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STARLINK IS HERE

SATELLITE INTERNET PROVIDER GRANTED LICENSES TO OPERATE IN TCI

GOVERNMENT ASSURES OTHER MARKET PLAYERS THAT PLAYING FIELD WILL BE LEVEL



Consumers
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**RESOLVING
E ISSUES**

Mr. Clayton Been
Chairman
TCI Telecommunication Commission

Hon. Shaun Malcolm
Minister of Home Affairs, Public Safety, Culture, Education and Development

Mr. Rebecca Hunter
Director of Market Monitor Policy

Mr. K...

>>> STORY ON PG5

Miss International TCI Workshop puts Poverty Issues in the Spotlight

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Miss International TCI brought the often-overlooked issue of poverty into public discussion during a skills workshop held Saturday, August 22, at the Ports of Call Conference Room in Grace Bay. The event centered on the platform of reigning queen Adesha Gustave and its alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 1, which calls for an end to poverty in all its forms. Sharlene Richards, national director of Miss International TCI, said the workshop examined the realities of poverty in the Turks and Caicos Islands, including its effects on vulnerable communities and the assistance available to residents.

“What we’ve learned from all the input from the various speakers today is that poverty is not a single event,” Richards said. “Many of our communities here in Turks and Caicos are impacted, or have been impacted, by the consequences of poverty at some point in their lives.” Richards said the latest statistical information available to organizers indicates that approximately 22 per cent of Turks and Caicos Islanders are living in poverty. Despite that figure, she said poverty remains a difficult and sometimes taboo subject in the territory. While the Government has introduced resources, aid and other forms of assistance, Richards said greater public awareness is needed to ensure that people know how to access the support available to them. “Miss International is using this space and this platform to bring those conversations, as uncomfortable as they may be, to the surface,” she said. “We want this on the headlines.” Richards warned that the Turks and Caicos Islands’ dependence on imported goods leaves residents vulnerable to international crises, including wars, economic



Sharlene Grant Richards, Director for the Miss International Turks and Caicos Pageant

disruptions and other events that increase the cost of living. She said emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic and hurricanes have also demonstrated how quickly individuals and families can experience financial hardship. “At some point in time, anyone could be susceptible to extreme levels of poverty here in Turks and Caicos,” Richards said. Addressing poverty, she added, must involve more than drawing attention to the problem. Residents should also receive practical assistance, mentorship and opportunities that allow them to become more self-sufficient and resilient. Richards said the territory has the resources and economic opportunities needed to eradicate poverty, but many people remain unaware of the programmes available or lack the guidance needed to take advantage of them. “There is no need for us to be living in poverty,” she said. “We boast about how well our economy is doing and the opportunities that are available. I think the problem is that there is not enough awareness, hands-on help and mentorship to get people involved.”

The workshop featured speakers from different age groups and backgrounds. Richards said the organizers deliberately invited both young people working to establish themselves and seasoned community members who have achieved significant milestones. The aim was to give participants relatable accounts of the challenges people face while also providing informed guidance from those with experience in community development. A representative from community outreach was also included to explain the assistance available and the different ways residents can obtain help. Organizers had planned a more extensive interactive session, but other commitments required them to reduce that portion of the programme. Richards said the topic would be revisited at future events. She also acknowledged the involvement of the Rotaract Club and said Miss International TCI hopes to draw on the organization’s resources as it continues the campaign. Richards praised Gustave for selecting poverty reduction as her platform, describing it as a challenging issue that many people



Adesha Gustave, the Miss International Turks and Caicos 2026 Queen, makes a point during the event. Looking on is radio personality and community activist Dr. Cutella Talbot

may be reluctant to discuss publicly. “I really admire her for coming out and talking about this platform,” Richards said. “By addressing it, bringing awareness and opening up those conversations, it is going to make a positive difference.” Richards said Miss International TCI intends to remain a leading advocate for Sustainable Development Goal 1 in the territory and work with the Department of Development and Community Outreach to reach affected communities.

