

**ISLANDER
FULHAM-BOUND**



PG36

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Four TCI Police Officers Sent to Jamaica for Advanced Detective Training

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force is stepping up capacity-building efforts among its ranks, sending four officers to Jamaica for advanced training in professional detective practice. The officers are among 35 participants welcomed by the National Police College of Jamaica as Semester Two of the Advanced Diploma in Professional Detective Practice programme gets underway. The 40-week programme began on April 27, 2026, and is being delivered across three semesters using a blended format. The first semester was conducted online, while the second involves face-to-face residential training. The final semester will consist of on-the-job training. Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey said the officers’ participation forms part of the Force’s wider modernization programme, with particular emphasis on capacity building and succession planning. “As a part of the Force modernization effort, one of the things that we are doing is capacity building and succession planning,” Bailey said. “This cohort of persons will be formally trained as detectives and, as indicated, they will be issued with a well-recognized diploma in detective practice.” The Commissioner described the course as a comprehensive programme that will



BAILEY “... If we are going to modernize the Force, we have to build capacity...”

provide officers with formal investigative training and practical experience. He said the Force is also seeking to have the officers complete the practical attachment component of the programme in Jamaica, where they can benefit from mentorship and exposure to a larger investigative environment. “One other thing that we are trying to do is to ensure that the attachment is done

not on island, but in Jamaica, so they can get proper mentorship in terms of investigation,” Bailey said. “At the end of the day, we believe that the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force will be better served by the training they receive and the application of that training.” Bailey said the benefits are expected to extend beyond the four participat-

ing officers. Upon their return, they will be expected to share their knowledge and mentor other detectives within the Force. He added that the initiative represents the beginning of a broader programme, with additional cohorts expected to receive similar training. “This is just the beginning of several other cohorts that will be sent because, if we are going to modernize the Force, we have to build capacity—particularly our investigative capacity,” the Commissioner said. The detective training forms part of a wider professional-development drive across several areas of policing. Bailey said officers have already received advanced tactical training, with a follow-up course being planned. The Force is also investing in the development of supervisors and middle managers. More than 15 middle managers have completed an internationally accredited junior command course, while two officers recently completed similar training at the Guyana Police Training College. Bailey said the Force will continue to explore training opportunities in other jurisdictions as it works to strengthen leadership, operational readiness and investigative capabilities throughout the organization.

Virtuoso Ranks Turks and Caicos Islands #4 Worldwide for Festive Travel

The Turks and Caicos Islands ranks among the top ten countries in the world for festive season travel, according to Virtuoso, the leading global network of agencies specialising in luxury and experiential travel. The Turks and Caicos Islands ranked fourth among countries for festive travel, while Providenciales is tenth among the world’s top ten festive season destinations. The rankings were revealed in Virtuoso’s latest travel trends report which was unveiled during the 38th annual Virtuoso Travel Week in Las Vegas. The report found that the festive travel season, which runs from late November through early January, is particularly strong among Virtuoso Travel Advisors, with bookings for 2026 up 65 percent and sales increasing by 56 percent. “Being ranked among the world’s top festive travel destinations by Virtuoso is an-

other strong endorsement of the Turks and Caicos Islands’ position as one of the premier luxury destinations in the world. While we’re encouraged by this recognition, our focus remains on delivering exceptional visitor experiences, strengthening airlift, and ensuring tourism growth continues to create opportunities for our people. With additional flights coming online this autumn and strong demand already evident, we’re looking forward to another successful festive season.” The positive outlook for the festive season comes as the Turks and Caicos Islands prepares for increased airlift from October, with new and expanded services from key US and Canadian markets adding capacity during one of the destination’s busiest travel periods. United Airlines will launch new nonstop service from Denver to Providenciales, with BermudAir launching services from Fort Lauderdale, Be-



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly

lize, Raleigh/Durham, Boston, Baltimore/Washington DC, St Pete/Tampa, Toronto, Cayman Islands, Anguilla and Bermuda. Porter Airlines will add service from Toronto and Ottawa, further expanding access from important North American markets. This increased capacity positions the Turks and Caicos Islands to capitalise on the strong demand identified in the Virtuoso report. Experience Turks and Caicos was represented at Virtuoso Travel Week by its US marketing agency, ABA Global. Experience Turks and Caicos sponsored breakfast,

lunch and snacks in the Pinnacle Lounge, attracting some of Virtuoso’s top travel advisors and creating opportunities for meaningful conversations and quality engagement around the destination. The team also held meetings with more than 100 travel advisors, strengthening relationships with key industry partners and keeping the Turks and Caicos Islands top of mind among the advisors who influence high-value travel decisions. The Turks and Caicos Islands is a Virtuoso Preferred Destination with nine Virtuoso properties.



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

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- Ensure Acceptance Test Plan (ATP) are executed at the end of each installation and signed by customer
- Ensure that Customer Acceptance Form (CAF) and Customer Premise Equipment Form (CPEF) are signed by customer at the end of each installation.
- Maintain a database of customer installations which includes device inventory, SOW, network diagrams, circuit diagrams, software licenses and ATP.
- Ensures that services are delivered to customers in a timely and professional manner.
- Ensure that all DIA, Fixed Voice and Cloud elements are implemented with appropriate level of security, and interfaces to allow for full surveillance and remote monitoring.
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- Cisco CCNP Voice or Check Point CCSA will be an asset
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- Network Security.
- Structure and operation of Internet gateway links.
- Network planning, engineering and development.
- Report writing Additionally, should be familiar with:
 - Project management of medium to large projects, preferably rolled out to users across multiple sites
 - Analytical and performance reporting/generating tools.
 - SLA development and performance management tools.
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Compensation: USD\$55,000 – 60,000 per annum

DEADLINE: Positions open to all qualified Turks and Caicos nationals. Interested applicants can forward their resumes to hrtic@digicelgroup.com The closing date for applications is August 28th , 2026

PDM Rejects Premier's Claims, Insists Party Leadership Remains United

The People's Democratic Movement (PDM) has rejected Premier Washington Misick's suggestion that Opposition Leader Edwin Astwood surrendered his constitutional responsibility to someone outside Parliament, insisting that its leadership speaks with one united voice.

In a strongly worded statement, the PDM said Astwood and party leader Douglas Parnell represent a position reached through the organisation's internal democratic processes—not the wishes of any single individual.

"No one in the PDM answers to a single man," the party declared, adding that the movement is governed by a constitution and led by officers elected at its National Convention.

According to the PDM, both Astwood and Parnell are authorised to communicate the party's agreed positions. It described that arrangement as evidence of a functioning political organisation whose representatives are accountable to its membership.

The statement follows criticism from Premier Misick over the Opposition's



PDM Leader Doug Parnell



Premier Hon. Washington Misick



Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood

position on proposed constitutional changes, including measures that would expand the Executive and introduce parliamentary secretaries.

The PDM said it would not support those changes unless corresponding measures were introduced in Parliament to provide appropriate democratic balance and oversight.

It also defended Astwood's right to revise his position after considering new information or observing what it described as revealing conduct by the Progressive National Party Government.

"Besides, the Leader of the Opposition is entitled to change his mind considering new information or revealing dynamics and behaviour by the PNP Government," the party said.

The PDM maintained that the dispute is about policy and accountability rather than personalities or an internal power struggle. It argued that members who helped elect a party to office should be consulted on major policies and decisions.

The party also pointed to the Premier's statement in Parliament that the Constitution belongs to the people, saying it agrees with that principle.

It said this was why the proposed expansion of executive power was reviewed by the PDM's National General Council, which it described as the party's highest authority outside its National Convention, before the Opposition changed its position.

The PDM argued that its internal review should not be portrayed as a hostile takeover or an attempt to undermine the Leader of the Opposition.

Turning its criticism directly toward Misick, the party questioned whether the Premier was in a position to lecture its officers about leadership and internal governance.

It claimed Misick had faced public disagreements concerning leadership within his own party and alleged that he had not been elected at what the

PDM considered a properly constituted party convention. The statement invited the public to decide whether his criticism was motivated by principle or political convenience.

By contrast, the PDM said all its current officers were legitimately elected during a National Convention that attracted what it described as the largest turnout and strongest display of unity in the party's history.

The party said Parnell, Astwood and the full slate of elected officers remain united, accountable to the membership and focused on national concerns.

Among the issues highlighted were healthcare, electricity costs, government expenditure and the justification for increasing the size of the Executive.

The PDM accused the Premier of attempting to shift the public conversation away from those matters and toward the internal workings of the Opposition.

"Mr. Misick would prefer the country talk about party mechanics," the statement said. "The PDM will keep the conversation where it belongs—on the critical issues of the day affecting our people and finding effective ways to solve them."

The exchange signals that debate over constitutional reform is likely to remain politically contentious, particularly over whether expanding the Executive would improve governance or concentrate additional power without sufficient parliamentary safeguards.

For the PDM, however, the immediate message is that its revised stance represents a collective party decision rather than a surrender of Astwood's authority. The Opposition insists its leadership remains united as it presses the Government to explain why the proposed expansion is necessary.

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Government Will Negotiate Lower Electricity Rates With Pelican

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Pelican Energy customers across the Turks and Caicos Islands have seen their electricity bills shoot up, due largely to geopolitical developments, primarily the conflict between the United States and Iran, which have driven international fuel prices higher.

Against that backdrop, the Turks and Caicos Islands Government said it will negotiate with Pelican Energy for lower electricity rates when that power company's license comes to and end, but in the meantime, will devise ways to cushion the current cost to customers.

This pledge was made by Minister of Technology, Innovation and Energy Hon. E. Jay Saunders has promised, while fielding questions on the Financially Speaking show with host Drexwell Seymour.

Saunders acknowledged the strain that high electricity bills are placing on households and businesses. He said consumers should see relief during the Government's current term as it seeks a lower overall rate and reduces the territory's dependence on diesel-generated electricity.

"We're going to negotiate a lower rate with Pelican," Saunders affirmed, adding that the Government intends to assemble a specialist negotiating team that will include an economist, an accountant and an attorney with relevant experience.

Saunders explained that electricity bills comprise two principal components: a base rate and a fuel factor. The base rate covers the electricity provider's operating expenses, investments and return, while the fuel factor changes in response to movements in international fuel prices.

The current base rate is 27.5 cents per kilowatt-hour. According to Saunders, former electricity provider FortisTCI had applied for a six per cent increase. The application remained active after Pelican Energy acquired the company, but the minister said the new owner withdrew it following pressure from the Government.

He described preventing that proposed increase as an important first step because it avoided raising the starting

point from which the Government must now negotiate.

"Our goal is to start to drive down the base rate," he said. "We didn't want it to go up high and then have to negotiate it down."

Saunders said the more volatile portion of consumers' electricity bills is the fuel factor. Between 2016 and 2021, he said, the charge was at times as low as four cents and did not exceed approximately 17 cents. It recently shot up to about 30.8 cents amid higher international fuel costs.

The minister attributed the latest increase largely to geopolitical events, including hostilities involving the United States and Iran and concerns about fuel supplies through the Strait of Hormuz. Since the Turks and Caicos Islands produces most of its electricity using imported diesel, international disruptions can quickly affect local electricity bills. The Government has capped the fuel factor charged to consumers at 22 cents and is absorbing the difference. Saunders said that figure was based on a similar measure implemented after Russia's invasion of Ukraine caused global energy prices to rise.

Residents were also provided with a \$500 cost-of-living relief payment, which Saunders said was partly intended to help households meet higher electricity expenses. Consumers were expected to face another month of elevated fuel costs, but the Government would continue subsidising the fuel factor.

Saunders cautioned that increased consumption during the summer is also contributing to larger bills. He said his own electricity use rose by approximately 50 per cent between two billing periods.

Residents who believe the consumption recorded on their bills is inaccurate should contact Pelican Energy, he said. Consumers may also raise unresolved concerns with the Department of Consumer Affairs.

However, the minister stressed that conservation alone would not resolve the territory's underlying energy challenge. Approximately 95 per cent of electricity generation currently depends on diesel, leaving the Turks and Caicos Islands highly exposed to geopolitical events and sudden changes in interna-



SAUNDERS: "I guarantee we will come out of this with more renewable energy as a mix and lower rates."

tional fuel prices.

Saunders said the long-term solution is to substantially increase the percentage of electricity generated from renewable sources, particularly solar energy. The Government hopes to reduce diesel's share of electricity generation first to 60 per cent, then 50 per cent and eventually 40 per cent or lower.

Pelican Energy, which Saunders described as a renewable-energy-focused fund, has indicated that it will invest in cleaner energy. The Government intends to hold the company to those commitments, he added.

While Saunders did not guarantee that every individual component of an electricity bill would decline, he said the Government's objective is to secure a lower combined rate.

The base rate could remain unchanged or even increase slightly following an assessment of the investments needed to maintain and improve the electricity network. However, a lower and more stable fuel factor, combined with greater use of solar power, could still reduce the total amount consumers pay.

Saunders said the upcoming negotiations are likely to take place as Pelican Energy seeks a new unified licence covering the islands it serves.

Pelican acquired shares in the existing electricity company rather than receiving a new long-term licence. As a result, the clock continued running on the utility's existing licences. With fewer than 10 years reportedly remaining, Saun-

ders believes the Government is now in a stronger position to negotiate new terms.

Pelican is understood to favour a combined licence instead of separate arrangements for Grand Turk, Salt Cay, South Caicos and its other service areas. Saunders said the Government intends to use the licensing discussions to secure better rates and other favourable conditions for consumers. Preparing the technical team may take several months, but negotiations are expected to begin once the necessary expertise is in place.

He suggested that consumers should see progress on rates and renewable-energy production within one to two years. "We know that the rates are very high," Saunders said. "This is no secret. We have one of the highest rates in the region."

The minister acknowledged that the Government cannot control international fuel markets or prevent geopolitical events from affecting prices. However, he said it can reduce the territory's vulnerability by diversifying electricity production and negotiating a more favourable regulatory arrangement.

Saunders expressed confidence that the negotiations and planned renewable-energy investments would ultimately produce meaningful savings for consumers.

"I guarantee we will come out of this with more renewable energy as a mix and lower rates," he said.

Twenty Years Too Late — TCI’s Consumer Protection “Exercise” Is Not Governance

By Paladin

Consumer protection is supposed to mean something. In most countries, it signals a government’s commitment to shield its people from exploitation, unfair pricing, deceptive practices, and predatory markets. But here in the Turks and Caicos Islands, “consumer protection” has become a phrase without a structure, a promise without a plan, and now—after twenty years of silence—a hurried “exercise” meant to placate a population pushed to the brink.

