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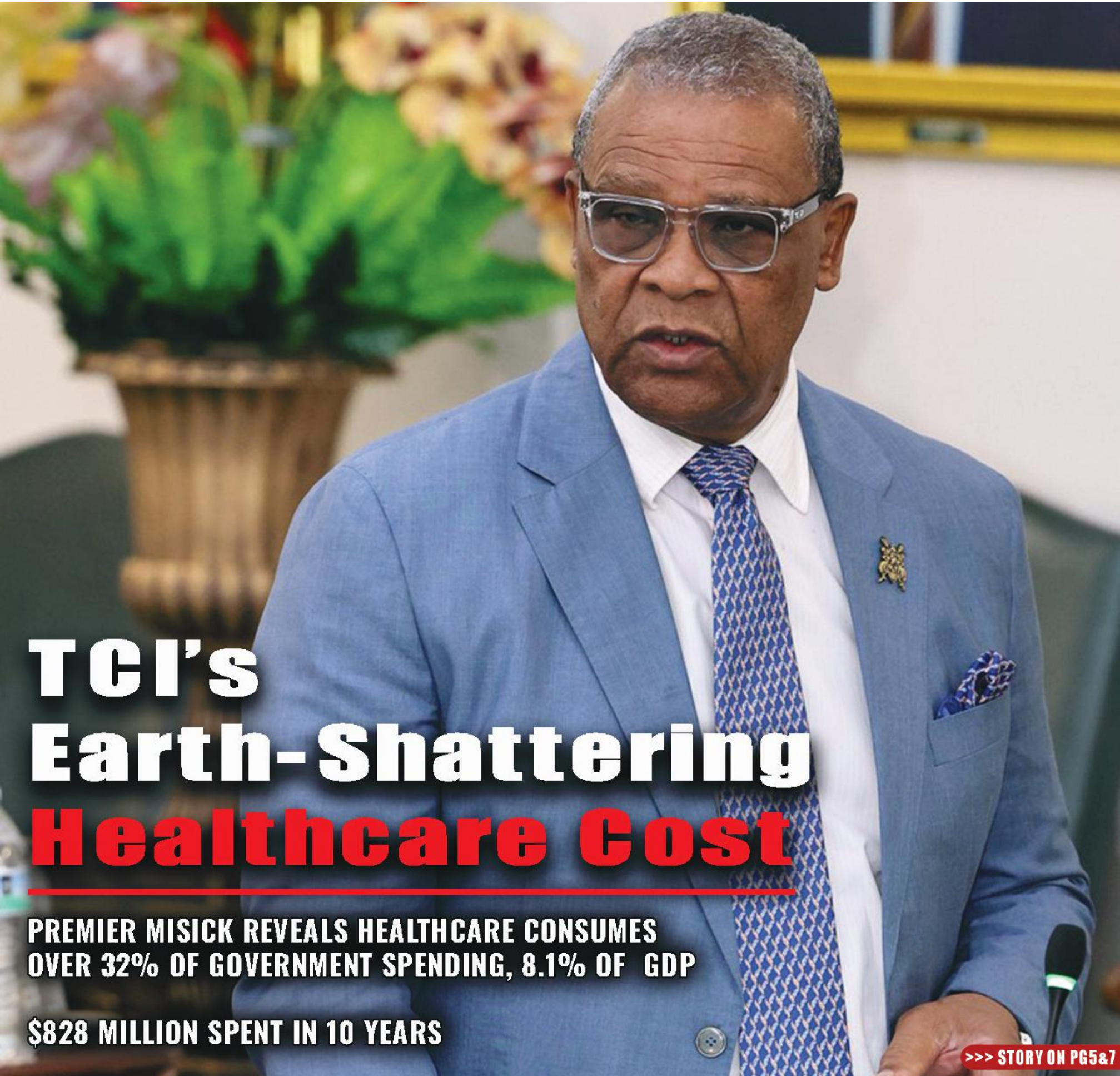
**NEWSLINE**



**Serious Crime  
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**Misick Accuses Astwood  
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**TCI's  
Earth-Shattering  
Healthcare Cost**

**PREMIER MISICK REVEALS HEALTHCARE CONSUMES  
OVER 32% OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING, 8.1% OF GDP**

**\$828 MILLION SPENT IN 10 YEARS**

>>> STORY ON PG5&7



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- |                                                                  |                                                     |                                                        |
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| ▪ <b>Front Office Manager</b><br>(Career#PRO000063)              | ▪ <b>Executive Sous Chef</b><br>(Career #PRO000047) | ▪ <b>Income Auditor</b><br>(Career #PRO000053)         |
| ▪ <b>Spa Manager</b><br>(Career #PRO000041)                      | ▪ <b>Sous Chefs</b><br>(Career #PRO000050)          | • <b>Night Manager</b><br>(Career #PRO000066)          |
|                                                                  | ▪ <b>Chef De Cuisines</b><br>(Career #PRO000039)    |                                                        |

Managers’ Compensation Package: \$70k - \$72k per annum

Supervisory Positions

- |                                                        |                                                        |                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| ▪ <b>Spa Supervisors</b><br>(Career#PRO000044)         | ▪ <b>Chef De Partie</b><br>(Career#PRO000058)          | ▪ <b>Recreation Supervisor</b><br>(Career#PRO000069)    |
| ▪ <b>Front Office Supervisor</b><br>(Career#PRO000068) | ▪ <b>Steward Supervisors</b><br>(Career#PRO000048)     | ▪ <b>Housekeeping Supervisors</b><br>(Career#PRO000059) |
| ▪ <b>F&amp;B Supervisors</b><br>(Career#PRO000045)     | ▪ <b>Engineering Supervisors</b><br>(Career#PRO000057) | ▪ <b>Security Supervisor</b><br>(Career#PRO000067)      |
| ▪ <b>Chef De Partie (Pastry)</b><br>(Career#PRO000046) | ▪ <b>Reservation Supervisor</b><br>(Career#PRO000054)  |                                                         |

Supervisors’ Compensation Package: \$40k - \$46k per annum

Previous experience with international hospitality brands preferred

ANDAZ Turks & Caicos at Grace Bay, Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands, BWI

Send your resume to: [PLSAZ-Recruitment@andaz.com](mailto:PLSAZ-Recruitment@andaz.com) and/ or drop off at Employment Services Department, Providenciales, TCI  
Visit our website <https://careers.hyatt.com> Select “Search by location” Type in “Turks and Caicos” Select “GO” Search and apply for your position of interest or scan this QR Code



# Digicel

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

Job Title: FTTX Service Delivery Technician  
 Reports to: FTTX Manager  
 Job Purpose: To carry out general laboring duties.

### Key Responsibilities:

FTTX Service Delivery Technician responsibilities include:

- Survey, Install, Maintain, troubleshoot and repair entire Premises Fiber Optic network from the FAT to the Customer's Premises Equipment (CPE).
- Install and maintain all FTTB / FTTH customers
- Create and maintain proper documentation of Customer install and service calls
- Troubleshoot and repair complex residential and commercial business customer services from the FAT to the connection of the CPE for single, multi-family, multi-dwellings, and/or commercial dwellings including, but not limited to, all necessary wiring both interior and exterior associated equipment in the forward and return signal path of the customer premise network (CPN).
- Perform all work as necessary to conform to Digicel Group quality and SOP, following all SHEQ (Safety Health Environment and Quality) security and safety control guidelines.
- Integrate various company services (video, internet) with customer's equipment.
- Ensure and record proper levels and signal quality within required specifications on active outlets.
- Diagnose and resolve customer escalations. Consult Supervisor and Manager on unresolved customer issues.
- Clean the premises of all debris and materials after the repair is complete.
- Educate customer on proper use of services and equipment, including channel lineup and EPG.
- Maintain accurate records including time worked, daily logs, gas sheets, as required; properly record all required information on data devices and/or work orders.
- Operate communications device in accordance with company policies.
- Operate Company vehicle in a safe and responsible manner. Clean, maintain, stock, and secure assigned vehicle and equipment, in accordance with company policies.
- Demonstrate proficiency with tasks, tools, test equipment and information that will enhance business results.

### Academic qualifications and experience required for job:

- Education
- High School Diploma
- Five CXC subjects at the level of grade 1 (distinction) or 2 (credit) or an equivalent qualification
- Service Delivery Certification

**Compensation :** USD\$38,400 per annum.

### Deadline:

Positions open to all qualified Turks and Caicos Nationals. Interested applicants can forward their resumes to [hrtci@digicelgroup.com](mailto:hrtci@digicelgroup.com) The closing date for applications is August 14, 2026.

# Serious Crime Plummets Across TCI Despite Latest GT Murder

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Despite the murder of Ashanio Robinson in Grand Turk, serious crime has fallen sharply across the Turks and Caicos Islands this year, with official figures showing substantial declines in every major violent crime category measured. Robinson was found unresponsive near the Overback Basketball Court in Grand Turk during the early hours of the morning. The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) said officers responded to reports of an incident in the area and found Robinson unresponsive when they arrived. The District Medical Officer attended the scene and pronounced him dead. Detectives from the Serious Crime Unit, supported by Forensic Support and other specialist resources, are investigating the circumstances surrounding Robinson's murder and working to identify those responsible. Police said additional resources have been deployed to assist with the investigation. The latest killing comes against a back-

drop of significantly lower violent crime across the territory compared with last year. Figures covering January 1 to August 5, 2026, show 121 serious violent crimes were recorded, compared with 204 during the same period in 2025. That is 83 fewer offences, representing an overall reduction of 41 percent. Murders showed one of the most dramatic declines in the comparative figures. Three murders were recorded through August 5, compared with 24 during the corresponding period last year- a reduction of 21, or 88 percent. Robinson's murder should be viewed separately from that comparison if it occurred after the August 5 reporting cutoff. Attempted murder recorded an even larger percentage decline, falling from five cases during the comparable period last year to zero this year, a 100 percent reduction. I.G.B. harm offences dropped by 83 percent, from 12 cases last year to two this year, while kidnappings declined from 11 to three, representing a 73 percent reduction.

Robbery remains by far the most frequently recorded offence among the six violent crime categories in the report, but it also registered a significant decline. There were 103 robberies recorded through August 5, compared with 140 during the same period in 2025 - 37 fewer offences, or a 26 percent reduction. In terms of the actual number of cases, robbery recorded the largest decrease. Aggravated burglary fell from 12 cases to 10, a decline of 17 percent. The statistics therefore show that every violent crime category measured in the report declined compared with the same period in 2025, with none recording a year-to-date increase. Authorities also reported that 10 firearms have been taken off the streets of the Turks and Caicos Islands so far this year. Meanwhile, the investigation into Robinson's murder continues. The RTCIPF extended condolences to his family, friends and loved ones and stressed that violent crime has no place in communities across the Turks and



Caicos Islands. Investigators are appealing to anyone who witnessed the incident, or who may have information or video footage, to come forward. Police said even seemingly minor information could prove important to the investigation. Anyone with information can contact the Serious Crime Unit at 231-1842, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-8477, or submit information through the Crime Stoppers P3 app. Police said further information on Robinson's murder will be released when operationally appropriate.

## Digicel

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

**Job Title:** Laboure.  
**Reports to:** Business Manager.  
**Job Purpose:** To carry out general laboring duties.

**Key Responsibilities:**

A Laboure responsibilities include:

- 1. Loading and uploading material either into storage or across the property. This will involve manual handling of heavy and/or awkward objects.
- 2. Adapting to variety of tasks could include cleaning our properties, organizing storage, cleaning windows and other general duties as required.
- 3. Assist Sales department with daily task.
- 4. At all times comply with company policies, procedures and instructions.
- 5. Contribute to improving the business, protecting and enhancing the reputation of the company, by putting forward new ideas and, when requesting them to do so, implementing change.

**Compensation**  
USD\$17,300 per annum.

**Deadline:**  
Positions open to all qualified Turks and Caicos Nationals. Interested applicants can forward their resumes to [hrtci@digicelgroup.com](mailto:hrtci@digicelgroup.com) The closing date for applications is August 14, 2026.

# TCI's Earth-Shattering Healthcare Cost

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The staggering cost of healthcare in the Turks and Caicos Islands has been laid bare, with Premier Hon. Washington Misick revealing that the territory spent an extraordinary \$828 million on public healthcare between 2016 and 2025.

Premier Misick made the revelation while addressing the House of Parliament last week during a wide-ranging statement on the country's healthcare system, the InterHealth Canada hospital agreement and the enormous financial burden confronting taxpayers.

The figures paint a sobering picture of just how deeply healthcare costs are eating into the country's public finances.

According to the Premier, healthcare now consumes more than 32 percent of all government expenditure, nearly one out of every three dollars spent by government, and represents approximately 8.1 percent of the Turks and Caicos Islands' entire Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

"Between 2016 and 2025, this territory spent...\$828 million on public health," Misick told Parliament, stressing that the figure covers the entire public healthcare system and should not be mistaken for payments to InterHealth Canada alone.

The \$828 million expenditure over the 10-year period works out to an average of approximately \$82.8 million a year.

Misick said the present level of expenditure is simply not sustainable for a small island territory.

"Today, healthcare consumes more than 32 percent...of all government expenditure and 8.1 percent of our entire GDP," the Premier said. "This is above Caribbean norms and unsustainable for a small island developing state."

He added that healthcare expenditure equates to approximately \$2,600 annually for every man, woman and child in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

And even those extraordinary figures do not tell the complete story.

The Premier said they exclude the heavy litigation and arbitration costs associated with disputes over the InterHealth Canada hospital arrangement.



Misick...Today, healthcare consumes more than 32 percent of all government expenditure and 8.1 percent of our entire GDP.

Misick told Parliament that the first international arbitration alone cost the territory approximately \$39.7 million, an amount he described as roughly 8 percent of the government's entire annual budget.

The arbitration resulted in government being ordered to pay \$18.5 million in principal and interest, along with \$8.2 million representing 80 percent of the company's legal costs, in addition to arbitration costs, the government's own legal expenses and an earlier interim award.

Misick sought to drive home the magnitude of that expenditure by contrasting it with other pressing national needs.

The nearly \$40 million, he said, represented about 8 percent of an annual budget but produced no new school, road or housing programme for the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Premier placed much of the blame for the mounting financial pressure on the structure of the original hospital agreement, signed in 2008.

He said the clinical services component operated on a "cost-plus" arrangement under which the operator was reimbursed for its costs plus a fixed profit margin. A proposed move to a capitation system, which would have created greater incentives to control costs, never occurred.

"For the entire duration of this concession, the government has paid what the operator spent plus profit, with no structural pressure on the operator to control expen-

diture," Misick said.

He described the arrangement as financially unsustainable.

The Premier also disclosed continuing costs arising from a second arbitration concerning the hospitals' facilities-management company and unpaid invoices covering January to May 2025 totalling approximately \$9.3 million. Government has since complied with the tribunal's order to make the required payment, he said, while its counterclaims remain unresolved.

Against that backdrop, Misick warned that every month the existing concession continues brings additional payment obligations, legal expenses and pressure on already stretched public finances. The government, he said, intends to accelerate negotiations aimed at ending the concession on legally sound and financially fair terms and ultimately reclaiming control of the hospitals.

Misick said establishing a national Health Services Authority remains a preferred option for the future management of healthcare in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

While acknowledging that the hospital project brought modern healthcare facilities and services to Grand Turk and Providenciales, the Premier said the financial structure supporting it has proven unsustainable for a territory of TCI's size.

The numbers underscore the scale of the challenge: \$828 million in public healthcare expenditure in just 10 years, healthcare absorbing more than 32 cents of every dollar of government expenditure, and a sector whose costs amount to 8.1 percent of the country's entire economic output.



The Premier said they exclude the heavy litigation and arbitration costs associated with disputes over the InterHealth Canada hospital arrangement.

# Tourism Without Accounting, Reform Without Evidence: How a Failed DMMO Became a Statutory Authority

An Op-Ed By Paladin

Turks and Caicos is witnessing something extraordinary, and deeply troubling.

A tourism governance model that:

- Failed to meet KPIs for three years
- Failed to hire qualified staff
- Failed to produce a strategic marketing plan
- Failed to maintain international presence
- Failed to comply with the Public Finance Management Ordinance (PFMO)
- Failed to deliver measurable outcomes
- Failed to retain its CEO
- Failed to earn public trust

...has now been reinstated, repackaged, and elevated into a statutory authority.

The unavoidable question is simple: How can a dismantled, discontinued, structurally noncompliant institution suddenly be reborn as the centerpiece of TCI's tourism future? And more importantly: Why?