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Alarm Over Lack of New Roads Ahead of School Reopening

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

- Businessman proposes alternative routes, district high schools and increased police presence to ease congestion across Providenciales

Businessman and entrepreneur Willah Gray has expressed deep concern that no additional road routes were created during the summer to address the heavy traffic expected with the start of the new school year on Providenciales. Providenciales is the most populous island in the Turks and Caicos Islands and the centre of the country’s tourism industry. Gray warned that its existing road network is struggling to keep pace with continued population and economic growth. Unless urgent measures are taken, he said, commuters could face severe congestion during the morning and evening rush hours, particularly near schools, major roundabouts and routes leading to the Howard Hamilton International Airport. “My concern is the fact that there have not been any additional routes throughout the entire summer,” Gray lamented. “We are growing, but we are not adapting to our growth.” He acknowledged the placement of orange traffic barriers in the median along sections of the Leeward Highway but said this was not a strong or lasting solution to Providenciales’ traffic problems. Gray identified several areas where congestion is expected to become particularly serious, including Wheeland, Blue Hills, Five Cays and Suzie Turn. He said the absence of new routes or other major traffic-easing measures would affect students, government employees, hotel workers and other daily commuters. He warned that the island’s tourism industry could also suffer, with taxis, private SUV

and VIP-transfer operators facing delays while transporting visitors to and from the airport. “It is important that our taxi drivers, VIP drivers, hotels and guests, as well as the airport, are not affected by traffic issues,” Gray said. “There have been situations in the past where guests were late for their flights. That is a huge concern.” Proposal to Open Alternative Routes Gray proposed opening alternative road connections, including a route from Blue Hills to Thompson Cove, a link from Blue Hills through the Snake Hill area towards the road leading to the airport, and improved access from Freshwater Avenue through Kew Town to Airport Road. He said such connections could reduce the number of vehicles relying on the same major roads and provide motorists with alternatives when collisions or other incidents cause blockages. Give Five Cays a High School to Ease Traffic Congestion The businessman also encouraged the Government to consider constructing high schools in the Five Cays/Chalk Sound and Cheshire Hall districts. He argued that placing schools closer to the communities they serve, and introducing school-registration zones, would reduce the number of students travelling across Providenciales each morning and afternoon. “Five Cays has a primary school, but it needs its own high school,” he said. “This would ease the traffic coming out of Five Cays in the morning and evening because of the transportation needed to get children to and from school.” He added that a community high school would make education more accessible to families living in Five Cays and Chalk Sound, whose children currently travel to areas such as Long Bay and Blue Hills.

Gray said the Cheshire Hall district, encompassing communities from Airport Road and Kew Town to Richmond Hill and Venetian Road, should also have a high school. “Cheshire Hall is the largest constituency in the Turks and Caicos Islands, but it does not have a high school,” he said. “This too would ease the heavy traffic we have in the morning and afternoon.” Under a properly planned zoning system, Gray said, students could attend schools closer to their homes. Some children could potentially walk or cycle to school, further reducing the volume of vehicles on Providenciales’ roads. He predicted that without immediate intervention, the reopening of schools would produce “a tsunami of vehicles” and could create a near-blockade stretching from the Blue Hills roundabout beyond the Graceway IGA Supermarket area during peak periods. Stronger Police Presence Needed at Roundabouts Gray also called for a stronger police presence at roundabouts, in school zones and at known traffic bottlenecks such as Suzie Turn and Downtown during rush hour. He urged the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force to increase the use of motorcycle officers, who he said could move through congested traffic and respond more quickly to collisions and other road emergencies. “I encourage the police to get back to motorcycle officers who can get to accident reports much quicker,” Gray said. “We also need more officers present at the roundabouts and in the school zones in the mornings.” Gray stressed that his comments were intended to raise awareness and offer solutions, not merely to criticise the Government. “These are things that could easily be avoid-



GRAY...Five Cays has a primary school, but it needs its own high school

ed, but the fact that nothing has happened throughout the entire summer shows that we are not prepared,” he said. He expressed hope that the Government would receive his recommendations in good faith and act to protect commuters, students, tourism workers, visitors and the wider Turks and Caicos Islands tourism product.

Georgetta Smith-Davis

Address: Venetian Road, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands

POSITION:

DOMESTIC WORKER

\$

WAGE:

\$352.00 p/week

CONTACT NUMBER:

348-9566

DUTIES:

Cleaning, Laundry and ironing.