Let’s be honest: the Government did not wake up one morning with a sudden passion for consumer rights. They acted because the people cried out. They acted because the cost of living became unbearable. They acted because they found themselves politically cornered, forced to hand out money disguised as a stimulus package. And even that was not a correction—it was a bandage. A national insult. A \$500 apology for twenty years of ignoring the very people they claim to serve.

Now we are told that a “Consumer Protection Compliance Drive” will take place from July 13–17, 2026. Five days. Five days to address a problem that has been festering since 2005. Five days to inspect retail stores after two decades of unchecked price gouging. Five days to pretend that governance is happening. What does an “exercise” really mean? In plain

language, it means temporary. It means superficial. It means: “Don’t worry, merchants—this is just for show. You can go back to gouging the people in thirty days or so.” That is the message this government is sending, whether they admit it or not.

And the merchants understand it perfectly. **Where You ‘Bin?’**

There is a song played before every election in this country—“Where You Bin?” It’s a cultural reminder of how politicians suddenly appear in your home six months before voting day, promising the moon, shaking hands, hugging babies. But once elected, they vanish. You cannot get them on the phone. You cannot get an appointment. You cannot find them in their office—if they ever show up there at all.

This consumer protection “exercise” feels exactly like that song. A performance. A visit. A gesture. Not governance.

Twenty Years Too Late

The consumer protection problem did not begin last week. It did not begin last year. It began in 2005, when the first calls for price oversight and consumer fairness were raised. Since then, successive governments—blue, yellow, red, whatever colour—have ignored the issue. They have allowed merchants to operate without oversight, without accountability, without consequence.

Now, twenty years later, we get a five day inspection. This is not governance. This is pro-

crastination dressed up as policy.

The Real Failure: No Statutory Body

Here is the truth the Government will not say out loud: **There is no Consumer Protection Authority in the Turks and Caicos Islands.** No Price Control Unit. No Competition Commission. No watchdog. No enforcement body with teeth.

The Consumer Protection Ordinance itself explicitly states that the Department has **no power to regulate prices.** None. Zero. So even if inspectors find evidence of systematic gouging, they cannot do anything meaningful about it. This is why the “exercise” is pointless. This is why merchants are not worried. This is why consumers remain unprotected. You cannot enforce what the law does not empower you to enforce.

Why Not Build Something Permanent?

If the Government were serious, they would use the findings of this compliance drive to establish a **permanent statutory watchdog agency**—one that:

- monitors prices monthly
- investigates profiteering
- demands cost justification
- issues fines
- prosecutes violations
- protects consumers year round, not for five days

Instead, we get a temporary sweep and a press release. This is not governance. This is theatre.

A Pattern of Governance Failure

This op ed is not just about consumer protection. It is about governance in the Turks and Caicos Islands more broadly. For years, we have seen policies announced without structure, initiatives launched without follow through, and promises made without timelines. There is no coherent 3–5 year plan. No long term goals that survive a change in political party. No institutional continuity.

Everything is reactive. Nothing is proactive. Everything is short term. Nothing is strategic. And the people pay the price—literally.

The People Deserve Better

Consumer protection should not be a political stunt. It should not be a five day exercise. It should not be triggered only when the people cry out in the streets. It should be a permanent, structured, statutory commitment to fairness, transparency, and accountability.

The Government has had twenty years to build this. They did not. Now they scramble. The people deserve better. The people deserve protection. The people deserve governance—not gestures.

And until a real Consumer Protection Authority is established, until price oversight becomes law, until merchants know that someone is watching every month—not every election cycle—this “exercise” will remain exactly what it is: A performance. A distraction. A belated apology for twenty years of inaction.

TCI Cannot Build Its Way Into “Affordable Housing” — We Need a New Model Entirely

By Paladin

For years, the phrase “affordable housing” has been repeated across the Turks and Caicos Islands as if saying it often enough will make it real. But anyone who has ever built a home, renovated a room, or even priced out a pallet of cement knows the truth: affordable housing, as currently defined, is structurally impossible in TCI.

Not because government lacks goodwill. Not because developers are greedy. But because the formula itself is wrong.

Across the Caribbean, countries have tried to solve the housing dilemma by promising “low cost” or “affordable” homes. Yet the Math never works. Why? Because the cost of building a mansion and the cost of building a modest guest house begin with the same fixed inputs:

- Cement
- Steel
- Lumber
- Windows
- Roofing
- Electrical and plumbing components
- Shipping
- Duties
- Labor

These costs do not magically shrink because a home is intended for a lower income family. The Caribbean has been pretending otherwise for decades. If TCI is serious about housing its people, we must stop trying to force affordability out of an unaffordable cost structure.

1. The Real Fix Starts With Inputs, Not Houses

The only meaningful way to reduce construction costs is to reduce the cost of the materials themselves. That requires a Government Developer Cost Partnership—not subsidies, not political announcements, not new mortgage schemes. This partnership would:

- Identify a pre approved list of materials and technologies

- Exempt them from duties and VAT
- Fast track their customs clearance
- Negotiate regional bulk pricing so developers can buy cheaper

This alone can reduce construction costs by 18–30%. That is real affordability—not the imaginary kind.

2. Our Building Code Is Stuck in the Past

TCI sits in a hurricane zone, yet our building code is outdated and inconsistent. Even worse, we allow modern prefab and modular systems for hotels and tourism projects—but not for citizens. If it’s safe enough for tourists, why is it not safe enough for Turks Islanders?

Other hurricane prone regions—Florida, Puerto Rico, USVI, Cayman, Japan—have already modernized their codes to allow:

- Prefab hurricane rated homes
- Modular steel frame systems
- ICF and SIPs
- Snap on and panelized construction

These systems cut construction time by 40–60% and cost by 20–35%. TCI is leaving these savings on the table.

3. Land Is the Real Price Killer — And Most People Don’t Own Any

Let’s be honest: the biggest cost in TCI is not the house—it’s the land beneath it. And here is the uncomfortable truth: most of the people who need housing the most do not own land. So how does a Mortgage Corporation help them?

The entire premise of a mortgage corporation is to lend against the value of land you already own. If you have no land, you have no collateral. And if you have no collateral, you do not qualify for the loan. This is why a mortgage corporation does nothing for the people who actually need homes.

A smarter model is the Citizen Land Lease + Equity System, used successfully in places like Bermuda, Singapore, and Hawaii. Government retains ownership of the land but grants citizens:

- 99 year renewable leases

- Full equity in the structure
- The right to sell the structure (not the land)
- The right to pass the lease to heirs

This reduces upfront costs by 40–50% and protects land from speculative flipping.

4. Replace Mortgages with a Staircase — And Replace Banks with a Corporate Credit Union

Traditional mortgages assume high income, high down payments, and high job stability. That is not the reality for many families.

A better approach is a three stage pathway:

Stage 1: Rent to Own (5–7 years)
Part of the rent becomes equity.

Stage 2: Shared Equity (Years 7–15)
Citizen owns most of the structure; government retains a stabilizing share.

Stage 3: Full Ownership (Year 15+)
Citizen buys out the remainder at a fixed, non inflated rate.

But even this pathway requires a financial institution that works for the people, not against them. That is why TCI should create a Corporate Credit Union, not a mortgage corporation.

A credit union:

- Is owned by the people
- Operates under a different mandate
- Allows creative, acceptable banking models
- Helps citizens save for down payments
- Keeps profits circulating among members

This is empowerment, not debt.

5. Let Turks Islanders Invest — And Profit

If government partners with a proven development company to build this new housing ecosystem, why not allow Turks Islanders to buy shares and raise part of the capital? Why should all the profit go to banks or outside lenders?

If homes are going to be sold, and someone is going to make a tidy profit, why shouldn’t the people be the ones who benefit? This is how you turn housing into empowerment—not just shelter.

The Bottom Line

TCI cannot achieve affordability by repeating the

same formula that has failed across the Caribbean. We need a new model—one that:

- Lowers the cost of inputs
- Modernizes the building code
- Separates land from structure
- Replaces mortgages with a staged ownership pathway
- Creates a Corporate Credit Union to empower citizens financially
- Allows Turks Islanders to invest and profit from the development

This is how we build homes that Turks Islanders can actually live in—not just dream about. The question now is whether we have the courage to redesign the system instead of repainting the same broken one.



Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

NEWSLINE TCI is located at
1085 Leeward Highway,
Providenciales,
Turks & Caicos Islands, BW1.

Our numbers are:
1649 348-9587
1649 242-6695
You can email us at
contact@newslinetci.com or
viviantyson@newslinetci.com

Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

Return and Help Build Turks and Caicos, Minister Urges Students

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor is encouraging young people who pursue higher education overseas to return home and use their knowledge and skills to help build the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Taylor made the appeal during the 2026 Beaches Turks and Caicos Summer Internship Graduation Ceremony, held on Thursday, August 13, at the Caribbean Village Conference Room.

Approximately 120 students graduated from the internship programme after gaining practical experience across various departments at the resort.

Addressing the graduates, Taylor expressed concern that many young people leave the Turks and Caicos Islands to study in the United Kingdom or the United States but do not return after completing their education.

"How are you going to be that change for the Turks and Caicos Islands if you decide to provide growth for another country?" she asked.

The Minister urged the graduates to consider the meaningful impact they could make at home after acquiring international qualifications and experience.

She said the Government had been intentional in creating educational opportunities for students transitioning from secondary school, including tuition-free education at the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College.

"What you are leaving home for is already available," she told the students.

Taylor said the Community College had been strengthened in response to the 2017 National Skills Audit to provide programmes aligned with the country's workforce and development needs.



Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture and Deryck Meany, the Beaches Turks and Caicos Islands Manager share in a celebratory moment with an elite group of Beaches Interns called Shining Stars, at the Interns Graduation Ceremony on Thursday, August 13.

She explained that attending the Community College could also create a pathway to scholarship opportunities overseas. Some of the students recently awarded scholarships to study abroad had first attended the institution, she noted.

According to the Minister, those students demonstrated their willingness to take advantage of the educational opportunities available at home before seeking assistance to continue their studies overseas.

Taylor also encouraged students to carefully examine the financial realities of studying abroad, particularly the high cost of accommodation and other living expenses in the United Kingdom.

She said the Turks and Caicos Islands Government provides scholarships to support students pursuing higher education, with recipients expected to return and contribute to the country upon completing their studies.

The Minister clarified that scholarship recipients are not required to work in the public service to fulfil their bond ob-

ligations. Returning graduates may work for private-sector companies or other organisations in the Turks and Caicos Islands and still satisfy the service requirements attached to their scholarships.

"If you are given a scholarship and you return home, we don't care who you work with," Taylor explained. "Just return home and find work."

She said the scholarship policy was amended after it became clear that returning graduates were not always able to find immediate employment within the Government.

Under the revised policy, graduates can use their qualifications throughout the local economy while completing the required period of service.

Taylor also encouraged the interns to consider employment opportunities at Beaches Turks and Caicos and other local businesses while continuing their education at home.

She said internships allow young people to explore different careers, build workplace skills and gain valuable experience before

entering permanent employment.

The Minister challenged the graduates to become the change they wanted to see in the Turks and Caicos Islands and to play an active role in the country's future.

She assured them that the Government would continue expanding access to education, scholarships, skills training and employment pathways.

"Opportunities are available," Taylor said. "The only thing that you have to do is make yourself aware of what is available so that you are able to tap into it."

CANTON FAIR CHINA

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Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force Announces Recruitment Drive

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force will hold a recruitment drive at the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College on Saturday, August 29, 2026. The event is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. at the college’s campus at 3 Success Way, Downtown Providenciales. Under the theme “Serve Your Country with Pride and Dignity,” the recruitment initiative seeks eligible residents

interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement. Applicants must be between 18 and 35 years old at the time of enlistment and possess at least three CSEC subjects, including English and any two other subjects. They must also be Turks and Caicos Islands citizens or holders of a Permanent Resident Certificate. Candidates must be of good character and have no criminal record.

Application forms can be downloaded from www.tcipolice.tc or accessed using the QR code on the recruitment flyer. Completed forms should be submitted with copies of the applicant’s academic qualifications, birth certificate, and the biodata page of their passport or Permanent Resident Certificate. Documents should be emailed to recruitment@tcipolice.tc. On the examination date, candidates

must bring two copies of the completed application form, two certified passport-size photographs, a copy of their police record, and two letters of recommendation. The letters may be provided by a justice of the peace, minister of religion or former employer. Applicants are advised to dress appropriately. Jeans and T-shirts will not be permitted.

Government Establishes 9 Comprehensive Accommodation Classifications

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Department of Tourism Regulation (DTR) has introduced a comprehensive accommodation classification system under the Tourism Regulation and Licensing Ordinance 2023, marking an important step toward strengthening tourism standards and enhancing the visitor experience across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The new framework establishes nine official classifications for tourist accommodation establishments and promotes consistency across the tourism industry, upholds quality standards, and provides greater transparency for operators, while ensuring that visitors have clear expectations about the type of accommodation they choose.

The descriptions below are provided as a general guide to assist applicants and the public in understanding each category. The exact legal definitions and wording can be found in the Legal Reference section at the end of this release.

Hotel - A property designed to provide accommodation for guests with hotel-style facilities and services. The lodging has from 15 to over 500 bedrooms.

Boutique Hotel - A smaller hotel distinguished by its unique character, personalized service, and distinctive design or atmosphere. The lodging has from 15 to 20 bedrooms.

Resort - A property offering guest accommodation together with a broad range of recreational, leisure, and hospitality amenities. The lodging has from 50 to over 500 bedrooms.

Villa - A standalone private residence or accommodation unit offered to



Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly

guests for short-term stays.

Condominium Hotel - A single building or community comprised of individually owned condominium units exclusively on a self-catering basis pursuant to the Strata Titles Ordinance that operate collectively as part of a hotel establishment and managed by a property management company.

Condominium - A single building or community comprised of individually owned condominium units exclusively on a self-catering basis pursuant to the Strata Titles Ordinance. These units are usually rented out by the owner.

Guest House - A smaller accommodation establishment providing lodging, typically with fewer rooms than a hotel. Bed and Breakfast establishments also provide breakfast as part of the guest experience. The lodging has a maximum of 14 bedrooms.

Bed and Breakfast - An accommodation establishment that provides overnight lodging together with breakfast



Avi Adams, Director of the Department of Tourism Regulations

for guests. This is family-owned and run and has a maximum of 10 bedrooms.

Self-catering apartment rental - A furnished apartment or similar accommodation equipped for guests to prepare their own meals. The units are numbered and readily identifiable.

