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**No Locals Among
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PG3**



900%

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NEW RESEARCH FINDS TURKS AND CAICOS ROCK
IGUANAS HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM AROUND
90% OF THEIR HISTORICAL RANGE

Commissioner Reports Sharp Drop in Murders and Serious Crime

Force builds leadership, specialist skills and institutional capacity through major training drive

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force has reported a significant decline in murders and other serious crimes while undertaking an extensive programme to strengthen its personnel, leadership and long-term operational capacity.

In a media statement issued on September 4, the Commissioner of Police said three murders were recorded between January and the end of August 2026, compared with 27 during all of 2025 and a record 48 in 2024.

The 2025 total represented a 43.8 per cent decline from 2024. The three murders recorded through August 2026 were 93.8 per cent below the full-year 2024 total, although the periods are not directly comparable because the latest figure covers only eight months.

Serious crime has also declined, according to the Force. Reported offences fell from 551 in 2024 to 502 in 2025, while 210 were recorded during the first eight months of 2026.

Based on the current trend, police project that serious crime will end 2026 at approximately 315 offences. That would represent a 42.8 per cent reduction from the 2024 total. The Commissioner attributed the results to officers' dedication, community cooperation, intelligence-led policing, targeted enforcement and partnerships with other agencies.

"These achievements are a testament to the dedication of our officers, the support of our partners and the cooperation of the communities we serve," the Commissioner said.

Building capacity for the future

The Commissioner said the falling crime numbers form part of a wider transformation and modernisation programme designed to build a stronger, more resilient Police Force.

As criminals adopt increasingly sophisticated methods and technology continues to change, police organisations must strengthen their knowledge, leadership and specialist capabilities, the Commissioner said.



Police Commissioner Fitz Bailey

The Force's capacity-building strategy goes beyond acquiring equipment and improving infrastructure. It places particular emphasis on professional competence, institutional knowledge, leadership development and preparing officers to operate in increasingly complex policing environments.

Between October 2025 and August 2026, the RTCIPF delivered 63 training courses and programmes, recording 1,289 participant attendances across a wide range of professional-development initiatives. The Junior Command Programme, described as the Force's flagship leadership initiative, has completed four cohorts since being reintroduced. A fifth cohort is scheduled to conclude on September 11.

Fifteen participants from the RTCIPF and the Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force have completed the programme, while six are currently in training. An additional 32 personnel are engaged in continuing professional-development activities. The programme provides certification and accreditation that can lead to further educational opportunities while improving supervisory and leadership skills within the participating agencies.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Dr Terrance Bent, who has more than 30 years of policing experience, is expected to play a pivotal role in driving the transformation programme.

The Commissioner said officers who receive advanced training can pass their expertise to colleagues through mentorship and leadership, allowing the benefits to spread across teams and the wider organisation.

The investments are already strengthening leadership, operational performance and investigative capacity while creating a more adaptable workforce, according to the statement.

The Commissioner said the ultimate objective is to establish systems, policies and capabilities that will remain effective long after individual officers and senior leaders have left the organisation.

"The true measure of success is not whether crime falls during my tenure as Commissioner," the statement said. "Rather, it is whether the systems, structures and capabilities we are building today are strong enough to sustain that success long after my tenure has ended."

Resource challenges remain

Despite the progress, the Commissioner acknowledged concerns about facilities, technology, equipment, uniform supplies and other resources needed to support effective policing.

"These are not mere inconveniences; they are operational realities that can affect our ability to deliver services at the standard both the public and our officers deserve," the statement said.

The Force has engaged Rohan Richards as chief operations officer to identify areas for improvement, strengthen organisational efficiency and provide strategic oversight of its modernisation efforts.

The Commissioner said modern technology, suitable workspaces, specialised equipment and adequate operational resources were essential to the Force's future. Budgetary constraints, however, continue to create challenges.

The Force is also seeking to recruit qualified Turks and Caicos Islanders, Permanent Residence Certificate holders and citizens of British Overseas Territories.

According to the Commissioner, attracting new local talent while continuing to develop existing personnel will help create a sustainable workforce capable of maintaining the progress being made.

The statement also highlighted the appointment of Inspector General Alison Woods. Her independent oversight role includes examining allegations of police misconduct fairly and impartially, strengthening accountability and public confidence.

"My goal is clear: not simply to reduce crime today, but to create the conditions that will keep crime low, communities safe and public confidence strong for years to come," the Commissioner said.

With schools preparing to reopen, the RTCIPF said it would increase its presence on the country's roads. Motorists were urged to obey traffic laws and exercise patience during peak travel periods.

Police warned that drivers who cause unnecessary congestion or violate traffic regulations could face enforcement action and prosecution.

FALSE

Police Dismiss Rumors that a Local Man was Among 171 Haitian Migrants Intercepted Wednesday

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) has officially debunked a highly circulating rumour claiming a local man was among those detained on an illegal migrant boat early Wednesday morning.

A high-level officer confirmed to NewslineTCI that authorities launched an immediate investigation into the claims after the rumours were raised, but official checks revealed them to be entirely false. Police affirmed that all 171 individuals apprehended during the operation are Haitian nationals.

The interception comes amid escalating instability in neighbouring Haiti. The already impoverished French-speaking nation has seen an intensification of gang warfare in recent days, which has claimed dozens of lives, including gang members and innocent civilians, among them women and children, according to multiple reports.

This severe security crisis has driven citizens to seek a better life, forcing many to take to the high seas and risk their lives in the process. The swift response from local law enforcement



The boat laden with Haitian Migrants is being ushered ashore to have the occupants processed

came after the RTCIPF Marine Branch intercepted the overloaded vessel suspected of illegal migrant smuggling during the early hours of Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

The vessel was initially spotted near Northwest Point, Providenciales, by the Marine Operations Centre's Coastal Radar Unit. Marine Branch officers

launched an immediate response, successfully intercepting the vessel before it could make landfall.

The joint operation, which brought together the Marine Branch, Marine Operations Centre, National Intelligence Bureau, and Incident Command, safely escorted the 171 irregular migrants to South Dock. They have since been

handed over to the Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force for legal processing.

This latest operation pushes the total number of maritime migrant interceptions by the RTCIPF in 2026 to approximately 1,075 individuals across eight separate vessels, highlighting the ongoing regional impact of the humanitarian crisis.

Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey highly commended Acting Deputy Commissioner Kendal Grant for his leadership during the operation, praising the seamless execution, dedication, and coordinated professionalism displayed by all units involved.

The RTCIPF reiterated its commitment to working alongside national and regional partners to secure the borders of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Authorities are urging anyone with further information regarding illegal migration or human smuggling to contact their nearest police station, call emergency services, reach the Serious Crime Unit at 231-1842, or contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477. Anonymous tips can also be submitted via the Crime Stoppers P3 App.

Citizenship Department Ends Publication of Applicants' Full Names

The Department of Citizenship and Naturalization has stopped publishing applicants' full names in collection notices, replacing them with partially anonymised identifiers intended to offer greater privacy while allowing people to recognise their applications.

The change took effect immediately following an announcement dated August 24, 2026.

Under the new system, notices will identify an applicant by the initials of their first and middle names, their full surname and the final four digits of their application receipt number.

For example, "Will A. Smith," whose receipt number ends in 4567, would be listed as "W.A. Smith – 4567."

The department said the new format would apply across the full range of documents and public information products it issues.

"This change reflects the Department's commitment to protecting applicants' privacy while still allowing them to readily recognise their own application in a public notice," the department said. The decision marks a clear departure

from the department's longstanding practice of publishing applicants' names when announcing that citizenship, residency and identity documents were ready for collection.

Official government records show that full or substantially complete names had been published in such notices for years. In August 2020, for example, a government notice listing registration and naturalisation certificates ready for collection identified dozens of recipients by name in Grand Turk and Providenciales. The notice included people awaiting naturalisation certificates, who were also advised that they would be invited to take an oath before receiving their documents. That 2020 notice remains available on the government website.

The practice continued into this year. On January 30, 2026, the government published a collection notice for a batch of National Turks and Caicos Islander Status Cards containing separate columns for applicants' first, middle and last names. The official notice listed about 30 people by name.

The department's notices page also shows that public collection announcements have covered Permanent Resident Certificates and wallet-sized cards, National Turks and Caicos Islander Status Cards, naturalisation and registration documents, and travel documents. The department describes its responsibilities as including permanent residency, British Overseas Territories citizenship registration, naturalisation, Turks and Caicos Islander status and passports.

The publication of people's names in government notices has drawn criticism from some members of the public concerned about the disclosure of personal information.

Those concerns intensified after the government released the names of people who qualified for Cost of Living Relief cheques. Several members of the public contacted Newsline to complain about having names published in the public domain, with some indicating that they were considering taking the matter to the Office of the Complaints Commissioner, commonly known as the

Ombudsman's Office.

It is unclear whether any formal complaints were ultimately filed. It is also unclear whether the controversy surrounding the Cost of Living Relief list, or any possible complaint to the Ombudsman's Office, played a role in the Department of Citizenship and Naturalization's decision. The department's announcement did not identify a specific complaint or incident as the reason for the change.

Future collection notices will continue to provide enough information for applicants to identify their entries, but will no longer disclose their complete first and middle names to the wider public. Applicants who do not know their new identifier or cannot locate their receipt number are being encouraged to contact the department directly.

The Grand Turk offices can be reached at (649) 338-2923 or 338-4141, while the Providenciales offices can be contacted at (649) 338-4552 or 338-4612. Queries may also be sent to customer-service@gov.tc or citizenshipandnaturalization@gov.tc.

Starlink Should Drive Down Internet Costs in Turks and Caicos, Says Kenva Williams

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The launch of Starlink should help reduce broadband costs and improve internet access across the Turks and Caicos Islands, according to Kenva Williams, Director General of the Telecommunications Commission.

Williams spoke with NewslineTCI during the official launch of the satellite internet service at the Alexandra Resort in Grace Bay, on Thursday, August 27, 2026.

“The cost of broadband in Turks and Caicos is very high,” Williams said. “Our job is to bring it down tremendously, to where persons can afford it. I think introducing Starlink has enabled that.”

Starlink officially went live in the territory on August 27, 2026, after completing a regulatory process that began with its original licence application in 2024.

The service uses a network of low-Earth-orbit satellites to deliver internet access through a dedicated Starlink terminal. Unlike traditional broadband services, it does not depend entirely on local fibre-optic cables, utility poles or cellular towers.

Williams described Starlink as an “enabler” that will supplement, not replace, the terrestrial networks operated by existing telecommunications companies.

“The service they are going to bring is broadband,” he said. “The device can be placed on your rooftop, your car or your boat, but you will still need terrestrial services for your mobile handset, direct calls and the data you use on your phone.”

He said the service could be especially beneficial outside Providenciales, where terrestrial networks may not offer the same coverage and speeds available in the country’s main population centre.

Residents of North Caicos, Middle Caicos, South Caicos, Salt Cay and Grand Turk are expected to be among the principal users.

“We foresee persons in the family islands being among the initial uptake,” Williams said, adding that many of the territory’s existing Starlink users are already located in those communities.

Customers must purchase a terminal

Customers wishing to subscribe must first obtain a Starlink terminal, either directly from the company or through a third-party supplier.

Once they have the equipment, customers can visit Starlink’s website, create an account, choose a service package and enter the terminal’s unique identification number. The service is activated after payment.

“The first thing you have to do is buy the device,” Williams explained. “Then you go to the Starlink website, create an account, select the package you want and pay with your credit card.”

Plans announced ahead of the launch included a US\$40 monthly residential package offering speeds of up to 100 megabits per second. Starlink Mini hardware was listed at US\$299, while the larger V4 terminal was expected to cost US\$399. Prices and availability may change as the local service develops.

Starlink’s arrival gives consumers another broadband option in a market long dominated by Flow and Digicel.

Williams said increased competition should encourage all providers to improve their prices, speeds and quality of service.

Local providers raise concerns

The launch has nevertheless caused concern among terrestrial telecommunications companies, which have invested heavily in local towers, fibre networks, antennas and other infrastructure.

Williams acknowledged that Starlink also carries significant infrastructure costs, but much of its investment is in satellites and other parts of a global network rather than facilities located within the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Local providers are concerned that the international satellite company could lower its prices to levels they would find difficult to match.

“Turks and Caicos is a drop in the bucket for them,” Williams said, referring to the size of the territory in relation to Starlink’s worldwide operations.

Starlink’s broader business model includes providing connectivity to homes, businesses, aircraft and vessels moving between countries and territories. Its network is therefore not dependent solely on revenue from customers in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Williams said that difference could place local operators at a competitive disadvantage.

“They are concerned because of their expenses for terrestrial infrastructure and having to compete with a large global organisation,” he said. “How are they going to survive?”

Commission will monitor the market

The Telecommunications Commission intends to monitor Starlink and the wider market for evidence of unfair competition, Williams said.

“That is what we do as regulator, we monitor,” he said.

The Director General suggested the government may also need to consider concessions for terrestrial providers, including reductions or waivers on duties charged on imported antennas and core network equipment.

Such measures could help existing companies continue investing in their networks while facing competition from a satellite operator that does not require the same level of ground-based infrastructure in the territory.

“We need them to survive and to be able to provide consistent services to us,” Williams said.

He noted that satellite broadband has its own limitations. Starlink requires properly installed equipment with a clear view of the sky, and service quality can be affected by physical obstructions, installation conditions and severe weather.