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Government Launches Grand Turk Trade Expo and Announces Fifth Made in TCI Exhibition

The Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands is expanding its spotlight on local entrepreneurship with the launch of the inaugural Grand Turk Trade Expo, while marking five years of the successful Made in TCI Trade Show & Exhibition. The Department of Trade, Industry and Fair Competition will host the first Grand Turk Trade Expo on Saturday, November 14, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Victoria Public Library on Front Street. The new event is designed to give Grand Turk entrepreneurs another platform to showcase their talents, products and services, connect directly with consumers and build greater visibility for their businesses. The initiative forms part of the Department’s wider commitment to ensuring entrepreneurs throughout the Turks and Cai-

cos Islands have opportunities to be seen, explored and supported. A Mission to Discover TCI’s Hidden Gems The Grand Turk Trade Expo will also launch this year’s theme for Made in TCI 2026: “Calling All Agents.” Members of the public are being invited to step into the role of agents and embark on a mission to uncover the people, products, businesses and ideas that make the Turks and Caicos Islands unique. Visitors are encouraged to discover a business they have never heard of, meet a creator whose work deserves a wider audience, find a new favourite local product, sample something unexpected and share their discoveries with others. The message is simple: when you find something exceptional, don’t keep it classified.

Share it. Support it. Help put the hidden gems of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the spotlight. Made in TCI Celebrates Five Years The mission continues on Saturday, November 21, 2026, when the fifth annual Made in TCI Trade Show & Exhibition returns to Allegro Road in Grace Bay, Providenciales, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The milestone event will bring together local entrepreneurs, creators, innovators, food producers, designers and businesses from across the TCI for a celebration of everything imagined, created, grown, developed and made right here at home. Now entering its fifth year, Made in TCI has become an important platform for showcasing the creativity and economic potential of local businesses while connecting them with

the wider community. Two Events; One Mission Together, the two events, according to the organisers, will increase the visibility of local enterprises, strengthen connections between businesses and consumers and create more opportunities for residents and visitors to discover and support TCI-made goods and services. The mission begins in the nation’s capital on November 14, where the inaugural Grand Turk Trade Expo will shine an additional spotlight on entrepreneurship and creativity in Grand Turk and across the wider Turks and Caicos Islands. One week later, Made in TCI will continue that mission in Providenciales, celebrating five years of bringing local businesses and their products directly to the public.



It is all smiles at the Starlink Launch at the Alexandria Resort on Thursday, 27 August 2026. Seated from left are Clayton Been – Chairman for the Turks and Caicos Islands Telecommunications Commission; Hon. Shaun Malcolm – Minister of Public Safety, Gender Affairs and Religious Affairs and Social Welfare; Rebecca Hunter – Director of Starlink Market Access; Kenya Williams – Director General of the Telecommunications Commission. Standing from left are: Hon. Rachel Taylor – Minister of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture; Acting Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services Hon. Jamell Robinson; Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam; Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Arlington Musgrove; and Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Kyle Knowles.

STARLINK LAUNCHES IN TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Starlink has been formally licensed to operate in the Turks and Caicos Islands, marking a major step in the territory's efforts to expand broadband access, strengthen emergency communications and create a more competitive telecommunications market.

The licensing ceremony took place at the Alexandria Resort in Grace Bay, Providenciales, on Thursday, August 27, 2026.

Hon. Shaun Malcolm, Minister of Public Safety, Gender Affairs, Religious Affairs and Social Welfare, welcomed Starlink Caribbean LLC during the signing and presentation of its satellite network service and spectrum licences.

"Today is a great day," Malcolm said, describing the occasion as an important step in building a more connected, resilient and digitally enabled Turks and Caicos Islands.

Starlink enters a market in which Digicel and Flow are the existing broadband and internet service providers. Officials said the addition of satellite broadband could give customers greater choice, encourage competition and expand connectivity in underserved communities.

Malcolm said residents, businesses, government agencies, schools, healthcare institutions and visitors increasingly depend on reliable, high-quality communications. He noted that telecommunications support commerce, education, healthcare, tourism, public services and connections between the islands and the wider world. The minister said satellite broadband is particularly relevant to the Turks and Caicos Islands because communities are spread across several islands and cays with different population densities and in-

frastructure needs.

Extending high-capacity terrestrial networks to every community can present technical and financial challenges, he said, while satellite technology offers another way to reach locations where conventional infrastructure may be difficult to deploy. Malcolm also highlighted Starlink's potential role during hurricanes and other emergencies, when terrestrial communications networks may be damaged or temporarily unavailable.

"Families need to communicate with loved ones. Emergency responders need to coordinate their activities. Government agencies need to communicate with communities," Malcolm said.

Satellite service, he added, could provide an alternative communications route during the early stages of disaster response and recovery.