Important Information for Applicants

Applicants should note that the classification selected during the application process is provisional and is intended solely for the purpose of submitting an application. The Department of Tourism Regulations will conduct an official inspection before assigning the property’s final classification. The Department reserves the authority to assign a classification that differs from the one selected by the applicant if the property’s characteristics, facilities, services, or operational model more closely align with another accommodation category.

The introduction of these classifications represents another milestone in

the Department’s ongoing efforts to modernise tourism regulation, promote excellence in the accommodation sector, and ensure that all licensed establishments meet the standards expected of a Caribbean premier tourism destination. For more information, contact the Department of Tourism Regulations via telephone at +1649 338- 55349 and email at tourismregulations@gov.tc.

Legal Reference

The accommodation classification system is established under the Tourism Regulation and Licensing Ordinance, 2023 (Ordinance 13 of 2023). The exact legal wording governing the classification of accommodation premises can be found in:

Section 33 – Classification Requirement

Section 34 – Classification of Premises

Schedule 5 – Classification of Premises

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TCI Bar Association mourns veteran attorney Arthur Hamilton Sr.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Bar Association is mourning the death of longtime attorney Arthur Hamilton Sr., remembering him as a courteous but determined advocate who devoted many years to the administration of justice. Hamilton practised in the Magistrate’s Court, Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, representing clients in criminal and civil cases, including some of the most serious matters heard in the territory’s courts. His advocacy also contributed to the development of local jurisprudence. In one notable case involving the right to effective legal representation and fairness in criminal proceedings, the Court of Appeal set aside a conviction and sentence. Beyond his work as an advocate, Hamilton served the justice system as a member of an Employment Tribunal panel. Bar Association President Mark A. Fulford said he knew Hamilton personally and had worked alongside him during a serious criminal trial. “I saw firsthand his patience, experience and respect for the Court, but equally important was the seriousness with which he approached his responsibility to the person whose liberty had been entrusted to our representation,” Fulford said.

He described Hamilton as part of a generation of lawyers who demonstrated that forceful advocacy could coexist with professional courtesy. “Arthur came from a generation of lawyers who understood that you could be a determined advocate without being discourteous, and that respect for the Court never required you to surrender an inch of your client’s case,” Fulford said. “That is an example worth preserving for the younger Bar.” The association said Hamilton was known throughout his career for his humility and respect for judges, magistrates, fellow attorneys, clients and court staff. It credited his generation of practitioners with helping to establish and preserve the professional traditions on which the modern TCI Bar was built. “As President, I believe it is important that we recognise and remember those who helped build and sustain our profession,” Fulford said. “Arthur Hamilton gave many years of service to the law and to the administration of justice in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and I will remember him warmly.” Outside the courtroom, Hamilton was devoted to his family, his church and his Anglican faith. The Bar Council and members of the association extended condolences to



Outside the courtroom, Hamilton was devoted to his family, his church and his Anglican faith.

Hamilton’s children, grandchildren, extended family, colleagues and others mourning his death in the Turks and Caicos Islands and The Bahamas.

Fire and Rescue Department conduct comprehensive workplace fire safety training session

The Fire and Rescue Department recently conducted a comprehensive workplace fire safety training session for the management and staff of the Center of Hope, as part of the Turks and Caicos Islands Fire and Rescue Service’s continuing efforts to strengthen fire prevention, emergency preparedness and community safety. The training combined an interactive presentation with practical demonstrations and covered essential areas, including common workplace fire hazards, fire prevention measures, emergency evacuation procedures, the importance of maintaining clear exits and assembly points, and the safe and effective use of portable fire extinguishers. Participants also took part in a supervised, hands-on exercise, during which they gained practical experience

in the operation of fire extinguishers under the guidance of trained firefighters. The exercise was designed to build confidence and reinforce the importance of responding quickly, calmly and safely during the early stages of a fire emergency. The Honourable Shaun D. Malcolm, Minister of Public Safety, Gender and Religious Affairs and Social Welfare, with responsibility for Fire and Rescue Services, commended the Grand Turk Fire Crew and the Center of Hope for supporting the initiative. The Minister stated: “Fire safety is a shared responsibility, and prevention begins with ensuring that individuals are equipped with the knowledge and practical skills needed to protect themselves and others. This training demonstrates the Government’s commitment to proactive public education, stronger workplace safety and

the protection of lives and property throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands. I commend the Fire and Rescue Department for its continued community outreach and the management and staff of the Center of Hope for their active participation.” This initiative forms part of the Turks and Caicos Islands Fire and Rescue Service’s broader commitment to community risk reduction through public education, fire prevention programmes and practical emergency-preparedness training. By working directly with businesses, public institutions and community organizations, the Service continues to promote safer workplaces and more resilient communities across the islands. The Fire and Rescue Department extends its appreciation to the management and staff of the Center of Hope for their active participation, coopera-

tion and commitment to maintaining a safe working environment. Organizations interested in workplace fire safety training or community fire-prevention programmes are encouraged to contact us at:

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CIBC Caribbean Announces Transition of GBP Correspondent Banking Services to Lloyds Bank Plc

By Vivian Tyson EWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

CIBC Caribbean has announced that, from September 14, 2026, it will transition its Great Britain Pounds (GBP) clearing services from Barclays Bank Plc to Lloyds Bank Plc for clients in St. Kitts, St. Lucia, and Turks and Caicos Islands. The change forms part of the bank’s ongoing commitment to maintaining efficient, secure, and reliable international payment services for its clients. Beginning September 14, 2026, all GBP wire payments sent and received on behalf of clients will be processed through

Lloyds Bank Plc. To support a seamless transition, affected clients will receive updated Standard Settlement Instructions (SSI) outlining the new payment details required for GBP payments being sent to their accounts. The updated instructions will also be available through the bank’s corporate website and reflected within its digital banking platforms. “We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition for our clients while maintaining the high standards of service and reliability they expect from CIBC Caribbean,” said Jennifer Fuller, Director, Enterprise

Payments, Cards & Merchant Services, CIBC Caribbean. “Our teams are proactively communicating with affected clients to ensure they have the information needed to update their payment arrangements and avoid any disruption to their GBP transactions.” Clients are encouraged to:

- Review the updated Standard Settlement Instructions upon receipt.
- Update their payment records with the new GBP settlement details.
- Share the revised instructions with individuals or organisations that send GBP payments to their accounts.

- Ensure all GBP payments sent to their account on or after September 14, 2026, utilise the new Lloyds Bank Plc payment details.

CIBC Caribbean also encourages clients to take advantage of its Online Banking and Mobile App platforms for sending and receiving wire transfers. These digital solutions provide a convenient, secure, and efficient way to manage transactions from virtually anywhere in the world. Clients requiring additional information or assistance are encouraged to contact their Relationship Manager, Branch Representative, or visit www.cibccaribbean.com.



Dr. Camelia Clarke, Director Health Promotion and Advocacy Unit at conference presentation.

The Ministry of Health and Human Services is pleased to announce that Dr. Camelia Clarke, Director of the Health Promotion and Advocacy Unit, represented the Turks and Caicos Islands at the 26th International AIDS Conference AIDS 2026 held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 26–31 July 2026. Held under the theme “Rethink. Rebuild. Rise.”, the conference brought together healthcare professionals, researchers, policymakers, community organisations and development partners from around the world to examine the future of the global response to HIV. The programme featured more than 150 sessions and thousands of research presentations addressing developments in HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. AIDS 2026 was convened at a critical time, as many countries face reductions in HIV-related funding while also benefiting from major scientific and technological advances. Discussions underscored the importance of sustainable financing, strong political leadership, meaningful community engagement and integrated healthcare systems to maintain progress towards ending HIV as a public health threat.

A major focus of the conference was the advancement of Triple Elimination and the Elimination of Vertical Transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B. These discussions were particularly relevant to the Turks and Caicos Islands following the country’s recent World Health Organization validation for the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and hepatitis B. This achievement reflects the country’s commitment to protecting maternal and child health and strengthening HIV prevention, treatment and care services. The conference also highlighted advances in long-acting HIV prevention and treatment options, the expanding role of artificial intelligence and digital health technologies, and the importance of person-centred and community-led approaches to healthcare delivery. Presentations further demonstrated that integrating HIV services with maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, tuberculosis, hepatitis and other health programmes can improve outcomes and contribute to stronger and more resilient health systems. Minister of Health and Human Services, Hon. Kyle Knowles, welcomed the Minis-

Ministry of Health Representative Attends 26th International AIDS Conference in Rio de Janeiro

try’s participation in the conference and stated: “The Turks and Caicos Islands is proud of the significant progress we have made in HIV prevention and maternal and child health, including our recent World Health Organization validation for the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and hepatitis B. AIDS 2026 highlighted both the challenges and opportunities facing the global HIV response and provided valuable insights into emerging research, innovative technologies, community-led approaches and sustainable strategies for strengthening health systems. The knowledge gained from the conference will help inform our continued efforts to sustain our achievements, strengthen HIV prevention and care services, and advance equitable, people-centred healthcare for all residents.” Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Nadia Astwood, also highlighted the importance of applying the lessons from the conference to the national HIV response:

“Participation in AIDS 2026 provided an important opportunity for the Turks and Caicos Islands to remain informed about emerging evidence, scientific advances and international best practices in HIV prevention, treatment and care. As we celebrate our recent validation for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and hepatitis B, we must remain focused on sustaining this achievement through strong surveillance, accessible testing and treatment, integrated services and continued engagement with affected communities. The information and partnerships gained through this conference will support our efforts to further strengthen the national HIV response.” The Ministry of Health and Human Services remains committed to strengthening HIV prevention, testing, treatment, care and support services, while promoting equitable access to healthcare and protecting the health and well-being of all residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands.



L-R Dr. Nyla Lyons-Medical Research Foundation, Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Camelia Clarke, Dr. Tricia Campbell- Aids Healthcare Foundation, Jamaica at Conference Poster Presentations.

Harvey Challenges Apprentices to Become their 'Best Selves'

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Communications professional and former national apprentice Alique Harvey encouraged participants in the National Internship and Apprenticeship Programme (NIAP) to embrace opportunities, remain teachable and help create pathways for others.

Harvey delivered the keynote address at NIAP's fifth-cycle closing ceremony, held at Beaches Turks and Caicos on Tuesday, August 8.

Reflecting on his journey from a 25-year-old graduate searching for employment to becoming a full-time communications officer within the Ministry of Tourism, Harvey said he saw himself in the programme's young participants.

"I look around this room and I see so many young and vibrant faces, and all I see is myself—a 25-year-old coming back from England to pursue a career in the Turks and Caicos," he said.

After completing his master's degree, Harvey initially believed he was ready for a permanent position rather than another apprenticeship. He gave himself six months to find work in the Turks and Caicos Islands and planned to return to the United Kingdom if an opportunity did not materialise.

Looking back, he said that outlook was mistaken.

"The apprenticeship turned out to be exactly what I needed," Harvey said. "It became the foot in the door that so many people insisted did not exist."

He praised NIAP for placing him in a position aligned with his interests instead of simply assigning him wherever a vacancy existed. As an apprentice within the Ministry of Tourism, Harvey was entrusted with meaningful responsibilities, including helping to



Communications Professional and former NIAP Apprentice Alique Harvey

plan conferences, contributing to national campaigns and working with experienced professionals across the tourism sector.

One of his major assignments was assisting with the 2023 State of the Tourism Industry Conference while he was still an apprentice. "That was not luck. That was not coincidence. That was purpose meeting opportunity," he said.

Harvey told the interns and apprentices that they may not always feel prepared when important opportunities arise. However, he said personal and professional growth often begins after a person accepts a challenge. "Readiness does not always come before the opportunity," he said. "Sometimes the opportunity comes first, and your growth follows. So when those moments present themselves, say yes."

He encouraged participants to give their best effort, treat others with kindness and respect, remain open to learning and consistently show up ready to work. Those qualities, he said, can distinguish young professionals and open doors throughout their careers.

Harvey also reminded the participants that professional success should extend beyond personal advancement.

"It's not just about you," he said. "It's about using your gifts to make someone else's path a little easier. It's about encouraging your colleagues, lifting others as you climb and being a light wherever you're placed." He thanked those who helped provide him with his initial opportunity, including Hon. Rachel Taylor and Ariel Neely, and congratulated

NIAP on completing five cycles of career development through internships and apprenticeships in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Following his address, programme representatives challenged the participants to become ambassadors for NIAP by sharing their experiences and informing other young people about the opportunities available in both the public and private sectors.

Harvey concluded by urging the apprentices and interns to remain patient and trust the process as they pursue their careers and discover their purpose.

"Success is not measured by how many doors you walk through," he said. "It is measured by how many doors you leave open for the person coming behind you."



A Section of the audience at the event

A New Chapter for the Turks and Caicos | UK Relationship Must Begin with Constitutional Respect

An Op-Ed by Ronaldo Forbes

The recent appointment of Uma Kumaran as the United Kingdom's new minister responsible for the Overseas Territories provides an opportunity for a serious reset in the relationship between the United Kingdom and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The minister's responsibilities include the protection of the Overseas Territories, the promotion of good governance, the safeguarding of security and the defense of the rights and interests of their people.

For the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the question is therefore not simply who occupies the ministerial office in London. The more important question is what approach the new minister will adopt towards the constitutional relationship between the United Kingdom and Turks and Caicos.

The constitutional relationship between the UK and Turks and Caicos should be founded on core principles:

1. Autonomy and rights, including the right of self-determination.
2. Devolution and democratic autonomy for Turks and Caicos.

3. Partnership with the Overseas Territories based on mutual respect and inclusion.

These principles can form the constitutional and political foundation of the UK's relationship with the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Islands face serious and complex challenges, particularly in relation to border security, irregular migration, transnational crime and maritime protection. These threats require close cooperation with the United Kingdom.

There is a lack of clarity between the governors and the government when it comes to decision making, causing friction and accusations of constitutional overreach.

Recent events concerning the granting of Islander Status to 49 individuals illustrate the need for greater constitutional clarity.

Following a Supreme Court decision and a review of applications previously rejected by the Status Commission, the Governor, Her Excellency Dileen Daniel-Selvaratnam, granted Islander Status to those individuals. However, the episode raises important questions about the relationship between executive discretion, Cabinet responsibility and the authority of local decision making bodies.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution Order 2011 contains provisions that limit the authority of the Premier and the elected Government in certain areas.