## A Government Restructuring Tourism Without Ever Measuring It

For decades, Caribbean governments have treated tourism not as an industry to be measured, evaluated, and optimized — but as a belief system. Turks and Caicos is no exception.

Despite tourism being our dominant economic sector, **no TCI Government has ever conducted a full Economic Impact Assessment (EIA)** to determine whether tourism actually benefits the country once all costs, leakages, and outflows are accounted for.

We count the money coming in. We never count the money going out. And without both sides of the ledger, no responsible government can claim tourism is “working” for its people. Yet this Government continues to double down on tourism while failing to measure it — even as it restructures tourism governance **three times in four years**.

## The Minister's Press Release: Rebranding Without Repair

Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly recently declared:

“Experience Turks and Caicos is entering a new chapter... strengthened promotion... sustainable growth... rooted in local culture.”

It sounds promising — until you examine what is not said.

The Minister never explains:

- What was broken
- What was fixed
- Who fixed it
- How it was fixed
- When it was fixed
- What structural reforms were implemented
- What governance failures were corrected
- What PFMO conflicts were resolved
- What accountability mechanisms now exist

Instead, he offers vague, aspirational language about culture, stories, experiences, and leadership pipelines. This is not reform. This is not compliance. This is not accountability. This is marketing.

## The Core Contradiction: A Failed Institution Has Been Rewarded

The DMMO was:

- Dismantled
- Discontinued
- Declared structurally incompatible with PFMO
- Unable to function legally or operationally

Yet today, it is being elevated into a statutory authority — the highest form of public institutional legitimacy. This is not reform. This is resurrection without accountability.

## The Tourism Governance Experiment: A Cycle of Abolition, Reinvention, and Failure

If the Government had a clear strategy for tourism, we would see consistency, accountability, and measurable results. Instead, we have witnessed a revolving door of institutions:

1. Ministry of Tourism — Abolished without explanation
  2. Tourist Board — Dismantled despite decades of institutional knowledge
  3. DMO (Experience TCI) — Created, then failed
  4. DMMO — Another reinvention, also failed
  5. New Tourism Authority — The latest attempt, still without an EIA
- The unavoidable truth is that you cannot restructure tourism without measuring tourism.

## Opposition Leader Astwood: “The DMMO Experiment Has Failed”

Hon. Edwin Astwood has been blunt:

- KPIs not met for three years
- Funding ballooned from \$2.3M to \$6.5M

- No measurable results
- Staff displaced
- Public trust eroded
- Millions wasted

The Government's own actions now validate these warnings. The restructuring is not innovation. It is an admission of failure.

## The Grace Bay Lobby: Influence, Not Policy

Weeks before the statutory authority was announced, the Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA) launched a high profile U.S. Tourism Roadshow — the first in a decade — featuring:

- The Premier
- The Minister of Tourism
- Major resort groups
- Major private sector tourism operators

Days later, the Premier returned and revived the DMMO as a statutory authority. This is not coincidence. This is not policy. This is **influence**. A failed institution has been resurrected because powerful private sector interests prefer a DMMO style structure — one that serves them, not the country.

## Tourism Without Accounting: The Most Dangerous Assumption

The most alarming fact remains unchanged...the Government has never conducted a full EIA of tourism. Not in 20 years. Not in 10 years. Not in 5 years. Not even now — after restructuring tourism governance three times in four years. We are resurrecting a failed institution without ever measuring whether tourism is actually benefiting the country. This is not governance. This is doctrine.

## What Happens to \$100 of Tourist Spending?

Here is the kind of analysis a responsible government should already have:

- Imports: −\$40
  - Foreign ownership repatriation: −\$30
  - Tax concessions: −\$10
  - Environmental & infrastructure costs: −\$5
  - Local retention: \$15
- Net benefit: \$15

This is not an exact figure — because the Government has never measured it. But global data shows small tourism dependent islands typically retain **10–30%** of tourism revenue. In TCI, where nearly all hotels, restaurants, and tours are foreign owned, retention may be even

lower.

## The Unanswered Questions

Before the new Tourism Authority can be taken seriously, the Government must answer:

1. What exactly failed in the DMMO?
2. What exactly was fixed?
3. How was PFMO incompatibility resolved?
4. Who is leading the new authority?
5. Where is the cultural development program?
6. Where is the strategic marketing plan?
7. Where is the EIA?

Until these questions are answered, the resurrection of the DMMO remains what it appears to be...a failed institution reborn not by merit — but by influence.

## A Country Cannot Build Its Future on Unmeasured Assumptions

Turks and Caicos cannot continue:

- Restructuring tourism without measuring it
- Resurrecting failed institutions without accountability
- Governing by belief instead of evidence
- Deepening dependency instead of diversifying the economy

If tourism is truly our future, let the data prove it. If the new Tourism Authority is truly a step forward, let the Government show the reforms, the compliance, the KPIs, the leadership, the strategy, and the accountability.

Until then, the statutory resurrection of Experience Turks and Caicos is not a “new chapter.”

**It is the same book — with a new cover.**



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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

# Misick Accuses Astwood of Surrendering Constitutional Duty to New Party Leaders

Premier Hon. Washington Misick has accused Hon. Edwin Astwood of relinquishing his constitutional responsibility to someone outside Parliament, in a pointed attack that appeared to target newly elected opposition leader Doug Parnell without mentioning him by name.

Speaking in the House of Parliament last week, Misick suggested that Astwood had abandoned a position he previously supported on expanding the executive and was now being influenced by the new leadership of the People's Democratic Movement (PDM).

Astwood, who until recently led the PDM, did not seek re-election as party leader and instead settled for the deputy leadership position. Parnell subsequently emerged as the new leader.

Misick, however, carefully avoided identifying Parnell by name throughout his presentation, referring instead to a person outside the House whom he believes is influencing the PDM's constitutional position.

In one of his strongest remarks, the Premier said he was surprised that members of the PDM would allow "one man to come out of the wilderness to be resurrected" and dictate a position that he described as a backward step.

"I am very surprised of the smart people in the PDM party who would allow one man to come out of the wilderness to be resurrected and to dictate to them that they should have a retrograde step," Misick told Parliament.

The Premier's criticism centered on proposals for constitutional change, particularly an expansion of the executive and suggestions that appointed members should be returned to the House.

Misick argued strongly against returning to appointed membership, describing such a move as inconsistent with the democratic progress of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

He said the proposed expansion of the executive had previously received the support of Astwood and was advanced to the United Kingdom's Foreign, Com-



Premier Hon. Washington Misick (right) and Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood

monwealth and Development Office (FCDO) on the understanding that there was cross-party agreement.

"The request to the FCDO for the expansion of the executive was not made unilaterally," Misick said. "It was made with the knowledge and the support of the Honorable Leader of the Opposition." According to the Premier, if Astwood had failed to consult his party before giving that support, that was an internal PDM matter and not something for which the Government should be blamed.

"What I can say is that the position conveyed to us was one of support and we proceeded on that basis in good faith," he said.

Misick then appealed directly to Astwood to honor his earlier position.

"Stand by the position you originally agreed. This was a joint undertaking," the Premier said, adding that the interests of the territory had not changed since the agreement was reached.

Misick suggested that what had changed was the political environment surrounding Astwood following the leadership transition within the PDM.

Later in his presentation, the Premier became even more direct, accusing Ast-

wood of giving up a responsibility that properly belonged to him.

"I believe he has relinquished his duty, his constitutional duty, to someone who is outside of the House," Misick said.

Although Parnell's name was never mentioned, the Premier's references came against the backdrop of the recent change in PDM leadership and appeared aimed at the new opposition leader.

Misick also questioned the extent of the new leader's mandate within the wider PDM, arguing that emerging from a leadership selection process did not necessarily establish the full confidence of the party's membership.

The Premier maintained that constitutional reform should not become a casualty of internal party politics or leadership changes. He said agreements reached in the national interest should survive changes in the "political temperature."

A major point of contention is whether the Turks and Caicos Islands should expand its executive to provide additional ministerial capacity. Misick said the growing economy, population and complexity of government require more executive resources.

He rejected claims that expanding the executive was connected to extending political term limits.

"I have never at any time advocated for an extension of the current term limit provisions," Misick declared. "Not privately, not publicly, and not in any communication with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office."

He also vigorously opposed the reintroduction of appointed members to Parliament, describing it as "a retrograde step" that would run contrary to the country's democratic development.

Misick argued that elected representatives, rather than appointed members, should occupy seats in Parliament and said the territory should be moving toward greater self-government, autonomy and democratic accountability.

He said the Constitution "belongs to the people" and warned that constitutional reform should not become a political weapon used depending on which party holds power.



Recently elected leader of the Opposition Hon. Doug Parnell

## Parliament on Recess until September

Parliament in the Turks and Caicos Islands has been prorogued and will remain out of session until its expected recall in September.

Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, acting on the advice of Premier Charles Washington Misick, issued the proclamation to prorogue Parliament from midnight on Thursday, August 6.

The action was taken in accordance with Section 57(1) of the Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution.

Prorogation formally ends the current parliamentary session but does not dissolve Parliament. During the prorogation period, Parliament will not sit to conduct its usual business.

According to a government statement issued on August 5, Premier Misick will advise the Governor on a date in September for Parliament to be recalled and a new parliamentary session to begin.

The proclamation will also be published in the Official Gazette.



Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam signs the document signalling the recess of parliament



# Grill for the Cure Fires Up Community Support for Cancer Patients

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The aroma of sizzling burgers and barbecue filled the parking lot of CIBC on Saturday, August 1, as staff came together for Grill for the Cure, a fundraising event dedicated to supporting the Cancer Society and helping individuals battling cancer.

The event is one of several initiatives organized by the CIBC Walk for the Cure team throughout the year to raise funds for cancer patients in need.

Ticore Seymour-Rigby, one of the walk managers for CIBC Walk for the Cure, said the fundraiser represents the organization's commitment to giving back to the community while strengthening its long-standing partnership with the Cancer Society.

"Today we have Grill for the Cure, where we're raising funds to assist the Cancer Society and provide support for patients dealing with all types of cancer," Rigby explained.

The barbecue offered something for everyone, with grilled chicken, ribs, burgers, hot dogs, roasted corn, baked macaroni, homemade lemonade, soft drinks, and bottled water all available for purchase. Every dollar raised during the event will be donated to the Cancer



Society at the end of the fundraising season.

Grill for the Cure is one of four major fundraising activities planned by the CIBC Walk for the Cure team this year. The campaign began with Bake for the Cure, followed by Saturday's barbecue. Raffle for the Cure is scheduled next, before the team joins the annual Walk for the Cure alongside the Cancer Society.

According to Rigby, the organization has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with the Cancer Society, but this year's campaign marks a significant expansion of its fundraising efforts.

"In previous years, Bake for

the Cure was held inside the branch and mainly involved our

staff," Rigby said. "This year, we wanted to do something bigger by bringing the public into our fundraising efforts. The more people who participate, the bigger the donation we'll be able to present to the Cancer Society." The community's response has been overwhelmingly positive, with many visitors expressing surprise and appreciation for the bank's visible involvement in supporting the Cancer Society. Rigby hopes this year's success will inspire even more community-centered events in the future, allowing the organization to continue making a meaningful impact in the lives of cancer patients and their families.



# Dr. Candice Williams Appointed First Vice-President of ACHEA

Dr. Candice Williams, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC), has been appointed First Vice-President of the Association of Caribbean Higher Education Administrators (ACHEA) for the 2026–2028 term.

The appointment followed elections held during ACHEA's Annual General Meeting on 2 July 2026 at the Breezes Resort & Spa in Nassau, The Bahamas. The newly elected Executive officially assumed office on 1 August 2026.

ACHEA is a regional professional association that brings together higher education administrators and professionals from institutions across the Caribbean. The Association provides an important platform for regional collaboration, professional development, knowledge-sharing and the advancement of effective leadership and administration within the higher education sector.

This year holds special significance for the Association as ACHEA celebrates its 25th anniversary, marking a quarter-century of service to higher education leadership and institutional development across the region. The milestone reflects the organisation's sustained growth, expanding influence and continued commitment to strengthening tertiary education systems throughout the Caribbean and beyond.

Dr. Williams's appointment as First Vice-President represents a significant professional achievement and a proud milestone for TCICC and the wider Turks and Caicos Islands. It positions the country's higher education leadership at the forefront of regional dialogue and initiatives aimed at strengthening institutional governance, improving administrative practices and addressing emerging priorities within Caribbean tertiary education. In her role as First Vice-President, Dr. Williams will support the President and Executive in advancing the Association's strategic objectives, strengthening engagement among member institutions and contributing to initiatives that promote excellence, innovation and sustainable development throughout the regional higher education sector.

The Honourable Rachel Marshall Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, congratulated Dr. Williams on the appointment, noting that her elevation reflects both her distinguished leadership and the growing influence of the Turks and Caicos Islands within the regional education community.

"On behalf of the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, I extend heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Candice Williams on her appointment as First Vice-President of ACHEA. This achievement is a testament to her exemplary leadership, professionalism and unwavering commitment to the advancement of higher education.

Her appointment is also a proud moment for the Turks and Caicos Islands, as it ensures that our national perspectives and experiences will continue to contribute



*Dr. Candice Williams (fourth from left) is pictured with the ACHEA Executive. At third left is President Dr. Helen Williams Cumberbatch, and at first left is Second Vice President Ms Lourie Clare.*

meaningfully to important regional discussions. We are confident that Dr. Williams will serve with distinction and make a valuable contribution to the continued growth and development of higher education administration throughout the Caribbean." Following the Minister's remarks, Mrs Sheba Wilson, Chairman of the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College Board of Governors, also commended Dr. Williams's appointment, highlighting the broader institutional and regional significance of her leadership role.

The Chairman reflected on the importance of sustained representation at the regional level and the College's growing engagement within Caribbean higher education networks.

"Dr. Williams's appointment to the ACHEA Executive is a clear reflection of the calibre of leadership we are fortunate to have at the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College.

"It also underscores the increasing visibility and respect that our institution and country are earning within regional higher education circles. We are especially proud that TCICC continues to contribute meaningfully to shaping conversations that influence the future of tertiary education across the Caribbean."

Dr. Williams's appointment also reinforces TCICC's commitment to strengthening regional partnerships, sharing institutional expertise and contributing to the development of responsive and innovative higher education systems. Her participation at the executive level will provide further opportunities for TCICC to engage with regional institutions, exchange best practices and help shape approaches to the challenges and opportunities facing tertiary education across the Caribbean.

A notable moment in ACHEA's recent history was the 2025 Annual Conference, which Dr. Williams had the privilege of hosting in

the Turks and Caicos Islands. This marked the first time the Association convened its flagship conference in the TCI, welcoming more than 100 higher education administrators, researchers and thought leaders from across the Caribbean, North America and Africa to the destination.

The event was widely regarded as a resounding success and is now recognised as a defining milestone in the Association's development as it moves into its 25th anniversary year.

Reflecting on her appointment, Dr. Williams expressed gratitude for the confidence placed in her and reaffirmed her commitment to supporting the work of the Association.

"I am deeply honoured to have been entrusted with the responsibility of serving as First Vice-President of ACHEA. I am grateful to the Association's membership for the confidence placed in me and look forward to working alongside the President, fellow Executive members and higher education

professionals throughout the region. This appointment provides an important opportunity to strengthen collaboration, promote innovative administrative practices and support the continued development of institutions that are responsive to the needs of Caribbean learners and communities. I am also proud to represent the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College and the wider Turks and Caicos Islands as we contribute to the advancement of higher education across the region."

The newly elected ACHEA Executive for the 2026–2028 term comprises:

- President: Dr. Helen Williams-Cumberbatch
- First Vice-President: Dr. Candice Williams
- Second Vice-President: Ms Lourie Clare
- Secretary: Mrs Kasiane Reid-Martin
- Assistant Secretary: Ms Sanielle Hinds



*Dr. Candice Williams*

- Treasurer: Ms Michelle Bruce
- Assistant Treasurer: Dr. Courtney Garrick
- Public Relations Officer: Ms Nataki Kerr
- Assistant Public Relations Officer: Ms Alison Johnson

In a statement announcing the newly elected Executive, ACHEA extended its sincere appreciation to all members who participated in the election process and acknowledged the outgoing Executive members for their exemplary leadership, commitment and dedicated service throughout the previous term.

The full Executive, including members appointed to co-opted positions, will be introduced shortly. Dr. Williams previously served as Second Vice-President of ACHEA. Her elevation to First Vice President reflects the confidence of the Association's membership in her leadership, experience and continued contribution to the advancement of higher education administration throughout the Caribbean.