Terrestrial networks will therefore remain an essential part of the territory’s communications system.

Launch followed regulatory changes

Starlink’s arrival followed more than a year of regulatory work by the government and the Telecommunications Commission.



WILLIAMS... “The cost of broadband in Turks and Caicos is very high.”

The company initially applied in 2024 for an internet service provider licence. That application was reconsidered while the territory developed a licensing framework specifically for non-geostationary satellite operators.

Following public consultation, the Commission approved Starlink Caribbean LLC’s satellite network, service and spectrum licences in July 2026.

The licences allow the company to provide internet service through satellite terminals operating on land and aboard maritime and aerial platforms throughout the territory.

Williams said Starlink’s greatest contribution could be its ability to reach communities where expanding a terrestrial network is difficult or uneconomical.

“We have to give recognition to that ability to provide services where the terrestrial network can’t,” he said.

Its arrival is also expected to strengthen the territory’s communications resilience during hurricanes and other emergencies, when damage to utility poles, cables and cellular towers can cause prolonged outages.

For Williams, however, affordability remains one of the principal objectives.

Introducing another provider should give consumers greater choice while placing pressure on every operator to offer better value.

“The idea is to bring the cost of broadband down tremendously,” he said. “Starlink has enabled that.”

Robinson defends \$1 Million Budget for 50th Anniversary Celebrations

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Acting Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services Hon. Jamell Robinson has defended the government’s decision to allocate \$1 million for activities commemorating the 50th anniversary of ministerial government in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Speaking Thursday on the First Edition programme on Radio Turks and Caicos, Robinson confirmed that the celebrations are being funded by the Turks and Caicos Islands Government through a supplementary budget.

“The core budget is a million dollars that we’re looking to spend over the next month for the various host of activities,” he said.

Robinson acknowledged that the overall cost could be slightly higher once spending by other ministries and government departments is included.

Addressing criticism that the money could be used to tackle other national priorities, Robinson said the anniversary provides an important opportunity for the country to

reflect on its political development and progress.

“We are literally taking this million dollars, plus whatever extra the other departments will spend outside the core budget, to take a moment to look back, to reflect on whence we came, reflect on 50 years of leadership and nation-building, and to commemorate what happened 50 years ago, which was the introduction of ministerial government,” he said.

Robinson pointed to the territory’s complex political history, including periods under the administration of Jamaica and The Bahamas, before the restoration of its own governor in 1973 and the introduction of ministerial government in 1976.

He also cited a previous observation by former chief minister and current Premier Hon. Charles Washington Misick that the Turks and Caicos Islands had progressed further in 50 years than some nations had in centuries.

“We are the envy of the Caribbean. That means something,” Robinson said. “So it is

only right to take some time and set aside a couple of dollars.”

While conceding that \$1 million is a significant amount, Robinson said the budget would support several initiatives and that all activities would be properly funded and executed.

He also thanked volunteers who have contributed their time and energy to planning the anniversary programme without charge.

“It is about our country for them,” he said. “We love them, we appreciate all they would have done, taking their time and energy to help with the planning and, of course, to execute various events.”

Robinson maintained that redirecting the anniversary allocation would not permanently resolve the country’s social and economic challenges. He said the government has sufficient resources to address most of its priorities and will continue raising additional revenue.

“Yes, it’s a lot of money. Yes, we could do something else with it,” he said. “But do-



ROBINSON.... The core budget is a million dollars that we’re looking to spend over the next month for the various host of activities

ing something else with this million dollars doesn’t mean the issue that we’re trying to address will be solved permanently.”

The month-long programme will commemorate five decades since the introduction of ministerial government in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana Has Disappeared From 90 Percent of the Places It Once Lived

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos rock iguana has disappeared from 90 percent of the places where it once lived, a sweeping new scientific review has warned, underscoring the critical need to protect one of the territory’s most distinctive native animals.

The review, published in the scientific journal ZooKeys, says the iguana once occupied most islands in the Turks and Caicos Islands where suitable habitat existed. It has since been wiped out from most of the major islands and now survives mainly on small cays without introduced predators.

Known scientifically as *Cyclura Carinata*, the species is endemic to the Turks and Caicos Islands, although one population also lives on Booby Cay in The Bahamas. The International Union for Conservation of Nature currently classifies it as Endangered.

The situation remains critical. Losing 90 percent of the iguana’s former range means the animal has vanished from nine out of every 10 places it historically occupied. Surviving populations are increasingly concentrated on relatively few islands, leaving them highly exposed to predators, destructive development, extreme weather and harmful human activity.

The new review, written by reptile researcher R. Graham Reynolds, draws upon decades of previous research and field observations collected across the Turks and Caicos Banks between 2006 and 2025. It reports that some of the largest remaining populations are on Big and Little Ambergris Cay, where researchers estimated that 15,000 to 20,000 iguanas lived before large-scale development began on Big Ambergris Cay.

Other populations survive on small predator-free cays, while conservationists have reintroduced iguanas to several islands from which threats were removed.

Cats, dogs and rats have devastated populations

The introduction of non-native mammals remains one of the iguana’s greatest threats. Cats and dogs kill iguanas, while rats prey on their eggs and young. Research cited in a widely reported 2015 conservation feature described how Pine Cay’s population of more than 27,000 iguanas was reduced to functional extinction within about 20 years after cats arrived.

Functional extinction can occur even when a few adults remain alive. Rock iguanas may live for decades, but if predators kill every hatchling before it



Scientific journal ZooKeys, says the iguana once occupied most islands in the Turks and Caicos Islands where suitable habitat existed. But has since been wiped out from most of the major.

Photo credit: Naqqi Manco

reaches adulthood, the population cannot replace itself and will eventually disappear.

The 2015 report highlighted the work of Dr. Glenn Gerber and his research team, who surveyed iguanas on more than 130 landmasses across the territory. Gerber warned at the time that the animals occupied less than five percent of their historic range. More recent assessments state that they occupy less than 10 percent.

An IUCN conservation plan published in 2021 confirmed that invasive mammalian predators were largely responsible for the enormous loss. Although conservation work helped improve the species’ official classification from Critically Endangered to Endangered in 2020, the IUCN warned that serious threats remained and continued management was essential.

Tourists are feeding iguanas, and some have died

Tourism, which can generate appreciation and funding for conservation, is also creating a direct threat when visi-

tors or tour operators feed the iguanas. The animals naturally consume a varied diet of native leaves, flowers and fruits. Human-provided foods, particularly sugary supermarket fruit, are not an appropriate replacement. Scientific research on related Bahamian rock iguanas found substantial differences in the blood chemistry of tourist-fed animals. The iguanas had altered glucose, potassium and uric-acid levels, among other changes, while every sampled animal from tourist-visited islands carried internal parasites. Tourist-fed iguanas also suffered unusually loose faeces. Researchers warned that the dietary changes could damage their long-term health and the stability of their populations.

In the Turks and Caicos Islands, the danger is no longer theoretical. In 2024, the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources reported that an iguana on Little Water Cay had swallowed a bamboo fruit skewer that punctured its body. The department also disclosed that a previously exam-

ined iguana from an area where illegal feeding occurred had died after sand blocked about 10 centimetres, or four inches, of its lower intestines. Grape and strawberry seeds were found inside the blockage.

Wet fruit placed on beaches can become coated in sand, which the iguanas swallow along with the food. Feeding can also cause the animals to ingest skewers and other foreign objects.

It changes their natural behaviour as well. Iguanas may abandon their usual feeding areas and gather around tourist landing sites, increasing aggression, stress and competition-related injuries. Food left behind can sustain rats, which then eat iguana eggs and hatchlings.

The DECR warning makes clear that feeding rock iguanas constitutes harming wildlife and is illegal under the National Parks Ordinance. Encounters should be observation-only: visitors must not feed, touch, chase or harass the animals.

More than an endangered tourist attraction

The disappearance of the rock iguana would harm more than the country’s wildlife tourism. These animals perform an essential role in maintaining the islands’ natural environment.

Rock iguanas browse native vegetation, disperse seeds through their droppings and disturb the soil while digging burrows. This helps plants reproduce and contributes to healthy coastal scrub and dune systems. Plant roots can stabilize loose sand, strengthening dunes that provide some protection against wind and storm surges.

Scientists therefore consider the rock iguana a keystone species—an animal whose activities have an unusually important effect on the wider ecosystem. Development presents another major challenge because the coastal scrub, sandy areas and dunes preferred by iguanas are also attractive locations for resorts, roads and luxury homes. Construction can destroy feeding and nesting habitat, while vehicles may strike animals. Ornamental landscaping can replace the diverse native plants on which they depend.

There have nevertheless been important conservation successes. Iguanas have been returned to islands after predators were removed, and several reintroduced populations have survived and reproduced. Boardwalks on Little Water Cay also allow visitors to observe the animals without trampling their burrows and nests.

But the loss of 90 percent of the species’ former range is a warning that these successes cannot be taken for granted.

Building Ourselves Out of Paradise: How Turks and Caicos Is Consuming Its Own Tourism Product

An Op-Ed By Paladin

Turks and Caicos has doubled down on tourism as the singular pillar of its economy. Ministers celebrate record arrivals, new resorts, and the creation of a Tourism Authority. Yet beneath the headlines lies a stark paradox: the very policies hailed as progress are eroding the natural environment — the core product upon which tourism depends. The country is building itself out of paradise.

The Government’s Celebrated Milestones

The administration points to a series of achievements:

- **Tourism Authority Act (2026):** Premier Misick declared, “The challenge before us is no longer how to generate tourism growth. The challenge before us is now how to govern tourism growth.”
- **Ministerial Vision:** Tourism Minister Zhavargo Jolly warned, “Tourism only works when people feel like it belongs to them... You have to be very careful about the impact on your infrastructure, your economy, and your society.”
- **Record Arrivals:** 2 million visitors in 2025 — 640,000 stayover arrivals and 1.3 million cruise passengers.
- **Hotel Boom:** Hyatt, St. Regis, Kempinski, InterContinental, and Palace Resorts now dominate Grace Bay’s skyline.
- **Waste Management Strategy:** Promised reforms toward “sustainable waste management practices,” yet landfills remain toxic dumps. These milestones are framed as progress. They also conceal the costs.

The Environmental Costs

The tourism product — beaches, reefs, wetlands, cultural heritage — is under visible strain.

- **Coastal Degradation:** Northeast Long Bay and Chalk Sound show clear ecological stress.
- **Marine Resource Strain:** Day charters deplete conch and fish stocks faster than they can recover.
- **Noise & Air Pollution:** Dune buggies and three wheelers scar the tranquility that once defined the islands.
- **Waste Mismanagement:** Providenciales and Grand Turk landfills remain uncontrolled, with fires and leachate contaminating groundwater.
- **Generic Architecture:** Indigenous vegetation is cleared for bland resort structures, stripping away the islands’ sense of place.

The product is being consumed faster than it can regenerate.

The Guardrails We Ignore Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR)

Mandate: “To ensure sustainable utilization of the natural resources of the Turks and Caicos Islands... through a protected areas system and improved maritime affairs.”
DECR should be the country’s ecological guardrail. Instead, its authority and budget are dwarfed by incentives for hotel development.

Turks and Caicos Reef Fund (TCRF)

Mission: “Our ‘Beautiful by Nature’ environment is... the driving force behind our tourism-based economy.”
TCRF maintains coral nurseries, intervenes in disease outbreaks, and installs moorings to prevent anchor damage. Yet unregulated charters and resort runoff undermine these efforts.

Marine Police

Mandate: enforce fisheries protection and maritime laws. Acting Deputy Commissioner Kendall Grant warns: “Illegal fishing and poaching pose a significant threat to our marine biodiversity, economy, and the livelihoods of those who depend on these resources.”

But enforcement capacity is thin compared to the scale of tourist exploitation.

National Trust

Established in 1992 to protect cultural, historic, and natural heritage. It manages Little Water Cay, Middle Caicos Caves, and other sites. Yet heritage protection is sidelined as budgets favor resort expansion.

Tourism as a Broken Product

Turks and Caicos once sold quaint charm — beaches, reefs, wetlands, cultural heritage. Today, that product is fractured.

Mega resorts replace mangroves. Charters deplete fisheries. Landfills poison reefs. The “island getaway” is vanishing.

The Tourism Authority licenses and promotes operators, but it is not structurally linked to DECR, TCRF, or Marine Police. Growth is celebrated without environmental accountability.

A Three Year Phased Solution Within Existing TCI Law

The country does not need new legislation. It needs to use the laws it already has — DECR Ordinance, National Parks Ordinance, Fisheries Protection Ordinance, Physical Planning Ordinance, and the Tourism Authority Act — and apply them coherently. Below is a **realistic, legally grounded, three year national fix** that spreads development across the islands while protecting Grand Turk from further ecological strain.

Phase I (Year 1): Stabilize and Enforce

Objective: Stop further degradation while preparing the system for controlled growth.

1. Grand Turk: Low Impact Development Freeze

Under the Physical Planning Ordinance, the Minister may impose development conditions. Use that authority to:

- Freeze new mega resort approvals.
- Allow only **low impact, small footprint projects** (boutique inns, cultural sites, heritage restoration).
- Require DECR Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for all tourism expansions.