Malcolm stressed that Starlink should complement, not replace, continued investment in the territory's fixed and mobile networks. A resilient communications system, he said, would rely on different technologies and providers working together.

He welcomed Starlink Caribbean into the regulated market but said the company would be required to comply fully with local laws and the conditions of its licences, use the territory's spectrum responsibly and protect consumers.

"The granting of these licences provides significant opportunities, but those opportunities also come with important responsibilities," Malcolm said.

He reported that testing had been conducted on the morning of the ceremony and that the system had performed successfully.

Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam said Starlink's licensing was a significant step towards strengthening the resilience, security and future readiness of the Turks and Caicos Islands. She noted that while the territory's geography is one of its greatest assets, it also creates challenges for communications, particularly during hurricanes and other severe weather events.

The Governor pointed to the importance of reliable communications in communities such as Salt Cay and Middle Caicos, especially when transportation links are disrupted.

She said satellite connectivity could help households, businesses and government agencies maintain communications, support emergency operations, reassure loved ones and sustain essential services during difficult circumstances.

The Governor added that emergency services were preparing to integrate Starlink into their operational models to strengthen communications on land and at sea.

Acting Premier Hon. Jamell Robinson described the licensing as another step towards improving the territory's digital infrastructure and connectivity.

For an archipelago such as the Turks and Caicos Islands, Robinson said, connectivity helps ensure that distance does not become a disadvantage and that residents across the islands can benefit from the opportunities technology provides.

"Greater connectivity must ultimately translate into greater opportunity, greater resilience and better outcomes for the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands," Robinson said.

Telecommunications Commission Chairman Clayton Been said the licensing fol-

lowed a deliberate regulatory process designed to keep the territory's telecommunications framework aligned with technological advances and changing consumer needs.

Been said the commission consulted telecommunications operators, satellite providers, stakeholders and members of the public before establishing the framework under which satellite providers could operate.

The arrival of an additional licensed provider could expand customer choice, encourage innovation and improve the resilience and diversity of communications infrastructure across the islands, he said.

However, Been cautioned that competition must produce tangible benefits for consumers, including improvements in service quality, reliability, choice and pricing. Starlink would be held to the same laws and regulatory requirements as Digicel, Flow and every other licensed operator, he added.

"The services provided by Starlink are needed in the Turks and Caicos Islands, especially in underserved areas and in times of disaster, such as hurricanes," Been said. The Telecommunications Commission said Starlink's licensing was the first practical implementation of the territory's new regulatory framework for satellite telecommunications services. The framework is based on technological neutrality, fair competition, consumer protection and the wider public interest.

Officials said the new service would broaden the range of communications technologies available to residents, businesses, government agencies and visitors while supporting the long-term digital development of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

What TCI Has To Do To Become a Luxury Destination

An Op-Ed By Paladin

There’s a hard truth we need to face in Turks and Caicos: We keep calling ourselves a luxury destination, but we are not one — not yet. We are upscale, and in some places very upscale, but luxury is a different universe entirely. And until we understand that difference, we will keep building the wrong product, training the wrong staff, and selling the wrong story. I’ve said this before, and I’ll say it again: you cannot create what you have never experienced. And too many of the people shaping our tourism product — developers, planners, realtors, even some operators — have never lived inside true luxury. I once asked a room full of developers if any of them had ever stayed at a Peninsula hotel — one of the global pinnacles of luxury hospitality. Not a single hand went up. So I asked again: Rosewood? Passalacqua? Same silence. Some had stayed at Mandarin Oriental, which is excellent, but it is not the summit. And if your reference point is “nice five-star chain hotel,” you will never build anything beyond upscale. Luxury cannot be learned from Instagram. Luxury cannot be understood from brochures. Luxury cannot be imitated with knockoffs. Luxury must be felt.

Upscale vs. Luxury: The Difference We Keep Ignoring

- Upscale is:
- Beautiful rooms
 - Good views
 - Premium finishes
 - Polished service
 - Comfortable, stylish, modern

- Luxury is:
- Real materials — marble, mahogany, stone, craftsmanship
 - Real training — Cordon Bleu chefs, hospitality academies, elite service schools
 - Real logistics — Mercedes, Rolls Royce, top-tier yachts, seamless transfers
 - Real personalization — anticipatory service, not reactive service
 - Real opulence — curated interiors, flawless exteriors, no shortcuts
 - Real availability — anything you want, delivered quickly, without friction
 - Real communication — interpreters, multilingual staff, cultural fluency
 - Real coordination — guides, advance teams, seamless execution from touchdown to liftoff

Luxury is not “nice.” Luxury is disciplined, intentional, and expensive — in time, in training, in materials, in standards. Upscale is what we have. Luxury is what we keep pretending we have. And pretending is not a strategy.