# Take Charge of Your Future - Governor Urges Interns, Apprentices

By Vivian Tyson EWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam has urged participants in the National Internship and Apprenticeship Programme to work hard, remain proactive and take responsibility for their own success, warning that “no one is owed anything.”

Speaking at the programme’s closing ceremony at Beaches Resort and Spa on Providenciales on Tuesday, August 4, the Governor told the young participants that opportunities would not simply be handed to them.

“Nothing is going to be landed on you on a silver plate,” she said. “We have to make our own luck for ourselves, and that means putting the work in, taking advantage of what is presented to you, turning up on time and being proactive.”

Daniel-Selvaratnam acknowledged the pressures facing young people, particularly in an age of social media when they are frequently exposed to the achievements and lifestyles of others.

She reassured participants that they did not need to have every stage of their lives mapped out, noting that even carefully made plans can change.

“Have your plans, but don’t worry if you don’t have your plans,” she advised. “What you need in all instances is to be open. You’ve got to be curious, but most importantly, you have to persevere and be open to the opportunities that present themselves to you.”

Drawing on her own experience, the Governor said some of her greatest professional and personal growth came from accepting roles she had not initially expected to pursue.

She encouraged the interns and apprentices to see their placements as the beginning of their professional networks and to



Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam presents a certificate of completion to Roneika Johnson, one of the Apprentices under the Government Apprentices and Internship Programme

maintain contact with the people they met during the programme. “Nurture that network,” she said. “Keep in touch with the people that you have met because they are the ones who will remember you and remember what your talent is.”

The Governor also said success in

the workplace is not determined solely by academic grades. She said career progression requires people to make difficult decisions, assess risks and accept responsibility for their choices, even when outcomes do not go according to plan.

Participants were also encour-

aged to learn how to work with people who have different personalities and approaches to life. “You will work with many wonderful people. You will work with people who have a whole different approach to life than you do,” she said. “You’re all going to have to get the best out of each other.”

Daniel-Selvaratnam described the participants as role models for the Turks and Caicos Islands and appealed to them to maintain their integrity, values and faith.

She warned that some younger people could be attracted to paths promising instant money or status but which would not serve them well in the long term. The ceremony marked the completion of the fifth cycle of the National Internship and Apprenticeship Programme, which provides young people with practical workplace experience in government departments and private-sector organisations.



A section of the audience at the Closing Ceremony of the National Internship and Apprenticeship Programme at Beaches Resort and Spa.

# Before Declaring Winners

*An Op-Ed By Audley A. Astwood*

Headlines matter. They shape public opinion long before a judge delivers a final ruling. That's why we should all be careful when we read that one side has already "won" a legal battle that hasn't actually been decided. Our democracy is governed by the rule of law. There's an important difference between earning the right to be heard and winning the case itself.

The seven police officers who've challenged the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force's promotion process have every right to seek judicial review if they genuinely believe they've been treated unfairly. No reasonable person should criticize them for exercising a legal right that's available to every citizen. If they believe the promotion policy wasn't properly applied, the courtroom is exactly where those questions belong. That's how lawful societies resolve disputes, not through speculation or public pressure.

But let's be equally clear about something else. The Supreme Court hasn't ruled that the promotion process was unfair. It hasn't ruled that the Commissioner of Police acted unlawfully. It hasn't ruled that the officers were wrongly denied promotion. All the Court has decided at this stage is that the issues raised are serious enough to deserve a full hearing.

That's an important distinction because too many people confuse the granting of judicial review with a judgment on the merits. They aren't the same thing. One simply opens the courtroom door. The other comes only after both sides have presented their evidence, their arguments, and their interpretation of the law before an independent judge.

Words matter because public confidence matters. When did we start declaring winners before the evidence has even been tested in court? That's a dangerous precedent because it risks convincing the public that wrongdoing has

already been established when the Court has made no such finding. That's unfair to the officers who've already been promoted, unfair to the Commissioner, and unfair to the institution itself. Justice demands more patience than that.

It's also worth remembering that the Commissioner and those responsible for the promotion process are entitled to the very same fairness the officers are asking the Court to protect. Due process doesn't belong only to applicants who feel aggrieved. It belongs to everyone involved. That's what makes it due process rather than public opinion.

None of this diminishes the officers' concerns. If mistakes were made, the Court is the proper place to identify them. If the law requires a remedy, the Court will provide one. If the process is found to have been fair, then that conclusion deserves the same respect. If it's found to have been flawed, then the appropriate remedies should follow. Either way,



the outcome should be guided by evidence, not emotion.

There's a broader lesson here for all of us. If we believe no one is above the law, shouldn't we also believe no one should be judged before the law has spoken? That's a principle worth defending whether the person involved is a police officer or an ordinary citizen. We can't demand fairness from our institutions while denying it to the people who serve within them.

## North Caicos: The Key to Solving Traffic Congestion in Providenciales

*An Op-Ed by Anthony Gardiner*

Traffic congestion in Providenciales, driven by the island's rapid development since the COVID-19 pandemic, has become one of the most pressing issues facing residents today.

Daily commutes that once took just ten to fifteen minutes can now take thirty minutes or even an hour, depending on the level of congestion. As Providenciales continues to grow, traffic delays will only become more common unless we begin thinking beyond short-term solutions.

Some people have suggested introducing a public transportation system that would allow people to travel to and from work more efficiently while reducing fuel costs at a time when the cost of living continues to rise. Others have proposed policies like those found in other BOTCs like Bermuda and the Cayman Islands that limit vehicle

ownership.

A long solution to the problem should not only benefit Providenciales but the rest of the country. Known as the "Garden Basket" of the country because of , North Caicos possesses vast areas of undeveloped land that could solve issues that Providenciales has like lack of affordable housing and traffic congestion. Rather than continuing to concentrate residential development in Providenciales, the Government should consider developing planned suburban communities in areas such as Sandy Point and Kew.

Of course, the infrastructure does not exist to facilitate this. At present, there is no causeway connecting Providenciales and North Caicos. The government could conduct a study to determine whether this project would be one that is truly feasible. If the findings demonstrate that a causeway is both practical and sustainable, it

has the potential to become one of the most transformative infrastructure investments in the history of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

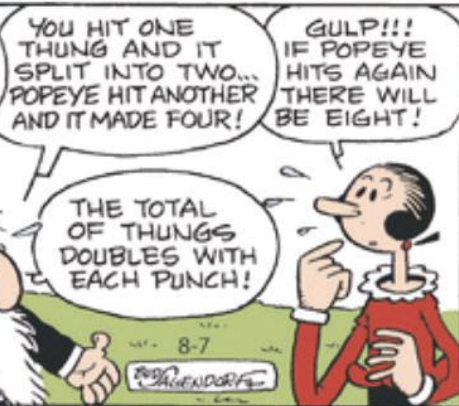
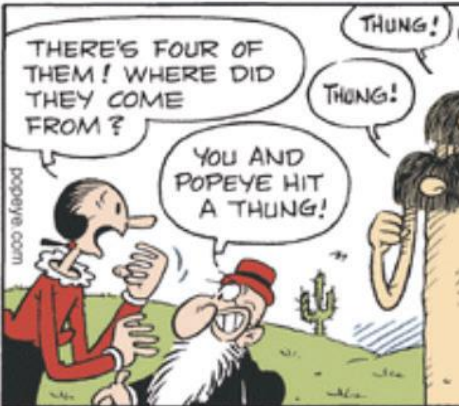
A permanent connection would provide the confidence needed for both the Government and private investors to begin developing modern residential communities in North Caicos. It would create more affordable housing opportunities for families who are increasingly being priced out of the Providenciales housing market while at the same time easing the population pressure that contributes to daily traffic congestion.

As new communities grow, demand would naturally increase for grocery stores, hardware stores, restaurants, schools, and healthcare facilities. New businesses would create jobs, strengthen the local economy, and allow residents to meet many of their daily needs closer to home. Middle Caicos would also benefit from this transformation. Already

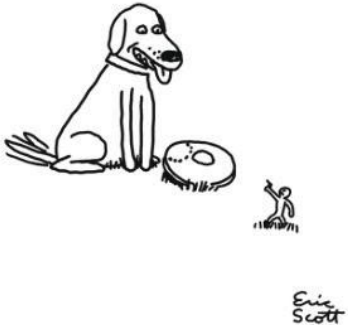
connected to North Caicos through an existing causeway, residents and visitors alike would be intrigued to explore attractions such as Bambara Beach and Mudjin Harbour, which would greatly benefit the largest island in the country.

By exploring the potential, a permanent transportation link to North Caicos and encouraging the development of well-planned suburban communities, the Turks and Caicos Islands can address traffic congestion, improve housing affordability, diversify economic activity, and create new opportunities beyond Providenciales.

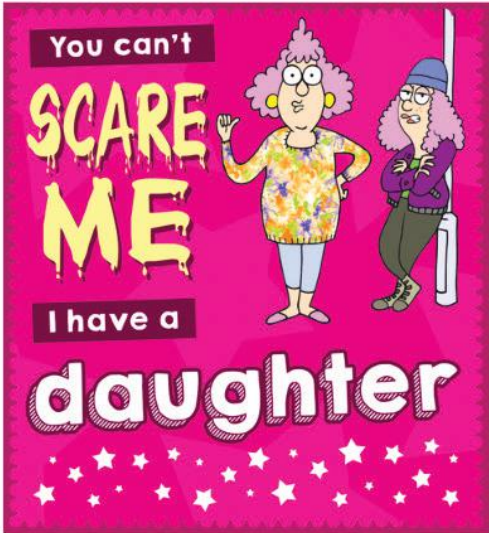
Providenciales has been the driving force behind the Turks and Caicos Islands' economy, placing our country on the map as a premier luxury tourism destination. The next chapter of our nation's development should also ensure that North and Middle Caicos also share that prosperity and contribute to the overall success of the nation.



# NEWSLINE COMICS



"BAD earthing!"



# TURKS HEAD CACTUS

NEWSLINE  
*Heritage*



A living emblem of our islands—resilient, unique, and deeply rooted in our natural heritage.

The Turks Head cactus (*Melocactus intortus*) is one of the most recognizable native species in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Topped with a bright red, woolly cap called a cephalium, this unusual cactus has long been associated with the identity of the islands. Its striking crown, said to resemble a Turkish fez, is widely believed to be the inspiration behind the name “Turks Islands”

Often found clinging to sun-baked coastal cliffs or growing among the rocky limestone terrain, the Turks Head cactus is a survivor of harsh conditions. Its thick, green body is covered in vertical ribs and stiff spines, adapted to conserve water and withstand long dry periods. From the red cephalium, small pink flowers bloom, followed by bright red fruits that attract birds and insects.

This cactus is more than just a natural curiosity — it is a national symbol. The Turks Head cactus is featured on the Turks and Caicos Islands’ flag and coat of arms, a reflection of its deep connection to the land. It represents not only the islands’ natural heritage but also the strength and uniqueness of the environment that shaped it.

Although still relatively common in some areas, the species faces growing pressure from land clearing and rapid development. Conservation groups and the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) have warned of the need to protect native habitats and preserve plant populations before they decline further. The public is urged not to disturb or remove the cactus from the wild and to support preservation efforts wherever possible.

In addition to its symbolic and ecological value, the Turks Head cactus quietly plays a role in local biodiversity. Its fruit provides food for birds, and its flowers support pollinators — small but vital interactions that help maintain the balance of the islands’ ecosystems.

Rooted in dry soil and crowned in red, the Turks Head cactus stands as a quiet emblem of Turks and Caicos — resilient, distinct, and deeply connected to the story of these islands.

#### References:

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

# Temporary Partial Closure of Bight Park for Upgrade Works

The Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) wishes to advise the public is hereby advised that the western section of the Bight Park, Providenciales will be temporarily cordoned off to facilitate civil works from Monday, 27th July to Sunday, 23rd August 2026. To ensure visitor safety during construction, public access to the western portion of the Bight Park will be strictly prohibited. However, general park access via the main entrance gate will remain open, and visitors may continue to enjoy the

unaffected areas of the park during regular operating hours (6:00 AM – 6:00 PM daily). Please note that these works form part of a broader refurbishment initiative aimed at enhancing the Bight Park and overall visitor experience. The Department apologises for any inconvenience this temporary restriction may cause and sincerely appreciates the public’s cooperation. Further project updates will be shared as works progress as part of our commitment to providing a safe, clean and enjoyable environment for all.



The Bight Park in Providenciales

# NATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE REOPENS 2026 NOMINATIONS

In 2026, the Turks and Caicos Islands celebrates the 50th Anniversary of Ministerial Government—a once-in-a-generation milestone of profound historical significance that deserves extraordinary national recognition. As part of the national commemorations, the Turks and Caicos Islands Government has mandated the National Honours and Awards Committee to play an integral role in recognising those individuals whose service has helped shape our nation over the past five decades. In the spirit of unity and celebration during this Golden Jubilee year, a unique opportunity has been created to honour a greater number of citizens whose leadership, service, sacrifice and achievements have contributed significantly to the development of the Turks and

Caicos Islands. To mark this historic occasion, there will be a temporary increase in the number of recipients in the following three award categories:

- The Order of the Turks and Caicos Islands Award
- The Patriotic Award
- The Meritorious Award

This increase reflects the exceptional historical significance of the nation’s 50th Anniversary of Ministerial Government and provides an opportunity to recognise a broader cross-section of individuals whose contributions have strengthened and advanced the Turks and Caicos Islands. As part of the national celebrations, the National Honours and Awards Committee is pleased to announce the reopening of the public nomination process to encourage wider public participation in

recognising deserving citizens. Nominations will now be accepted from Tuesday, 28 July 2026, until Monday, 17 August 2026. Members of the public are encouraged to nominate individuals whose outstanding service, dedication and achievements have made a meaningful impact on their communities and the nation. Nomination forms are available online at [www.tcinationalhonoursandawards.com](http://www.tcinationalhonoursandawards.com) and can also be obtained from any District Commissioner’s Office in Salt Cay, South Caicos, Middle Caicos or North Caicos, or from the Office of the Premier and Public Policy in Grand Turk and Providenciales. All nominations should be accompanied by supporting documentation, as this will carry significant weight during the Committee’s deliberations.

For online submissions, supporting documents may be uploaded in PDF format (maximum file size of 25 MB). Physical nominations should include all supporting documentation in a sealed envelope clearly marked “National Honours and Awards Committee” and addressed to the Office of the Premier and Public Policy in either Grand Turk or Providenciales. The National Honours and Awards Committee remains committed to recognising and celebrating Turks and Caicos Islanders whose service, leadership and accomplishments have made lasting contributions to the nation. The Committee looks forward to the continued support and participation of the public in ensuring that deserving individuals receive the national recognition they have earned.

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

# Bethany Baptist Church

In this issue of Newsline Featured Church, we highlight the Bethany Baptist Church, located at 250 Bay Road, Wheeland, Providenciales. Bethany Baptist Church is Pastored by Rev. Derek R. Hamilton. The opportunities for Worship & Fellowship during the course of the week are as follows: Sunday 11am – Service; Wednesday 7pm- Prayer & Bible Study via zoom; Friday at 7pm - Children, Youth & Women Ministry; 2nd and 4th Tuesdays- Men’s ministr; the church theme is “Connecting people to God and with each other!”