Section 32, concerning the exercise of the Governor's functions, distinguishes between matters in which the Governor:

- Acts independently;
- Must consult the Cabinet or Premier; and
- Matters for which the Governor may be required to follow advice.

That distinction is constitutionally significant. A requirement to consult does not necessarily mean that the Governor must accept the Premier's position.

The provisions concerning Bills passed by the House of Assembly raise similar issues. A Bill must be presented to the Governor for assent (acceptance), but the Constitution may permit the Governor, in defined circumstances, to:

- Grant assent;
- Refuse assent;
- Reserve the Bill for the Sovereign's consideration; or
- Return the Bill to the House for reconsideration.

A constitutional review must reflect the

principles of responsible government, democratic accountability, the rule of law and respect for the right of the people of the Islands to shape their own political future.

A review should therefore consider:

- The Governor's role as chair of Cabinet;
- The scope and limits of the Governor's reserve powers;
- The circumstances in which assent may be withheld or a Bill reserved;
- The legal effect of consultation with the Premier and Cabinet;
- The protection of the autonomy of elected local institutions; and
- A transparent process for future constitutional amendments.

The new minister should make clear that the United Kingdom will defend the Islands' security while also respecting our democratic institutions. The UK should listen to the elected Government, provide clarity about the Governor's powers and support a constitutional review conducted in good faith.

The present constitution is not satisfactory for the demands of the 21st century. A new constitutional understanding is based on lawfulness, accountability, democratic autonomy and mutual respect.



NEWSLINE
COMICS



"They have charcuterie boards. RUN!"

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People are out there dating your ex!



"RELAX, IT'S A TOUR BUS, DENNIS.
NOT A SCHOOL BUS."

National Trust Turks and Caicos Islands. (2020). Cultural Heritage and Traditional Music of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Sadler, H. (2006). Turks and Caicos Islands: Lands of Discovery. Macmillan Caribbean.

RIPSAW music

NEWSLINE
Heritage

For generations, Ripsaw Music has been a defining sound of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Recognised as the national music of the islands, ripsaw reflects the creativity and resilience of a people who transformed simple tools into instruments of cultural expression.

At the heart of ripsaw music is the carpenter's handsaw, an ordinary tool repurposed to create a unique rhythmic sound. The saw is bent and scraped with a metal object, such as a knife or screwdriver, producing a distinctive scraping tone known as "ripping" (National Trust TCI, 2020). This sound forms the foundation of the music, often accompanied by drums, shakers, and other instruments. The rhythm is lively and expressive, commonly heard at festivals, community gatherings, and cultural celebrations across the islands (Sadler, 2006).

Ripsaw music is believed to have developed during the islands' early working years, when labourers used whatever materials were available to create music and pass the time. Like many forms of Caribbean folk music, it emerged from everyday life and reflects the shared experiences of the people. Over time, ripsaw has evolved while remaining rooted in tradition. It continues to be performed by local musicians and passed down through generations, preserving a sound that is uniquely Turks and Caicos. Today, ripsaw music stands as a powerful symbol of national identity and cultural pride. Its distinctive rhythm and resourceful origins serve as a reminder that the islands' heritage is not only seen, but also heard in the sounds that bring communities together (National Trust TCI, 2020).



F&B eye for details being shared with a camper



F&B Team members go through a demonstration with the campers

Beaches Turks & Caicos Shares Dining Etiquette Training at Provo Youth Summer Camp

Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort recently collaborated with the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force and the Department of Social Services to support a youth camp hosted at the Oseta Jolly Primary School, underscoring the resort’s ongoing commitment to youth development in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The camp, which brought together security forces, government agencies and private sector entities, focused on equipping young participants with practical life skills and character-building tools. A team from Beaches Turks and Caicos’ leadership and training departments joined the programme to deliver sessions on basic table etiquette, dining mannerisms, polite demeanour and public speaking fundamentals, all designed to help the students present themselves confidently in formal and professional settings.

General Manager of Beaches Turks and Caicos, Deryk Meany, said the resort views national development as an integral part of its corporate social responsibility. “We are always happy to be supporters in the development of the youth of the Turks and Caicos Islands. We continue to commit our team to help in creating the next generation of leaders who will provide support to the islands and help in its development,” Meany noted.

The initiative also received strong endorsement from the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Community Development, which has been championing holistic programmes aimed at building well-rounded young citizens. Minister Rachel Taylor highlighted the



Etiquette trainer Francillia Austin shares with the campers

importance of collaborations like the camp in helping youth access structured guidance and mentorship. “We are happy to join in celebrating the growth and development of our youth here in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Beaches Turks and Caicos continues to be one of our primary supporters in helping to develop well rounded individuals. This commitment from this resort has grown with the vision of the youth ministry to help in their overall development,” she said.

Taylor further emphasized that the camp’s timing was especially significant, coming as youth across the islands seek positive outlets and constructive engagement. “This camp came at the most ideal time for our adolescents. With the support of our governor, the security forces, the social services along with Beaches Turks and Caicos, we are confident that the training needed for them to improve is on the right track,” she added.

Beaches Turks and Caicos Public

Relations Manager, Orville Morgan, described the collaboration as an exemplary model of cross-sector partnership. “To be able to join with the security forces to provide support for the youth of the Turks and Caicos Islands is exceptional.

We are happy to provide the necessary support to equip them to grow into being productive citizens of these islands,” Morgan said.

He noted that the resort team focused on practical etiquette and hospitality-driven skills that can be carried into the youths’ future experiences. “As a team, we were able to share in the basic table setting and dining etiquette for them, skills we are sure that they will be able to use in their next fine dining experience,” Morgan added.

Organizers expressed optimism that the camp’s blend of discipline, mentorship and soft skills training will have a lasting impact on participants. With stakeholders pledging continued support, the Beaches Turks and Caicos team and their partners aim to expand similar initiatives, further investing in the personal and professional growth of the next generation of Turks and Caicos Islanders.



Napkin folds being done by the campers with guidance from F&B team member

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

Church of God of Prophecy, Blue Hills

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



Life line Church Directory

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

Firm Foundation Ministries International Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581 Christ is the Answer Ministry, George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030 One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com. Touch of Love Ministries International Center Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731 Abundant Life Ministries International P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755 Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk, Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289 Bethany Baptist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118 Church of God of Prophecy, Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854 Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk Tel:946-1866 Calvary Baptist Church, South Caicos. Tel:946-3212 Harvest Bible Chapel TCI, Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales. Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com. https://www.harvesttci.tc. Rock of Jesus Ministry, 15 Five Cays, Safe Haven. Tel: 649-3317628 of 649-2410087	Firm Foundation Ministries International 19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240 Church of God of 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 <i>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</i>
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Beaches Graduates 120 Interns

Approximately 120 students graduated from the Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort and Spa 2026 Internship on Thursday, August 13. The event was held at the Caribbean Village Conference Centre and was attended by Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor. Brianna Walcott, Senior Programme Manager in the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture was the guest speaker. The following are photo highlights of the event.





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

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE AWAKENING

PART ELEVEN

By Nixon Dickenson

History remembers the speeches. History remembers the elections. History remembers the leaders. History remembers the dates recorded in official reports. But history often forgets the people standing just beyond the spotlight.

The people who opened their homes. The people who shared ideas. The people who offered transportation. The people who sat quietly in meetings. The people who listened. The people who believed. And sometimes, the people who risked everything knowing they might never receive public recognition. The political awakening of the Turks and Caicos Islands did not belong to one man alone.

It did not belong to one party. It did not belong to one building. And it did not belong to one moment in history. It belonged to a generation. A generation of ordinary people who began believing that their country could become something more than it had been. This is their story.

Before There Was a Movement

Long before political rallies filled public spaces, campaign trucks travelled through settlements, and election victories and constitutional milestones entered the history books, there were conversations.

Quiet conversations. Private conversations. They took place across Grand Turk, Salt Cay, South Caicos, North Caicos, Middle Caicos, Providenciales, and beyond. Around kitchen tables. In shops. At the waterfront. After church. Inside game rooms. Among friends returning home from work overseas. People spoke about jobs. Opportunity.Migration.Education.Fairness. Dignity.

And whether ordinary Turks and Caicos Islanders truly possessed a meaningful voice in determining their own future. Most of those conversations were never recorded. No minutes were taken. No newspapers reported them. Yet they formed part of the foundation of everything that followed. Before there was a movement, there were people.

The Courage of Ordinary Citizens

One of the greatest myths in history is that change is created only by famous individuals. Movements succeed because ordinary people decide to participate. Someone offers encouragement. Someone opens a door. Someone provides transportation. Someone helps organise a gathering. Someone spreads information. Someone offers advice.

Someone refuses to remain silent. Most never receive public credit. Yet without them, movements cannot grow. The political awakening of the Turks and Caicos Islands was built upon countless such acts. Small acts. Quiet acts. Human acts. Together, they created something powerful.

The Networks Behind the Headlines

Much of what later became known simply as “the movement” existed through relationships. Families. Friendships. Communities. Trusted circles. Some discussions occurred publicly. Others remained deliberately private. The atmosphere of the 1970s was not always conducive to political activism. People understood that words could carry consequences. Many acted cautiously.

Many protected one another. Some became public faces. Others remained behind the scenes. Both roles mattered. History often celebrates those standing on the platform. It rarely remembers those helping build the platform itself.

The Organisation Behind the Movement

Although the political awakening of the 1970s is often most closely associated with JAGS McCartney, the movement was not sustained by a single individual.

According to oral histories and family recollections, it operated through a trusted network of friends and supporters who believed that the Turks and Caicos Islands could and should play a greater role in determining its own future.

JAGS McCartney remained the public face of the movement. He was its most visible spokesman and the individual who increasingly captured the imagination of a generation.

Behind the scenes, Lewis “Louie” Edwin Astwood and his wife, Mildred Garland-Astwood, played significant organisational roles in coordinating and overseeing aspects of the movement’s operations. While JAGS publicly inspired and guided the movement, the Astwoods helped maintain its organisational structure.

According to Lewis Astwood’s recollections, JAGS McCartney became closely associated with the Junkanoo Club and its public activities, while Lewis Astwood, together with his wife Mildred, played a leading organisational role within the Black Power Movement and the wider network of trusted individuals sustaining the awakening behind the scenes.



This understanding is consistent with comments later made by JAGS McCartney during discussions with the United Nations Visiting Mission in 1980. Rather than describing the awakening as the work of a single organisation, McCartney referred to activists of the period as among the “few groups” attempting to make ordinary people aware of their rights.

Oral histories also recall moments when Lewis “Louie” Edwin Astwood directly confronted certain authorities over equality, justice, and fair treatment. Those who remember him describe Astwood standing firm with his Black Power Movement fist sign and a large gold PDM ring on his finger, symbols reflecting both the protest spirit of the awakening and the political movement that would later carry that struggle into government.

Despite their different roles, the two men worked closely together. Those who knew them often described them as close as brothers, bound by friendship, trust, shared purpose, and family connections.

JAGS emerged as the public voice of the awakening, while Astwood helped provide much of its organisational structure.

The movement itself operated carefully. Meetings were often held privately in the homes of trusted individuals, and discretion was considered essential.

When Astwood was away from the Islands, his wife, Mildred Angelina Garland-Astwood, quietly helped maintain communication and organisational continuity. Oral history accounts recall her important role in supporting the movement’s activities during her husband’s absence. In the words of Birch “Pork Chops” Simmons, Mildred was the organiser of the Black Power Movement.

The movement therefore depended upon public leadership, but also upon trust, organisation, discipline, friendship, and quiet commitment.

Much of its work occurred far from public view.

The Faces of the Awakening

Among those frequently remembered in connection with the era were JAGS McCartney, Lewis “Louie” Astwood, Mildred Garland-Astwood, Earl “Super C” Ingham, Baron Skippings, Nola “Bea” Musgrove-Buchanan, Valeria Kennedy-Houseman, Harold Robinson, William Robinson, Donald Smith, Birch “Pork Chops” Simmons, Leon Watkins, and others whose contributions helped shape the political awareness, civic participation, and public engagement of the 1970s.

Their significance lies not only in what they did individually, but in what they represented collectively: a generation increasingly unwilling to remain spectators in determining the future of their country.

They represented friendship.

- Trust.
- Courage.
- Shared purpose.

And the belief that ordinary Turks and Caicos Islanders deserved a greater voice.

The Women Who Helped Hold the Movement Together

Many historical narratives focus heavily on men. Yet movements are rarely sustained without women. Across the Turks and Caicos Islands, women supported families, strengthened communities, encouraged participation, shared information, preserved morale, and sustained social networks through which political awareness could spread.

Names such as Mildred Angelina Garland-Astwood, Helena Jones Robinson, Janet Adams-Fulford, Audrey Taylor, Carol Forbes-Durham, Virginia Robinson, Elaine Adams, Jean “Jenny” Williams-Nelson, Corleen Williams, Valeria Houseman, Nola Musgrove, Beatrice

“Bea” Musgrove-Buchanan, Kathleen Harvey, Kathleen “Katie” Williams, Lathia “MaDokie” Steel, Lillian “Ma Lil” Swann, Beatrice “Teacher Bea” Carter, Rosabelle Adams, Beverly Fulford, Beverly Ingham, Cille Penn, Margaret Verna Simmons-Musgrove, Brenda Sturup-Robinson, Lorna Lawrence, Minnie Tatem, Mary Wood, Francis Durham, and Hyacinth Been, among many others, were part of the broader human story surrounding the awakening of the 1970s.

Some offered encouragement and guidance. Some strengthened family and community networks. Some supported discussions, gatherings, and information sharing. Others provided hospitality, friendship, stability, and quiet leadership.

Their contributions were not always recorded in official documents or newspaper headlines, but they were part of the social fabric that sustained the era’s political awakening. Their contributions deserve remembrance. Not as footnotes. But as part of the story itself.

The Men Who Carried the Message

The movement also drew strength from men whose contributions often extended beyond formal political office. Some became candidates. Some became ministers. Others never sought public recognition.