The Knock-Off Problem

- Let’s be honest: too many of our so-called “luxury” developments are built with:
- imitation marble
 - composite “mahogany”
 - mass-produced fixtures
 - generic furniture packages
 - imported knockoffs from factories that specialize in “looks like luxury”

Luxury is not “looks like.” Luxury is it. If your villa is built with imitation materials, it is upscale. If your interiors are catalog sets, it is upscale. If your finishes are thin veneers, it is upscale. Luxury requires authenticity — real stone, real wood, real craftsmanship, real artisans. Not “Asian knockoffs,” not “good enough,” not “no one will notice.” Trust me: luxury travelers notice.

The Staffing Gap

- Luxury staffing is not:
- “friendly”
 - “polite”
 - “helpful”
- Luxury staffing is:
- trained at the best hospitality schools
 - multilingual
 - culturally fluent
 - anticipatory
 - discreet
 - precise
 - deeply professional

Luxury chefs are not “good cooks.” Luxury chefs are Cordon Bleu, Michelin-trained, or equivalent. Luxury butlers are not “housekeepers with a title.” Luxury butlers are graduates of elite service academies.

Luxury concierges are not “someone who knows the island.” Luxury concierges are global professionals who can secure anything, anywhere, at any time. We cannot call ourselves luxury if our staffing pipeline is not luxury.

The Logistics Gap

- Luxury transportation is:
- Mercedes
 - Rolls Royce
 - Bentley
 - Maybach
 - Top-tier yachts
 - Professionally captained vessels
 - Seamless transfers
 - No waiting, no confusion, no friction

- Luxury guests do not want:
- dusty vans
 - inconsistent drivers
 - boats that feel “nice enough”
 - delays
 - improvisation

Luxury is choreography. Upscale is coordination. We are doing the latter and calling it the former.

The Arrival Gap: Touchdown to Wheels-Up

Luxury begins the moment the aircraft door opens — not when the guest reaches the hotel.

Right now, our arrival experience is functional, not luxurious. And luxury guests feel that immediately.

- Private Arrival
- Private aviation guests should be:
- greeted by name
 - escorted through a private lounge
 - processed discreetly
 - transferred seamlessly to their vehicle
 - shielded from noise, crowds, and confusion
- Their paperwork should be completed on the aircraft or in a private suite at the re-

- sort — not in a public line.
- Public Arrival
- If arriving commercially, luxury guests should have:
- a dedicated luxury arrivals lounge
 - expedited processing
 - private seating
 - concierge-level assistance
 - cold towels, refreshments, and a controlled environment

No luxury guest should be standing in a hot queue, dragging luggage, or navigating chaos.

The Roadway

From airport to resort:

- roads must be perfectly paved
 - landscaping must be lush and colorful
 - buildings along the route must be maintained and aesthetically coherent
 - signage must be elegant, not industrial
 - the entire corridor must feel curated
- Luxury is not just the resort. Luxury is the journey.

If the road feels neglected, the illusion breaks before the guest even checks in.

The Experience Gap

- Luxury means:
- every tour has a guide
 - every guide has an advance team
 - every experience is prepared before the guest arrives
 - every detail is checked twice
 - every moment feels effortless

- Luxury means:
- interpreters available
 - cultural respect embedded
 - communication seamless
 - no “dey in da islands, mon” unless the guest specifically wants that beach vibe
- Luxury is not casual. Luxury is curated.

- Even off-property dining must be:
- pre-arranged
 - pre-coordinated
 - pre-confirmed
 - seamless

The guest should feel that the entire island — not just the resort — is operating at their level.

So Where Are We Now?

If we’re being honest — brutally honest — Turks and Caicos is:

- 60% upscale
 - 40% luxury or less
- We have luxury pockets:
- a few villas
 - a few resorts
 - a few operators
 - a few experiences

But we do not have a luxury destination. We have an upscale destination with luxury highlights. And that is not the same thing.