## Life line Church Directory

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

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| <div><b>Firm Foundation Ministries International</b><br/>Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581</div> <div><b>Christ is the Answer Ministry,</b><br/>George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales<br/>Tel: 241-8030</div> <div><b>One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry,</b><br/>Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive,<br/>Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194.<br/>Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com.</div> <div><b>Touch of Love Ministries International Center</b><br/>Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales<br/>Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731</div> <div><b>Abundant Life Ministries International</b><br/>P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward<br/>Highway, Providenciales<br/>Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755</div> <div><b>Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk,</b><br/>Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289</div> <div><b>Bethany Baptist Church,</b><br/>Blue Hills, Providenciales<br/>Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118</div> <div><b>Church of God of Prophecy,</b><br/>Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854</div> <div><b>Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk</b><br/>Tel:946-1866</div> <div><b>Calvary Baptist Church,</b><br/>South Caicos. Tel:946-3212</div> <div><b>Harvest Bible Chapel TCI,</b><br/>Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales.<br/>Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com.<br/><a href="https://www.harvesttci.tc">https://www.harvesttci.tc</a>.</div> <div><b>Rock of Jesus Ministry,</b><br/>15 Five Cays, Safe Haven.<br/>Tel: 649-3317628 of 649-2410087</div> | <div><b>Firm Foundation Ministries International</b><br/>19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket ,<br/>Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240</div> <div><b>Church of God of Prophecy,</b><br/>Providenciales Tel:941-3438</div> <div><b>Roman Catholic Church,</b><br/>Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136</div> <div><b>Faith Tabernacle Church of God,</b><br/>Providenciales, Tel:946-4073</div> <div><b>New Testament Church of God,</b><br/>Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175</div> <div><b>New Testament Church of God,</b><br/>South Caicos Tel:946-3631</div> <div><b>Methodist Church,</b><br/>Grand Turk Tel:946-2352</div> <div><b>Healing Waters Ministries,</b><br/>Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867</div> <div><b>House of Prayer Church of God,</b><br/>Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309</div> <div><b>Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses,</b><br/>Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727</div> <div><b>Mount Mariah Baptist Church,</b><br/>Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205</div> <div><b>New Beginning Harvest Ministry,</b><br/>Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759</div> <div><b>New Testament Church of God</b><br/>Orea Alley<br/>P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales<br/>Tel: 946-1255<br/>Airport Road, South Caicos<br/>Tel:231-2402</div> | <div><b>Firm Foundation Ministries International</b><br/>Waterloo Road, Grand Turk.<br/>Telephone: 649-332-624</div> <div><b>Paradise Baptist Church,</b><br/>Five Cays, Providenciale<br/>Tel:941-4349</div> <div><b>Revival Faith Center,</b><br/>North Backsalina, Grand Turk<br/>Tel:946-2349</div> <div><b>Salem Baptist Church,</b><br/>Mission Folly, Grand Turk<br/>Tel:946-2565</div> <div><b>Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries</b><br/>International,<br/>Discovery Bay Providenciales<br/>Tel: 946-5181</div> <div><b>St. Monica’s Anglican Church</b><br/>P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales<br/>Tel: 946-4046<br/>Fax:946-4046;941-8499</div> <div><b>Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh</b><br/>Day Adventists,<br/>P.O. Box 803, Providenciales</div> <div><b>United Pentecostal Church,</b><br/>Brown’s Plaza, Leeward Highway,<br/>Providenciales Tel: 956-5852</div> <div><b>Wesleyan Methodist Church,</b><br/>Blue Hills, Providenciales<br/>Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596</div> <div><i>Editor’s Note: If your Ministry is not listed<br/>and/or you would like for it to be part of the<br/>NEWSLINETCI Church Diary,<br/>contact us at: <a href="mailto:contact@newslnetci.com">contact@newslnetci.com</a></i></div> |
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# NATIONAL INTERNSHIP AND APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME CLOSING CEREMONY

The National Internship and Apprenticeship Programme graduated its 2026 cohort of students at Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort and Spa. Students received certificates of completion from the Ministry of Education, for their diligence throughout the programme. Government and private businesses were also recognized with certificates of appreciation for hosting the students. The event, aside from government members, was attended by Governor Her Excellency. The following are photo highlights of the event.





# Adventure Minds, a New Child Development Program Opens in Providenciales

A new chapter in child development and family support has officially begun with the grand opening of Adventure Minds, an innovative childcare and structured learning program founded by Mrs. Synovia Jackson, formerly known throughout the community as Ms. Thomas.

With more than a decade of experience working with children, Mrs. Jackson established Adventure Minds to provide a safe, structured, and nurturing environment where children can build confidence, develop social and life skills, and discover a lifelong love for learning.

Located at the Salvation Army's Brighter Futures Centre in Providenciales, the program embraces children with diverse learning styles and is committed to creating an inclusive space where every child feels valued, respected, and empowered to succeed.

"Adventure Minds is more than a childcare program it's a place where children are encouraged to explore their potential, families find meaningful support, and every milestone is celebrated," said Mrs. Jackson. "My vision has always been to create a space where every child feels seen, supported, and inspired to thrive." The grand opening welcomed families, community leaders, supporters, and local partners for a celebration featuring children's activities, entertainment, refreshments, and guided tours of the new facility. The event marked the beginning of a new resource dedicated to serving children and



families across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

According to Mrs. Jackson, Adventure Minds offers structured daily programming focused on communication, social development, emotional growth, life skills, creativity, and school readiness through engaging, hands on learning experiences. The organization is committed to partnering with families and the wider community to help children



reach their fullest potential in a caring and supportive environment.

As Adventure Minds opens its doors, Mrs. Jackson hopes the program will become a trusted resource for families seeking a positive, inclusive, and enrich-

ing experience for their children.

He said Adventure Minds is now welcoming new families and looks forward to making a lasting impact on the lives of children throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.



## 50th Anniversary of Ministerial Government (1976–2026)...Road to 1976 Series

# BUILDING A NATION

### Infrastructure, Development, and the Transformation of Everyday Life in the Turks and Caicos Islands

#### PART TEN

By Nixon Dickenson

**History often remembers elections.** But ordinary people often remember something different. They remember when roads improved. They remember when electricity became more reliable. They remember when water systems expanded. They remember when schools grew. They remember when healthcare services improved. They remember when opportunities increased. For many families, progress is measured not by speeches or constitutions but by the changes experienced in everyday life. Following the introduction of Ministerial Government in 1976, the Turks and Caicos Islands entered a new phase. **Ministerial Government had been achieved.** Now came the challenge of building a country.

#### A Country Still Emerging

For younger generations growing up in today's Turks and Caicos Islands, it can be difficult to fully appreciate the conditions that existed throughout much of the country during the 1970s.

Many communities still faced significant challenges. Roads were often rough, sandy, narrow, or poorly developed. Electricity supplies could be limited. Water shortages affected some settlements. Telecommunications remained basic. Inter-island travel could be difficult.

Healthcare facilities were limited. Educational opportunities often required leaving home. Many communities continued to bear the economic scars left by the salt industry's decline. The Turks and Caicos Islands entering Ministerial Government was not yet the internationally recognised tourism destination it would later become.

It was still a developing archipelago attempting to move beyond economic uncertainty and create a more sustainable future. Yet despite these challenges, there was growing optimism. For the first time, many Islanders believed that the future could be different from the past.

#### A Generation Determined to Build

One of the most remarkable developments of the post-1976 era was the emergence of a generation determined to invest in the country's future rather than seek opportunities elsewhere.

Teachers returned home. Nurses returned home. Civil servants returned home. Tradesmen returned home. Young Islanders who had studied abroad increasingly returned with new knowledge, skills, and experience. The nation was not built solely through government policy. It was built through people. It was built through a generation that believed the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands was worth investing in.

#### From Survival to Development

Throughout the late 1970s and the decades that followed, the Turks and Caicos Islands gradually transitioned from an isolated salt-producing territory into a modern tourism and service economy.

That transformation did not occur through a single project. It unfolded through the steady expansion of national infrastructure. Roads improved. Ports expanded. Airports developed. Government departments grew. Telecommunications modernised. Electricity systems expanded. Water systems improved. Schools increased. Healthcare services have evolved. Development did not arrive everywhere at the same pace. Some projects moved quickly. Others took years. Yet despite frustrations and delays, Islanders could see that the country was moving forward. For many citizens, these changes represented far more than infrastructure alone. They represented participation. Progress. Visibility. And the growing belief that the Turks and Caicos Islands could shape its own future.

#### From Salt Ponds to Jetways

Perhaps no transformation better illustrates the story of modern Turks and Caicos Islands than the journey from salt ponds to jetways. For generations, salt had dominated economic life. Entire communities depended upon it. Families



built their lives around it.

When the industry declined, uncertainty followed. Many questioned what future remained. Yet within the lifetime of a single generation, the country began reinventing itself. Tourism emerged. Investment increased. Airports expanded. Hotels appeared. Construction accelerated. Employment opportunities multiplied.

Providenciales, once viewed very differently than it is today, began evolving into an international tourism destination. The transformation was extraordinary. Within a few decades, the Turks and Caicos Islands moved from an economy struggling to replace salt production as its primary industry to one of the world's most sought-after tourism destinations.

#### Connecting Communities

Infrastructure development became one of the most visible signs that the Turks and Caicos Islands itself was changing. Roads that had once been little more than rough pathways gradually evolved into transportation links connecting communities more effectively throughout the Islands.

Improved transportation affected trade, education, healthcare access, employment opportunities, and communication between settlements. At the same time, improvements in water supplies and electricity transformed everyday life for many families. Communities that had experienced shortages and uncertainty increasingly benefited from more reliable services.

The expansion of electricity changed the rhythm of daily life. Homes could be powered more consistently. Food could be preserved more safely. Businesses could operate more efficiently. Schools, clinics, and public services increasingly benefited from modern utilities.

These were not abstract policy achievements. They affected families. They affected children. They affected businesses. They affected entire communities. As infrastructure improved, the psychological sense of national connection also strengthened.

The Islands no longer felt as isolated from one another as they once had. For many Islanders, modernisation became something they could experience in their daily lives. Development was no longer simply an idea. It had become part of everyday life.

#### Planning to Keep the Lights On

One year after the introduction of Ministerial Government, the practical realities of nation-building were already confronting the country's leaders. Among the responsibilities facing the new government was the challenge of modernising electricity generation throughout the Islands.

On 19 September 1977, Atlantic Equipment & Power Limited submitted a proposal titled A Proposal for Power Generation on Grand Turk and South Caicos Islands to the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The document reveals the extent to which electricity had become a national development priority. The proposal warned that existing generating facilities were experiencing mechanical shortcomings and economic pressures. It argued that reliable electricity would be essential to encouraging future investment, particularly in the emerging tourism sector.

As Minister of Works, Utilities, and Labour, Hon. Lewis "Louie" Edwin Astwood was directly responsible for the portfolio under which such proposals would be examined and negotiated.

The proposal estimated Grand Turk's peak electricity demand at approximately 600 kilowatts and South Caicos at approximately 150 kilowatts, figures that today offer a fascinating glimpse into the scale of the country during the early years of Ministerial Government.

More importantly, the document demonstrates that government leaders were already thinking beyond immediate needs.

The proposal discussed expanding generation capacity, preparing for future tourism growth, improving reliability, creating employment opportunities for Turks and Caicos Islanders, and even examining future water production possibilities. Handwritten annotations found throughout the document suggest that ministers and officials carefully reviewed the proposed contractual arrangements, tax concessions, land requirements, electricity pricing structures, and long-term obligations before any agreement could be considered.

Today, the document stands as a reminder that nation-building involved far more than elections and constitutional reform.

Behind the scenes, ministers were dealing with roads, utilities, water systems, airports, public services, and the infrastructure necessary to support a growing nation.

#### Before the hotels expanded.

Before tourism transformed the economy. Before modern development accelerated. Government leaders were already confronting a fundamental question: How would the Turks and Caicos Islands generate the electricity needed to power their future?

#### Schools, Clinics, and Human Development

Infrastructure alone could not build a nation. The development of people remained equally important. Schools expanded. Educational opportunities increased. Healthcare services have evolved. A new generation of teachers, nurses, administrators, tradespeople, entrepreneurs, police officers, immigration officers, customs officers, and civil servants emerged throughout the country.

As more Turks and Caicos Islanders assumed positions of responsibility within government and public administration, confidence in local leadership grew. For many supporters of the movement generation, this represented one of the most im-

portant achievements of all.

The growing presence of Islanders managing departments, supervising projects, administering programmes, and leading institutions reinforced the belief that the country's future could increasingly be shaped by its own people.

#### The Human Side of Development

Yet beneath every road, airport, school, government building, dock, utility system, and tourism development project stood ordinary people whose labour, sacrifice, and determination helped build modern Turks and Caicos Islands' society.

Too often, infrastructure is remembered only as concrete, machinery, or policy. But nation-building is ultimately human.

Behind every transformation stood construction workers, labourers, electricians, plumbers, teachers, nurses, tradespeople, civil servants, entrepreneurs, fishermen, dock workers, mothers, fathers, and ordinary families, all trying to build better lives for future generations.

Some became publicly known. Many did not. Yet all helped shape the modern Turks and Caicos Islands. Nation-building did not happen in a single year. It unfolded over decades.

Each generation added something. Some laid foundations. Others expanded upon them. And the Turks and Caicos Islands that exist today are the product of countless individual contributions made over fifty years and more.

#### The Builders of Modern Turks and Caicos Islands

History remembers political leaders. History remembers ministers. History remembers governments. Yet the modern Turks and Caicos Islands were built by far more than just elected officials. The people built it. The roads. The ports. The airports. The schools. The clinics. The hotels. The businesses. The government institutions. None appeared by accident.

They stand today as monuments to the labour, sacrifice, determination, and resilience of generations who believed that the country could become greater than its circumstances. Fifty years after the birth of Ministerial Government, the Turks and Caicos Islands continue to evolve.

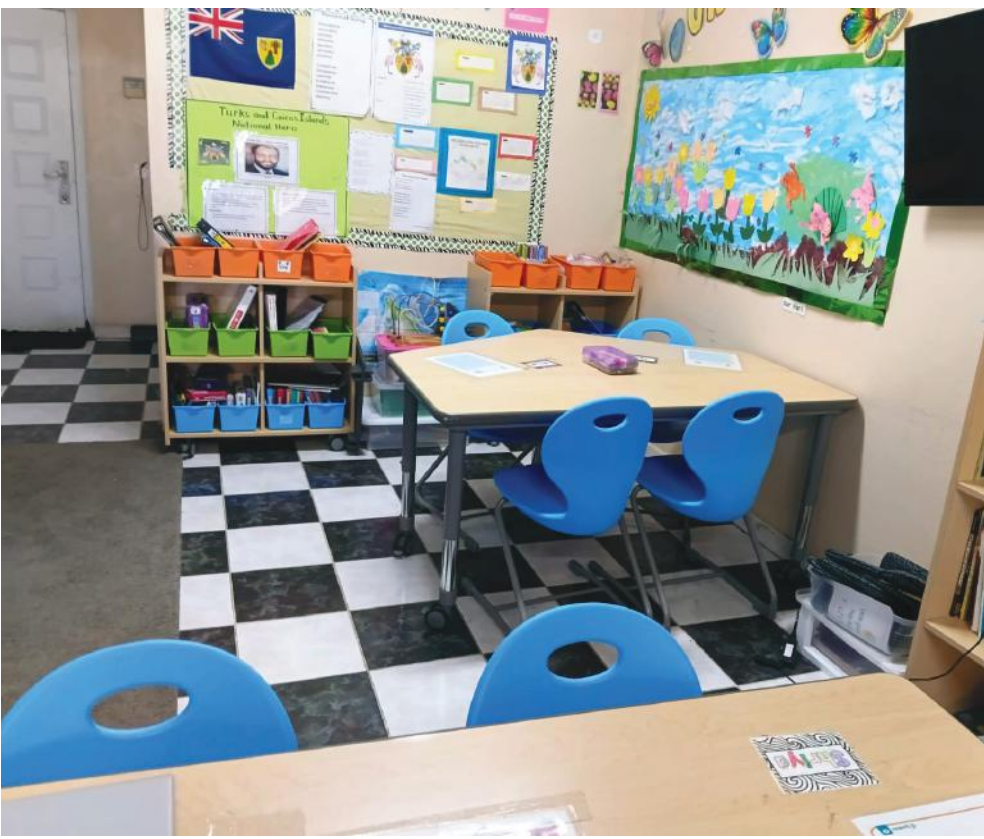
The country still faces important questions about development, infrastructure, identity, growth, and national direction. Over the past fifty years, the Turks and Caicos Islands have been transformed by the efforts of generations who believed that the country could become greater than its circumstances. The Turks and Caicos Islands are no longer the isolated country they once were.

And all around us, in the roads we travel, the airports we use, the schools we attend, the ports that connect us, and the institutions that serve us, remain visible reminders of a generation that dared to imagine a different future. Fifty years later, the work of building the nation continues.

#### About The Author

**Joan Astwood-Sutton, LLB (Hons.), Master's in Publishing, and Certificate in Youth & Community Studies, is an author, publisher, 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.**



# Ashley's Learning Center Benefits from Projotech Charity Challenge

Ashley's Learning Center (ALC), the Turks and Caicos Islands' only private special education school dedicated to children with mild to moderate learning disabilities, autism, and developmental delays, has once again received significant support from the Corporate Charity Challenge (CCC), reinforcing the business community's ongoing commitment to inclusive education.

Through this year's Corporate Charity Challenge, \$76,426 was raised in support of ALC. The funds have enabled the school to undertake capital improvements, continuing ALC's Board's long-term commitment to creating a safe, accessible and inspiring learning environment for its students.