2. Islandwide Waste Management Stabilization

Within existing law, Cabinet can direct public works to:

- Install landfill fire suppression systems.
- Begin leachate containment.
- Expand sewage treatment capacity.

These actions require **no new legislation.**

3. Tourism Licensing Linked to Conservation

The Tourism Authority Act already allows conditional licensing. Use it to require:

- DECR compliance certificates.
- Reef Fund mooring usage.
- Marine Police safety and fisheries compliance.

This creates the first structural link between tourism and conservation.

Phase II (Year 2): Redistribute Growth Across the Islands

Objective: Shift development pressure away from Providenciales and Grand Turk toward islands that can absorb low impact growth.

1. North Caicos: Eco Lodge and Wetland Tourism

Within existing zoning:

- Authorize small eco lodges.
- Restore wetlands as tourism assets.
- Incentivize local ownership through duty concessions already permitted under the Investment Policy.

2. Middle Caicos: Cultural and Heritage Anchors

Using National Trust authority:

- Expand cave tourism.
- Develop heritage trails.
- Support locally owned guesthouses.

3. South Caicos: Marine Science and Sustainable Fishing Tourism

Under Fisheries Protection Ordinance:

- Create licensed educational charters.
- Build partnerships with TCRF for coral nurseries.
- Promote small, locally owned inns.

This redistributes tourism while protecting fragile zones.

Phase III (Year 3): Rebuild Grand

Turk Without Destroying It

Objective: Make Grand Turk functional, resilient, and economically diverse — without mega resorts.

1. Low Impact Waterfront Redevelopment

Within existing planning law:

- Restore historic waterfront buildings.
- Create artisan markets.
- Build hurricane resilient micro infrastructure (solar, water storage).

2. Cruise Tourism Reform

Under the Tourism Authority Act:

- Cap daily passenger numbers.
- Require environmental compliance for all operators.
- Mandate reef safe practices and mooring usage.

3. Marine Protection Enforcement Surge

Using existing Marine Police authority:

- Increase patrols.
- Enforce fishing quotas.
- Impose fines for oversized charter boats.

Grand Turk becomes a low impact, heritage centered island, not a resort strip.

The FIX?

Turks and Caicos stands at a crossroads. The government celebrates milestones that, in reality, dismantle the foundation of tourism. But the country does not need new laws or new agencies. **It needs to use the laws it already has** — coherently, consistently, and across all islands.

A three year phased plan can stabilize the environment, redistribute growth, and rebuild Grand Turk without destroying it. Tourism and environment are inseparable. To degrade one is to destroy the other.

If Turks and Caicos is to secure its future, it must stop consuming its own product — and start empowering the institutions designed to protect it.



Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS
FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

On October 1st, 2026, a new chapter of confidence begins.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission (FSC) introduces **The Shield**, a bold new visual identity that marks the strategic evolution of the Commission and reflects its growth, experience and enduring commitment to professionalism, integrity, transparency and international standards. It symbolises the Commission's role as a trusted guardian of confidence, stability and integrity within the financial services sector.

Since its establishment in 2001, the Commission has evolved alongside the financial services sector while remaining steadfast in its mission: to regulate, supervise and support a resilient, trusted and forward-looking industry. Its modern visual identity reflects this progress, presenting the FSC as a confident, accessible and internationally aligned regulator rooted in the heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Rendered in authoritative Navy and dignified Gold, The Shield symbolises stewardship, vigilance and clear direction, with each design element carrying deliberate meaning: the Lighthouse represents leadership and guidance; the Waves reflect the Territory's maritime heritage and global connectivity; the Flamingo embodies local character, community and accessibility; and 'EST. 2001' acknowledges the Commission's history and institutional experience.

Our emblem has changed. Our purpose has not.

The Commission will continue to protect investors, promote compliance, strengthen confidence and support responsible business.

VOX POP

What Does 50 Years of Administrative Government Mean to You?

The Turks and Caicos Islands is celebrating 50 years of Ministerial Government. In 1976, the people were granted the right to elect political representatives from among themselves. As the country commemorates this historic milestone, NewslineTCI asks members of the public: "What does 50 years of Ministerial Government mean to you?"

Ashley Adams

Fifty years of Ministerial Government means, for me, double my age, which means that there has been a long-standing history of self-governance. It means dedication, commitment, love of country and full-on responsibility to our nation. I wholeheartedly love the Turks and Caicos and look forward to another 50 years.

Edith Cox

It means national pride. You think about it, and it's 50 years. It's been a while, and this is an opportunity to reflect on what has happened in the Turks and Caicos and the strides that we have made in the last 50 years. Although I am excited about the next 50, I'm hopeful that we will learn from these last 50 and make the next 50 better for all in the Turks and Caicos.

Arean Louis, Youth Parliamentarian

As a junior parliamentarian, it means a lot to me because these men and women paved the way 50 years ago. Standing here as a parliamentarian and, hopefully, a future politician, it speaks volumes. I am excited to see the crowd that is here and that people came out to support our culture.

I'm just overwhelmed with words right now, but I want to thank them for all they have done, both those who are living and those who have passed. I want to congratulate the Culture Department and all the ministries that put in the hard work to get this event going. Kudos to them. It really and truly means a lot to me. Thank you very much.

Joshua Lightburne, Traffic Department, RTCPF

We have come a long way, and we still have a pretty long way to go.

Drexwell Seymour

I think it means a lot. When I interviewed Honourable (E. Jay) Saunders about two years ago on my YouTube channel, he explained the process they had to go through with an administrator. They were not making decisions by themselves. The administrator made the decisions, and they fought hard to have more authority. This is what the Constitution brought about.

What we have now is not ideal, but it's a start. It means a lot that we have more flexibility in governing, our country, despite the fact that the governor is still the head. We are not an independent country, so it means a lot.

Pearly Sinclair Musgrove, North Caicos

In 1976, I was in high school in Grand Turk. I lived not too far from the Junkanoo Club. The 1975 uprising caused us to leave school early. We went on summer break, and I remember distinctly that we had to return to school on August 1, 1975.

What does this mean to me 50 years later? I am now a senior. I'm no longer the youth. It means that we have grown. Are we perfect? No, we are not, but we have grown. We have so many blessings and so many riches.

We have freedom. We can travel when we want. We have all the amenities. You name it, we have it. Whether you're on Providenciales or one of the family islands, everything is accessible. I am so happy and proud to be a Turks and Caicos Islander.

There are many who live among us and treat Turks and Caicos like their home. We are celebrating today because 50 years is nothing to sneeze at. Here's to 50 years more. I might not be here,

but the next generation will be able to take it from here.

Pastor Bradley Handfield

Fifty years of Ministerial Government means a lot to me because, for most of my early childhood, we didn't initially have Ministerial Government. I experienced a little bit of the administrative system as a child.

Having lived most of my life under Ministerial Government, I've had a chance to see the progress our country has made while being led by people elected by us. Our country has been run for the past 50 years by the people, for the people. We have been making the decisions about who will lead the country and holding their feet to the fire over how they lead it.

We have experienced a lot of progress economically and educationally. We still have a lot to do in terms of our civic and social life. Some institutions need strengthening, and some new institutions need to be built. This is a young country in terms of where we are constitutionally, and I am happy to see what God has allowed us to become.

David "Jack" Lightbourne

Fifty years shows the resilience of our people and the fight we've come through since slavery to be able to form a government, organize and come together. I hope this is an example showing that we can someday become independent. Big dreams.

We have it in us. We have the love and passion in us to continue. Within those 50 years of Ministerial Government, Turks and Caicos has become the world's number-one destination. We have done that because of the government, the people and our resilience. I hope we can continue on that path, aim for the sky and go beyond it.

Jarrett Forbes, Director of Sports

When I saw that the government

was embarking on this journey to celebrate 50 years, being the history guy that I am, I did some digging. I dug pretty far back, and it inspired me to figure out who we are and where we came from. I went back to the Middle Caicos days, the Bermudian days and the Turks Islanders, following our journey into self-governance and seeing where we came from and what we have done as a people. Some around the world may ask why we are not celebrating independence, but I think this is more a celebration of growth and resilience.

We are a very small island people, but we are very proud. I think we've done a lot of good things over the last 50 years, and I'm definitely inspired for the next 50 years.

Dwayne Taylor, Former Elected Member and Speaker of Parliament

Fifty years of Ministerial Government is a bit nostalgic for me. I am happy that we have made some progress from where we used to be and how we fought to get where we are. I believe Turks and Caicos could have been much further ahead in terms of constitutional autonomy for Turks and Caicos Islanders.

If we look at where we are today, we are paying our own way. We've been paying our way since 1988, when we came off grant-in-aid. I was on a radio program this morning, and one of the things I spoke about was the premiership in our country today.

In a system of governance with a premier, the premier is supposed to chair the Cabinet. I believe it was a slap in our face. I believe it was disrespectful and disgraceful to us as intelligent, bright and visionary Turks and Caicos Islanders who understand where we want to go.

Do we know where we want to go? Of course we do. That's why you had the 1976 movement,



Jarrett Forbes



Bradley Handfield



Dwayne Taylor



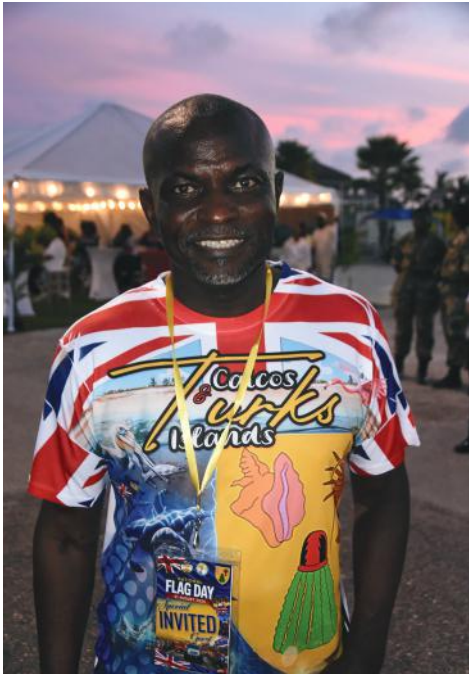
Edith Cox



Joshua Lightburne



DAVID LIGHTBOURNE



Drexwell Seymour



Pearly Cynclair Musgrove



Arean Louis



ASHLEY ADAMS

and now, 50 years later, we are celebrating Ministerial Government. If the Turks and Caicos Islands is truly going to move forward, it is not about blue or yellow. It is about Turks and Caicos Islanders coming together for a common goal. I heard a certain play on

words during this session about another 50 years of Ministerial Government. No, it's not going to be another 50 years of Ministerial Government. Over the next 10 to 15 years, we want to be able to raise our flag as an independent country and sing our national anthem. That conversation needs to

start today. If I had to leave something with this generation, I would want to see more constitutional literacy and civic education, an understanding of what the Constitution means to us and what it is all about. It is not just a legal document placed on a shelf. It is a fundamental framework of trust. Your Constitution is supposed to speak to your will, how you want

your country to move and how you want it to be governed. That is the will of the people. That is what we don't have and what we don't enjoy. Today, while I celebrate and understand where we have come from, I think we are still regressing when we should have been progressing. We should have much more autonomy than we have today.

Georgetta Smith-Davis
Address: Venetian Road, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands
POSITION:
DOMESTIC WORKER
WAGE: \$352.00 p/week
CONTACT NUMBER: 348-9566
DUTIES: Cleaning, Laundry and ironing.
This is a Renewal of work permit. Belongers are encourage to apply to The Labour Department.