What We Must Do To Become a Luxury Destination

1. Admit We Are Upscale Today
- Stop calling everything luxury. Stop approving “luxury” projects built with imitation materials. Stop marketing upscale as luxury. Honesty is the first step.
2. Require Lived Luxury Experience for Developers
- If you want to build luxury, you must have

stayed in luxury. Mandatory exposure trips. Mandatory benchmarking. Mandatory understanding of real luxury standards.

3. Build a Luxury Service Culture

Create a national hospitality academy. Partner with elite service schools. Train chefs at Cordon Bleu-level institutions. Professionalize butler and concierge roles.

4. Use Real Materials

No knock-offs. No shortcuts. No “looks like.” Real marble. Real mahogany. Real craftsmanship.

5. Upgrade Transportation and Logistics

Mercedes. Rolls Royce. Top-tier yachts. Professional captains. Seamless transfers. No friction.

6. Curate Experiences, Not Activities

Guides. Advance teams. Prepared environments. Cultural fluency. Interpreters. Precision.

7. Build Luxury Beyond the Gate

Luxury cannot stop at the property line. Roads, signage, landscaping, lighting, public realm — all must match the promise.

8. Transform the Arrival Experience

Luxury begins at touchdown. Luxury ends at wheels-up. Everything in between must be seamless.

The Bottom Line

Turks and Caicos has the raw material — sea, sand, light, and space — to be one of the world’s true luxury destinations. But raw material is not enough. Luxury is not nature; luxury is craft.

- Until we:
- use real materials
 - train real staff
 - deliver real logistics
 - curate real experiences
 - elevate arrival and departure
 - build real infrastructure
 - and stop pretending upscale is luxury
- We will remain what we are today: An upscale destination, marketed as luxury, hoping no one looks too closely. It’s time to stop hoping. It’s time to start building.



Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department



TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS
FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

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

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

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

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

Our emblem has changed. Our purpose has not.

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

PDM Pledges \$10,000 to Five Cays Families, Calls for Urgent Fire-Service Action

The People’s Democratic Movement has pledged \$10,000 in cash and essential supplies to assist families affected by the devastating fire in Five Cays.

PDM Leader Douglas Parnell said the party would work with community representatives to ensure the assistance reaches those most in need.

“The People’s Democratic Movement stands in solidarity with every family affected by the devastating Five Cays fire,” Parnell said.

He also praised residents who helped their neighbours, along with the fire-fighters, Airport Fire Rescue personnel, police officers, social workers and volunteers who responded under difficult circumstances.

However, Parnell said the fire had raised serious questions about the state of the domestic fire service in Providenciales.

“It is unconscionable that Providenciales, our most populated and heavily developed island, had zero operational conventional fire trucks when Five Cays was burning,” he said.

Parnell argued that a country promoting a reported \$4 billion investment pipeline and permitting buildings as high as 12 storeys should have a modern firefighting fleet, properly equipped stations, adequate staffing and aerial equipment capable of reaching every legally permitted building.

“This was not a failure of our fire-fighters,” he said. “They were placed in an impossible position without the equipment, staffing and emergency systems needed to protect lives and property.”

Parnell blamed the situation on what he described as “a reckless failure of the PNP Government.”

He called on the Government to dis-



PDM Leader Doug Parnell is picture at the scene where fire rendered family members of 13 homes homeless

close how long Providenciales had been without an operational conventional fire truck, who was aware of the situation and why interim protection had not been secured.

The PDM leader also called for answers about the reported difficulty in mobilising sufficient domestic firefighters. He said the Government should address staffing levels, overtime, emergency call-out procedures and the time between the first emergency call and the mobilisation of an effective response.

The PDM is demanding that the Government:

1. Secure dependable interim fire trucks immediately while permanent equipment is being manufactured.
2. Publish an interim emergency-protection plan within seven days.
3. Establish a properly equipped

domestic fire station serving Five Cays and surrounding communities.

4. Implement properly staffed and compensated 24-hour duty and emergency call-out arrangements.
5. Acquire pumpers, water tenders and aerial-ladder equipment capable of serving buildings up to the permitted 12-storey height.
6. Publish the operational condition, age and maintenance history of every government fire truck.
7. Conduct an island-by-island assessment of fire stations, personnel, hydrants, water access and emergency coverage.
8. Publish a fire-response review within 30 days identifying failures, responsibility and corrective action.
9. Release the procurement timetable, approved funding and expected delivery dates for all new

equipment.

10. Strengthen fire inspections, evacuation planning and enforcement in densely populated communities and multistorey developments.