This latest investment builds on the tremendous success of the 2024 Corporate Charity Challenge, which raised over \$66,000 for ALC. Those funds allowed the school to complete \$60,871 in major capital improvements, including the installation of a much-needed new roof, alongside several other facility upgrades that have strengthened the school's ability to serve children with special educational needs.

Chairman of ALC's Board, Ben Avenant, said the continued support demonstrates the confidence the corporate community has in the school's mission and future.

"Every capital investment made to-



day creates learning opportunities for tomorrow. These funds allow us to think beyond immediate operational needs and focus on developing an environment that grows alongside our students. We are incredibly grateful to every business and individual who continues to invest in our future. Their generosity is helping us build a stronger, more inclusive school for generations to come."

Since opening its doors in 2015, ALC has grown from serving a single student to becoming an essential educational resource for families across the Turks and Caicos Islands. Today, the school provides individualized education and therapeutic support for children whose learning needs



often cannot be fully met within traditional classroom settings.

Founder Angela Williams said every improvement to the campus directly enhances the lives of the students.

"Our environment plays an important role in how our children learn, communicate and develop confidence. Every improvement to our facilities creates new opportunities for independence, creativity and success. We are deeply thankful to everyone who made this possible."

The Corporate Charity Challenge has become one of the Turks and Caicos Islands' premier examples of corporate philanthropy, bringing together businesses, volunteers and community leaders to create lasting social

impact. Ashley's Learning Center extends its sincere appreciation to the Corporate Charity Challenge Committee for their continued leadership and dedication:

- Murad Mohamad
- Kyle Camarro
- Galmo Williams
- Dave Douglas
- Sean Wilson
- Paul Slattery

The Committee wishes to recognize headline sponsor Projotech, participating businesses, volunteers, donors and every individual who has supported the Corporate Charity Challenge over the years. Their generosity continues to strengthen inclusive education and create brighter futures for children across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Looking ahead, ALC encourages the corporate community to once again rally behind this important cause at the next Corporate Charity Challenge, scheduled for October 18, 2026. Continued investment will ensure the school can expand its services, improve its facilities and meet the growing demand for specialized education throughout the country.

As ALC continues its mission of transforming lives through education, every contribution represents more than a donation; it is an investment in opportunity, inclusion and the limitless potential of every child.

END



# Tourism Minister Leads Community Connect Meetings in Grand Turk, Salt Cay

Experience Turks and Caicos, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, has relaunched its Community Connect initiative, reaffirming its commitment to ensuring residents play a central role in shaping the future of tourism across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The meetings began in Grand Turk and Salt Cay, marking the first in a series of engagements that will be held across the country.

Led by the Minister of Tourism, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, the meetings were held on Monday, July 27th, and Tuesday, July 28th, respectively at the Yellowman and Sons Auditorium in Grand Turk and the Salt Shed in Salt Cay.

Community Connect is a series of town hall meetings designed to keep communities informed about the work of Experience Turks and Caicos and the Ministry of Tourism, provide updates on the performance of the tourism industry, and create an open forum where residents can share their concerns, ideas and recommendations for strengthening the tourism product. The initiative reflects the Ministry's commitment to ensuring tourism development is informed by the voices of the communities it is intended to benefit.

The meetings brought together residents, business owners and tourism stakeholders for open and insightful discussions about the future of tourism on their respective islands. Participants en-



gaged directly with Hon. Jolly and his team, which included Deputy Permanent Secretaries Mr. Arthur Been and Mr. Ronlee James, along with Experience Turks and Caicos Product Development Manager Mrs. Candesha Mills. Opening the meetings, Hon. Jolly stressed that Community Connect is intended to be a conversation rather than a presentation, giving residents an opportunity to help shape the future of tourism in their communities.

"We are hoping to have a dialogue about the future of tourism in Grand Turk. We want to ensure residents are prepared to take advantage of the opportunities that tourism creates, while also understanding the challenges you see, whether it is cruise tourism development or other issues,

so that together we can address those gaps and better prepare our people to benefit," he said in his welcome address in Grand Turk.

Discussion in Grand Turk covered a wide range of issues, including garbage collection, the culling of donkeys and stray dogs, hotel investment, airlift and the continued development of the island's tourism sector.

The meeting also featured brief remarks by Mr. Donte Francis of the Grand Turk Enhancement and Sustainability Agency (GTESA), who provided an update on projects completed and those currently in the pipeline. He noted that GTESA has completed 22 projects to date and is awaiting Board approval for an additional 14 initiatives.

In Salt Cay, discussions focused largely on community infrastructure and essential services that, while not directly tourism-related, play an important role in supporting the visitor experience and the island's long-term tourism potential. Residents raised concerns about the frequency of flights and ferry service to Grand Turk, the absence of ambulance and emergency medical services, and ongoing water supply challenges.

Reflecting on the discussions, Hon. Jolly reaffirmed his commitment to working closely with communities to ensure they play an active role in shaping the future of tourism.

"As I shared during the meetings, our communities have the power to help shape how their islands develop. My responsibility as Minister is to listen, understand the challenges they face, and ensure my Ministry is doing everything possible to create opportunities and remove barriers. I was encouraged by the honest and constructive discussions we had in both Grand Turk and Salt Cay, and I look forward to continuing this conversation across the Turks and Caicos Islands. I want to thank everyone who took the time to attend and share their views."

Community Connect will continue in the coming months with meetings in North, Middle and South Caicos, as well as communities across Providenciales.

# CARPHA Expands Antimicrobial Resistance Testing and Surveillance

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) has enhanced regional laboratory capacity for detecting, monitoring, and responding to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through the introduction of whole genome sequencing (WGS) at the CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

This advancement strengthens the region's pandemic preparedness and response. As part of CARPHA's regional reference laboratory network, CMML supports disease surveillance, outbreak investigations, and public health response across Member States. The WGS service is now operational at the CMML Port of Spain campus, improving the region's ability to identify and characterise resistant organisms of public health concern and positioning CARPHA as a leader in genomic surveillance in the Caribbean.

Antimicrobial resistance remains one of the most significant global public health threats, contributing to millions of deaths annually and undermining the effectiveness of life-saving treatments. In the Caribbean, limited access to advanced molecular diagnostics has historically constrained the region's ability to detect emerging resistance mechanisms and track the spread of high-risk pathogens across borders. The growing prevalence of multidrug-resistant organisms in hospital and community settings highlights the urgent need for enhanced genomic surveillance. This work aligns with CARPHA's broader AMR programme and the regional push to strengthen laboratory systems, and coordinated response capacity.

Strengthening AMR detection directly supports regional health security priorities and aligns with CARPHA's Pandemic Fund Project's focus on building robust laboratory systems to prevent and respond to infectious disease threats. In partnership

with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), as part of the Caribbean Antimicrobial Resistance Alliance (CARA) and with support from the UK Department of Health and Social Care's Fleming Fund, CARPHA has introduced WGS to provide a comprehensive analysis of the complete genetic material of microorganisms.

In the context of AMR, WGS enables the detection of specific antimicrobial resistance genes and mutations, detection of emerging resistance mechanisms, characterisation of high-risk clones and transmission pathways, investigation of hospital and community outbreaks, and monitoring of the cross-border spread of resistant strains. By generating detailed genomic data, WGS goes beyond conventional susceptibility testing, allowing for more precise tracking of resistance patterns and improved understanding of how resistant organisms evolve and spread within and between countries.

Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director of CARPHA, stated, "The introduction of whole genome sequencing marks an important step forward in strengthening the Caribbean's capacity to detect and respond to antimicrobial resistance. This enhanced capability supports timelier, evidence-based public health action and reinforces CARPHA's commitment to advancing laboratory innovation and regional health security for our Member States".

Dr. Gabriel Escobar, Head of the CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory, underscored that, "Whole genome sequencing gives us a far deeper understanding of resistant organisms than conventional methods alone. By strengthening our ability to detect resistance genes, track transmission patterns, and support outbreak investigations, this technology will significantly improve the quality of AMR surveillance and the public health support CARPHA



*CARPHA's Mohamed Elsherbiny, Senior Technical Advisor, Office of the Executive Director and Neeta Oudit, AMR Laboratory Specialised Technologist, utilise Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) technology to generate detailed genomic data that strengthens antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance.*

provides to countries across the Region". Building on this milestone, CARPHA will continue to strengthen regional genomic surveillance networks and support Member States in AMR detection and reporting. The integration of WGS serves as a foundation for a more resilient, data-driven public health system, advancing the Caribbean's collective capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to current and emerging infectious disease threats. CARPHA Member States can now refer isolates to any CARPHA campus to access the WGS service.

CARPHA is the Executing Agency for the PF Project, with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) as the Implementing Entity. The goal of this Project, which spans

from 2024 to 2026, is to Reduce the Public Health Impact of Pandemics in the Caribbean through Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPR).

The objective is to support the reduction of the public health impact of pandemics in the Caribbean by building pandemic PPR surveillance and early warning systems, laboratory systems and workforce capacity, regionally at CARPHA and at country levels.

This will reduce the transboundary spread of infectious diseases and improve regional and global health security. CARPHA is the beneficiary of the PF project and CARPHA Member States are the participants. Learn more via CARPHA's Pandemic Fund webpage.

## Beating the heat- protecting yourself as temperatures rise

Across Jamaica and the wider Caribbean, residents are increasingly feeling the effects of hotter days and warmer nights, with many adjusting their routines to cope. Some are drinking more water, using fans, seeking shade, and avoiding outdoor activities during the hottest hours. Others say the heat is becoming increasingly difficult to escape.

The concern is not unfounded. The World Meteorological Organization has reported record-breaking heat across Latin America and the Caribbean, while the region continues to experience the effects of a warming climate. Higher temperatures and more frequent heat extremes are contributing to growing public health concerns.

Jamaica is no exception. The Meteorological Service of Jamaica has warned of the possibility of hotter-than-normal conditions, increasing the likelihood of warmer days and nights.

For many residents, the heat has become a daily challenge. "The heat is excruciating and draining," said Diana Edwards, who copes by drinking plenty of fluids, keeping

cool and staying indoors whenever possible. Her experience mirrors that of many Jamaicans. For people who work outdoors, however, avoiding the heat is not always possible. Construction workers, farmers, street vendors and traffic officers can spend hours exposed to direct sunlight, increasing the risk of dehydration and heat stress.

Carlene Thompson said current temperatures are unlike anything she has experienced before. "I have never experienced such temperatures before," she said, adding that more trees should be planted to absorb heat and provide shade.

Her comments highlight the value of nature-based solutions. Trees and green spaces provide shade, lower surrounding temperatures and improve air quality, helping communities adapt to rising heat.

### Limit Sun Exposure

One of the simplest ways to reduce the risk of heat-related illness is to limit direct exposure to the sun.

Outdoor activities should be scheduled for cooler morning or late afternoon hours whenever possible. When outdoors, people

should seek shade and wear lightweight, loose-fitting clothing made from breathable fabrics. Wide-brimmed hats and sunscreen can also provide important protection.

Outdoor workers should take regular breaks in shaded areas and drink water frequently. Employers can help by providing drinking water and allowing adequate rest periods during periods of intense heat.

### Stay Hydrated

Water remains one of the most effective tools for managing heat.

Health officials recommend drinking water regularly, particularly during hot and humid conditions. People working or exercising outdoors should drink before, during and after activity rather than waiting until they become thirsty.

Children and older adults require special attention, as they may be more vulnerable to dehydration. Alcohol and excessive amounts of sugary drinks are not ideal substitutes for water during extreme heat.

### Protect Vulnerable Groups

Older adults, infants, young children, pregnant women and people with chronic illness-

es are among those most at risk. Individuals living with conditions such as diabetes and hypertension may require additional care.

Families should check regularly on older relatives, particularly those living alone. Children should never be left unattended in parked vehicles, even for a short period.

### Know the Warning Signs

Heat-related illnesses can range from mild conditions such as heat rash and cramps to life-threatening heatstroke.

Warning signs include excessive thirst, headache, dizziness, nausea, muscle cramps, fatigue, fainting, confusion and reduced urination. Severe symptoms, including loss of consciousness, seizures or confusion, require immediate medical attention.

As temperatures continue to rise across Jamaica and the Caribbean, managing heat will require both individual and collective action. Staying hydrated, limiting sun exposure and checking on vulnerable relatives can reduce health risks, while long-term measures such as planting more trees and expanding green spaces can help communities adapt more safely to a warmer climate.

# Caribbean Culture Fund Announces Grants to 21 New Creative Projects and Residency Programmes Across the Caribbean

Kingston, Jamaica... "Collectively, the grantees are showing the power of art in its many dimensions," said Caribbean Culture Fund Executive Director, Kellie Magnus.

From individual arts projects to large-scale collaborations to residencies connecting creatives across the region, Caribbean Culture Fund (CCF) has announced 21 new projects under its Calls 4 and 5; bringing its portfolio to 100 projects across 32 countries.

The funded projects for these cohorts are led by organisations and artists from Aruba, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Caribbean Netherlands, Martinique, Saint Martin, Sint Maarten and the United States Virgin Islands, while the residency programmes will be hosted in Barbados, Curaçao, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Martin and Trinidad and Tobago.

Call 4 covers the themes Art for Change and Caribbean Collaboration. The projects span film, theatre, photography, multimedia, architecture, digital heritage, libraries and archives, and include initiatives such as the British Virgin Islands' first interactive digital archive for culture and heritage, a documentary exploring shared Afro-Caribbean dance traditions in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, a youth-led digital storytelling project in Aruba, and research into traditional Caribbean architecture linking Saba and Dominica.

Call 5 focuses on Residencies and Fellowships and will support programmes that give Caribbean artists time, space and opportunities to develop new work while building professional networks across the region.

Many of the projects respond to challenges facing Caribbean artists and cultural organisations. Grantees were selected by independent juries based on their alignment with each funding theme, the quality and feasibility of their proposals, and the demonstrated ability of project leaders to deliver their work.

Ryan Oduber, who served on the jury, said evaluating the proposals gave him an even greater appreciation for the quality of creative work emerging across the Caribbean. "I was pretty much amazed by the projects."

For previous grantees, CCF funding has created opportunities that weren't available before, including increasing the longevity of supported projects.

Belizean designer Damian Moore,



whose Wired for Change: Empowering Voices Through Carnival Art received support through CCF's third call, said the project continues to create opportunities beyond the original grant. "It's been quite a ride, in terms of, not only the work, but it's like a jumping board into other things, and the project still continues ....[I]t's taken on a brand of its own, which I'm really, really glad for." For Sonia Farmer, founder of Poinciana Paper Press based in Nassau, The Bahamas, the grant gave the organisation the stability to invest in its long-term future. "We were able to get a permanent studio, buy the equipment that we needed and run the programme exactly as we wanted to."

The newly announced grantees will begin implementing their projects and residencies over the coming months.

Together, the 100 projects demonstrate how investment in Caribbean arts and culture can strengthen regional collaboration, preserve cultural knowledge and create lasting opportunities for artists and cultural organisations.