Among those remembered through oral histories, family recollections, community memory, photographs, newspaper records, and historical research are Lewis “Louie” Edwin Astwood, Edward “Eddie” Seymour, Ronald “Ron” Higgs, Edward “Eddie” Swann, Dennis Durham, Rupert Robinson, Harold Robinson, William Robinson, Earl Fulford, Albert Anthony “Abbey” Williams, Rubert “Spadyboy” Gardiner, James Ingham, Earl “Super C” Ingham, Norman “Normy” Parker, Kenneth Carter, Alexander Carter, Moses Carter Sr., Henry Leon Wilson, Emmanuel “Manny” Penn, Clement Lightbourne, Harry Lightbourne, Lionel Saunders, Leon Watkins, Leslie Musgrove, Edgar “Mobile” Forbes, Clyde Coalbrooke, Allen Parker, Baron Skippings, Sir Edward T. Wood, Nathaniel “Bops” Francis, Raphael Graveley, Ariel Misick, Headley Durham, Arthur Tatem, Vernon “Codigi” Lightbourne, Douglas “Doggie” Prospre, Carlos Simons, Hubert Been, Hubert James Jr., Louis Williams of The Gardens, Robert Adams, Frank Penn, Birch “Pork Chops” Simmons, Keith Robinson, Derek “Star” Ingham, Dudley Ingham, McCloud Watkins, Evan “Storm” Missick, Donald Smith, Stanley “Stoot” Carter, Dennis “Foots” Penn, Ackee “Big Truck” Haven, Edward Barranco, Lionel Barranco, Earl Barranco, Audley Baranco, and Oswald “Cuz” Williams, among many others whose contributions may never be fully recorded in official documents but remain woven into the story of the era.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive. It reflects individuals remembered through oral history, family recollections, community memory, photographs, newspaper records, and historical research.

As additional memories, documents, photographs, and personal accounts emerge, the story will grow richer, revealing even more of the people who helped shape one of the most important periods in the political awakening of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Some organised. Some advised. Some encouraged. Some challenged. Some inspired. Some simply stood beside others when doing so was not always easy. Each contributed something.

The Movement Was Larger Than One Building

For many years, public memory has sometimes reduced the 1970s awakening to a handful of highly visible locations or events.

Yet the movement was larger than any single building, organisation, or incident. The Junkanoo Club became

one visible symbol of a wider awakening. The Black Power Movement operated separately and often privately, with meetings frequently held in trusted homes rather than public venues.

The awakening was a network of people, relationships, ideas, and shared aspirations stretching across communities, islands, families, workplaces, churches, schools, waterfronts, and homes. The movement existed wherever people began believing that their voices mattered. That belief could not be confined to one location. It was carried within the people themselves.

The Human Cost

Political awakenings are rarely free of consequences. They create tension. Disagreement. Uncertainty. Families sometimes found themselves divided by political opinion. Friends disagreed. Communities experienced strain. Some people faced criticism or suspicion.

Others accepted risks that history has never fully documented. Yet many continued because they believed something larger was at stake. The future of the country. The future of their children. The future of generations they would never meet.

History’s Greatest Mistake

Perhaps the greatest mistake history makes is assuming that only the most famous names matter. Leaders emerge because communities support them. Movements succeed because ordinary people sustain them. Constitutional change occurs because countless individuals decide that silence is no longer enough. Without the people, there is no movement. Without the movement, there is no awakening. Without the awakening, there is no election. Without the election, there is no Ministerial Government. The famous names occupy the headlines. The ordinary names help create the history.

Fifty Years Later

As the Turks and Caicos Islands mark the 50th Anniversary of Ministerial Government, it is appropriate to honour the great leaders of the era. JAGS McCartney deserves remembrance. Lewis “Louie” Edwin Astwood deserves remembrance.

Oswald “O’Neil” Skippings, Daniel Alexander Williams, Henry Leon Wilson, Walter Ebenizer Cox, Charles “Liam” McGuire, and many others deserve remembrance.

In time, JAGS McCartney himself recognised something fundamental about the political awakening: its strength had come from the people. Leaders could speak. Organisations could mobilise. Political parties could contest elections.

But none of it could have succeeded without ordinary men and women who believed that change was possible. They attended the meetings. They carried the message. They opened their homes. They encouraged others. They stood behind the movement when success was far from certain.

The awakening succeeded because the people made it their own.

But so too do the people whose names rarely appear in constitutional records. The people who attended the meetings. The people who offered support. The people who carried hope. The people who encouraged change. The people who believed before success seemed certain.

The people who helped transform an awakening into a movement and a movement into history. Fifty years later, roads can be measured. Buildings can be counted. Elections can be documented. Constitutions can be archived.

But the courage of ordinary people is far harder to measure. Yet without that courage, none of the rest would have been possible. The forgotten builders. The quiet supporters. The ordinary citizens.

The people behind the awakening. This article is dedicated to them.

About The Author

Joan Astwood-Sutton, LLB (Hons.), Master’s in Publishing, and Certificate in Youth & Community Studies, is an author, publisher, cultural heritage researcher, museum founder, storyteller, and historical preservation advocate in the Turks and Caicos Islands. She is the Founder and Director of the Hon. Lewis Edwin Astwood Research Library, Museum and Learning Facility, dedicated to preserving the political, cultural, and historical legacy of the Turks and Caicos Islands. She is the daughter of the late Hon. Lewis Edwin Astwood, who served in the first Ministerial Government established under the 1976 Constitution, and the late Mildred Garland Astwood, both of whom were closely connected to the political and community movements of the 1970s. Through decades of archival preservation, oral history documentation, and historical research, she has worked to preserve the memory and identity of the Turks and Caicos Islands for future generations.

Government to Rectify Salt Cay Water Problems

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands Government plans to repair Salt Cay's rainwater-storage infrastructure, restore its main reverse-osmosis plant and purchase additional equipment as part of a wider effort to prevent another severe water shortage on the island.

Minister responsible for the Water Undertaking Hon. E. Jay Saunders said a replacement filter for the island's reverse-osmosis plant had arrived in the country and was being installed. The work requires some retrofitting because an exact replacement for the failed component was not available. "We're just about to solve the problem because the filter is here," Saunders said during an appearance on Financially Speaking with Drexwell Seymour.

While the plant remains out of operation, the Water Undertaking has been sending 105 five-gallon bottles of water to Salt Cay every three days. Residents with water in private tanks have also been sharing their supplies.

Saunders said the bottled-water shipments were meeting immediate drinking-water needs but were not an adequate solution for bathing, washing, flushing toilets and other high-volume domestic uses.

The minister visited Salt Cay and observed that a number of the five-gallon containers still held water, suggesting that the emergency supply was meeting residents' im-

mediate needs at that time. The containers are being refilled and returned to the island.

He said the immediate crisis began after a large filter in the reverse-osmosis plant failed. Technicians initially attempted to repair it but later determined that it had to be replaced. Because the precise model could not be sourced, a similar component was ordered and shipped to the territory. Saunders said the incident exposed a more serious weakness in Salt Cay's water infrastructure: the deterioration of government-owned tanks that were once used to collect and store rainwater.

As the island moved towards potable water produced by the reverse-osmosis plant, rainwater collection was largely abandoned. Salt Cay has approximately 13 government tanks, but many have fallen into disrepair and were not available as emergency reserves when the plant stopped working.

Only one tank was being used to store water produced by the reverse-osmosis plant. Residents continued drawing from that supply after production stopped, and the tank eventually ran dry.

Saunders said the Government would now repair the neglected tanks and restore their ability to collect rainwater. The largest tank, located in the northern area of Salt Cay, has reportedly lost half of its roof. Another tank near the salt shed was left without gutters after roof repairs, preventing it from effec-

tively capturing rainfall.

"It is better to have a tank full of rainwater than to have no water," Saunders said, noting that generations of islanders relied on collected rainwater before desalinated water became the primary supply.

In addition to repairing the principal plant and the rainwater-storage system, the Government intends to acquire a smaller reverse-osmosis plant as a backup. Saunders said a unit costing approximately \$30,000 could produce about 3,000 gallons of water and help keep the large northern storage tanks filled.

Funding for the smaller plant is expected to be placed in the budget.

The Government also plans to purchase a tanker capable of transporting approximately 1,000 gallons of water at a time. Currently, some residents run long garden hoses from the central storage tank to their homes, in some cases over distances of up to 1,500 feet or more.

Saunders said that method is inefficient because water can be lost through leaking hoses and connections. A tanker would allow the Water Undertaking to collect water from the main storage facility, transport it directly to homes and pump it into residents' private tanks.

The proposed measures are intended to create several layers of protection: a repaired main desalination plant, a smaller backup plant, rehabilitated rainwater tanks and a more reliable system for delivering



A resident of Salt Cay Fetching water form a drum
Photo: Instagram

water to individual households.

Saunders said the Government is also reviewing the broader model used to produce and distribute water on Salt Cay, Grand Turk and South Caicos. Existing legislation reserves water production on those islands for the Government.

Cabinet has approved a proposal to amend the legislation so that alternative production and distribution arrangements can be considered. Saunders said the change could allow the territory to modernise water infrastructure while limiting the financial burden on the public sector.

Scotiabank Deepens Engagement with Government and Business Leaders in Turks and Caicos Islands

Scotiabank reinforced its engagement with government and business leaders in the Turks and Caicos Islands through a meeting with The Honourable Charles Washington Misick, Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and a Client Business Outlook Forum with clients and key stakeholders.

Senior executives from Scotiabank visited the Turks and Caicos Islands as part of the Bank's ongoing regional outreach to reinforce its long-standing partnership with clients, communities and public-sector leaders. The visit follows similar engagements in other Caribbean markets, underscoring Scotiabank's continued focus on supporting economic growth, strengthening relationships and advancing opportunities across the region.

During his visit, Jabar Singh, President of Scotiabank Dominican Republic and the Caribbean, highlighted the strong outlook and growth opportunities for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"Turks and Caicos has established a strong global position, supported by a world-class tourism and hospitality sector, continued investment in real estate and a resilient business environment. Scotiabank's role extends beyond financing. We are committed to connecting clients and investors with the capital, expertise and regional network needed to strengthen infrastructure, support diversification and unlock the market's next phase of sustainable growth", said Singh.



From left: Kenisha Bacchus, Acting Managing Director of the Financial Services Commission; Suzan Ochoa Snaggs-Wilson, Managing Director Scotiabank TCI and Jabar Singh, President of Scotiabank Dominican Republic and the Caribbean.

As part of the visit, Scotiabank hosted a Client Business Outlook Forum, held at Beaches Resort, bringing together clients, business leaders and key stakeholders to discuss the economic outlook and opportunities facing the market.

Kenisha Bacchus, Managing Director of the Financial Services Commission, participated in the Forum and delivered remarks on strengthening financial stability. Beyond its business commitments, Scotiabank continues to invest in communities through its ScotiaRISE initiative, supporting education and career development opportunities that help individuals and families build a stronger

future.

Also, in attendance were Scotiabank executives Roger Archer, Vice President and Country Head Scotiabank Bahamas; Dr. Suzan Ochoa Snaggs-Wilson, Managing Director, Scotiabank Turks and Caicos and Abraham Obaldia Sanchez, Managing Director - Commercial Banking, Caribbean. Scotiabank will build on this engagement by connecting capital with priority opportunities, expanding solutions for clients and investors, and convening continued dialogue between the public and private sectors. This commitment extends to the communities the Bank serves through education and career development opportunities which help individuals and families participate in—and benefit from—the market's continued growth.



(l-r) Roger Archer, Vice President and Country Head Scotiabank Bahamas; Suzan Ochoa Snaggs-Wilson, Managing Director, Scotiabank Turks and Caicos; The Honourable Charles Washington Misick, Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands; Jabar Singh, President of Scotiabank, Dominican Republic and the Caribbean; and Abraham Obaldia Sanchez, Managing Director - Commercial Banking, Caribbean.



Kew Celebrates Emancipation Day with Parade, Cultural Performances

The community of Kew, North Caicos came alive on Monday, August 3rd, as residents gathered for the annual Emancipation Day parade and opening ceremony. The event drew a large audience from across the Turks and Caicos Islands, celebrating freedom, heritage, and national pride. Leading the parade, alongside Hon. Rachel Marshall Taylor, Minister of Education and Culture, was beloved cultural icon Lovey Forbes, whose lifelong contributions to Turks and Caicos music and storytelling continue to shape the nation’s cultural identity. Also present at the celebration was Hon. Doug Parnell, Leader of the People’s Democratic Movement accompanied by his wife Tanya, who joined community members in support of the cultural observance. Ms. Anetra Musgrove, senior cultural officer of the Culture Department represented her team, as they were a major sponsor. Other dignitaries included Youth Director Jatavia Howell, DC Osborne Delancy and DC Jasmin Walkin. A major highlight of this year’s event was the newly renovated Benevolent Hall, a restoration project completed by Hon. Arlington Musgrove, fulfilling a promise made to the community. The hall featured a special display of ancestral artifacts, offering attendees a powerful connection to the island’s history and the legacy of their fore parents. This year’s celebration also honored

senior citizens, who participated as Federation Women, paying homage to the traditional ways August 1st was commemorated in earlier decades. Their involvement added historical depth and authenticity to the day’s activities. The ceremony included an Emancipation skit written by Hope Hamilton, celebrating our freedom from slavery, as we are celebrating 50 years of ministerial government in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The performance blended education, humor, and cultural storytelling, reflecting on the nation’s political journey. The parade itself featured vibrant participation from the Cadets as flag bearers, Junakoo Stars Marching Band, and the visiting Breezy Beach Dancers, whose energy and enthusiasm brought a dynamic spirit to the procession and were celebrated as special highlights of the day. As expected, the Kew Culture Group delivered a comedic performance that had attendees—and viewers tuning in via social media—in fits of laughter. Their signature humor and cultural expression remain a cherished part of North Caicos’ identity. Emancipation Day 2026 in Kew stood as a celebration of community and country; culture and heritage; and the enduring pride of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Contributed by Cynclair P. Musgrove, Former District Commissioner and Community Organizer





AI identifies experimental drug targeting undruggable cancer protein

A preclinical study published has demonstrated how AI-assisted screening can unlock challenging cancer targets, with Mayo Clinic researchers identifying a GIPC1 inhibitor that slows tumour growth and potentiates gemcitabine activity in pancreatic cancer models.

Researchers at Mayo Clinic have used artificial intelligence (AI) to help develop an experimental drug targeting a protein involved in cancer growth and treatment resistance.

The drug is designed to target the PDZ domain of GIPC1, a protein that supports the growth of several cancers, including pancreatic cancer, and has historically been difficult to target with drugs.

Pancreatic cancer is particularly difficult to treat, partly because it can develop resistance to multiple therapies and is often diagnosed at an advanced stage after it has already spread. Researchers are therefore exploring new treatment strategies that could improve outcomes and overcome therapeutic resistance. The findings from this study outline how AI could help researchers identify small molecule inhibitors for challenging cancer targets and potentially accelerate the development of new treat-



ments.

AI screens thousands of compounds

Working with Sravathi AI Technology for IP Sharing, a company based in Bangalore, India, the Mayo Clinic team used AI to screen almost 40,000 potential compounds.