MCINTOSH
PLASTERING AND BUILDING SERVICES
Providenciales,
Is seeking to employ a
CARPENTER.
DUTIES INCLUDE: Measuring, cutting, shaping, and joining wood and other materials, installing structures and fixtures (such as windows, doors, framing, and cabinetry), constructing wooden frameworks, building foundations, and maintaining tools and equipment in a safe operating condition.
SALARY: \$15.00 HOURLY
CONTACT: 343-9797
BELONGERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY
FIRST TIME WORK PERMIT



President Devon Cox (center) celebrates the achievements of the 2026 Youth Energy Roundtable participants, commending their innovative ideas, confidence, and passion for the future of energy. From left: Jermaine Williams; Jo-Dayne Tyson; Gabriel Lafleur; Khouri Swann; Alexander Been; and Kirk Dixon

Pelican Energy TCI Hosts Sixth Annual Youth Energy Roundtable, Featuring a Special One-on-One with the President

Pelican Energy TCI hosted its sixth annual Youth Energy Roundtable, a capstone event of the Company’s annual Summer Student Employment Program (SSEP), bringing together six remarkable college and university-level students to address the Turks and Caicos Islands’ most urgent energy challenges. Hosted at the Company’s headquarters on Thursday, August 13, 2026, the event provided a platform for youth voices to deliver research-based perspectives on timely topics and featured an AMA (ask-me-anything) segment with the Company’s President, Devon Cox. This year’s Roundtable format moved from the traditional public-facing showcase to students delivering research-based presentations to an audience of energy professionals. The six program participants were Alexander Been, Jermaine Williams, Jo-Dayne Tyson, Gabriel Lafleur, Khouri Swann, and Kirk Dixon. Jermaine Williams and Jo-Dayne Tyson opened the event with a presentation on “Solar Without the Storm: Balancing Renewable Energy Growth, Grid Stability, and Fairness for All.” They examined how the rapid adoption of independent solar systems, if unregulated, can pose challenges to grid stability, lead to cost shifting for customers without solar, and strain national energy planning. Once a solar system connects to the electricity grid, it becomes part of one shared electricity system that serves the entire country. Their insights emphasized that successful integration of renewable energy requires thoughtful national policies and regulations, modern infrastructure, technical standards, util-

ity visibility, battery storage, advanced grid technologies, and collaboration between customers, utilities, and government. Gabriel Lafleur and Kirk Dixon addressed “The Role of Utility Licensing in National Energy Security and Service Reliability,” examining how utility licenses support long-term infrastructure investment and service reliability. They highlighted that long-term licenses are common across the industry because they align with the lifespan of major utility assets and allow large investments in the system to be recovered over time through rate smoothing, helping to moderate the size and frequency of rate increases. The presentation also explored licensing models used in small island nations and emphasized the importance of strong regulatory oversight to ensure high performance and long-term energy security. Alexander Been and Khouri Swann concluded the presentation line-up with “Defining Energy Security: Navigating Geopolitical Risks, Market Volatility, and the Path to Renewable Energy Transition.” Their analysis spotlighted the vulnerabilities of island nations reliant on imported fuels and the potential for renewable energy to strengthen resilience and affordability. They also examined the technical and economic indicators of an energy-secure nation, and whether countries with rapid economic growth and development can reliably meet rising energy demand while transitioning away from fossil fuels. During the candid AMA segment with the Company’s President, students fielded on-the-spot questions about

leadership, career development, and the energy sector. The segment provided heartfelt, candid, and deep conversations with Mr. Devon Cox, connecting youth with senior leadership. President Cox commended the students for their comprehensive research, targeted questions and bold thinking, underscoring the vital role of youth in shaping the country’s energy future. “At Pelican Energy TCI, we have always welcomed, and will continue to champion, young talent. Their vision and drive are essential as we work to create a bold, exciting energy future. These students have shown that when given the chance, they rise to the occasion

and deliver outstanding results. One of the most rewarding aspects of this program is watching young people engage thoughtfully with the challenges that will define our nation’s future,” said Devon Cox, President at Pelican Energy TCI. “Their curiosity, confidence, and creativity have enriched our company and underscored how vital it is to value youth contributions in the present—not just the future. The next chapter of energy will be written by their passion and determination.” The Roundtable marked the culmination of several weeks of immersive, hands-on learning, and professional development through the SSEP at Pelican Energy TCI.



Jermaine Williams engages Pelican Energy TCI President Devon Cox during the Roundtable’s candid Ask-Me-Anything (AMA) segment, asking thought-provoking questions about the key lessons and experiences that shaped President Cox’s growth as a leader.

A Second Chance Through Service: Is the TCI Regiment an Untapped Tool for Rehabilitation?

An OP-ED by Ed Forbes

The Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment may be one of the most underutilized national assets in our fight against some of the social problems facing the Territory. Established in 2020 with the support of then-Governor Nigel Dakin and the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence, the Regiment was created to strengthen national security while providing capabilities in disaster relief, humanitarian assistance and border protection. But its role could potentially extend beyond traditional military responsibilities. The qualities required of Regiment members—discipline, responsibility, teamwork, resilience and a sense of purpose—are also qualities that many troubled young people and individuals preparing to return to society after incarceration desperately need. So perhaps it is time to ask: Could the TCI Regiment become part of our strategy for rehabilitation and reintegration? We cannot arrest our way out of rising concerns about youth delinquency, gang recruitment and violent crime. Young people without employment, structure, opportunity or a sense of belonging can become vulnerable to gangs offering money, identity and acceptance. For a young person who commits a relatively minor, non-violent offence, should incarceration always be the answer? Where legally appropriate and following proper risk assessment, could accountability sometimes be combined with an opportunity to change direction? That is where the Regiment could potentially play a role.

This should not mean turning the Regiment into a prison or creating a military “boot camp for bad kids.” Military-style boot camps alone have not been shown to reliably reduce reoffending. Discipline works best when combined with education, counselling, vocational training, mentoring and employment opportunities.

Rehabilitation Before Release:

The TCI already has the beginnings of a framework that could support such an initiative.

In February 2026, the Government announced the completion of its Parole Board Modernisation Project, designed to strengthen parole decision-making while supporting rehabilitation and successful reintegration into the community.

Rather than creating another standalone programme, Government could explore incorporating a Regiment-supported service component into the existing parole and rehabilitation system.

Imagine an inmate approaching the end of a sentence who has demonstrated good behaviour and is assessed as suitable for supervised reintegration.

Instead of simply opening the prison gate and expecting that person to succeed, preparation could begin months before release.

A structured programme could include physical training, discipline, leadership development, community service, vocational training and mentoring. Participants could assist with approved community projects, environmental restoration and disaster-preparedness activities while developing practical skills and a responsible daily routine.

The programme could continue for six to twelve months after release, with regular check-ins, employment assistance and clearly defined responsibilities.

The Regiment would not replace corrections, probation, counselling or other professionals. It would add another ingredient: service and accountability.

A Second Chance—With Responsibility

This is not about being soft on crime. It is about being smarter about rehabilitation. Participants would have to show up, follow rules, complete training and demonstrate that they are prepared to accept responsibility for their future. Successful completion could become part of demonstrating readiness for full reintegration.

Employment would also be critical. Local businesses could provide apprenticeships, internships and second-chance employment.

Because rehabilitation without employment is incomplete.

The same philosophy could potentially apply to troubled youth. The Government is preparing to open a Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility for Boys later this year, with a focus on accountability, education, personal growth, family engagement and reintegration.

The Regiment should not replace the professionals responsible for juvenile rehabilitation, but its expertise in discipline, leadership, teamwork and service could become one component of a broader model.

Protecting the Future:

The objective should be simple: Stop creating tomorrow’s prisoners today.

If we can reach a teenager before gang recruitment becomes a way of life, we should.

If we can hold a young offender accountable without placing them in an environment that increases the likelihood of further offending, we should consider it.

And if someone has served their sentence, we should give them more than a release date and some cash. We should give them a plan, which could help reduce recidivism. That plan could include housing, employment, education, counseling, family support, mentoring—and, where appropriate, structured service supported by the TCI Regiment.

The Turks and Caicos Islands is small enough that government agencies, the Regiment, schools, employers, courts, probation services and community organizations can work together.

The Regiment was created to protect the Turks and Caicos Islands. Protecting these islands should mean more than protecting our borders.

It should also mean protecting our communities, protecting vulnerable young people from gang recruitment and helping former offenders become productive members of society.

A prison sentence should not be our only answer to youthful mistakes, and the prison gate should not mark the end of rehabilitation. We must think much bigger.

The TCI Regiment has truly demonstrated its value in national defence, border protection and disaster response.

Perhaps it is time to explore whether its greatest contribution could extend even further:

Keep the service, but expand the mission, while helping to defend the future of the people it was created to serve.

TCIG Pauses Provo Commercial Crown Land Allocations for Governance Reforms

The Turks and Caicos Islands Government has approved an immediate six-month moratorium on the acceptance, processing and approval of new applications for grants, leases or allocations of Crown Land for commercial purposes on the island of Providenciales. The decision was approved by Cabinet at its meeting on August 7, 2026, with notice issued on August 17, 2026.

Against this backdrop, and in recognition of the significant and continuing demand for Crown Land on Providenciales, Government has determined that a temporary pause on new commercial Crown Land allocations is necessary to ensure that future Crown land divestments are informed by a complete and reliable understanding of the Crown Land estate and the island’s evolving development needs.

Strengthening the Basis for Future Commercial Allocations

Crown Land is one of the country’s most important public assets, supporting national development, public infrastructure, housing, investment, environmental protection and long-term planning. As demand for land continues to increase, Crown Land availability is becoming more constrained, particularly on islands experiencing the greatest population growth and development pressure. This has reinforced the need for careful stewardship and evidence-based decision-making before further commercial allocations are advanced.

The moratorium has been approved as a prudent administrative measure to allow Government to complete critical Crown Land inventory, record validation, governance and process improvements before further commercial allocations are advanced in Providenciales.

The moratorium also supports Government’s statutory responsibility under section 15 of the Crown Land Act to develop, maintain and continuously update a computerised Crown Land Inventory. By taking this step now, Government is seeking to strengthen transparency, accountability and maintain confidence in future Crown Land allocation decisions.

During the moratorium, the Crown Land Unit will undertake a focused programme of work to strengthen the foundations of Crown Land administration. A key priority will be the completion of a comprehensive and reliable Crown Land Inventory. This work is being conducted alongside a broader transformation agenda, supporting wider improvements to the governance and processes that guide Crown Land administration, including stronger oversight arrangements, improved internal processes, development of a longer-term Crown Land Allocation Framework, and related policy and service improvements.

Arrangements During the Moratorium:

The moratorium will apply to the acceptance, processing and approval of new applications for grants, leases or allocations

of Crown Land for commercial purposes on the island of Providenciales only.

The moratorium was effective from the date of Cabinet approval 7 August 2026 and it will remain in place for six months, or until such earlier date as Cabinet may determine following completion of the Crown Land Inventory exercise.

Transitional arrangements for applications received prior to the commencement of the moratorium are such that:

Applications that have already been considered by Cabinet may continue to be processed;

applications that have received final Cabinet approval may proceed to completion of the necessary legal documentation; Commercial application that have not yet been considered by Cabinet will during the moratorium be reviewed against the updated Crown Land Inventory and any revised Crown Land Allocation Policy to ensure that proposed developments remain consistent with Government’s strategic land use priorities, infrastructure requirements and long-term development objectives.

The moratorium shall not apply to:

- Residential applications, including Amnesty Programme applications,
- Existing contractual commitments and legally binding agreements, including CCPL
- Applications that have received Cabinet approval, Easements, rights of way, reparalements, encroachment/informal

settlement regularisation matters, dock licences, beach licenses and marine works applications,

d. Government and statutory body land requirements for public infrastructure and other public facilities.

e. Applications or proposals that Cabinet determines are of strategic national importance or are otherwise in the overriding public interest, where Cabinet is satisfied that an exemption from the moratorium is justified

Strengthening Land Management Governance and Processes

In parallel with the moratorium, the Crown Land Unit and the National Land Secretariat continuing to advance a wider transformation programme to strengthen Crown Land administration. This includes legislative reform, improved governance arrangements, customer service standards, the operationalisation of the Compliance and Aftercare Unit, and other initiatives aimed at improving accountability, efficiency and service delivery.

The temporary moratorium provides an opportunity to strengthen the systems that support Crown Land administration. The Government remains committed to the responsible stewardship of Crown Land and to ensuring that future allocation decisions are made in a manner that supports transparency, accountability, sustainable development and the long-term interests of the Turks and Caicos Islands.



"NOBODY'S PERFECT. THAT'S WHY THEY INVENTED ERASERS."

National Trust Turks and Caicos Islands. (2020). Wildlife and Coastal Heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands. NOAA Fisheries. (2020). Brown Pelican Conservation and Recovery. Visit Turks and Caicos Islands. (2019). Wildlife and Marine Life of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Photo: Rapolla, A. (Flickr). Brown Pelican.

BROWN *pelican*

NEWSLINE
Heritage

For generations, the Brown Pelican has been a familiar and iconic presence across the Turks and Caicos Islands. Recognised as the national bird of the islands, the brown pelican is known for its distinctive appearance and remarkable fishing ability. Easily identified by its long bill and expandable throat pouch, the pelican uses this unique feature to scoop up fish while diving into the sea. Often seen gliding low over the water or plunging headfirst in pursuit of prey, the bird has become a defining part of the coastal landscape throughout the islands.

Despite its common presence today, the brown pelican once faced serious threats. In the mid-20th century, populations declined significantly due to the widespread use of harmful pesticides, which affected breeding success and led to the species being listed as endangered in several regions.

Following increased environmental awareness and the banning of many of these chemicals, brown pelican populations gradually recovered. Conservation efforts and legal protections helped restore their numbers, allowing them to once again thrive across coastal areas of the Caribbean, including the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Today, the brown pelican remains a symbol of the islands’ rich marine environment and biodiversity. Its presence along the shores and harbours serves as a reminder of both the fragility and resilience of wildlife in the region.

As the national bird of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the brown pelican continues to represent the close relationship between the people of the islands and the ocean that sustains them.

From Personal Framework to Published Work: Dawn Hilary Higgs Shares the Financial Principles That Helped Shape Her Life

Turks and Caicos financial professional turns a framework created for herself into a practical guide for building financial freedom with intention



When Dawn Hilary Higgs first wrote down the ideas that would eventually become the Before Sunrise Financial Principles, she was not planning to write a book. She was trying to build a life. At 32, Higgs had returned home after completing her degree in finance. She was a first-time mother, had years of work experience behind her, and on paper appeared to be moving forward. But internally, she felt behind. She was not looking for a shortcut or a quick path to wealth. She simply needed direction. “I’ve always been the kind of person who needs a plan,” Higgs said. “Give me a framework, a roadmap or a checklist and I can focus. At that stage of my life, I needed to figure out what mattered most and what the next right step should be.” So she created one. What began as a personal set of guideposts for saving, spending, priorities and long-term goals would eventually become the Eight Before Sunrise Financial Principles, a framework Higgs continued to return to through homeownership, career growth, motherhood, financial setbacks, investing and changing definitions of what freedom meant to her. Sixteen years later, those principles now form the foundation of Before Sunrise Financial Principles, released on 31 July 2026 in workbook and digital editions.