## Project List

Kickin It

- Project: The Capsule Project
- Genre: Libraries & Archives
- Country of implementation: British Virgin Islands

Geron Richards

- Project: Bamboula / Bomba Documentary Film
- Genre: Film

- Country of implementation: United States Virgin Islands (explores cultural connections with Puerto Rico)

Stephanie Chalana Brown

- Project: Claiming Spaces: The African Story of the Sugar Mill
- Genre: Multimedia

- Country of implementation: United States Virgin Islands (St. Croix)

David Gumbs

- Project: The Tides of Infinite Passage
- Genre: Multimedia

- Country of implementation: Saint Martin

Écritures théâtrales contemporaines en Caraïbe (ETC Caraïbe)

- Project: Tjè nou pa réparé – Théâtre de rue antillais

- Genre: Performing Arts

- Country of implementation: Martinique

Nicola Muirhead

- Project: Descendants of Summer

- Genre: Photography

- Country of implementation: Bermuda

Monica Pulido

- Project: Tribu Lab – Designing Digital Pathways to Cultural Participation for Caribbean Youth

- Genre: Multimedia

- Country of implementation: Aruba

Jean Oneli Blaise

- Project: VR Soualiga

- Genre: Video Games

- Country of implementation: Sint Maarten

TRAYSKREYOL

- Project: Remounizé — Dé-monstration décoloniale caribéenne

- Genre: Libraries & Archives

- Country of implementation: Martinique

Association Zofi

- Project: An Ba Lanmè – Exhibition

- Genre: Photography

- Countries of implementation: Martinique, Dominica and Saint Lucia

Saba Archaeological Center Foundation (SABARC)

- Project: The Resilient Houses Project

- Genre: Architecture

- Countries of implementation: Caribbean Netherlands and Dominica

- Project: Residencia Photoimagen 2026

- Genre: Residency

- Country of implementation: Dominican Republic

Light House Theatre

- Project: Decoding Afro-Caribbean Knowledge Systems

- Genre: Residency

- Country of implementation: Saint Lucia (cultural exchange with Trinidad and Tobago)

Plié for the Arts Foundation

- Project: The Plié for The Arts Caribbean Residency

- Genre: Residency

- Country of implementation: Barbados (participants from Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago)

- Project: Bodies and Memories

- Genre: Residency

- Country of implementation: Saint Martin

Stichting Kunst Openbare Ruimte Kòrsou (SKOR)

- Project: Uncommissioned Curaçao

- Genre: Residency

- Country of implementation: Curaçao (includes artists from Aruba, Sint Maarten and Saint Martin)

East Yard Enterprises

- Project: AMPLIFY Connect

- Genre: Residency

- Country of implementation: Trinidad and Tobago (participants from Barbados and Jamaica)

HeadMade Factory

- Project: Résidence HeadMade Factory

- Genre: Residency

- Country of implementation: Saint Martin

Jamaica Musical Theatre Company (JMTC)

- Project: TAP – Theatrix Apprenticeship Programme

- Genre: Residency

- Country of implementation: Jamaica

Listwa

- Project: Listwa Latè

- Genre: Residency

- Country of implementation: Saint Lucia (artist based in Dominica)

Waitukubuli Artist Association

- Project: Cayapa/Koudmen

- Genre: Residency

- Country of implementation: Dominica

Media Contact

## About the Caribbean Culture Fund

The Caribbean Culture Fund (CCF) is a regional fund dedicated to supporting Caribbean artists, cultural practitioners, cultural organisations and institutions. Through competitive open calls, the Fund invests in projects that demonstrate creativity, social commitment, inclusion, sustainability, and the preservation and transmission of Caribbean cultural knowledge and practice. By supporting collaboration, innovation and artistic excellence across the region, CCF contributes to a stronger and more connected Caribbean cultural ecosystem.

Media Contact

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## PUBLIC WARNING

# IV THERAPY IS A MEDICAL PROCEDURE

The Health Regulation Authority is warning residents and visitors about the serious medical risks linked to IV drip therapy.



## KNOW THE RISKS

### INFECTION

Bloodstream infections (sepsis), local infections and phlebitis can be life-threatening.

### ADVERSE REACTIONS

Allergic reactions from mild to severe, including anaphylaxis requiring emergency care.

### COMPLICATIONS

Vein damage, air embolism, fluid overload and other complications can cause serious harm.

## BEFORE YOU RECEIVE IV THERAPY, ALWAYS ASK:

- ✓ Does this facility have a valid HRA healthcare facility licence?
- ✓ Will a medical assessment be completed before treatment?
- ✓ Is a licensed healthcare professional administering the procedure?
- ✓ Are proper infection-control procedures in place?
- ✓ Is emergency equipment available?
- ✓ Is the healthcare professional licensed to practice within the Turks and Caicos Islands?

If the answer is NO,  
**WALK AWAY!**

REPORT UNLICENSED PROVIDERS

**(649) 338-4924**

info@hra.gov.tc | www.hra.tc



# Hospital Celebrates National Internship and Apprenticeship Programme Participants

The management and staff of the hospital are proud to congratulate the interns who have spent the past six weeks at both Cheshire Hall Medical Centre and Cockburn Town Medical Centre gaining valuable workplace experience through the Ministry of Education's National Internship and Apprenticeship Programme (NIAP).

Since the inception of the National Internship and Apprenticeship Programme, the Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital has proudly partnered with the Ministry of Education to provide meaningful workplace learning experiences for young people across a variety of disciplines. Over the years, the programme has become an important component of the hospital's workforce development strategy, providing students with valuable exposure to the dynamic healthcare environment while helping them make informed career choices. This year's cohort included several interns pursuing careers in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, laboratory sciences, allied health professions, and other healthcare-related fields. Throughout the programme, the interns were mentored by physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, managers, and support staff who generously shared their knowledge, experience, and professional guidance. The hospital extends its sincere appreciation to every department, supervisor, mentor, and staff member who invested their time and expertise in supporting the interns' learning and development. Through partnerships such

as the National Internship and Apprenticeship Programme, the hospital continues to invest in building a resilient, sustainable, and locally empowered healthcare workforce for the future.

Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Denise Braithwaite-Tennant, praised the interns for their dedication throughout the programme while recognizing the importance of national collaboration in developing the future healthcare workforce.

"It has been a privilege to welcome these talented young people to Cheshire Hall Medical Centre and Cockburn Town Medical Centre over the past six weeks. Their enthusiasm, curiosity, professionalism, and commitment to learning have been inspiring, and they have made valuable contributions across both our clinical and non-clinical services.

On behalf of the hospital, I extend our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Education for its continued investment in capacity building through the National Internship and Apprenticeship Programme. This initiative reflects a shared national commitment to developing the knowledge, skills, and experience of our young people while creating meaningful pathways into the workforce.

I would also like to thank the many hospital teams, managers, supervisors, clinicians, and support staff who generously shared their time, expertise, and mentorship with our interns. Their willingness to teach, guide, and encourage these young professionals exemplifies the culture of learning and excellence

that exists throughout our organization. As the healthcare needs of the Turks and Caicos Islands continue to evolve, the development of a highly skilled and specialized workforce has never been more important. The hospital remains fully committed to working collaboratively with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Turks & Caicos Islands Community College, educational institutions, government agencies, and our wider partners to strengthen workforce development, support future specialists across clinical, allied health, technical, and administrative disciplines, and create opportunities for individuals to pursue rewarding careers in healthcare. Today's interns are tomorrow's healthcare leaders. We congratulate each participant on successfully completing the programme and look forward to seeing many of them return to serve the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the years ahead."

Chief of Medical Services,

**Dr. Dawn Perry-Ewing**, said the experience reflected the importance of investing in future healthcare and business professionals.

"Every opportunity to learn in a real-world environment helps shape tomorrow's leaders. Our interns embraced each experience with professionalism and a genuine desire to grow. Whether supporting clinical services or administrative functions, they demonstrated a strong work ethic and a willingness to contribute. We congratulate them on completing the programme and wish

them continued success in all their future endeavours."

**Training and Development**

**Manager, Ms. Vernessa Forbes**, highlighted the importance of the programme in preparing the next generation of professionals. "The National Internship and Apprenticeship Programme provides an invaluable opportunity for young people to apply their academic learning in a real-world environment while developing the professional skills, confidence, and work ethic needed for future success. It has been especially rewarding to see several interns pursuing careers in healthcare, and we remain committed to working alongside the Ministry of Education and our national partners to nurture and develop the skilled healthcare professionals who will help meet the future needs of the Turks and Caicos Islands."

As the programme ends, the hospital extends its appreciation to the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands for creating opportunities that connect young people with meaningful workplace experiences. Initiatives such as the National Internship and Apprenticeship Programme play an important role in building a skilled, confident, and capable workforce for the future.

The hospital congratulates all participating interns on successfully completing their placements and thanks them for the dedication, professionalism, and fresh perspectives they brought to the organization. We wish each of them every success in the years to come.

## ROCK HOUSE

HOTEL & SPA  
TURKS & CAICOS

### OPEN JOB POSITION

# Pool & Beach Labourer

We are seeking a proficient and enthusiastic Pool & Beach Labourer to join our team!

**Job Overview:** Perform tasks involving physical labor at work sites operating under the Pool and Beach Department to ensure that the pool and beach areas are kept to the standards of the hotel guests and management. May operate hand and power tools of all types and a variety of other equipment and instruments. Will be responsible for upkeeping the daily wear and tear that occurs by the pool and beach areas with a high flow of guests. May clean and prepare sites, dig trenches, and clean up rubble, seaweeds, debris and other waste materials.

#### Skill and Qualifications:

- High School diploma is a must or higher
- Work experience in pool maintenance
- Good organizational and time management skills with the ability to work under pressure and to multiple deadlines.
- Ability to work independently as well as on a team
- Assist in providing the pool amenities to guest.
- Ability to read and write English proficiently.

Full time. Weekend and holiday work may be required.

Salary \$8.00 - \$9.00 per hour

Service Charge

### OPEN JOB POSITION

# \*Executive Housekeeper

We are seeking a proficient and enthusiastic Executive Housekeeper to join our team!

**Job Overview:** The Executive Housekeeper is responsible for overseeing the Housekeeping and Laundry Department to ensure a high level of efficiency and satisfaction for guests and team members.

#### Essential Functions:

- Responsible for short- and long-term planning and the management of the Hotel's Housekeeping and Laundry operations
- Interpret company policies and provide a safe working environment by ensuring compliance with safety programs and job safety analysis.
- Schedule employees in accordance with occupancy levels and labor guidelines and as per budgetary guidelines
- Recommend, initiate and participate in personnel actions including recruitment, hiring, promotions, discharges and disciplinary measures
- Coordinate, develop and conduct ongoing training of all department employees so as to develop and increase job knowledge and skill level
- Coach and counsel staff to encourage positive behaviors and correct negative behaviors.
- Schedule daily briefings and continuous improvement meetings to review daily operations, new procedures and solicit input from all employees to remove barriers, promote teamwork and employee morale.
- Complete monthly inventories of equipment, guest and cleaning supplies as per budgetary guidelines
- Maintain an adequate par stock and in compliance with the company's purchasing procedures and budgetary guidelines, initiate orders for timely purchasing of guest and cleaning supplies and equipment so as to prevent any shortages.
- Develop and maintain an inspection process which ensures accountability and the highest levels of quality in guest rooms, public areas, offices and other areas as outlined in the hotel cleaning policy.
- Develop a process to monitor and respond to guest complaints to ensure complete satisfaction.
- Review and update the Operating Procedures Manual as needed and at least once per year
- Develop and maintain a high level of accountability and efficiency procedures in all areas of

department operations

- Maintain constant vigilance and oversight of department operations, initiating immediate corrective action where deficiencies are identified.
- Ensure laundry room procedures and standards are established are carried out.
- Manage assigned operational functions consistent with the strategic plan and vision for the department, division and property
- Provide input into research, development, evaluation and implementation of new products, services, technology and processes to ensure the hotels competitive position and in anticipation of customers changing needs.
- Manages Human resources responsibility including creating a work environment which promotes teamwork, performance feedback, recognition, mutual respect and employee satisfaction, quality hiring, training and succession planning processes;

#### Skills and Competencies Required

- Bachelors degree in Hospitality
- Must be an extremely honest person with high levels of integrity
- Be able to work in close co-operation with and foster team spirit with all co-workers, demonstrating teamwork by co-operating and assisting co-workers as needed.
- Communicates freely and effectively with customers, co-workers and management to provide services as agreed.
- Has full knowledge of Hotel and Department policies and procedures.
- Projects a positive work attitude at all times while refraining from gossiping and other work habits which may affect your work performance as well as fellow workers.
- Must have a high level of effective communication skills in both oral and written forms. Ability to read and write English.
- Ability to work on your feet for extended periods of time.

Full time. Weekend and holiday work may be required.

Salary \$50,000 - \$55,000 per annum

Service Charge

Interested applicants can forward their resumes to [hr@rockhousetc.com](mailto:hr@rockhousetc.com).

Application deadline: August 14, 2026.

# Golding blasts US gov't over demands and policies placing pressure on Caribbean nations

Former Prime Minister Bruce Golding has renewed his criticism of the United States' (US) approach to Jamaica and the wider Caribbean, arguing that Washington's recent demands and policies are putting smaller states under increasing pressure and do not reflect the actions of a true friend.

Golding, who has been warning since earlier this year that Caribbean countries are being forced to navigate an increasingly difficult geopolitical environment, said the region's response must be measured because of its economic vulnerability.

Addressing the Team Jamaica Bickle 64th Jamaica Independence Gala in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Saturday night, Golding said Jamaica's close relationship with the US should not be confused with submission.

"What is being done to us is not friendship. Imposing arbitrary tariffs on us when we are struggling to make our goods competitive in a difficult market is not friendship," Golding declared.

"Dictating to us who we do business with is not friendship. Forcing us to accept foreign deportees when we are struggling to look after our own people is not friendship. True friends don't abuse your friendship. They don't make unreasonable demands on you. They should be there to help you out. Holding a gun to your head and insisting that you must be reasonable and do things their way is not friendship. The United States has put us under severe strain. That's not what friends are. There are many abroad who are angered by what is being done. They wonder why we have not stood up like the Brazilian government."

## Changing global order

Golding said Jamaica's challenges must be viewed against the backdrop of a changing global order, where smaller countries are increasingly vulnerable to decisions made by larger powers.

"We are an island state, but our borders don't define our circumstances. How we live, how we govern ourselves, how we progress is determined, to a great extent, by the environment in which we live and how we are able to operate within that environment. That environment has always been challenging, testing our mettle and fortitude," he said.

He argued that Jamaica has endured



Former Jamaica Prime Minister Bruce Golding

major global shifts before, including the Cold War and the transition to a more competitive international trading system, but said the current environment presents a new set of difficulties.

"We had to adapt to globalisation with a set of rules different from what we were accustomed to. The preferential treatment that we enjoyed from the European Union for our exports was banned. Protective tariffs and subsidies that we used to help level the playing field for our local manufacturers and farmers had to come down, so that foreign goods [could] more easily enter our country. We had little say in the design of this new framework," he said.

Golding said that as Jamaica adjusted to globalisation, the international system itself began changing.

"Established rules were being discarded, New rules were being handed down, not after discussions and negotiations, but by social media posts at 2:30 in the morning when most of us are asleep," he said.

He indicated that the revival of what he described as the long-discredited Monroe Doctrine, along with the introduction of new tariffs and restrictions, has created uncertainty for Caribbean nations.

Golding said Jamaica's trade relationship with the US remains heavily weighted in Washington's favour,

noting that the value of Jamaican exports to the country is significantly lower than US imports into Jamaica.

He also criticised the pressure being placed on Jamaica over its relationship with Cuba, arguing that Cuban doctors, nurses and teachers have made significant contributions to the country.

Golding said Jamaica was being pushed to distance itself from Cuba despite the assistance the island has provided over the years, while countries that maintain ties with Havana face the threat of penalties.

Turning to China, Golding defended Jamaica's partnership with Beijing, pointing to its investments in infrastructure, sugar, ports and alumina.

"They have invested in the country's road network, which has opened up many areas of the country. Invested in Jamaican sugar factories that were on the verge of closing, and also invested in port and alumina facilities," he pointed out.

The former prime minister questioned why Jamaica was being told to reject Chinese investment despite the benefits, arguing that the country's relationship with Beijing was based on economic cooperation rather than political control.

He said Chinese investments in Jamaica total approximately US\$2.1 billion, while noting that the figure represents less than four per cent of

Jamaica's debt.

Golding also argued that Chinese investors have demonstrated a willingness to take a longer-term approach, compared with some Western investors.

On the issue of third-country nationals, Golding questioned the practicality of the proposals for Jamaica to accept deportees from other countries, particularly if their stay is expected to be temporary.

On Saturday night, he also defended the cautious approach taken by Caribbean governments in dealing with Washington, saying leaders understand the consequences of confrontation.

"When Caribbean governments adopt a measured, cautious approach to America's bullying tactics, it is because they understand the pickle they are in. Make a wrong move, defiantly defend the Cuban assistance programmes and our partnership with China, and they pay a price. They understand how careful they have to be when their hand is in the mouth of an angry lion," he said.

Golding said Caribbean unity has been weakened by the region's vulnerability.

"Our individual sovereignty and regional leverage are under siege. It is now every man for himself, every country on its own," he said.

He said while some regional leaders may have to exercise restraint, he will continue to speak out.

"I will continue to voice my concerns as to how America's dictates affect Jamaica and impair the hopes and aspirations of our people," he said. Golding warned that Jamaica cannot afford a direct confrontation with the US because of the economic consequences.

"If our exports to the US were slapped with a 50 per cent tariff, our manufacturing sector would fall apart and thousands of people would lose their jobs. If a US\$200 tax was added to airline tickets, the tourism industry would be badly affected. If a 25 per cent tax was imposed on remittances to Jamaica, many families in Jamaica would be affected," he said.