The researchers identified a compound capable of blocking GIPC1 and subsequently investigated its effects in laboratory studies.

The experimental drug not only demonstrated an ability to slow tumour growth but also showed early signs of altering the environment surrounding tumours. According to the researchers, these changes could potentially create opportunities for future combination treatments.

"Pancreatic cancer has remained exceptionally difficult to treat because tumours rapidly adapt and become resis-

tant to many available therapies," says Dr Debabrata (Dev) Mukhopadhyay, a senior author of the study and a cancer researcher at Mayo Clinic in Florida. "Our study demonstrates that AI can help us identify entirely new therapeutic opportunities against targets that have historically been considered undruggable. While these findings are preclinical, they provide a strong foundation for the next phase of research."

Findings remain preclinical

The researchers emphasise that the therapy remains experimental and has not yet been tested in people. Further research will be required to assess its safety and determine whether it could eventually progress to clinical trials.

The findings also suggest that targeting GIPC1 could potentially complement existing chemotherapy. In the laboratory studies, combining the experimental drug with gemcitabine produced greater effects than the experimental treatment alone.

However, additional studies will be needed to establish whether these results can be replicated in further preclinical models and whether the approach can ultimately provide a meaningful benefit for patients.

Therapy dogs help stroke patients move more and engage in their rehabilitation

A visit from a therapy animal may do more than lift spirits. A new study in Mayo Clinic Proceedings highlights how animal-assisted treatment can support inpatient stroke rehabilitation. Patients who interacted with therapy animals showed greater engagement in their treatment, increased physical activity and longer mobility compared with those who did not.

The findings suggest a promising approach to addressing common barriers patients face with stroke recovery, including limited motivation, reduced energy, lack of companionship and decreased interest in therapy activities. By incorporating trained therapy dog-handler teams into rehabilitation care, patients can do a variety of activities including walking, playing fetch, and petting or brushing the dog.

"The presence of a therapy dog can change the entire dynamic of a rehabilitation session," says Whitney Romine, manager of animal-assisted services at Mayo Clinic. "Patients often share that they feel more ground-

ed, safe and empowered to engage in therapy activities, which can make a meaningful difference in their recovery experience."

The paper, "The Impact of Animal-Assisted Treatment on Inpatient Stroke Rehabilitation," shows how patient care could be improved using a clinical care delivery model that includes qualified animal handler teams. The study also explores how these changes could be applied across a variety of medical specialties and patient populations.

"Stroke recovery can be challenging, particularly when patients face barriers such as low motivation or limited energy," says Brent Bauer, M.D., a physician in internal medicine at Mayo Clinic. "This research demonstrates that animal-assisted treatment may offer a practical and effective way to enhance engagement and support better rehabilitation outcomes."

This research was conducted in collaboration with Nestlé Purina PetCare. For a complete list of authors, disclosures and funding, review the study.



A Mayo Clinic study found that the presence of therapy animals may increase patient engagement, physical activity and mobility during stroke rehabilitation.

Buju remains on Billboard

Buju Banton's *Too Too Bad* spends a second week on the Billboard Reggae Albums chart, falling from its #8 debut last week to #10.

Too Too Bad, released via Gargamel Music/VP Records, is Buju's 13th entry on the Billboard chart and his first title to not make the Top 5, since *Toppa Di Top & Dirty Rhythms* topped out at #7 in May 2006.

Too Too Bad features collaborations with Gramps Morgan, Ari Lennox, and DJ Khaled.

Still on the Billboard Reggae Albums chart, Bob Marley and the Wailers remain in the #1 spot for 342nd non-consecutive weeks with *Legend*, while *Best of Shaggy: The Boombastic Collection* is firm at #2.

The Trinity by Sean Paul re-enters at #3, *World on Fire* by Stick Figure stays put at #4, and Sean Paul's Grammy-winning *Dutty Rock* inches up to #5.

Stick Figure has back-to-back entries, *Wisdom* at #6 and *Set in Stone* climbs three places to #7.

Exodus by Bob Marley & the Wailers inches up to #8, while *Live in St Augustine* by Rebelution revisits the chart at #9.



Dancehall Superstar Buju Banton

Jamaican (Bam Bam), credited to producers HUGEL and SOLTO, continues to make gains on multiple global charts. First, it flies from #67 to #45 on the UK Singles chart. The song which is a house/dance/Afrobeats reincarnation of Sister Nancy's 1982 hit *Bam Bam*, earns its highest placement on Billboard's Hot Dance/Electronic Songs chart, as it climbs from #11 to land

at #7 in its 26th week on the chart. However, on Billboard's Warm Global Dance Radio chart, it backtracks from #11 to #15, having peaked at #4.

Over on Billboard's Global 200 chart, the song dances from #42 to #36 in its 17th week, while stepping up from #20 to #13 on Billboard's Global Excluding US chart.

Cheap Thrills and *(When You Gonna) Give it Up to Me* are #111 and #89 respectively on Global Excluding US chart.

Spin, by Kevin Ross, which is produced by Jamaican Kheilstone, loses steam on the urban charts. On Billboard's R&B/Hip Hop Airplay, the song tumbles from #22 to #32, but it fares better on Billboard's Adult R&B Airplay, slipping from #6 to #9, where it peaked at #5.

PONGO by producer Rvssian, Rauw Alejandro, and Wizkid continues its downward trajectory on the Billboard Latin charts. It falls from #43 to #49 on Hot Latin Songs, having peaked at #19, while on Latin Airplay, it dips from #43 to #44 in its 11th week. On Hot Latin Rhythm Songs, *PONGO* slides down from #17 to #19, and on Latin Rhythm Airplay remains at #12.

Moving now to regional charts, Shine by JUNO award winner Elaine Shepherd takes over the #1 spot on the Rebel Vibe Top Ten Canadian Reggae chart. *Ten Foot Wall* by Tasha T moves into the #1 spot, with *Set Me Free* by Memberz Syndicate and *Rise Up* by Belinda Brady holding down the #3 and #4 positions. *Worldwide (Dubfare)* by Lory Fury and Dub Chronicles is #5.

Reggae Music Nice by Legato spends a second week at the top of the Reggae North Canadian Top 20 Reggae and Dancehall chart, while *Rise Up* by Belinda Brady is steady at #2.

Ten Foot Wall by Tasha T inches up to #3, *Blaze it* by I-Noah steps up to #4, and *Just Try* by Tonya P creeps to #5.

Bad Gal Time by Razor B enters at #20. *Ting Loud* by Protoje and Masicka takes over the #1 spot on the Florida Reggae and Dancehall Top 20 Radio Singles chart, as reported by The Voice of the Caribbean. *Slip N Slide* by Masicka falls to #2, with Stephen Marley's *Hills of St Ann* firm at #3.

Moving up three places to #4 is Vybz Kartel's *Dancehall Ting* and Buju Banton's former chart-topper *Butterflies* at #5.

Brooklyn's first Jamaica Day parade a huge success

New York made history on Saturday, August 8, as the inaugural Jamaica Rising Day Parade brought thousands of revellers into the streets of Brooklyn to mark Jamaica's 64th Independence.

It was the first standalone US parade dedicated exclusively to Jamaican heritage, culture, music and food, breaking away from the multi-nation model of the West Indian American Day Carnival typically held annually on Labour Day weekend in September.

The parade stepped off from Church and Ocean Avenues and moved toward Lincoln Road near Empire Boulevard, filling the route with reggae and dancehall music, the colours of the Jamaican flag, and three signature floats representing the island's counties of Cornwall, Middlesex, and Surrey. The event, however, was shut down earlier than planned, reportedly as a precautionary safety measure, with attendees suggesting the crowd had simply outgrown expectations.

NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Wil-

liams was among the officials on hand, telling CBS News New York that the moment was worth savouring.

"We're excited to be out here, the first-ever Jamaican Day Parade," Williams said. "You see all the Jamaican flags out there. You see different cultures coming out to celebrate one culture."

Reggae singer Nadine Sutherland served as grand marshal of the inaugural parade, an honour she said felt patriotic, even as she raced from the ribbon-cutting straight to the airport for a next-day performance in Birmingham, England.

"This is one of the proudest days of my life," Sutherland posted on her Facebook page.

"To all the people who came out, and showed up, man you represented us with dignity. Next year, and the years to come will be even more awesome." Speaking to The Gleaner afterwards, Sutherland said the day carried personal weight.



"It was emotional, I was overwhelmed," she exclaimed. "A Jamaica Day ... come on, man."

"I was thinking about my auntie who died," she said. "She didn't live to see a Jamaica Day parade, and what she gave — what a lot of people who come as immigrants sacrificed ... We stand on their shoulders, because you look at it and you see what some of the Jamaican descendants have done. They have done beautifully."

Sutherland said the scale of the turnout took her by surprise.

"I don't think a lot of people [expected] something this big ... so successful."

Few people in the Jamaican diaspora have a clearer view of the significance of this moment than Roy 'DJ Roy' Walters of Road International, who was one of the hosts on the truck on the

parade route. He rode on the very first Jamaica trucks ever to appear at the West Indian Day Parade on Eastern Parkway many years ago.

What struck him most, he said, wasn't just the size of the crowd but the patrons in the crowd.

"It's second- and third-generation Jamaicans that was really on the parkway," Roy said. "You saw kids with Jamaican pride, many of them who were really born here in America."

He described a call-and-response moment on the truck that captured the spirit of the day.

"If your parents were born in Jamaica — your mother born in Montego Bay, your father born in Kingston, and you were born in Brookdale Hospital in Brooklyn — you are Jamaican. And the place went crazy," he explained.



TURN WASTE INTO BLACK GOLD - JOIN THE MOVEMENT TODAY!

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

Plants and vegetables grown in a compost-rich soil are usually healthier, more productive and better able to withstand adverse conditions (drought). As the archipelago continues to pursue initiatives to strengthen local food production, composting represents an important part towards building the resilience and sustainability of the sector. Households and farmers are encouraged to get involved in the Department of Agriculture’s Backyard Garden Programme and Community

THE COMPOSTING JOURNEY

From Kitchen Scraps to Healthy Soil



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

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

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

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

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

**COMPOST TEA TRAINING
FOR BACKYARD GARDENERS**

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LOCATION: KEWTOWN FARMERS' MARKET
DATE: AUGUST 12TH, 2026
TIME: 5:30 - 6:30 PM / DURATION: 1 HOUR

+16492436290 GOV.TC/AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TURKS AND CAICOS

TURKS AND CAICOS JUDICIARY CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR JUDICIAL WELLBEING

In recognition of the International Day for Judicial Wellbeing, the judicial officers of the Judiciary of the Turks and Caicos Islands participated in a walk commencing at the National Stadium and along Venetian Road on Saturday, July 25, 2026.

The Honourable Chief Justice, the President of the Court of Appeal, along with Judges of the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court, the Coroner, Resident Magistrates, Registrars and other judicial officers celebrated this day recognising the importance of judicial well-being in carrying out judicial functions effectively and efficiently.

This event underscores our Judiciary’s commitment to promoting the health and well-being of our judicial officers.

The International Day for Judicial Well-being was officially proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on March 4, 2025, and is observed annually on July 25. Its declaration and observance follow upon the Nauru Declaration on Judicial Wellbeing 2024 which emanated from the conference held by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Nauru Judiciary in March 2024.



L-R: Her Honour, Ms. Mickia Mills, Coroner, Ms. Sarika Samaroo, Registrar of the Magistrate’s Court, Ms. Terrilyn Hunte, Senior Deputy Registrar, Her Honour Ms. Patricia Arana, Resident Magistrate, Justice Chris Selochan, Ms. Sasha Ferguson, Judicial Research Assistant, Ms. Tanya Carter, Executive Director, President of the Court of Appeal, Justice of Appeal Alice Yorke Soo Hon, Chief Justice, the Hon. Mrs. Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, Mr. Narendra Lalbeharry, Registrar of the Supreme Court, Justice of Appeal Jacqueline Corneilus-Thorne

It advocates that the health of judicial officers is critical to judicial integrity, independence and the quality of justice delivered, and set out seven foundational principles to guide us. Judicial well-being is of utmost importance, as it ensures that our judicial officers are in the best of health physically and mentally as they carry out their

judicial duties.

When our judiciary promotes and fosters environments that prioritize well-being, their judicial officers can confidently perform their judicial functions in a manner that upholds ethical standards and contributes to delivering justice fairly and competently.

Taking the time to recognize and em-

phasize activities that promote the health and well-being of our judicial officers demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that they are encouraged and supported in achieving this important goal. The day highlights global recognition of the connection between judicial well-being and judicial integrity.

The Agency Turks & Caicos, Vangow Announce Exclusive Partnership to Introduce Luxury Co-Ownership Opportunities

Global real estate brokerage The Agency has announced that it has entered an exclusive strategic partnership with Vangow, a luxury co-ownership platform providing buyers with access to premium second homes through a professionally managed shared ownership model.

The partnership combines Vangow’s co-ownership platform and property management expertise with The Agency Turks & Caicos’ deep local market knowledge, global network and luxury real estate experience. Together, the companies will introduce a curated collection of co-ownership opportunities across the Turks & Caicos Islands, beginning with Navah Villa 6, a contemporary beachfront residence within the Navah development on Providenciales. “Luxury buyers are increasingly seeking smarter ways to own exceptional real estate without compromising on quality, flexibility or experience,” said Mark Gadeloff, Founder and CEO of Vangow. “Our partnership with The Agency Turks & Caicos combines an innovative ownership model with one of the Caribbean’s most respected luxury real estate brokerages. Together, we are creating new opportunities for buyers to enjoy ownership in one of



Sean O’Neil Managing Partner of the Agency’

the world’s most extraordinary destinations.” Vangow’s model enables multiple buyers to purchase professionally managed ownership interests in a luxury residence. The platform combines legal ownership, scheduling technology and comprehensive property manage-

ment, offering buyers the benefits of second-home ownership with greater flexibility and fewer day-to-day responsibilities. “Turks & Caicos continues to attract sophisticated buyers from around the world, many of whom are seeking the benefits of ownership with greater

flexibility,” said Sean O’Neill, Managing Partner of The Agency Turks & Caicos. “Vangow offers an elegant solution that aligns with the evolving needs of today’s luxury buyer. We are thrilled to partner with Vangow and introduce this offering with Navah Villa 6, a residence that perfectly reflects the caliber of design, lifestyle and real estate found throughout Turks & Caicos.” Designed by James Hamilton Architects, Navah Villa 6 pairs contemporary Caribbean architecture with expansive indoor-outdoor living spaces, premium finishes and sweeping views of the turquoise waters surrounding Providenciales. The residence is part of Navah Turks and Caicos, a beachfront development created to deliver an elevated and thoughtfully designed island lifestyle. The partnership is expected to expand to include additional carefully selected luxury residences throughout Turks & Caicos. By combining Vangow’s ownership platform with The Agency Turks & Caicos’ real estate expertise and international reach, the companies will provide buyers with a new way to experience luxury homeownership in one of the Caribbean’s most sought-after destinations.

