Shirley Star of Enid Capron was adjudged to be the top player



The Male player of the tournament was T'Sean Anthony of the Thelma Lightbourne Primary





Harvey's House celebrate their victory after emerging winners of the inaugural Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Meet at the National Stadium.

Harvey Takes Inaugural RTCIPF Sports Meet

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force its inaugural Sports Day at the National Stadium on Saturday, June 6, where three teams competed. They teams are Harvey, Gant and Hall.

Harvey emerged winners of the event with 331. Grant ended in second place with 319, with Hall emerging as the third-place winners with 297. There was a tie for the Male Athlete, as Os-hane Campbell and Prakash March. The Top Female was Jeraine Powell.

The event was endorsed by Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam and Police Commissioner Fitz Bailey, who took part in Police Executive Race. The Houses were named after two former police commissioners – Paul Harvey, Edward Hall, and Deputy Commissioner of Police Albert Grant.





Jeraine Powell was named the Top Female Athlete.