He said the country must continue to navigate the relationship carefully, but insisted that friendship must be based on mutual respect.

"Tariffs have become the weapon of choice and retribution a foreign policy tool," he said.



SOUTH BANK  
TURKS & CAICOS

## OPEN JOB OPENINGS

**A&G Department:**

• **General Manager**

To lead and direct the operations and financial activities of a five-star luxury resort, maintaining the highest level of guest service and owner satisfaction. Ensure the selection and ongoing direction of resort team members to achieve the highest levels of integrity, job satisfaction, morale and team spirit. The position ensures the Resort’s operation meets the Company’s target customer needs, ensures employee satisfaction, and focuses on growing revenues and maximizing the financial performance of the department. Develops and implements property-wide strategies that deliver products and services to meet or exceed the needs and expectations of the customer and property employees and provides a return on investment.

**Job Specification:**

- Bachelor’s degree in Hospitality/ Tourism Management or Business Studies or equivalent certified qualifications preferred
- At least 10 years five-star resort/international management experience in Senior Level Hotel Operations
- Minimum of 5 years of direct related experience as a General Manager for a five-star luxury property
- Must have pre-opening experience in a luxury hotel
- Strong Rooms or Food & Beverage background
- Luxury Brand Hotel Chain experience a must
- Delivers business results through effective management of planning, forecasting, improving yield, budgeting, cost management and all aspects of business

**Management of Financial Resources:**

- Determining how money will be spent to get the work done, and accounting for these expenditures.

**Applied Business Knowledge:**

- Understanding market dynamics, enterprise level objectives and important aspects of the company’s business to accurately diagnose strengths and weaknesses, anticipate opportunities and risks, identify issues, and develop strategies and plans. Aligning individual and team actions with strategies and plans to drive business results.
- Obtaining and seeing to the appropriate use of equipment, facilities, and materials needed to do certain work. CORE WORK ACTIVITIES

**Developing and Maintaining Resort Goals:**

- Sets expectations and holds all Resort’s leadership team accountable for demonstrating desired service behaviors.
- Reviews financial reports and statements to determine how the Resort is performing against budget.
- Makes recommendations for CAPEX funding of overall Resort equipment and renovations in accordance with brand business strategy.
- Works with Resort’s leadership team to determine areas of concern and develops strategies to improve the departments’ financial performance.
- Establishes challenging, realistic and obtainable goals to guide operation and performance.
- Strives to improve service performance
- Develops and manages Resort budgets.
- Monitors the departments’ actual and projected sales to ensure revenue goals are met or exceeded and opportunities are identified and addressed.
- Focuses on maintaining profit margins without compromising guest or employee satisfaction

**Salary: \$180,000.00- per annum**

**Food and Beverage Department:**

- **Assistant Director of Food and Beverage**
- **Sommelier/Assistant Beverage Manager**
- **Bartender**
- **Server**
- **Cocktail Server**

**Kitchen Department:**

- **Omakase Chef**
- **Chef de Partie**
- **Pastry Chef**
- **Sushi Chef**
- **Wok Chef**
- **Cook**

**Job Specification:**

- Prepare all types of sushi, including maki, nigiri and sashimi;
- Prepare appetizers, soups and salads that are close to the philosophy of Japanese cuisine;
- Add additional flavors to sushi rolls with ginger, rice vinegar, wasabi and soy sauce, when appropriate.
- Must be knowledgeable with handling the Wok.

**Qualifications:**

- Must have at least 3 to 5 years’ experience with making sushi and Wok skills
- Must be experienced in Asian cuisine, particularly in Wok skills

**Reports: Sous Chef**

**Salary: \$24,000 – \$27,600- per annum**

**Rooms Division Department:**

• **Director of Rooms**

The Director of Rooms is responsible for overseeing the Guest Services, Personal Concierge, Housekeeping and Laundry Departments. This role also includes developing and implementing strategies to increase revenue and profitability to ensure a high level of efficiency and satisfaction for guests and team members.

**Job Specification**

- Understanding market dynamics, enterprise level objectives and important aspects of the company’s business to accurately diagnose strengths and weaknesses, anticipate opportunities and risks, identify issues, and develop strategies and plans. Aligning individual and team actions with strategies and plans to drive business results.

- Obtaining and seeing to the appropriate use of equipment, facilities, and materials needed to do certain work.
- Works with Resort's leadership team to determine areas of concern and develops strategies to improve the departments' financial performance.
- Establishes challenging, realistic and obtainable goals to guide Rooms Division operation and performance.
- Strives to improve service performance
- Develops and manages Resort budgets.
- Focuses on maintaining profit margins without compromising guest or employee satisfaction
- Ensures that the individual departments are focused on daily labour, expense and revenue management
- Analyses and assesses each department's capital needs in order to prepare the Rooms Division's capital requests in to ensure that divisional needs are met

#### Requirement

- A post-secondary diploma or degree in a field of study related to this profession; 5 years of experience in a comparable position and/or an equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Detailed hotel Rooms Division operating knowledge; demonstrated strong leadership and strategic planning skills; and proven achievements in optimizing guest and team member engagement and financial performance.
- Experience successfully leading in a fast-paced environment and prioritizing demands.
- Strong interpersonal, team member relations and leadership abilities.
- Well versed in hotel Rooms Division financial aspects

**Reports: General Manager**

**Salary: \$102,000 per annum**

#### • Spa Therapist

#### Job Specification:

##### Engineering Department:

- Assistant Engineering Manager
- HVAC/Kitchen Technician
- Technician

Install, maintain, perform preventative maintenance on, and recommend replacement of tools, appliances, and equipment. Calibrate all controls, gauges, meters, etc. Identify, locate, and operate all shut-off valves. Order, mark, and stock parts and supplies as needed. Maintain inventory and purchase orders log. Inspect tools, equipment, or machines. Enter and locate work-related information using computers. Operate power lift. Complete the life safety checklist, including the fire-pump run test and generator run test. Inspect fire sprinkler valves and alarm systems. Assist in development of disaster response protocols. Respond and attend to guest repair requests.

#### Job Specification:

- Assist with hiring, training and direct all department personnel
- Provide timely performance appraisals
- Conducts walk-through and visually assesses the safe and efficient maintenance and operation of the physical structures of the Resort, all mechanical, electrical, HVAC systems, vehicles and any other related equipment.
- Assist Manage adequate inventory of parts, supplies, tools and material for the department
- Must be able to respond to emergency situations, such as fire alarms, and other life-safety situations
- Maintain a working knowledge of all local laws, codes, and regulations.
- Assure proper certification of all employee mechanics and technicians, as required.
- Solicit and administer all sub-contract work.
- Analyze bids and verify quantities, as appropriate.
- Negotiate, prepare, and administer agreements and contracts with consultants and contractors.
- Liaise with governmental agencies and manage the procurement and compliance with entitlements, permits, inspections, notices, and other requirements.
- Produce annual operating budget for payroll, expenses, utilities, and capital improvements.
- Operate all areas within budgeted guidelines.

#### Qualifications:

- Education: Technical, Trade, or Vocational School Degree.
- Related Work Experience: At least 2 years of related work experience.
- Supervisory Experience: At least 2 years of supervisory experience.
- Proven experience in a similar medium to large hotel environment
- Experience in listed buildings and luxury hotel standards

**Reports: Director of Engineering**

**Salary: \$34,320.00 - \$48,348.00 per annum**

#### Job Description

Provides functional assistance to the Director of Food & Beverage, the Food and Beverage operation, Pool and Beach operation and interacts with resort members and individuals outside the Resort including, but not limited to suppliers, competitors and other members of the local community. The Assistant Director of Food & Beverage is responsible for assisting with the coordinating of functions and activities with department heads as appropriate. The Assistant Director of Food & Beverage will be responsible for assisting with the overseeing of the operations of Food & Beverage, Pool and Beach Department and special events/ functions, as well as the VIP facilities behind the scenes management. The Assistant Director of Food & Beverage will lead the department in the absence of the Director of Food & Beverage.

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#### Job Specification

- To assist with the implementation of departmental strategies and action plans in accordance with the resort's strategic and sales plans
- To assist with/ spearhead the organizing and conducting of interviews.
- To participate in the planning, developing and implementation of formal training plans for personnel.
- To regularly update the Director of Food & Beverage on all operations achievements and key issues.
- To operate an efficient and accurate administration process in order to meet statutory, legal and internal requirements.
- To conduct daily briefings to ensure that all departments receive updated information.
- To conduct weekly briefings to improve all aspects of the resort.

**Reports: Director of Food & Beverage**

**Salary: \$18,304.00 - \$78,000.00 per annul**

**Kitchen Department**  
- Japanese Sous Chef  
- Sous Chef

The Japanese Sous Chef is responsible to oversee the daily kitchen operations, menu development, food preparation, purchasing, inventory management, food safety compliance, and team development while ensuring Marriott brand standards are consistently achieved. This role works closely with culinary and Food & Beverage leadership to drive guest satisfaction, maintain financial performance, and foster a culture of culinary excellence.

**Job Specification:**

- Lead and oversee the day-to-day culinary operations of the Japanese Cuisine
- Supervise kitchen shift operations and ensure compliance with all Food & Beverage policies, procedures, and brand standards.
- Provide hands-on leadership by actively participating in food preparation, cooking, and service delivery.
- Coordinate daily production requirements to ensure smooth and efficient kitchen operations.
- Manage staffing, scheduling, and workflow to support operational demands and guest expectations.

**Qualifications:**

- Diploma or Degree from an accredited institution in Culinary Arts, Hotel & Restaurant Management, Hospitality Management, or a related field.
- Minimum 3-5 years of progressive culinary experience within specialty restaurants, luxury hotels, resorts, or upscale dining establishments.
- Previous experience as Specialty Chef, Sous Chef, or equivalent leadership role specializing in Japanese, Peruvian, or contemporary fusion cuisine.

**Reports: Executive Chef**

**Salary: \$60,000.00 - \$40,560.00 per annum**

- Asking questions to uncover clients’ preferences and identify any medical concerns or allergies
- Explaining the steps of therapies and answering questions before, during and after services
- Administering therapies, such as massages and facials
- Notating client records with services performed and any important reminders for future services
- Thoroughly cleaning equipment and changing sheets before each appointment
- Updating inventory when removing supplies from storage
- Handling client complaints and reporting injuries or illnesses to management
- Recommending additional products and services that may benefit the client.

**Reports: Guest Service Director**

**Salary: \$18,304.00 per annum**

- Butler
- Junior Butler

**Job Specification:**

- Meet guests when they arrive and getting them settled in their rooms
- Anticipate guests’ needs by learning their preferences, allergies, dislikes, etc.
- Have a thorough understanding of all spirits and specialty foods in stock
- Assess and restock wine and spirit collections as necessary
- Serve meals and pour drinks for guests
- Communicate with housekeeping to ensure rooms are cleaned at the most convenient time for guests
- Run errands for guests when necessary
- Ensure guests’ rooms are clean and tidy up when necessary

**Qualifications:**

- Experience as a Butler or similar role in the hospitality industry
- Strong multi-tasking skills
- Excellent organizational skills

**Reports: Director of Guest Services**

**Salary: \$23,232.00 - \$45,000.00 per annum**

**Housekeeping Department:**

- Housekeeping Manager
- Housekeeping Supervisor
- Room Stylist Attendants (room, public area, laundry Attendants)
- Houseman
- Housekeeper

**Job Specification:**

- Monitor all the daily operations of the housekeeping department, including the cleanliness of all guest rooms and public areas daily
- Lead, hire, and train hotel housekeeping staff to adhere to our high standards of cleanliness and customer satisfaction
- Oversee the housekeeping department budget, take inventory, and ensure there is a stock of adequate cleaning supplies
- Document areas cleaned by room attendants and report any issues such as room damage or maintenance requests to the front office
- Ensure all cleaning equipment is in proper working condition and make arrangements for repairs as needed
- Daily management for all engineering operations including building and plant maintenance and protection, maintenance of guest rooms, public spaces and energy conservation.
- Long term asset protection and effective Capex management

**Reports: Executive Housekeeper**

**Salary: \$20,592.00 - \$42,000.00 per annum**

**These positions are currently held by an expatriate worker. Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2.**

**Interested qualified candidates may submit their resume by August 30, 2026 to Director of Human Resources South Bank, Long Bay Marina.Email address: stbhr@gracebayresorts.com**

# Pakistan level series with predictable victory in second Test

Pakistan expectedly completed a straightforward win over the West Indies on Wednesday's penultimate day to halt a slide of eight consecutive away Test losses.

Left-arm spinner Ali Usman polished off the West Indies' tail after they resumed the day already wobbling on 103 for six, claiming two of the three remaining wickets to fall to see them bowled out for 117 in 46.1 overs at the Queen's Park Oval.

It took just two overs for Usman to strike, as Kemar Roach completely missed his huge slog sweep to be bowled for a duck without a run added to the overnight total.

A hobbled Justin Greaves, who battled 32 balls for his three runs, then inside edged a delivery from pacer Mohammad Ali onto his middle stump as he attempted to pull him through the onside, to leave the Windies 115 for eight.

Shamar Joseph was his usual aggressive self, sweeping Usman for two boundaries through the onside, much to the delight of the small crowd on hand.

His cameo was short lived though, as he was caught by wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan as he tried to repeat those shots in Usman's next over.

It brought the West Indies' innings to an end, with Brandon King unable to bat after being injured while fielding the previous day.

Sajid Khan, who did most of the damage late on Tuesday, ended with 4-32, while Usman grabbed 4-39.

Needing just 75 runs to complete victory and level the two-match series 1-1, Pakistan were never really troubled, even though they lost two wickets in their chase.

Jayden Seales lured Imam-ul-Haq into an unsure prod following a series of probing deliveries, which the opener edged to Greaves in the slip corridor with 15 runs on the board.

Joseph then accounted for the wicket of opener Azan Awaiz, who was bowled for 18 off the inside edge as he looked to cut him through the onside to make the score 42 for two.

However, for the second time in the match, Abdullah Shafique, who was



*Babar Azam (left) of Pakistan and Roston Chase of West Indies share the trophy for the drawn series at the end of the fourth day of the second Test match between West Indies and Pakistan at Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on August 5, 2026.*

named Player-of-the-Match, and captain Babar Azam fended off any further threats from the Windies' bowlers to carry their side over the finish line in an unbroken partnership of 35.

After surviving a close lbw appeal, Azam ended the match in fine style by hitting left-arm spinner Jomel

Warrican for successive sixes over long on and cover.

He ended unbeaten on 24 off 30 balls, while Shafique scored 24 not out off 51 balls.

For the second straight Test series, Greaves was named Player-of-the-Series, sharing the award with Pakistan's Azam.



*The statue of Sir Garfield Sobers outside the Kensington Oval in Barbados.*

The statue of Sir Garfield Sobers outside the Kensington Oval in Barbados.

The statue of Sir Garfield Sobers outside the Kensington Oval in Barbados.

The Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) will pay tribute to Sir Garfield Sobers, widely regarded as the greatest all-rounder the game has ever produced, with a minute's applause ahead of the first match at each tournament location this sea-

son.

The gesture will be observed once in every host territory as CPL travels across the Caribbean, ensuring fans in each country the tournament visits have the opportunity to honour Sir Garfield's life and legacy. For many supporters, this will be the first chance to publicly show how much Sir Garfield's contribution to Caribbean cricket meant to them, coming together as one to applaud a man who shaped the game they love.

# CPL insists Caribbean pause for Sobers

## 20-year international career

Sir Garfield passed away on July 17 at his home in Saint Michael, Barbados, at the age of 89. Over a 20-year international career (1954-1974), he played 93 Test matches for West Indies, scoring 8,032 runs at an average of 57.78 with 26 centuries, and took 235 wickets. His unbeaten 365 against Pakistan in 1958 stood as the highest individual score in Test cricket history for 36 years, and he remains the first player to hit six sixes in a single over in first-class cricket, a feat achieved for Nottinghamshire against Glamorgan in 1968. He captained West Indies from 1965 to 1972.

Pete Russell, Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League CEO, said: "Sir Garfield Sobers did not just play cricket; he defined what was possible in the sport. He gave West Indies cricket its identity on the world stage and inspired generations of players across the region to believe in their own greatness. It is only fitting that every ground we play on this season pauses to honour him."

CPL will continue to find further ways to honour Sir Garfield's contribution to West Indies and world cricket throughout the season, including at the tournament final, which returns to his home ground of Kensington Oval, Barbados.