ROCKHOUSE

TURKS & CAICOS
GRACE BAY RESORTS

OPEN JOB POSITION Restaurant Manager

We are seeking a proficient and enthusiastic Restaurant Manager to join our team!

JOB OVERVIEW:

We are seeking candidates who are passionate about delivering exceptional guest experiences, possess strong operational and analytical skills, and have a proven track record of leadership. The Restaurant Manager oversees daily restaurant operations, ensuring the highest standards of service, quality, and food safety. This role leads team development initiatives, coordinates staff training programs, and drives the successful execution of special projects across the operation. The successful candidate will be responsible for developing, implementing, and facilitating programs that enhance employee performance, operational efficiency, and guest satisfaction.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Lead the daily operation of the restaurant (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner) ensuring exceptional service standards are maintained at all times.
- Supervise and motivate assist restaurant Managers, supervisors, servers, hosts, and support staff.
- Ensure compliance with LQA, Grace Bay Resorts, and departmental service standards.
- Monitor service quality, cleanliness, food presentation, and guest satisfaction throughout each service period.
- Coordinate with the Executive Chef to ensure seamless food and beverage service.
- Conduct daily briefings, pre-shift meetings, and operational follow-ups.
- Handle VIP arrivals and ensure personalized guest experiences.
- Resolve guest complaints professionally while maximizing guest satisfaction.
- Maintain labour productivity, scheduling, and staffing levels according to business demands.
- Ensure compliance with health, hygiene, sanitation, and food safety regulations.
- Maintain a non managing the OpenTable page for VITA, including controlling reservations, covers, and seating flow in line with business levels and operational requirements.
- Monitoring and responding to Tripadvisor and Google reviews, and proactively connecting with guests when service recovery is required.
- Regularly reviewing and updating VITA menus in close coordination with the Culinary Team.
- Working closely with the Bar Manager to ensure the service bar is appropriately set up, stocked, and prepared to support smooth and efficient service operations.

REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- Wine & Beverage Program
- Team Leadership and Training
- Financial and Administrative Responsibilities
- Guest Experiences

EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Minimum 3–5 years of management experience in luxury restaurants or five-star resorts.
- Previous experience as a Restaurant Manager or Assistant Restaurant Manager.
- Luxury hotel or LQA experience is highly desirable.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- Diploma or Degree in Hospitality Management, Hotel Management, Business Administration, or a related field preferred.
- WSET Level 2 minimum required.
- WSET Level 3 or Certified Sommelier preferred.
- Strong knowledge of Old World and New World wines.
- Knowledge of Champagne, sparkling wines, fortified wines, and premium spirits.
- Ability to conduct professional wine tastings and pairing experiences.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES REQUIRED:

- Business Acumen.
- Great organization & planning skills.
- Effective Communication & Confidentiality Consultation
- Strong Connection & Collaboration skills
- Critical Evaluation
- Ethical Practice
- Values Diversity
- Global & Cultural Awareness
- Learning & Development Expertise
- Leadership & Navigation
- Relationship Management

SALARY: \$48,000.00 - \$52,800.00 per annum
BONUS + 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 14TH, 2026

3-Day-Old Baby Among 20 Families Left Homeless After Police-Protected Demolition Crew Flatten Their Dwellings

JAMAICA- Residents of a section of Cooper's Pen, Trelawny, including a c-section mother with a three-day-old baby were jolted from their slumber on Tuesday morning August 11, to find a demolition crew flattening their houses in a pre-dawn operation involving bulldozers, tractors, and sledgehammers. Even though a battalion of police provided security for the demolition crew, government said they knew nothing about the demolition on a land which is still the source of a court battle.

All told, a approximately 20 predominantly concrete houses lay in ruins as their bewildered owners looked on in disbelief.

"This is a complete surprise. We got no warning or anything, so it is like we were ambushed," a tearful woman lamented, adding that they were not even given a chance to secure their belongings.

"A lot of sweat, tears, and partner money got bulldozed this morning by these wicked and uncaring people," she wailed.

According to the residents, at about 3 a.m., a police team entered the community and detained more than 20 men, whisking them away from the community without explanation. Shortly after,

they heard the rumbling sounds of the bulldozers, signalling the start of the demolition.

"The only mercy they (the demolition crew) showed me was to allow me to go back into the house to pick up my baby," a female resident told The Gleaner. "Right now, I am totally confused because I have nowhere to go ... I feel like they have ripped away my life."

Efforts by The Gleaner to speak with the bailiff and ascertain the reasons behind the demolition and who provided the authorisation proved futile as he ignored all the questions that were asked of him. The police on location also refused to answer any questions.

According to the affected residents, some of whom said that they had been living on the property for more than 30 years, while they recognised that they had no legal claim to the property, they were unclear as to its true ownership.

"In 2009, a gentleman showed up claiming ownership of the property and took us to court, but the matter was not resolved, and we were not given any new court date. This morning marks the first time that we were molested by anyone since that time," one of the longstanding residents told The Gleaner.

Councillor Garth Wilkinson decried the demolition exercise.

"This is inhumane. The person behind this should have had dialogue with the people first so that they would have known if the land is up for sale, which would have given them an opportunity to buy their respective plots," said Wilkinson.

Businessman Dennis Meadows, the People's National Party (PNP) caretaker for Trelawny Northern, also took issue with the demolition. While acknowledging that the legality of the action may ultimately have to be determined through the appropriate legal processes, he stressed that the humanitarian impact on the affected families could not be overlooked.

"Regardless of the legal issues involved, today's event has left several Jamaican families displaced," he said, adding that the elected representative has a duty to "ensure that those affected receive fair treatment and the necessary assistance".

Trelawny Northern Member of Parliament Tova Hamilton, who also visited the site, promised assistance for the affected families.

Meanwhile, the occupants of 40 houses

left standing on the property are now uneasy as they were warned by the demolition team that it would return to complete the exercise and clear the entire property.

- Additional reporting by the Jamaican Gleaner



A section of the on which houses were bulldozed

CDB Approves USD 1 Million Contribution to the Fund for the Recovery and Reconstruction of Venezuela

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean today announced a landmark USD 1 million contribution by CDB to CAF's Fund for the Recovery and Reconstruction of Venezuela, following approval by CDB's Board of Directors.

The contribution will support recovery and reconstruction efforts in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela following the devastating earthquakes of June 24, 2026, which caused significant loss of life, widespread displacement and extensive damage to critical infrastructure across several regions of the country.

CAF established the Fund for the Recovery and Reconstruction of Venezuela on June 26, 2026, to mobilise and coordinate international support for emergency response, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction activities identified as priorities by the Government of Venezuela. The Fund provides a transparent and accountable mechanism through which governments, institutions and development partners can contribute to the country's recovery effort. CDB's contribution reflects the value of multilateral partnership, with regional and international development institutions working together to support recovery and reconstruction while advancing a shared commitment to resilience and



A rescue worker and digs through the rubble of buildings in Venezuela, searching for survivors after the worst earthquakes to hit the country in nearly six decades.

solidarity efforts.

CDB President Daniel M. Best said, "In the immediate aftermath of this tragedy, the Caribbean Development Bank determined that we had to respond. Venezuela is a longstanding member of our institution and a country that has con-

sistently and meaningfully supported the people and nations of the Caribbean over many decades. At this moment of profound loss and hardship, it is important that we stand in solidarity with the Government and people of Venezuela and provide support as they begin the challenging process of rebuilding."

He added, "We are grateful to our Board of Directors for their unwavering support in approving this contribution. Our collaboration with CAF through their recovery mechanism demonstrates how multilateral institutions can work together innovatively to respond effectively to humanitarian crises and support long-term recovery. Equally important, this initiative provides an opportunity for the Bank to support a regional non-borrowing member in its time of greatest need, reaffirming that regional solidarity extends beyond traditional financing relationships."

"We deeply welcome and thank the Caribbean Development Bank for this historic USD 1 million contribution to our Recovery and Reconstruction Fund. This contribution will directly support priority recovery efforts, and we hope it inspires other partners to join this collective endeavour. Our commitment is to ensure that every dollar entrusted to this Fund translates into tangible relief and lasting reconstruction for the Vene-

zuelan people," said Sergio Díaz-Granados, CAF Executive President.

CDB's Governor for Venezuela, Ambassador Raúl Octavio Li Causi Perez said, "As Governor of the Caribbean Development Bank for Venezuela, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Bank's Board of Directors, its President, and all CDB member countries for this extraordinary demonstration of solidarity with the people of Venezuela. This contribution reaffirms that regional cooperation and integration are at their strongest when they respond to moments of greatest need."

He added, "Venezuela deeply values this expression of confidence and support, which will contribute to the recovery and reconstruction of the affected communities. We receive it with gratitude and with the conviction that, together with our Caribbean partners and institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank and CAF, we will continue advancing a shared agenda founded on solidarity, resilience, and sustainable regional development."

CAF's Fund for the Recovery and Reconstruction of Venezuela will support emergency and humanitarian response; rehabilitation of essential services and infrastructure; and interventions to accelerate recovery, reconstruction and resilience-building.



OPEN JOB OPENINGS

A&G Department:

• **General Manager**

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

Job Specification:

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

Management of Financial Resources:

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

Applied Business Knowledge:

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

Developing and Maintaining Resort Goals:

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

Salary: \$180,000.00- per annum

Food and Beverage Department:

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

Kitchen Department:

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

Job Specification:

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

Qualifications:

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

Reports: Sous Chef

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

Rooms Division Department:

• **Director of Rooms**

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

Job Specification

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

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

Requirement

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

Reports: General Manager

Salary: \$102,000 per annum

• Spa Therapist

Job Specification:

Engineering Department:

- Assistant Engineering Manager
- HVAC/Kitchen Technician
- Technician

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

Job Specification:

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

Qualifications:

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

Reports: Director of Engineering

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

Job Description

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

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Job Specification

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

Reports: Director of Food & Beverage

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

Kitchen Department
- Japanese Sous Chef
- Sous Chef

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

Job Specification:

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

Qualifications:

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

Reports: Executive Chef
Salary: \$60,000.00 - \$40,560.00 per annum

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

Reports: Guest Service Director
Salary: \$18,304.00 per annum

- Butler
- Junior Butler

Job Specification:

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

Qualifications:

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

Reports: Director of Guest Services
Salary: \$23,232.00 - \$45,000.00 per annum

Housekeeping Department:

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

Job Specification:

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

Reports: Executive Housekeeper
Salary: \$20,592.00 - \$42,000.00 per annum

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

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

West Indies officially relegated to World Cup Qualifiers

West Indies will officially have to go through next year's Qualifiers if they are to book their spot in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

Afghanistan secured the final spot and ruled out any mathematical chance the West Indies had of automatically qualifying for the 2027 World Cup by defeating Ireland by three wickets in the third One-Day International (ODI) on Monday to take a 2-0 lead.

The West Indies needed Ireland to win the five-match ODI series either 4-1 or 5-0 to have a chance of securing an automatic spot.

The 10th-ranked Windies have two

ODIs against India remaining before the cut-off date, but even two wins still wouldn't push them back into contention.

It marks the third-successive time that the men in maroon will have to go through the Qualifiers to reach the marquee event.

The West Indies were unable to make the 2023 ODI World Cup via direct entry and had to play the Qualifier, where they finished fifth in the Super Six stage and ultimately lost out.

It was the first World Cup that they ever missed, which in turn led to their missing the 2025 Champions



Trophy, a competition they haven't played since 2013.

While a venue has yet to be named by the ICC for the Qualifier, it is scheduled to be held in February next year.

The winner of the Qualifier will get

direct entry to the second round of the 2027 World Cup, while the teams finishing second, third and fourth will play the first round, called the Super Series. The top team from that tri-series will then proceed to the second round.



President of the Jamaica Football Federation (JFF), Michael Ricketts and Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Olivia Grange during the signing of the guarantee agreements for the co-hosting of the 2031 FIFA Senior Women's World Cup alongside the United States, Costa Rica and Mexico

Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Olivia Grange and the President of the Jamaica Football Federation (JFF), Michael Ricketts, on Tuesday afternoon signed the guarantee agreements for the co-hosting of the 2031 FIFA Senior Women's World Cup alongside the United States, Costa Rica and Mexico.

The signing took place at the offices of the ministry at Trafalgar Road in St Andrew.

Minister Grange said that "With the

signing, the Government of Jamaica and the Jamaica Football Federation will partner with FIFA in fulfilling the responsibilities and deliverables associated with Jamaica's hosting obligations. These include establishing legal mechanisms for guarantees, bonds, declarations."

The signed guarantee agreements include visas, permits, immigration and check-in procedures, safety and security, waiver, indemnification and other legal issues.