A FRAMEWORK BUILT FOR REAL LIFE

The principles were never intended to be rigid financial rules. Instead, Higgs describes them as guideposts designed to help people make more intentional decisions about saving, spending, growing, protecting and using money wisely. That distinction is important to her because one of the biggest lessons she has learned is that financial freedom does not look the same for everyone. For one person, freedom may mean owning a home. For another, it may mean being able to pay bills without stress, build a strong emergency fund, travel, care for family or reach a point where work becomes a choice rather than a necessity. “Financial freedom is personal,” Higgs said. “If you do not define what it means for you, it becomes very easy to spend years chasing somebody else’s version of success.” That thinking appears throughout the book, which begins not with a budget or investment strategy, but with questions about a reader’s money story, priorities and definition of financial freedom. The goal is to help people understand the beliefs and experiences shaping their financial decisions before trying to build a different future.

THE PRINCIPLES EVOLVED AS LIFE CHANGED

Higgs says the principles did not remain frozen in the form she originally created. They evolved as her life did. What began as “Determine Your Priorities” became “Decide What Matters Before You Spend a Dollar.” What began as “Save. Save. Save.” evolved into “Build Options Before You Need Them.” Her thinking about homeownership widened into a broader principle of “Build Assets, Not Just Expenses,” while retirement became “Create Fu-

ture Freedom.” The evolution reflects one of the central ideas behind Before Sunrise: circumstances change, goals change and priorities change, but the need for a sound financial foundation remains. Higgs says that is why she does not believe financial wellbeing can be reduced to a single formula. “People’s lives are different,” she said. “The right decision for one person may not be the right decision for another. What matters is understanding what you are building and making choices that support that.”

SAVINGS, SPENDING AND FREEDOM THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS

Several of the principles deliberately challenge familiar ways of thinking about money. Higgs argues that savings are not simply about accumulating money. They are about creating options. Savings can provide the option to handle an emergency, pursue an opportunity, change careers, travel, invest or simply make a difficult decision from a position of confidence rather than fear. **“The true value of savings is not only in the account balance. It is in the choices that balance creates.”**

DAWN HILARY HIGGS

Her approach to spending is similarly practical. Rather than promoting restriction for its own sake, the book distinguishes between restrictive spending and intentional spending. The question is not simply whether someone can afford something, but whether the decision supports the life they are intentionally trying to build. That philosophy extends to investing, debt and financial protection. One principle encourages readers to consider the highest-value job each dollar can perform, whether that means investing it, reducing expensive debt, building savings or funding an opportunity. Another broadens the idea of protection beyond insurance to include income, health, assets, identity and financial preparedness.

MORE THAN 30 YEARS BEHIND THE THINKING

While the principles began as a personal framework, they were also shaped by Higgs’ professional life. Her financial services career began in 1994 and has included roles across retail banking, personal banking, corporate and commercial banking, credit, branch leadership and business development, including positions with CIBC FirstCaribbean, Scotiabank and RBC Royal Bank. That combination of lived experience and professional exposure has influenced the way she now thinks about financial wellbeing. Over three decades, Higgs says she has seen that income alone does not determine financial stability. People can earn more and still feel financially uncertain, while others build considerable strength through consistency, preparation and clear priorities. “Knowing what to do and actually doing it are two very different things,” she said. “Financial literacy matters, but information alone does not create transformation. Action does.” That idea became central to the Before Sunrise philosophy.

WHY A WORKBOOK?

The printed edition was deliberately created as a workbook because Higgs did not want readers simply consuming information. The objective is reflection. Readers are encouraged to consider their money story, identify priorities, define financial freedom for themselves and examine how their everyday decisions align with the life they say they want to build. The digital edition takes a complementary approach. Rather than requiring written exercises,

it goes deeper into the thinking behind the Eight Principles through personal stories, practical teaching and reflection points that readers can carry with them. The distinction reflects Higgs’ broader philosophy. The digital edition provides the understanding. The workbook provides the structure to act. And the Money Moves Planner was created to help users live those principles through ongoing financial planning and everyday decisions.

TURNING EXPERIENCE INTO AN ASSET

Perhaps one of the clearest examples of the Before Sunrise philosophy is the project itself. The eighth principle, Turn Your Skills Into Assets, encourages people to recognize that some of their greatest financial assets may be the knowledge, experience and abilities they have spent years developing. Higgs describes her own journey in much the same way. A job became a career. The career became expertise. The expertise created opportunities. And eventually those opportunities became books, planners, digital products and the Before Sunrise platform itself. “That principle is probably one of the most full-circle parts of this journey for me,” Higgs said. “I spent years building knowledge without thinking of it as something I could turn into an asset. Before Sunrise is now an example of the very principle, I am encouraging other people to consider.”

WHY BEFORE SUNRISE?

The name **Before Sunrise** carries a personal meaning for Higgs. At its simplest, it is a play on her name, **Dawn**. Dawn is the break of day, the first light that comes before the sun fully rises. So in a very literal sense, **Before Sunrise is Dawn**. But the meaning goes beyond the name itself. For Higgs, Before Sunrise represents the work that happens before the result becomes visible. Saving happens before financial security. Preparation happens before opportunity. Discipline happens before progress. The difficult decisions, sacrifices, planning and consistency often happen quietly, long before anyone else can see what is being built. “The sunrise is what people eventually see,” Higgs said. “They see the home, the investment account, the opportunity, the achievement. What they do not always see is everything that happened before it. That is where the real work is done.” That idea is also reflected in a phrase that has become closely associated with the brand: **“The day breaks, but Dawn never does.”**

BEFORE SUNRISE

What began as a clever connection to her name eventually became something more meaningful. Before Sunrise came to represent resilience, preparation, intentionality and the belief that progress is built long before it becomes visible. And while the philosophy began with Higgs’ own journey, she does not see it as belonging only to her. “Everyone has their own sunrise,” she said. “The goal is to decide what you are building and start doing the work before the result arrives.” Financial freedom, she says, is not built through one dramatic decision, one promotion, one investment or one unexpected breakthrough. It is built through thousands of ordinary decisions made consistently over time. At the end of the digital edition, readers are left with three questions Higgs believes can guide financial decisions through every season of life: **What matters most to me? What kind of life am I intentionally building? Does this decision move me closer to that life?** Those questions, more than any individual fi-

nancial product or strategy, capture what Before Sunrise was created to teach. “Before Sunrise was never about telling people what success should look like,” Higgs said. “It is about helping people create enough clarity to make decisions that support the life they actually want.”

AVAILABILITY

Before Sunrise Financial Principles is available locally in the Turks and Caicos Islands directly from the author, internationally in hardcover through Amazon, and in digital format through the Before Sunrise online store at payhip.com/BeforeSunrise. Local purchases may be arranged via Instagram at [@iambeforesunrise](https://www.instagram.com/iambeforesunrise) or by emailing iambeforesunrise@gmail.com.

ABOUT DAWN HILARY HIGGS

Dawn Hilary Higgs is a Turks and Caicos Islands financial services and business development professional, author and speaker with more than 30 years of experience across banking, finance, leadership and economic development. She currently serves as Director of Business Support and Development at Invest Turks and Caicos Islands and is the creator of the Before Sunrise financial empowerment platform. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and Economics from Florida International University and is the author of Before Sunrise Financial Principles and Too Strong for Poetry... But I Wrote It Anyway.

ABOUT BEFORE SUNRISE

Before Sunrise is a financial empowerment platform built on the Eight Before Sunrise Financial Principles. It publishes books, workbooks and digital planning tools — including the Money Moves Planner series — designed to help people move from financial survival to self-determination. Its guiding idea: the work happens before the result becomes visible.

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NOTE TO EDITORS

This is the full version, approximately 1,450 words. A condensed version of approximately 750 words is supplied separately as “Before Sunrise — Press Release (Short)”.
High-resolution author photographs and book cover images are attached as well.
The author is available for interview, comment and review copies.
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Dawn Hilary Higgs

Life Line



FEATURED CHURCH

House of Prayer Ministries

This week on Lifeline Featured Church we showcase House of Prayer Ministries, located at 180 Long Bay Road, Providenciales. House of Prayer Ministries is pastored by Senior Pastor, Bishop Edwin Lightbourne and Prophetess Rev. Sandra Lightbourne.

Sunday School begins at 10:20am; Sunday Worship Service begins at 11am; Wednesday at 7pm is Midweek Service; Friday 6:30pm is the Bi-weekly Youth Meeting, and on Saturday at 6:30am is prayer meeting.

If you desire more information how to share in the worship experience, contact 649-231-4132 pr 649-941-8309. You can also follow House of Prayer Ministries on Facebook: @House of Prayer Ministries Inc or @Bishop James Lightbourne Jr.



Life line Church Directory

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

Firm Foundation Ministries International Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581 Christ is the Answer Ministry, George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030 One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com. Touch of Love Ministries International Center Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731 Abundant Life Ministries International P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755 Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk, Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289 Bethany Baptist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118 Church of God of Prophecy, Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854 Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk Tel:946-1866 Calvary Baptist Church, South Caicos. Tel:946-3212 Harvest Bible Chapel TCI, Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales. Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com. https://www.harvesttci.tl Rock of Jesus Ministry, 15 Five Cays, Safe Haven. Tel: 649-3317628 of 649-2410087	Firm Foundation Ministries International 19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240 Church of God of Prophecy, Providenciales Tel:941-3438 Roman Catholic Church, Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136 Faith Tabernacle Church of God, Providenciales, Tel:946-4073 New Testament Church of God, Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175 New Testament Church of God, South Caicos Tel:946-3631 Methodist Church, Grand Turk Tel:946-2352 Healing Waters Ministries, Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867 House of Prayer Church of God, Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309 Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727 Mount Mariah Baptist Church, Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205 New Beginning Harvest Ministry, Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759 New Testament Church of God Orea Alley P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-1255 Airport Road, South Caicos Tel:231-2402	Firm Foundation Ministries International Waterloo Road, Grand Turk. Telephone: 649-332-624 Paradise Baptist Church, Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349 Revival Faith Center, North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349 Salem Baptist Church, Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565 Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181 St. Monica’s Anglican Church P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499 Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh Day Adventists, P.O. Box 803, Providenciales United Pentecostal Church, Brown’s Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852 Wesleyan Methodist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596 Editor’s Note: If your Ministry is not listed and/or you would like for it to be part of the NEWSLINETCI Church Diary, contact us at: contact@newslnetci.com
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50TH ANNIVERSARY ECUMENICAL SERVICE, CULTURAL DISPLAY

The celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Ministerial Government in the Turks and Caicos Islands Kicked off with an ecumenical Service at the National Stadium in Providenciales, featuring the national choir, messages from various church heads and a charge to the national by Cannon Curtis Robinson. The service was followed a gospel convert and later, a cultural convert. At midnight was the raising of the Turks and Caicos Islands and British Flags, followed by a lengthy period of fireworks. The following are highlights of the event.











Hon. Shaun Malcolm, Minister responsible for Religious, brought greetings on behalf of the government



Bishop Coleta A. Williams III, who regards Bishop Dean as his covenant Brother, brought greetings on behalf of his church

Bishop Branford Dean Pledges to Champion Cancer Awareness After Recovery

Bishop Branford Dean, pastor of the National Church of God, has pledged to become an advocate for cancer awareness following his recovery from the disease. To celebrate being declared cancer-free and give thanks to God, Bishop Dean hosted five days of activities under the theme “Cancer Awareness & Celebration of Hope.” The observance ran from August 26 to 30 and combined worship, music, health education and personal testimony. Apostle Raymond Wells spoke at the opening service, while Pastor Keith Medows was the guest speaker on the second night. The third evening featured a concert at the Alice and Alice Shopping Center with Pastor Oslien Jadorte.