# TCI CRICKETERS COMPETE IN ICC TOURNEY



**SEE PG36**



# TURN WASTE INTO BLACK GOLD - JOIN THE MOVEMENT TODAY!

Composting is a simple but very important activity that can play a significant role in improving domestic food production, environmental sustainability and food security. By converting organic waste such as household scraps, manure, grass clippings, leaves, and other biodegradable material into nutrient-rich compost, households, communities and farmers can reduce waste going into the landfill or directly into the environment, while creating a valuable input for growing healthy fruits and vegetables for household consumption.

Plants and vegetables grown in a compost-rich soil are usually healthier, more productive and better able to withstand adverse conditions (drought).

As the archipelago continues to pursue initiatives to strengthen local food production, composting represents an important part towards building the resilience and sustainability of the sector.

Households and farmers are encouraged to get involved in the Department of Agriculture's Backyard Garden Programme and Community

## THE COMPOSTING JOURNEY

*From Kitchen Scraps to Healthy Soil*



The Department of Agriculture is encouraging households and farmers across the TCI archipelago to embrace and adopt composting techniques as a practical way to support food production, reduce household waste, and protect the environment. Whether you're a farmer or a backyard gardener simply enjoying the growing of a few herbs and vegetables, composting offers many benefits for the soil and plant.

In the Turks and Caicos Islands, where soils are shallow and low in organic matter, composting offers a quick, sustainable solution to increasing fertility, water retention and microbial activity. It can also assist in reducing water and wind erosion if used as a mulch.

For more information on upcoming activities, follow our FB - Department of Agriculture TCI, or Instagram - department\_of\_agriculture\_TCI. Please contact the Department at 1 (649) 243 6290, to become a part of this growing movement!

Composters Initiative. These programmes are designed to provide participants with the practical knowledge and skills needed to compost at home, on farms and within their communities.

Participants will learn how to turn everyday organic waste into Black Gold, a natural fertilizer that will reduce the need for imports of chemical fertilizers. Every household has the opportunity to make a difference.



# Vinicius Junior extends Real Madrid deal to 2032

Real Madrid on Thursday announced a new six-year deal for star forward Vinicius Junior and the signing of teenage sensation Yan Diomande in a major boost to their quest to end a two-year trophy drought. The decision by Brazil hero Vinicius to extend his contract quells speculation linking him to Arsenal and is a win for Real as they rebuild their squad in Jose Mourinho’s second spell in charge. “Real Madrid FC and Vinicius Jr have agreed the extension of the contract of our player, who is tied to the club until June 30, 2032,” Los Blancos said in a statement. The 26-year-old had one year left on his previous deal and media reports said Arsenal had made him a transfer target while his future at Real seemed uncertain. Vinicius has become a core member of Real Madrid’s squad since arriving eight years ago aged 18 and has made decisive contributions to the club’s success in that time. He has scored 128 goals in 375 games and lifted multiple trophies, including two Champions League titles and three La Liga crowns.

But the Spanish giants have fallen on fallow times in the past two seasons, picking up no major trophies while eternal rivals Barcelona secured back-to-back La Liga titles. Vinicius, French superstar Kylian Mbappe, England midfielder Jude Bellingham and Rodrygo are set to be accompanied by Diomande in a bolstered Real attack next season. The club unveiled the signing of the 19-year-old Ivory Coast winger from Leipzig for what Spanish media reported was a club-record fee of 140 million euros (\$161 million) including bonuses. Los Blancos said in a statement that the deal with the Bundesliga side would keep Diomande in the Spanish capital “for the next seven seasons, until June 30, 2033”. “Moving to Real Madrid is a childhood dream come true for me,” Diomande was quoted as saying in a Leipzig statement. The young star said he was “incredibly grateful” to the German club, which “placed their trust in me and gave me the opportunity to prove myself at the highest level”.

Madrid, who did not disclose the transfer fee, beat Paris Saint-Germain and Liverpool to the signing of Diomande, who played at the World Cup with his country. PSG pulled out of the running because of concerns over the size of the transfer fee, while Liverpool reportedly had a bid rejected in June. Diomande spent one season in the German top flight with Leipzig following a switch from Spanish side Leganes in 2025. He was the Bundesliga young player of the season, netting 12 goals and laying on eight assists. Diomande is Madrid’s sixth signing this summer, following Marc Cucurella, Bernardo Silva, Ibrahima Konate, Denzel Dumfries and Carlos Espi. Los Blancos have also been linked with a move for Manchester City and Spain mid-field talisman Rodri. But a Barcelona source told AFP on Thursday that Rodri had authorised the Catalan giants to begin talks with City about a potential transfer, although no move was guaranteed.

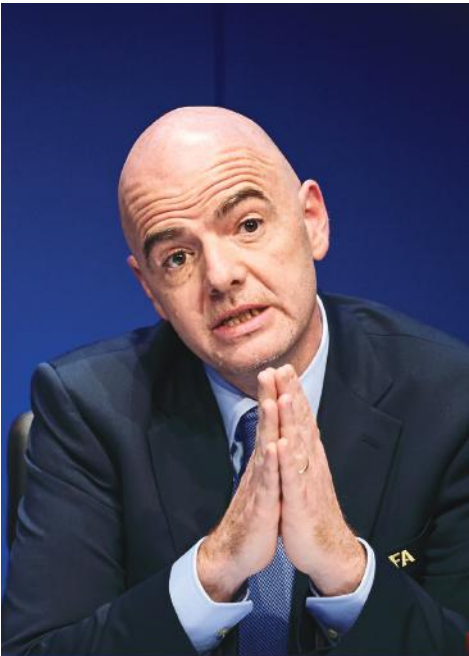


Vinicius has become a core member of Real Madrid’s squad since arriving eight years ago aged 18

# Infantino’s Problems Mount as Wenger and Key FIFA Ally Turn on Him

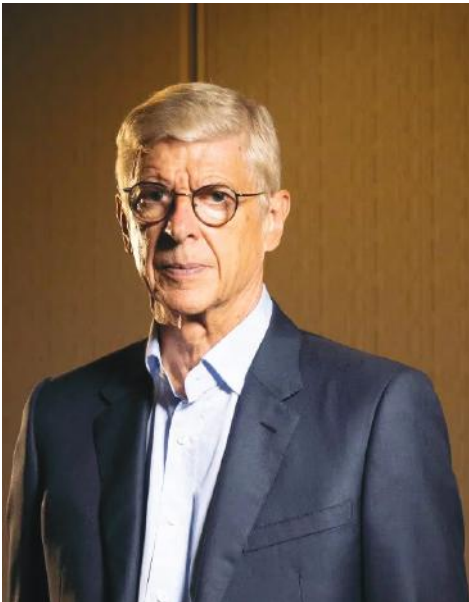
Pressure on FIFA president Gianni Infantino intensified on Tuesday, with opposition emerging from within world football’s governing body as well as from external critics over his since-abandoned proposal to open the World Cup to private investment. Former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, appointed in 2019 by Infantino as FIFA’s chief of global football development, said in a statement that “the decision to withdraw the project was absolutely necessary and beyond question”. AFP, in which secretary-general Mattias Grafstrom appeared to distance himself from Infantino on the issue. Previously seen as close to Infantino, Grafstrom describes the fiasco surrounding the plan as “a sad and reproachable series of events”. He says, “Individuals, unstable moments and unfortunate episodes come and go. The institution, its mission and its responsibility towards world football continue.” FIFA had floated the plan last Tuesday, saying it could raise up to US\$4.2 billion based on a valuation of US\$20 billion for a new commercial subsidiary, called the FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE), which it proposed would run events such as the World Cup and Club World Cup. By Saturday, it was dead in the water as Infantino announced the humiliating climb-down after widespread condemnation, as UEFA wielded the nuclear option of boycotting all FIFA competitions, including the World Cup. Far from calming the waters or shoring up his presidency, Infantino has been swamped with criticism of his style of leadership and a previously smooth path to being re-elected unopposed to a fourth and final term next March in Rabat now looks a very rocky one

indeed. He has reportedly summoned FIFA staff to a crisis meeting in the Moroccan capital as he attempts to cling onto power. Several of UEFA’s member associations — Wales, Finland, Sweden and Serbia — have withdrawn their letters of support for Infantino and the English FA is strongly rumoured to be on the verge of also joining them. Jordanian FA president Prince Ali bin Hussein, twice a FIFA presidential candidate, accused FIFA of “blackmail” in a remarkable statement. Prince Ali said he was told verbally that endorsing Infantino for re-election “could go a long way to helping our FA out”. The federation had complained about not being paid for Jordan’s run to last year’s FIFA Arab Cup final, and about its team’s fans not being given visas to watch their World Cup debut in the United States. The Athletic also reported Tuesday that the 11 World Cup host cities in the United States are chasing up legacy payments of US\$1 million each which were “repeatedly” promised to them by FIFA. UEFA issued a letter through their lawyers in the US threatening legal action over what they had scathingly described as a “shabby, backroom, opaque deal”, despite it being shelved. Both Grafstrom and Wenger as well as chief operating officer Kevin Lamour, who had slammed the plan on Friday, are mentioned in the letter as being knowledgeable about the FFE and instructed to keep all “relevant materials”. “Dear Mr Infantino. UEFA hereby gives formal notice that it is actively considering legal action, arbitration, and/or regulatory complaints (together, the ‘Proceedings’) arising out of and in connection with the



FIFA President Gianni Infantino

FFE plan proposed by FIFA and all related matters as further described below,” their lawyer Andrew Levander said in the letter sent last Friday and seen by AFP. The scant comfort for Infantino came from a handful of supporters, including 2030 World Cup co-hosts Morocco, as well as Kuwait, Qatar, where he has a house, and Lebanon, which granted him honorary citizenship in February. However, it is the damning remarks by both Wenger and Grafstrom — who shadowed Infantino throughout the World Cup — that will twist the knife further. Their criticism only adds to the impression that Infantino has lost the confidence of even his closest FIFA collaborators. One of the most devastating blows to Infan-



IFA Chief of Global Football Development Arsene WengerAFIFA Chief of Global Football Development Arsene Wenger

tino’s plan was the resignation on Friday of his special advisor Carlos Cordeiro, who is also close to US President Donald Trump. Despite what UEFA’s lawyer wrote regarding keeping material pertinent to FFE, Wenger claims to have only learned about it through the media. “I was not involved in this strategic plan,” the 76-year-old Frenchman said. Grafstrom, for his part, tried to cheer up the staff by congratulating them on their work while admitting it had been “an extraordinary and challenging week”. For Infantino, the challenge threatens to grow, and his stated purpose when he ditched the plan, to unite football, seems unlikely to be realised while he remains president.

# Four to Represent TCI at Goodwill Swim Championships in T&T

The Turks and Caicos Islands Swim Federation (TCISF) will send a six-member delegation, comprising of four swimmers to the 30th Goodwill Swimming Championships, scheduled for August 14–16, 2026, at the National Aquatic Centre in Balmain, Couva, Trinidad and Tobago.

The championships are one of the Caribbean’s premier age-group swimming competitions, bringing together many of the region’s most talented young athletes in an atmosphere of friendship, sportsmanship, and high-level competition.

Representing the Turks and Caicos Islands in the pool will be four promising swimmers: Isabelle Martin, Samuel Martin, Michael Martin and Daniel Martin.

The athletes will be accompanied by Mrs. Ella Martin, who will serve as Team Manager, and Mr. Bennett Williams, who has been appointed Team Coach.

The team will depart the Turks and Caicos Islands on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, to allow the swimmers time to acclimatize and participate in official training before competition begins. The Goodwill Championships also include a technical meeting and opening ceremony before the first day of racing, ensuring that all participating countries are fully prepared for the competition.

For the four young swimmers, selection to represent the Turks and Caicos Islands is a significant achievement and reflects months of dedication, discipline, and consistent training. They have spent countless hours preparing under the guidance of Coach Bennett Williams and are eager to test themselves against



Samuel Martin



Michael Martin



Isabelle Martin



Daniel Martin

some of the Caribbean’s best age-group swimmers. Coach Bennett Williams expressed confidence in the team’s preparation. “Representing your country is one of the greatest honours any athlete can receive. These four swimmers have worked extremely hard, and this championship will provide valuable international racing experience that will contribute to their long-term development. Our goal is not only to achieve personal best times but also to continue building a strong future for swimming in the Turks and Caicos Islands.”

Mrs. Ella Martin, serving as Team Manager, will oversee the athletes’ welfare, logistics,

and daily operations throughout the championships, ensuring that the swimmers can focus entirely on their performances in the pool.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Swim Federation continues to invest in youth development by providing athletes with opportunities to compete internationally. Participation in regional championships such as the Goodwill Championships is an essential step in preparing swimmers for future competitions, including CARIFTA, CAC Championships, Pan American events, Commonwealth competitions, and ultimately the Olympic Games. The Federation extends its sincere appreciation to the athletes’ families, sponsors,

volunteers, and supporters whose continued encouragement makes opportunities such as these possible. Their commitment plays an important role in the growth of swimming throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

As Team Turks and Caicos departs for Trinidad and Tobago, the entire nation wishes Isabel Martin, Samuel Martin, Michael Martin, Daniel Martin, Team Manager Ella Martin, and Coach Bennett Williams every success. The Federation is confident they will represent the Turks and Caicos Islands with pride, determination, sportsmanship, and excellence while inspiring the next generation of swimmers to pursue their dreams.

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# TCI cricketers target South American Championship success in Colombia

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands national cricket team is heading to Colombia with confidence and a clear ambition to challenge for top honours at the 2026 Men's South American Cricket Championship. The tournament, scheduled for August 6-9 in Bogotá, will feature six teams, hosts Colombia, Turks and Caicos Islands, Brazil, Mexico, Panama and Peru.

TCI captain Garvin Bruno said the squad has been preparing for almost two months and is eager to put that work into action.

"We really want to just put our best foot forward for TCI and represent each other and just go out there and win," Bruno said. "Win is the key word."

The squad combines experience with fresh talent. Bruno said eight players have previously competed in the tournament, while four newcomers have been added to the group.

That experience, he believes, will be important as TCI face a challenging schedule that will see them play five matches over the

course of the competition.

Bruno said the players understand their capabilities and should approach every opponent with confidence rather than being intimidated by the occasion.

"We know what we're capable of," the captain said. "We know we could go out there and, if we play to our best potential, we could win."

For Bruno, developing the right mindset will be just as important as executing with bat and ball.

"A lot of times it's a mental aspect that we have to really get in place before we play every team," he said. "We go in there and we're representing TCI, so we should not feel like we're smaller than any team."

The captain believes a disciplined performance throughout the tournament could put TCI among the leading teams.

"Once we give a good account of ourselves, we could finish way up there on the table," Bruno said.

TCI are expected to begin their campaign against hosts Colombia, launching a busy four-day period of competition in Bogotá.

Turks and Caicos Islands Cricket Association president Michael Pereira, who is also serving as manager of the national team, shares Bruno's confidence.

Pereira said the composition of the squad gives TCI reason to be optimistic, pointing to its combination of all-rounders, bowlers and emerging players.

"We have a very good team, including a 16-year-old, and we have a mixture of all-rounders as well as good bowlers, so we've got a good chance," Pereira said.

The association president said the team also has broader ambitions of strengthening the territory's international cricket standing and creating opportunities to compete at a higher level.

Pereira believes the inclusion of younger players could provide an important boost and made no attempt to hide his expectations for the tournament.

"We're going to win," he declared. "We've got younger guys."

TCI will be competing against several familiar opponents during the championship. Defending champions Mexico won the 2025 tourna-

ment in Brazil, defeating Panama in the final.

The 2026 competition is the 21st edition of the Men's South American Championship and marks the second time Colombia has hosted the event, following the 2018 championship.

With the preparations now complete, Bruno said the responsibility falls on the players to perform when they take the field.

His message to the squad is to believe in their ability, refuse to see themselves as inferior to their opponents and give a strong account of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The squad is made up of: Sidue Renardo Hunter, Anthony Junior McKnight, Ganesan Kuthalingam, Daniel Ashford Bourne, Kareem Namor Jack, Robert Anthony Johnson, captain Garvin Alexis Bruno, Ariharan Kuthalingam, Kenneth Anthony Lewis, Kertley Charlery, Rohan Ricardo Hines, Smijo Devassy Vithayathil, Damian St Ange, Bradley Joree Singh, Colvin Michael Perira, Thirumalaiyandi Kutchalingam, Mark Nathaniel Ramesh Austin, Maxine Overlyn Salmon and Ancell Fitzgerald Williams.