Cabinet has also approved a local

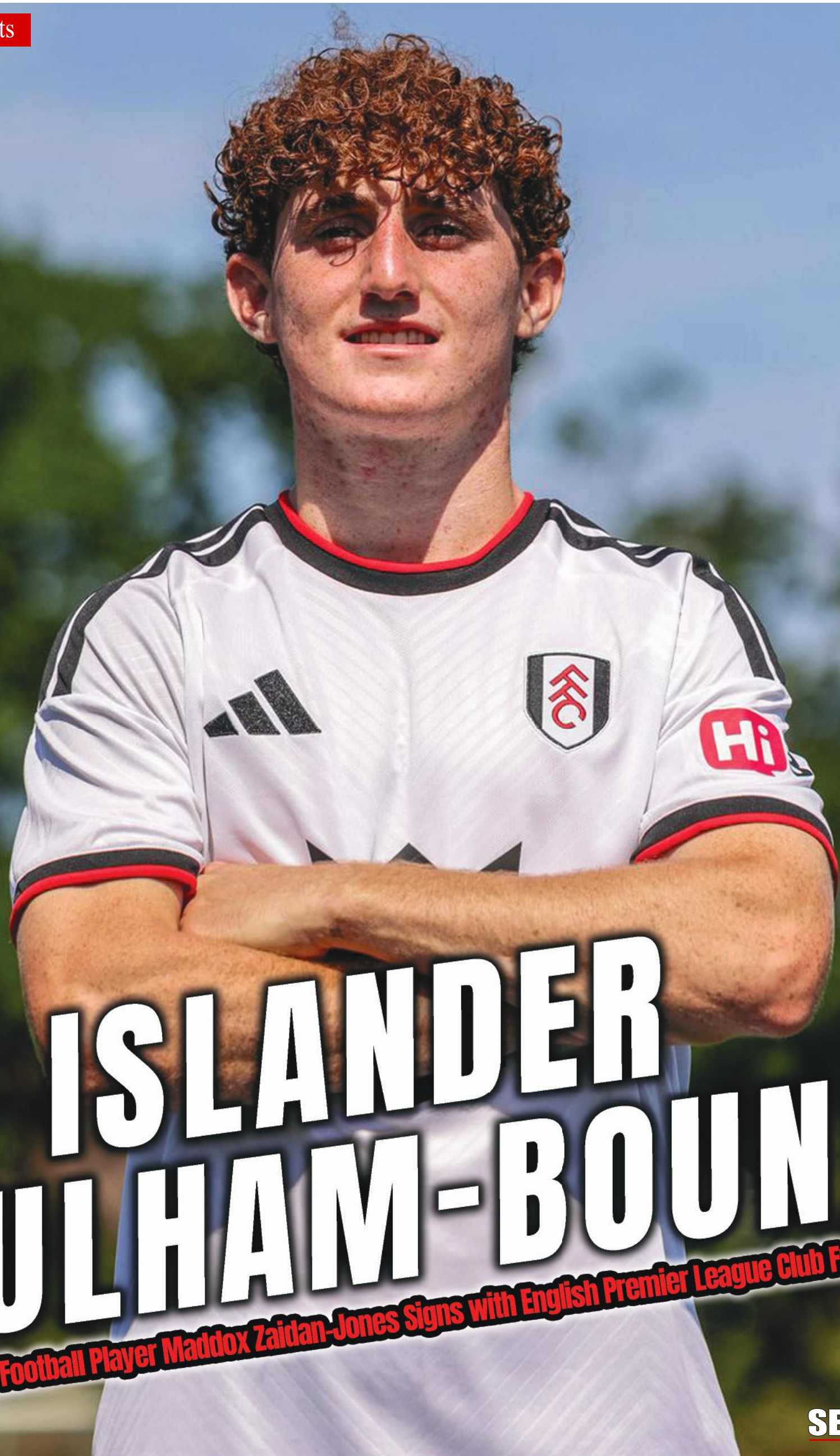
Gov't and JFF sign guarantee agreements for Jamaica co-hosting the 2031 FIFA Women's World Cup

organising committee which will be established to oversee the management of Jamaica's obligations and the budgetary impact of the obligations. The committee will be made up of the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, the Ministry of Tourism, and Departments and Agencies which will partner with the JFF and the private sector on the oversight body.

Grange said Jamaica's hosting of the FIFA Women's World Cup presents an opportunity for showcasing gender mainstreaming, whilst providing an inspiration for girls' participation in sport, institutionalising nation-

al pride and unity, and job creation in events, security, and the tourism sectors.

"It also gives us bragging rights as the first Caribbean nation to host Women's World Cup matches. Jamaica will host three to five Group Stage matches and one match in the Round of 32. Indirect economic impact will come from a large number of international visitors, and spending on food, transport, and tours. Media/TV exposure of Kingston will also be of priceless value to our tourism brand. Significant economic injection is expected," Minister Grange concluded.



ISLANDER FULHAM-BOUND

National Football Player Maddox Zaidan-Jones Signs with English Premier League Club Fulham

SEE PG36

Tiny Invaders, Big Impact

Island-wide survey uncovers the hidden world of ants across the Turks and Caicos Islands

By Roneta Huntley Thomas, Jordinae E. C. Williams and Noel Tawatao



AT A GLANCE

More than 30 ant species have been collected so far—and most are non-native to the region.

30+

ant species collected



ABOUT 40%

native to the region



6 ISLANDS

included in the survey



They may be tiny, but ants can have an enormous impact on island life. Some invasive species threaten native wildlife, damage crops, disrupt ecosystems and create health and safety concerns for communities.

That is why the Darwin Plus locally funded project DPLO0130 launched the first island-wide effort to document ant diversity in Providenciales, North Caicos, Middle Caicos, South Caicos, Grand Turk and East Caicos spear headed by the Departments of Agriculture and Fera Science Ltd. in the United Kingdom.

What did the survey find?

Teams used baiting, leaf-litter collection and careful hand searches to sample ants in different environments. More than 30 species have been collected, and that number may rise as the project is completed.

About 40% of the species recorded are native to the region. The remainder are non-native and include two well-known invaders: the red imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*) and the big-headed ant (*Pheidole megacephala*).



A human footprint in the findings

Providenciales—the largest and most populated island and the main centre of trade—recorded the greatest variety of ants.

By contrast, no non-native ants were collected on uninhabited East Caicos.



The contrast reinforces an important lesson: people, goods, plants, soil and cargo can unintentionally help invasive ants move from place to place.



RED FLAG SPECIES:

Red imported fire ant
(*Solenopsis invicta*)



Big-headed ant
(*Pheidole megacephala*)



Leaf litter is placed in Winkler traps, which extract ants for study.



Darwin Fellow Noel Tawatao trains local staff to identify ants.



Port inspections help detect invasive ants.



Collecting leaf litter samples to study ant species.



Turning research into protection

The project is not only counting ants. It is building the local skills and systems needed to detect new arrivals early and respond before they become widely established.



Local teams trained

Staff from the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Health and partner organizations received hands-on training in surveillance, ant identification and rapid-response procedures. Newly developed identification guides and reporting forms will help teams retain and share this knowledge after the project ends.



High-risk entry points checked

Plant nurseries and cargo docks received special attention because they are among the places where invasive ants are most likely to arrive, establish and spread. Inspections, stronger biosecurity practices, baiting and habitat isolation can help contain invasive populations.



SMART CONTROL: Any use of insect-growth regulators or toxicant baits must be carefully planned to limit effects on other species and protect ecological balance.



A legacy beyond the project

Although Darwin Plus Local funding is nearing completion, trained staff, practical tools and response protocols will support continued surveillance and management. Stronger partnerships and public awareness will help the Turks and Caicos Islands detect, manage and prevent future incursions.



The message is simple: protecting our islands begins with noticing the small things.

ABOUT THE PROJECT DPLO0130 — Ant Diversity and Management of Invasive Ant Species in the Turks and Caicos Islands

This project was funded by the UK Government through Darwin Plus (DPLO0130: Ant diversity and managing invasive ants in Turks and Caicos Islands).

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2026

TAJHARI WILLIAMS CAPS BREAKTHROUGH SEASON WITH NATIONAL RECORD AT TYR FUTURES

TS Aquatics standout Tajhari Williams closed out an extraordinary 2026 swimming season in record-setting fashion, delivering an impressive performance at the 2026 TYR Futures Championships in Knoxville, Tennessee. Williams finished the season by producing personal-best times across his events at Futures, continuing a remarkable stretch of performances that included an outstanding show-

ing at the 2026 Florida Gold Coast Senior Championships. The biggest moment of the meet came in the 100-meter freestyle, where Williams touched the wall in 52.49 seconds, establishing a national record and earning a USA Swimming Winter Junior National qualifying cut. Futures Championships are a multi-site summer swim meet series hosted by USA Swimming that serve as an intermediate stepping stone be-



Tajhari Williams sets national record

tween local Sectional championships and Junior Nationals. They give rising athletes a high-level, national-class championship experience.

Ex-Super Bowl champ gets early release from prison to be with 8-year-old daughter dying of cancer

Former Super Bowl champion running back Wendell Smallwood Jr., who's been imprisoned since 2024 on fraud and gun possession charges, was granted an early release to be by the side of his 8-year-old daughter, Mila, who is dying of cancer, according to the Delaware News Journal. Smallwood's daughter reportedly was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year and doctors said she may have only days or weeks to live. Gloucester County Superior Court Judge Renard Scott granted the motion to withdraw Smallwood's guilty plea on Aug. 7, and said Smallwood's reasoning for seeking release carried substantial weight. Wendell Smallwood #34 of the Washington Redskins leaves the field after the game against the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field on December 8, 2019 in Green Bay, Wisconsin. "[It's an] unfortunate situation none of us would want to face," Scott said, per the outlet. "This is an illness that is untreatable. His daughter has days, possibly weeks remaining." Smallwood, a 32-year-old father of three, was sentenced to 18 months in prison in September 2025 on federal fraud charges related to COVID-19 economic relief programs — and a state court sentence after pleading guilty to possessing an AR-15 rifle locked away in the basement of his home in New Jersey, a state where possession of such firearms is illegal. Scott, who said that Smallwood is not



Wendell Smallwood (L) and his Wife Autumn Smallwood (R) attend the retirement event for Darren Sproles at the Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills on May 6, 2022 in Los Angeles, California.

considered a danger to the community, explained that the ex-Eagle bought the gun legally in Pennsylvania and made a "poor judgment call" by possessing it in New Jersey. Smallwood reportedly was about three months from qualifying for full parole. According to the Daily Mail, Mila was diagnosed earlier this year with diffuse anaplastic Wilms tumor, a rare and aggressive form of childhood kidney cancer. Smallwood's daughter underwent unsuccessful chemotherapy between visits with her father at the federal Fort Dix prison, according to the Delaware News

Journal, which said she is currently in palliative care. "They can't do anything except make her comfortable now," said Yaron Helmer, Smallwood's attorney. "I can't think of a stronger reason than to be with his dying daughter." Helmer said Smallwood could be released as early as Aug. 17. "This is not just a matter of legal semantics. It's about whether his daughter will hold her dad again," Helmer said. Smallwood's wife, Autumn, thanked the judge for taking the time to hear the petition and also God "for carrying our family through all of this" in an email to

the Delaware News Journal, adding that her husband is thankful to those that showed support. "We felt the support from so many people, and we are truly grateful," Autumn wrote. "We are grateful for this step forward, but our biggest fight is still Mila's," she continued. "Please continue to keep her in your prayers as she continues to fight." Seattle Seahawks linebacker Bobby Wagner (54) and defensive end Frank Clark (55) tackle Philadelphia Eagles running back Wendell Smallwood (28) for a loss on Sunday, November 20, 2016, at CenturyLink Field in Seattle. Helmer said the terms of Smallwood's federal sentence, his prison program participation and disciplinary record now make him eligible to get out of prison on his federal sentence. Smallwood's motion for release was granted after a July appeals court decision that found New Jersey's assault weapons ban unconstitutional. Prior to Scott's ruling, Gloucester County Prosecutor Andrew Johns opposed Smallwood's effort to get out of prison early. Helmer said "justice was done" and he hopes prosecutors do not appeal. Smallwood — a fifth-round pick out of West Virginia by the Eagles in the 2016 NFL Draft — won Super Bowl 2018 when Philadelphia defeated the New England Patriots 41-33 at U.S. Bank Stadium. He also had stints with the Washington Commanders and Pittsburgh Steelers.

TCI Cricketers Fall Short in ICC Tourney

The Turks and Caicos Islands Cricket Team were beaten in the semifinal of the International Cricket Council (ICC) 2026 Men’s South American Cricket Championship that took place in Columbia. Tournament involving Columbia, Brazil, Panama, Mexico and Peru. Brazil won the competition. Of their five games played, the Turks and Caicos won two, which propelled them to the semifinal of the tournament. They were however defeated by Brazil, who went on to win the tournament. Rohan Hines finished with 91 runs over 5 innings, while Robert Johnson finished with 7 wickets in 5 innings. Hines and Garvin Bruno captured individual player of match awards during the tournament.



Michael Pereira (fourth from left), President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Cricket Association presents trophies and gift bags to competing cricketers in the tournament. At right is Garvin Bruno, captain of the TCI Cricket Team.



Garvin Bruno collecting his Man of the Match Award



Rohan Hines of the TCI Cricket Team collecting his Man of the Match Award



Zaidan-Jones has primarily played in midfield for the national programme but has also been deployed as a striker.

Zaidan-Jones joins Premier League club Fulham

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Turks and Caicos Islands international Maddox Zaidan-Jones has signed a professional contract with English Premier League club Fulham FC ahead of the 2026/27 season. Fulham announced that the versatile 18-year-old midfielder will initially join the club’s Under-21 squad. “It feels amazing to sign for Fulham,” Zaidan-Jones told the club’s website. “It’s the type of thing you dream of when you’re a little kid. “Getting the opportunity to come here and play the game that I love, I couldn’t be any happier. “When I’m on the field, you’ll see creativity, technical ability and somebody who will work hard for the team and the club. “This season, I want to contribute as much as I can for the Under-21s, and hopefully that can lead to getting a shot in the first team.” Born in New York, Zaidan-Jones moved to the Turks and Caicos Islands

at a young age, and his family continues to call the territory home. He has made two appearances for the Turks and Caicos Islands senior national team and has represented the country four times at Under-17 level. He is also eligible to play internationally for England and Canada. Zaidan-Jones spent a week on trial at Fulham’s Motspur Park training ground last summer. During that period, he played the full 90 minutes in a 3-2 preseason victory over Charlton Athletic Under-21s. He subsequently returned to the United States to complete his studies before rejoining Fulham at the beginning of preseason. The midfielder featured in several friendly matches and scored against Gil Vicente Under-23s, Hampton & Richmond Borough and Charlton Under-21s. Although his preferred position is as a number 10, Zaidan-Jones demonstrated his versatility during preseason by also playing at left-back and on

both wings. He could make his competitive debut when Fulham’s Under-21s visit Aldershot Town on Tuesday, August 18, with kickoff scheduled for 7:45 p.m. Dane Ritchie, technical director of the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association, welcomed the signing and praised Zaidan-Jones’ dedication. “This is something that is to be celebrated,” Ritchie said. “Maddox has been with us for a while, coming through the youth ranks, so it is fabulous to see him make the transition and sign with such a big club. “He has worked hard and is one of those players who dedicated a lot of time to individual work. He has invested greatly in himself, and it is good to see him finally reap the rewards. “It is not all credit to the association. His personal drive made this possible. I am really happy for him and wish him all the best for his future at Fulham.” Ritchie said Zaidan-Jones has primarily played in midfield for the national programme but has also been de-

played as a striker.
MADDOX ZAIDAN-JONES
PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE
FULHAM FOOTBALL CLUB
WEBSITE



RITCHIE...Maddox has been with us for a while, coming through the youth ranks