A health fair was held at the shopping center on the fourth day. The celebration culminated with a service at the National Church of God, where Bishop Delton Ellis of Mount Tabor Church, The Bahamas, delivered the featured message. During Sunday’s service, Bishop Dean reflected on his cancer journey and expressed gratitude for another opportunity to serve God and his community. “I thank God for being in the land of the living,” he said. “There is absolutely nothing that can de-



Bishop Branford Dean, telling his story about his journey with cancer

ter me, slow me down or stop me from praising God and carrying the message throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.” Bishop Dean said he received medical clearance in the Turks and Caicos Islands on June 8 after undergoing a PET scan. He travelled to Nassau the following day and received further clearance there on June 10. He described June 8 as his “fourth birthday” and said the experience had given him a new mission beyond preaching the Gospel: en-



Two-time cancer survivor, Tanya Gardiner, revealing to the audience her journey with the disease



Guest Preacher Bishop Delton Ellis, delivering the sermon at the event on Sunday, August 30



A section of the congregation at the National Church of God in Blue Hills, Providenciales on Sunday, August 30



A section of the audience at the National Church of God on Sunday, August 30

couraging people to pay attention to changes in their bodies and seek medical care promptly. "Early detection saves lives," he declared. Bishop Dean revealed that he had noticed a lump on the side of his neck but initially ignored it because it did not hurt or cause discomfort. He lived with the lump

for approximately six months before a woman with medical experience noticed it and advised him to have it examined. After returning to the Turks and Caicos Islands, he underwent several scans, but the cause of the lump remained undetermined. He later travelled to Nassau for further testing. Nearly eight

months after he first noticed the growth, Bishop Dean insisted on getting a definitive answer. Doctors eventually performed a biopsy. The procedure revealed that the lump, which was deeply embedded in his neck, was cancerous. "That little thing will bring you to your knees," Bishop Dean said as

he recalled the pain and discomfort he experienced during treatment. "Sometimes I was curled up in bed, crying. My wife would ask if I was okay, and the only thing I could do was groan." Despite the difficult experience, Bishop Dean said his faith remained strong. He thanked his wife, family, medical teams and church community for supporting him throughout his illness and recovery. "Through many dangers, toils and snares, I'm still here," he said. "I'm more encouraged to do the work of God and more encouraged to tell people that He is able." Bishop Dean also recalled the emotional welcome he received from relatives at the Alice and Alice Shopping Center after completing treatment. Family members surprised him with a sign announcing that he had defeated cancer. He said he added an important qualification to that message: "Through the grace of God." Bishop Dean expressed special appreciation to the medical professionals in Nassau who educated him about cancer. He also praised the Oncology Department at InterHealth Canada in the Turks and Caicos Islands for the compassion and care its staff provided. Although he acknowledged that the local healthcare system faces staffing and resource challenges, Bishop Dean urged residents to support healthcare workers and pray for improvements. "Keep our health system in your prayers," he said. "If you don't pray for anything else, pray for our health system." Above all, Bishop Dean encouraged people not to dismiss unexplained lumps or other changes in their bodies simply because they are painless. "Whatever you see that is different on your body, please go to the doctor and check it out," he urged. Now cancer-free, Bishop Dean intends to use his testimony to promote screening and early diagnosis throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands, sharing a message born from his own experience: early detection can save lives.



Your period is talking – knowing what’s normal, what’s not and when to get help

ing to work, attending school, sleeping, exercising or carrying out your usual activities deserves attention.

Especially if the pain is severe or getting worse.

Conditions such as endometriosis and fibroids can cause significant menstrual pain, and identifying the underlying cause can make a major difference in how symptoms are managed. Your period should not regularly bring your life to a standstill.

Warning signs you should not ignore

Not every change in your period requires an immediate trip to the doctor. An occasional variation in flow or timing may be perfectly harmless. However, recurring or worsening changes deserve attention.

Speak with your doctor if you experience:

- Periods lasting longer than seven days;
- Very heavy bleeding that requires you to change a pad or tampon every one to two hours or more frequently;
- Periods that repeatedly occur at unpredictable or inconsistent times;
- Severe or worsening menstrual pain;
- Multiple missed periods when pregnancy has been ruled out;
- Irregular cycles that continue for several months;
- Spotting or bleeding between periods; or
- Any bleeding after menopause.

Bleeding after menopause should always be medically evaluated, even if it seems minor.

What could be behind an irregular cycle?

Sometimes the explanation is relatively simple.

Stress can affect your hormones. Being sick can temporarily disrupt your cycle. Significant changes in weight, strenuous exercise and some medications can also influence when your period arrives and how long it lasts.

But irregular periods can sometimes be a sign of an underlying condition:

Polycystic ovary syndrome, or PCOS, is one possibility. Hormonal and ovulatory changes associated with PCOS can result in periods that are infrequent, irregular or prolonged. Some women may also experience heavy bleeding.

Then there is endometriosis, a condition in which tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows outside the uterus. It can cause painful periods, pelvic pain, and pain during sex.

Uterine fibroids are another possible cause of heavy or painful periods. These are non-cancerous growths in or around

the uterus and can sometimes cause prolonged bleeding or bleeding between periods.

The important thing is not to diagnose yourself based on a list of symptoms. If something has changed, let a healthcare professional help you determine why.

Become a detective

One of the easiest ways to become more familiar with your menstrual health is to keep track of your cycle. You can use a calendar, notebook or menstrual-tracking app. Record when your period begins and ends, how heavy the bleeding is, whether you experience pain and any other symptoms you notice.

Over time, you may begin to see your personal pattern. That information can also be extremely useful if you eventually need to see a doctor.

There is a difference between saying, “My period has been strange lately,” and being able to say, “For the past four months, my period has been arriving 10 days later than usual and the bleeding has become much heavier.”

The more information you have, the better equipped you and your healthcare provider are to investigate what is happening.

Listen when your body speaks

Women often become experts at pushing through discomfort.

We go to work with cramps. We carry on when we are exhausted. We tell ourselves that heavy bleeding is probably nothing and that everyone experiences painful periods.

Sometimes it is nothing serious, but sometimes your body is telling you that something needs attention. That is why knowing your own menstrual pattern is so important. You do not need to panic every time your period is a little different. At the same time, you should not ignore persistent changes simply because you have become accustomed to them.

Your period is one part of your overall health, and changes in your menstrual cycle can sometimes provide important clues about what is happening in your body, so pay attention.

Know your normal, track the changes, ask questions; and if your period becomes unusually heavy, painful, prolonged or irregular, talk to your doctor.

When it comes to your health, you know your body better than anyone. If something feels different and you are unsure why, it is always better to have it checked than to suffer in silence.

SOURCE: Centre for Disease Control and Prevention

The monthly period is something women learn to manage rather than think too much about. Many of us mark the dates on the calendar, keep an emergency pad in our handbag and carry on with our lives.

But what happens when your period suddenly changes? Maybe it arrives earlier than expected. Perhaps the bleeding is heavier than usual, the cramps are more painful, or your cycle seems to have developed a mind of its own.

The truth is that menstrual cycles can change from time to time. Stress, illness, changes in weight, medication and intense exercise can all affect your cycle. And because every woman’s menstrual experience is different, knowing what is ‘normal’ is not always straightforward. The first thing to remember is this: normal means normal for you.

Your menstrual cycle does not have to look exactly like your sister’s, your friend’s or the woman sitting next to you at work. What matters most is knowing your usual pattern and paying attention when something changes.

So, what does a normal period look like?

A typical menstrual cycle occurs every 21 to 35 days, with bleeding generally lasting between two and seven days. That does not mean your period will arrive like clockwork every month. A few days’ variation can happen, and an occasional late period is usually not cause for alarm.

Pregnancy is one possible reason for a late period, but it is not the only one. Stress and illness, for example, can temporarily affect your cycle. Your flow may also vary. You may have a slightly lighter period of one month and a somewhat heavier one the next.

The key question is not, “Does my period look like everyone else’s?” It is, “Does this look like my usual period?” That distinction matters.

When heavy is too heavy

Most women know when their period is heavier than usual. Maybe you are changing your pad or tampon much more frequently, waking up at night because of bleeding or worrying about leaking through your clothes.

Heavy menstrual bleeding can be more than an inconvenience. It can interfere with work, school, exercise, sleep and social activities. It may also contribute to iron deficiency and anaemia.

If your period lasts longer than seven days, or you are soaking through a pad or tampon every one to two hours or more frequently, it is time to speak with a doctor. You do not have to simply ‘live with’ excessively heavy periods.

And what about the pain?

Period pain has become so normalised that many women have been taught to simply endure it.

A little cramping, bloating, breast tenderness and mood changes around the time of your period can be common. However, pain that stops you from go-

UWI Freshers' Series Delivers a Hit, Energises Campus

Jermaine Francis, vice-president of properties and special initiatives at The University of the West Indies, Mona Guild of Students, has described this year's Freshers' Series as one of the most successful in the past five years, attracting one of the largest turnouts seen during that period.

The Freshers' Series took place from August 26-28.

According to Francis, the strong participation and vibrant atmosphere throughout the week signals that "the vibes on campus are back." He noted that the enthusiasm and engagement displayed by students demonstrates the immense value and potential of the university market.

"UWI, Mona provides corporate entities with a unique opportunity to connect with the next generation of leaders and consumers. The energy is back, the students are engaged, and the platform is growing. I am urging corporate Jamaica to tap in and become part of these experiences," Francis told the Jamaica Observer on the weekend.

Francis is therefore encouraging corporate Jamaica to take greater interest in and tap into this unique and dynamic student market. With major events such as UWI Integration Thursday and UWI Carnival on the horizon, he believes there are significant opportunities for brands to engage directly with thousands of young, influential, and emerging consumers.

The first event in the Freshers' Series was the Freshers' Concert, which took place inside Students' Union on the campus. Representatives from the various halls performed talented pieces including singing, drama and poetry.

"The idea behind the Freshers' Concert is really to give our new students a proper welcome to UWI and allow them to experience the university beyond the classroom. We wanted each hall to come together, showcase their creativity and talents, and give the freshers an opportunity to build friendships and create memories from the very start of their university journey. We also ensured that the freshers got the opportunity to interact with their guild councillors.

The George Alleyne Hall emerged winner, with Mary Seacole Hall, Elsa Rynie Towers, Irvine Hall, and Taylor



Students representing the Elsa Leo Rhynie Hall perform their dance routine..Students representing the Elsa Leo Rhynie Hall perform their dance routine.



A section of the large crowd that turned out at the Freshers' Concert at The University of the West Indies, Mona recently.

Hall finishing in second, third, fourth and fifth places, respectively.

"The halls showcased a range of

talents, including singing, dancing, drama and other creative performances. What stood out to me was

how each hall found its own way to tell a story and represent their identity through their performance. The Freshers' Concert also gives the freshers an opportunity to get involved and feel like they are part of The UWI community from early. University is not only about academics; it is also about the relationships you build and the experiences you have along the way," said Francis.

On Thursday, August 27, Freshers' Cocktail took place under the theme "Port of Paradise".

"The Freshers' Cocktail, themed Port of Paradise, was a premium and elegant experience designed to give incoming students an opportunity to dress up, socialise, and enjoy an evening of entertainment, fine cuisine, and networking. The event created a sophisticated atmosphere within the Freshers' Series, combining elements of Caribbean culture with exceptional food, performances, and meaningful social interaction. The objective was to create a welcoming environment where freshers could connect with one another outside of the traditional orientation setting. We wanted students from different faculties, halls of residence, and backgrounds to interact, build friendships, and develop a genuine sense of belonging within The UWI, Mona community," Francis explained.

On Friday, August 28, Freshers' Fete, under the theme "Island Fever", closed the week in a major way, with popular university DJs playing hits that saw students partying until early Saturday morning.

"Freshers' Fete was the perfect climax to an exciting and memorable week of activities. The energy was unmatched, the turnout was strong, and students came together to celebrate the beginning of their university journey in an atmosphere of unity, entertainment, and celebration. The experience was premium and exceptionally well supported.

"We would like to extend special recognition to our valued sponsors, including CPJ, which provided Str8 Vybz Rum and Angostura Chill, as well as Red Bull, Reggae Jammin', JN Bank, LASCO Food Drink, and Wisynco, through brands such as Wata and Mpowa. We are also grateful to all the other sponsors and partners who came on board and contributed to making the Freshers' Series a success," said Francis.

NORTH/MIDDLE CAICOS MP HOSTS BACK-TO-SCHOOL TREAT

On Monday, August 31, Member of Parliament for North and Middle Caicos and Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructural Development Hon. Arlington ‘Chuck’ Musgrove, staged his Back-to-school giveaways for the children of the twin islands. The day’s event saw a great deal of activities, a bouncy house and facepainting. There were also a variety of foods for children and adults alike. The children were also presented with school supplies, including backpacks, with books, pencils and pens. The following are photo highlights of the event.





Dr. So-Mei Chan, Doctor for Vessel Surveillance, Dr. Iralice Jansen, Ag. Chief Medical Officer, Mr. Quincy Sintiago, Senior Advisor to the Minister, Beulah Scott, Policy Adviser, Mr. Sharlon Melfor, SG, Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director- CARPHA, Hon. Roderick Middelhof, the Minister of Economic Development (MEO), Samantha Llanos, Epidemiologist-Visitor-Based Surveillance, Keston Daniel, Visitor-Based Surveillance Coordinator, Dr. Thathianah Rodriguez, Medical Surveillance Officer and Mr. Guido Rojer, Policer Advisor to the Minister.

ARPHA Launches the Curaçao Tourism and Health Program, Advances Visitor-Based Surveillance

The Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature (GMN) and the Ministry of Economic Development (MEO), in collaboration with the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), officially launched Curaçao's Tourism and Health Program (THP) on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at the Directorate of Risk Control and Disaster Management, showcasing Curaçao's commitment to building a safer, healthier and more resilient tourism sector.

The launch of the THP signifies the strengthening of the relationship between Health and Tourism in Curaçao as well as the partnership with CARPHA through its Regional Tourism and Health Program. It further solidifies the national commitment to integrate health and tourism to ensure resilience and long-term sustainability of tourism in Curaçao, in addition to protecting the health and well-being of both visitor and locals.

At this milestone event, Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director, CARPHA, highlighted the importance of the THP, stating, "The THP is critically important in today's rapidly shifting geopolitical and public health landscape, where diseases can cross borders faster than ever before through global travel and trade. In the Caribbean, this is even more critical given the region's highly interconnected and sometimes porous borders".

His Excellency Mr. Gilmar Pisas, Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Health, Environment and Nature, charged with Environment and Nature indicated, "Health and tourism are inextricably linked, strong tourism and health programme protects Curaçao and this protection starts with well-equipped hospitals, well functioning laboratories and reliable surveillance systems. Early warning response is the back-

bone of safe tourism. We thank Dr. Lisa Indar and her team for assisting us in joining the regional Tourism and Health Program". The launch formed part of a three-day in-country mission led by Dr. Indar, Mr. Keston Daniel, Visitor-Based Surveillance Coordinator and Ms. Samantha Llanos, Epidemiologist- Visitor-Based Surveillance from August 12–14, 2026.

The mission aimed at strengthening tourism and health collaboration while enhancing Curaçao's technical capacity for visitor-based surveillance, through the following key activities:

- High-level engagement and sensitisation session on the overall Tourism and Health Program for key stakeholders in the health and tourism sector, including Mr. Sharlon Melfor, Secretary General, GWN, Ms. Zulaika Mook, Acting Secretary General and Director of Economic Development and Innovation Division MEO, Dr. Iralice Jansen, Acting Chief Medical Officer, GMN, and other stakeholders from GWN, MEO, Curaçao Hospitality and Tourism Association (CHATA) and the Curaçao Tourism Board (CTB).
- Discussion and demonstrations of CARPHA's visitor-based, electronic, real-time confidential surveillance systems, the Tourism and Health Information System (THIS), Mass Gathering Surveillance System (MGSS) and Caribbean Vessel Surveillance System (CVSS), with stakeholders from the Ministry of Health and port operations. Stakeholders explored how these systems could be adapted to Curaçao's tourism environment to support earlier detection of public health threats and more timely response in hotels, cruise and other tourism-related settings.
- High-level engagements with representatives from the Ministries of Tourism and



Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director, CARPHA is joined by His Excellency Mr. Gilmar Pisas, Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Health, Environment and Nature, charged with Environment and Nature, along with key stakeholders from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Economic Development and CHATA following the high-level engagement.

Health, with a particular focus on the role of the tourism sector in advancing health and safety. The meeting was attended by the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Roderick Middelhof, MEO, Mr. Quincy Sintiago, Senior Advisor to the Minister, MEO, Mr. Guido Rojer, Policer Advisor to the Minister, MEO, Mr. Sharlon Melfor, Secretary General, GMN and other representatives from GMN. Discussions focused on establishing a national Tourism and Health Steering Committee and leveraging CARPHA's surveillance tools, including THIS, CVSS and MGSS, to support the early detection and response to public health threats in various tourism-based settings.

• CARPHA handed over two (2) data entry tablets and two (2) copies of the Regional Guidelines for Managing Public Health Issues in Hotel-Based Accommodations, one each to the Ministry of Health and the

Ministry of Tourism.

• Debriefing discussions on priority next steps for strengthening and expanding Curaçao's Tourism and Health Programme, including continued stakeholder sensitisation, targeted training and capacity building, and the strengthening of national systems to detect and respond to public health threats.

The mission reinforced the shared commitment of CARPHA and Curaçao to building a resilient tourism sector underpinned by strong health surveillance, cross-sector collaboration and the capacity to anticipate and respond effectively to public health threats. This mission was made possible through CARPHA's Pandemic Fund Project, "Reducing the Public Health Impact of Pandemics in the Caribbean through Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (RG-T4387)".

US oil giant Chevron confirms it will expand operations in Venezuela

Oil giant Chevron confirmed that it will expand its operations in Venezuela, just days after President Donald Trump announced an ambitious deal to develop the nation's oil reserves and give the Pentagon a stake in the profits. Chevron, the only United States oil company that has a major presence in the country, said on Wednesday that it has been assigned additional acreage in the Orinoco Belt, where the company has an established position. Joint venture plans include investing more than US\$7 billion over the next five years, more than doubling production to approximately 600,000 barrels a day compared with 2026.

"Chevron's history in Venezuela spans more than a century, and our expanded position reflects our confidence in the country's deep resource potential and its ability to compete for investment within our portfolio for decades," CEO Mike Wirth said in a prepared statement.

"With improved terms and additional acreage, we are strengthening a portfolio that we believe can deliver attractive low-cost oil growth, support energy supply and create differentiated long-term value."

Venezuela holds the world's largest proven reserves, totaling more than 303 billion barrels of crude oil, according to OPEC's 2025 Annual Statistical Bulletin.

Saudi Arabia is a distant second with 267 billion barrels. However, Venezuela's current oil output is only about 1.1 to 1.2 million barrels per day, due to factors such as political instability and international sanctions.

The announcement comes a day after a US official, who briefed reporters on the expected announcement, said that Chevron officials and Energy Secretary Chris Wright were expected to visit Venezuela on Wednesday when the new investment would be formally unveiled. The official spoke on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House for the call.

Chevron, the second-largest US oil company, has had a presence in Venezuela since 1923. Its joint ventures Petroindependencia and Petropiar, SA, operate extra-heavy oil projects in the Orinoco Oil Belt, while Petroboscan, SA, is located in the Zulia State in western Venezuela.

The White House confirmed on Monday that it is partnering with North American Blue Energy Partners as part of Trump's push to tap into Venezuela's oil industry.

The sweeping agreement has been met with skepticism from analysts who say it will take years to revive Venezuela's oil industry, which is in disarray after years of neglect.

Energy experts also have questioned whether Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodríguez has the legal authority to give the company 100-year rights over 17 oil fields with reserves of 65 billion barrels – and whether future Venezuelan or American administrations would overturn the agreement.

Trump has had his eyes on Venezuela's oil since the capture of Nicolás Maduro, and his aides call it a path away from reliance on oil from the Middle East. Trump has been pressing to get US businesses to restore a presence in



the country, and suggested on Monday that other oil companies were readying for business in Venezuela.

"We have Exxon going in, we have Chevron going in. We have our big oil companies going in," he said.

Trump in January said he was inclined to leave Exxon out of Venezuela after CEO Darren Woods called the country "uninvestable".

A spokesman for Exxon said on Tuesday, however, that "nothing has changed" on the company's position regarding Venezuela.

Venezuela's government nationalized its oil industry in 1976, and it created the state-owned company Petroleos de Venezuela SA. A second nationalization happened in 2007, with President Hugo Chavez pushing foreign oil companies into state-owned joint ventures or seizing the assets of those companies that did not agree to the joint ventures.

While Chevron agreed to become part of a joint venture, others like Exxon and ConocoPhillips refused, and Ven-

ezuela took their assets.

Asked about Chevron's announcement during an interview on Wednesday, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said, "No American firm knows how to operate in Venezuela better than Chevron."

Bessent told Fox News Channel's 'Fox & Friends' that Trump is "creating assets for the American people" with the deal and that the arrangement "is going to push down oil prices, push up production" to benefit US consumers and the Venezuelan economy.

Trump has said that the agreement with Venezuela would "substantially lower" gasoline prices in the US. However, experts have repeatedly warned that Venezuela's dilapidated oil infrastructure will require years of restoration work and tens of billions of dollars to resuscitate.

Meanwhile, the national average price for a gallon of regular gasoline jumped overnight to US\$4.12, according to the motor club AAA. That's 93 cents more than it cost at this point last year.

US Extends Ban on Flights to Haiti's Capital as Gang Violence Escalates

The US Federal Aviation Administration has extended a ban on United States flights to Haiti's capital until March next year as gang violence persists.

The ban means that commercial operators and US registered civilian aircraft can't fly below 10,000 feet (around 3,000 meters) in Port-au-Prince and nearby areas, including parts of central Haiti.

The FAA first halted such flights in November 2025 after gunmen shot at a Spirit Airlines flight as it was landing at Port-au-Prince's Toussaint Louverture International Airport. A

flight attendant received minor injuries and other commercial planes on the ground were hit.

The FAA has extended its ban several times since that incident, a move that continues to isolate Port-au-Prince from the rest of the country.

The latest extension was implemented on Tuesday and will remain in place until March 2, 2027.

Police and a UN-backed gang suppression force are trying to quell gangs that control an estimated 70 per cent of Port-au-Prince and swaths of land in Haiti's central region.



Police officers patrol a neighborhood amid gang-related violence in downtown Port-au-Prince

55% of Jamaicans face food insecurity, 28% go hungry- new UN data shows

More than half of Jamaicans are facing food insecurity, with 28 per cent experiencing severe conditions in which they go hungry or spend entire days without eating, according to new United Nations data.

Speaking on Tuesday at the launch of the 10th International Food Security and Sovereignty Conference, Dr Cecil Cornwall, head of the Western

Hospitality Institute, said 55 per cent of Jamaicans face uncertainty about having enough food, including running out of food or skipping meals. He said the situation is even more severe for many Jamaicans.

“Twenty-eight per cent experience severe conditions where they go hungry or go entire days without eating,” Dr Cornwall said.



Twenty-eight per cent experience severe conditions where they go hungry or go entire days without eating

The launch was held at the conference centre at Sandals Dunns River. The two-day conference will be held

at the resort on September 9 and 10 under the theme, “Building Resilient Food Systems for Jamaica’s Future.”

Indigenous Peoples highlight their role in driving rural economies and protecting nature

Indigenous Peoples highlighted today their critical role in building sustainable rural economies and protecting natural resources at the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Consultation of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

“Indigenous Peoples are key actors in advancing sustainable rural development and conserving nature, thanks to our ancestral knowledge, the connection to our territories, and economic models based on solidarity, collective management and respect for ecosystems,” said Jesús Amadeo Martínez, General Coordinator of the Abya Yala Indigenous Forum (FIAY), a coordination platform for Indigenous Peoples’ organizations and networks across Latin America and the Caribbean, during the opening of the event.

Organized by FIAY and the Indigenous Tourism Network of Mexico, with the support of IFAD, and participation of the Government of Mexico and UN Mexico, the meeting brings together 50 participants from 35 Indigenous Peoples in 15 countries in Teotihuacán on 31 August and 1 September.

“Indigenous Peoples are exemplary stewards of ecosystems. They show us how to pursue economic well-being while integrating social and environmental dimensions. Their ancestral knowledge and traditions offer important lessons on how to produce sustainably, care for our natural resources and ensure that future generations can enjoy them,” said Rocío Medina Bolívar, IFAD Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.



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By the end of 2025, around 43 per cent of the IFAD’s portfolio supported initiatives targeting Indigenous rural communities. ©IFAD/Fernanda Dorado.

Roberto de León Huerta, General Director for Global Affairs at Mexico’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, highlighted the role of Indigenous Peoples in strengthening food systems as agents of transformation and stewards of nature, as well as their valuable knowledge and practices rooted in traditional knowledge, their production systems and forms of community organization. De León Huerta thanked the organizers for opening this space for reflection and noted that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will always be

a willing interlocutor for dialogue and joint efforts.

The regional consultation is focused on the theme, “Indigenous Peoples’ Self-Determined Rural Economies: Knowledge, Territories and Collective Well-Being.” Indigenous Peoples promote a development model that places harmony with nature, the sustainable use of resources and community decision-making at its centre, primarily through small-scale farming, fishing, pastoralism, forest management, handicrafts, indigenous tourism and activities linked to biodiversity conservation.

However, Indigenous communities face significant barriers to reaching their full potential. Limited access to finance, infrastructure, markets and

technology; transportation and certification costs; weak participation in value chains; and connectivity gaps make it difficult for communities to capture greater value from their products and services.

Investing in rural economy

Since its establishment in 1977, IFAD has worked with Indigenous Peoples to promote rural development that recognizes their culture, identity, knowledge, natural resources and rights. By the end of 2025, around 43 percent of the Fund’s portfolio supported initiatives targeting Indigenous rural communities, with 91 projects in 45 countries. Through the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF), established in 2007, IFAD has also supported 212 projects in more than 45 countries, mobilizing approximately US\$15 million through partnerships with donors and foundations.

The Latin America and the Caribbean consultation is taking place alongside other regional and subregional consultations in the lead up to the eighth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD. The experiences, priorities and recommendations gathered through these consultations will contribute to the discussions at the global meeting, with a view to strengthening local economies, access to markets, and financing mechanisms suited to Indigenous communities, as well as the full recognition of their rights.

The global forum will take place in early 2027 in Rome, coinciding with the 50th session of IFAD’s Governing Council.

ITS NOW... ***A MAJOR TRIATHLON***



SEE PG32

ROCK HOUSE

GRACE BAY RESORT
PROVIDENCIALES

OPEN JOB POSITION SPA THERAPIST

We are seeking a proficient and enthusiastic Spa Therapist to join our team!

Job Overview: Member of the Grace Bay Resort's Spa team. Responsibilities include performing high quality massage therapy for guests in a professional manner, being familiar with all treatments and facilities offered in the Spa to assist guests effectively and ensuring that exceptional service is provided in order to meet and exceed guest expectations. This position reports to the Spa Supervisor.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Keep the treatment therapy rooms clean, tidy and well stocked with Grace Bay Club approved products
- Have full knowledge of all treatments and facilities in the Spa in order to provide assistance to any guests
- Assist guests with any queries or questions they may have
- Maintain a professional attitude when dealing with guests and offering the first-class service expected from Grace Bay Club
- Strive for guest satisfaction and desired financial results.
- Upsell services to guest.
- Recommend retail as a home care.
- Perform off property services in accordance to the operating standards
- Ensures the Spa service occurs according to operating and quality standards.
- Ensure compliance with all Spa policies, standards and procedures.
- Ensures compliance of company sanitation standards.
- Perform massages, facials, body services, nail care on guests with professionalism, care, and attentiveness to each guests' needs.
- Be familiar with massage room maintenance and laundry procedures.
- Be familiar with appointment sheets, punctuality procedures, guest late policy, and break times.
- Be familiar with room set-up and sanitation procedures.
- Be familiar with procedures for escorting guests to room and to waiting area for other services; give tour of spa.
- Understand the importance of teamwork and cooperation between the various departments in the spa.
- Strive for continuous improvement and excellence in all areas of responsibility.
- Ensure compliance of Health and Safety procedures and local laws.

- Follow Spa cleaning schedule
- Understands the operating and maintenance procedures of all departmental equipment.
- Understands the job functions of the other areas of the resort and maintains an effective relationship between departments.
- Follow energy conservation programs where applicable.
- Comply with loss prevention policies to prevent accidents and control costs.
- Provide excellent customer service.
- Each colleague is expected to carry out all reasonable requests by management which the colleague is capable of performing.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES REQUIRED

- Highschool Diploma or equivalent required
- Massage Therapy Certifications/ Training
- Minimum of 1 Year in a similar role, preferably at a 5-star resort
- Friendly and professional demeanor
- Knowledge of Spa operational procedures
- Knowledge of Spa and Health Club service standards
- Ability to use standard software applications and hotel systems
- Knowledge of safety standards

Full time. Weekend and holiday work may be required.

Salary \$8.00 - \$9.00 per hour
Service Charge

Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2.

Qualified candidates should submit their Resumes to our Human Resources Department via Email: humanresources@rockhouseressort.com or hand deliver applications at our office on #1 International Drive, Providenciales. Positions marked with an * are currently being held by a work permit holder.

Deadline for submission: September 15th , 2026

Coach Aaron Lawrence Takes His Goalkeeping Expertise Back to the Classroom in Punta Cana

For Aaron Lawrence, the opportunity to spend a week working alongside goalkeeper coaches from across the Caribbean was not simply another course to add to his coaching credentials. It was an opportunity to bring new ideas back to the goalkeepers he work with every day in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The TCIFA National Goalkeeper Coach recently participated in the CFU Elite Youth Goalkeeper Coaching Course in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, held alongside the CFU Boys' U-14 Challenge Series.

The course formed part of the wider FIFA Talent Development Scheme (TDS), with the Caribbean Football Union and Concacaf supporting the regional delivery of the programme. The initiative focused specifically on developing coaches who work with young goalkeepers and strengthening the quality of goalkeeper development across the region. For Lawrence, that focus was closely connected to his work at home.

Since joining the TCIFA's technical programme, Lawrence has worked with goalkeepers across the Association's national team pathway, from youth teams through to the senior programme. His role is centred on the specialised development of goalkeepers, helping players build the technical ability, decision-making and confidence required to compete at the international level.

Over the years, Lawrence has be-

come a familiar presence around the national teams, working directly with players on the training ground while also contributing to the wider technical programme. His experience has included coaching at different age levels as well as serving as Head Coach of the Turks and Caicos Islands Women's and Men's National Football Teams.

The CFU course provided, yet, another opportunity to build on his coaching education..

Through practical sessions, technical discussions and exchanges with other coaches, Lawrence explored approaches to developing young goalkeepers and gained further insight into how goalkeeper coaching is evolving within the region.

The Association's investment in talent development is not limited to identifying promising players. It also means ensuring that the coaches working with those players have access to continued education, new methodologies and opportunities to learn from their counterparts across the region.

The FIFA Talent Development Scheme supports this broader approach by recognising that sustainable talent development requires strong technical structures and properly supported coaches, as well as talented players.

For Lawrence, the experience in Punta Cana provided an opportunity to return to the Turks and Caicos Islands with additional knowledge that can be applied directly to his work.



Aaron Lawrence, the TCI Goalkeeping Coach (sixth from left) share in the photo moment with counterparts from the Caribbean.

Photo: TCIFA



Aaron Lawrence, the TCI Goalkeeping Coach, collects a certification following the goalkeeping coach course in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

The objective is not simply to produce better goalkeepers for the next competition. It is to build a stronger foundation for goalkeeper development in the Turks and Caicos Islands; one that gives young players the opportunity to progress, compete and eventual-

ly take responsibility for the national teams themselves. The lessons from Punta Cana will now return to the training ground in the Turks and Caicos Islands, where Lawrence's work continues.

Source: TCIFA

Turks and Caicos Opens First-Ever Certification Programme for Its National Saltwater Flats Fishing Guides

The Turks and Caicos Fly Fishing Association (TCFFA) held the opening ceremony recently for the Turks and Caicos National Saltwater Flats Fishing Guide Certification, the first formal, nationally recognised training standard ever established for flats fishing guides in the territory.

Flats fishing, the pursuit of bonefish, tarpon and permit across shallow tropical flats with a fly rod, is regarded among serious anglers as one of the most demanding and refined disciplines in sport fishing. The flats of the Turks and Caicos and Bahamian Islands draw some of the sport's most discerning travellers, the majority of them from the United States, along with recognisable names such as Liam Neeson, Kevin Costner and Roger Waters. The guides who made that experience possible in the Turks and Caicos Islands had no access to a formal, nationally recognised industry standard of their own, one they could use to keep training aspiring anglers and creating opportunity for our youth. Now they do.

Her Excellency the Governor, Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, attended the ceremony and addressed the inaugural cohort.

"Conservation and prosperity do not have to be competing priorities," she said. "When approached responsibly, they can reinforce one another." The Governor tied the programme to the 10th anniversary of the UK's Blue Belt Programme, which the Turks and Caicos Islands was the first Overseas Territory to join, and pointed to flats fishing as one of the most sought-after sports on the water, one the Turks and Caicos Islands, with its shallow flats and clear water, is uniquely positioned to offer at a world-class standard.

The TCFFA, founded and led by President Leandro Talbot, began collaboration in 2024 with Prescott Smith, then President, and Denward Rankine of the Bahamas Fly Fishing Industry Association (BFFIA), leading to a formal Memorandum of Understanding between the organisations to establish a flats fishing guide certification programme in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Reaching this milestone took the concerted effort of a Guide Panel of subject-matter experts, together with Ann Albury, curriculum developer and Executive Director of BFFIA, who helped develop the Turks and Caicos National Saltwater Flats Fishing Guide Certification curriculum, designed to prepare two streams of trainees: veteran guides pursuing certification as instructors, and novice guides entering the field.

The certification is funded by the UK Government's Biodiversity Challenge Funds through the Darwin Plus Programme, delivered in partnership with BFFIA. Invest Turks and Caicos Islands has also partnered on the programme, alongside the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources Management (DFMRM), within the Turks and Caicos Ministry of Tourism.



The programme combines classroom instruction with on-the-water practicum training, covering flycasting technique, fish handling and catch-and-release ethics, client service, safety, boat maintenance and responsible use of the flats, together with communication training so guides can communicate knowledgeably with clients about the environment they work in. Trainees who complete the course are certified through the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC), as part of its Blue Economy Initiative Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programme and its formal quality assurance framework, giving the certification lasting institutional standing. "We are guardians of this environment," said Captain Talbot, President of TCFFA. "Guides have carried that role for generations, through knowledge passed down and years on the water. This certification puts a formal structure behind it and gives the Government the foundation to legislate licensing for flats guiding. Fishing is one of the last resources still in the hands of Turks Islanders — protecting it is economic democracy, keeping the benefit

of these flats with the people whose traditions built this industry."

"At the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College, our responsibility extends beyond the delivery of education. We must ensure that the programmes we develop are aligned with the needs of our economy, responsive to our communities and capable of creating meaningful opportunities for our people.

"The Flats Fishing Guide Certification Programme represents an important step in strengthening this specialised area of our blue economy by introducing structured training, quality assurance and recognised certification. This inaugural cohort marks only the beginning.

"Through our Technical and Vocational Education and Training initiatives, the College is committed to building on this programme, strengthening local instructional capacity and expanding access to certification. Our goal is to equip more Turks and Caicos Islanders with the skills, knowledge and professional credentials needed not only to enter the industry, but to lead, innovate and create sustainable opportunities

within it," said Dr. Candice Williams, President and CEO of TCICC.

A team of Master Instructors from BFFIA travelled to Providenciales to lead the practicum, drawn from the Association's own leadership and board: President James "Docky" Smith, Vice-President Denward Rankine, and board members Omeko Glington, Nathaniel Gilbert and Paul Pinder — among the most accomplished flats instructors in the region. Their presence reflects a partnership between two island nations that share the same fishery and the same conviction that flats guiding belongs in local hands.

The inaugural cohort brings together veterans with decades on the water and young guides entering the profession for the first time. Seven of the territory's most experienced saltwater fly fishermen are completing the Turks and Caicos National Saltwater Flats Fishing Guide Instructor Certification: Daren Bain of DB Tours, Edison Brooks of Generation Tours, Arthur Dean of Silver Deep, Edward Missick of Catch the Wave Charters and Leandro Talbot of Talbot's Adventures, all of Providenciales; Derrel Handfield of Outback and Creek, North Caicos; and Edward Lockhart of Silver Shallows, South Caicos. Training alongside them toward the Turks and Caicos National Saltwater Flats Fishing Guide Certification are Quinbey Gray of North Caicos; Joseph Musgrove and Danyanno Seymour of Providenciales; and David Clare Jr. of South Caicos. From this point forward, Turks and Caicos can train its own — not a course delivered to us, but a capacity built into us.

TCFFA said the certification is designed to put local participation first, and that yesterday's ceremony is only the beginning. The Association is now seeking funding for a second cohort, specifically to bring additional certification to youth in South Caicos and the other Sister Islands, creating a formal, skills-based path for young Turks Islanders into what the territory markets as a beautiful-by-nature profession, one built on protecting the marine environment rather than depleting it.

The launch and cohort were also supported by Graceway Communities, Ashlar Group, Beaches Turks and Caicos, InterCaribbean Airways, Talbot's Adventures and Caicos Media.

The project's team leaders on the Darwin-awarded initiative are Leandro Talbot, President of TCFFA and CEO of Talbot's Adventures; Estefanía Arrochet, Communications for TCFFA and executive at Caicos Media; and Dr. Ed Butler, Scientific Advisor to TCFFA and Founder and Director of local non-profit research organisation Roots2Reef.

TCFFA will document the inaugural cohort's progress through practicum classes on the water over the coming months. Organisations interested in supporting the programme, including its planned second cohort, can reach TCFFA at comms@tcffa.info.

Mini-Triathlon Gaining Traction

Salt Rakers event set for October 31

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club Mini-Triathlon is generating a great deal of interest ahead of its scheduled staging on Saturday, October 31, 2026.

The event is expected to attract swimmers, cyclists and runners from across the Turks and Caicos Islands, bringing athletes and supporters together for a day of competition, fitness and community involvement.

Participants will compete in the three traditional triathlon disciplines of swimming, cycling and running. The format will give athletes from different sporting backgrounds an opportunity to test their endurance, demonstrate their skills and challenge themselves in a friendly but competitive environment.

Organizers are working hard behind the scenes to ensure the Mini-Triathlon is safe, enjoyable and well organized for everyone involved. Volunteers, officials and supporters are also playing important roles in the preparations and will help with the smooth running of the event on competition day.

The growing interest surrounding the Mini-Triathlon reflects the increasing appeal of multisport



Benneth Williams, head of the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club

competition in the territory. It also demonstrates the enthusiasm of residents who want more opportunities to participate in organized sporting activities and support local athletes.

A major goal of the event is to promote the continued development of triathlon throughout the Turks

and Caicos Islands. Organizers hope the competition will encourage more young people and adults to become involved in swimming, cycling and running, whether for recreation, fitness or competitive sport.

The Mini-Triathlon could also provide a platform for identifying

promising athletes who may have the potential to represent the Turks and Caicos Islands in future regional and international competitions. By introducing more people to the demands and rewards of the sport, the event could help build a stronger foundation for triathlon across the islands.

Beyond the competition itself, the occasion is expected to highlight the value of teamwork, discipline, healthy living and community support. It will allow experienced competitors and newcomers alike to share the course, pursue personal goals and celebrate their achievements.

Supporters are being encouraged to attend and cheer on the competitors as they move through each stage of the challenge. Their presence will add energy to the occasion and reinforce the strong community spirit surrounding local sport across the territory.

The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club is looking forward to welcoming athletes, volunteers and supporters from throughout the islands on October 31. With excitement continuing to build, the Mini-Triathlon is shaping up to be an enjoyable and memorable sporting occasion for participants and spectators alike.

‘Whisper’ Richards joins Wimbledon on loan

Jamaican footballer Dajuan “Whisper” Richards has completed a season-long loan move from English Premier League club Chelsea FC to third tier team AFC Wimbledon, the teams announced Tuesday.

The 20-year-old Richards has been at Chelsea since 2024 but has been unable to break into the star-studded senior team.

“We’re really excited for Du-

juan to join the squad, he’s a quality player with exciting attributes. He’s a really talented player that will get the fans off their seats and we’re pleased he’s joined the club,” said Craig Cope, Director of Football at AFC Wimbledon, which finished 19th in League One last season.

The talented Richards was signed by Chelsea straight out high school in Jamaica following an outstanding season for

Kingston College, where he scored over 30 goals.

After a flying start with the under-21 team at Chelsea, Richard’s development was impacted by a major knee injury which required surgery. He spent last season attempting to get his development back on track, but a loan move to Championship club Leicester City saw him making just a few cameo appearances for The Foxes.



Dajuan “Whisper” Richards