“The PNP Government cannot ask the people to remain unprotected for the 12 to 15 months it may take to manufacture new trucks,” Parnell said. “Interim protection must be secured now.”

He added that the level of investment, development and public revenue in the Turks and Caicos Islands made the reported lack of preparedness unacceptable.

“The PDM will help the affected families rebuild, and we will hold the Government accountable for ensuring that Five Cays is the last community forced to confront a major fire without a properly equipped domestic fire service,” Parnell said.

CIBC to Transition GBP Correspondent Banking Services to Lloyds Bank

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

Improved Performance in the 2026 Examinations

The Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture welcomes the improved performance in the 2026 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examinations. A total of 488 students - 213 males and 275 females - registered across 20 subjects for the 2026 examinations representing 2428 subject entries.

The Country's results reveal that the national pass rate for Grades I-III increased from 71.0% in 2025 to 80.2% in 2026, an improvement of 9.2 percentage points. Twenty-two of the 29 reported subjects recorded higher pass rates, and the proportion of Grade I results rose from 12.5% in 2025 to 21.0% in 2026.

The distribution of grades showed:

- Grade I passes: 21.0% of entries, up 8.5% from 2025
- Grade II passes: 32.0% (largest cohort, with 1.8% growth)
- Grade III passes: 27.2% (1.0% decrease)

These figures indicate growth across two of the three performance levels, with particularly strong gains in the upper tier.

There were a number of high-achieving subjects in 2026. Nine subjects registered a 90%+ pass rate, including Biology, Information Technology, Integrated Science, Office Administration, Physical Education and Sports, Textiles, Clothing and Fashion, Food, Nutrition and Health, Family and Resource Management, and Industrial Technology (Electrical), while four subjects achieved 100% pass rates: Additional Mathematics, Music, Physics,

and Visual Arts.

Passes in English A continue to show a steady increase from 75.9% in 2025 to 78.9% in 2026.

MATHEMATICS IMPROVEMENT: The Mathematics pass rate increased from 32.6% in 2025 to 51.7% in 2026. It is worth noting that the number of Grades I-III Mathematics passes rose from 91 in 2025 to 121 in 2026.

The continued improvement in Mathematics outcomes reflects the Ministry's deliberate efforts to strengthen Mathematics teaching and learning across schools.

These efforts include the introduction of standardised instructional strategies, enhanced cross-school collaboration and professional sharing among teachers, and targeted national student engagement initiatives, including the National Mathematics Jeopardy Competition.

The Ministry said it has also strengthened regional collaboration and leveraged external expertise and best practices to support the transformation of Mathematics instruction, improve student engagement, and build stronger outcomes in Mathematics across the education system.

Education Minister Hon. Rachel Taylor is buoyed by the improved overall performances.

"These results provide encouraging evidence that targeted investment, stronger teacher capacity, and purposeful student engagement can improve learning outcomes," Taylor said in a



Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor

news release. "The gains in Mathematics are particularly significant, reflecting deliberate efforts to recruit additional specialist teachers, make Mathematics more engaging through the National Mathematics Jeopardy Competition, and connect our educators with regional expertise through the University of the West Indies."

She added: "We congratulate every student who took the examinations and thank our teachers, school leaders, parents, and education partners for their commitment. While we celebrate this progress, we recognise that more work remains. The Ministry will continue to strengthen mathematics instruction,

improve attendance and participation, and provide targeted support in subjects and schools where improvement is still needed."

Taylor added that the Ministry remains committed to using examination data to inform teacher deployment, professional development, curriculum support, and student interventions.

The Ministry said it will continue working with schools to consolidate the improvements achieved in 2026, expand access to qualified teachers, strengthen instructional leadership, and ensure that students receive the academic and motivational support needed to succeed.

Providenciales Records Lowest Fuel Prices in Latest Government Report

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Providenciales offered the lowest fuel prices in the country during the August 16–20 reporting period, with regular gasoline selling for as little as \$6.67 per gallon at Grant's on Leeward Highway. Mervco had the island's cheapest premium gasoline at \$7.15, while Grant's in Wheeland recorded the lowest diesel price at \$6.70.

On Grand Turk, W. Williams Gas Station offered the cheapest regular gasoline at \$7.20. E. Dickenson Gas had the lowest prices for both premium gaso-

line and diesel, at \$7.25 and \$7.10, respectively.

In North Caicos, Core Resources recorded the island's lowest regular gasoline price at \$7.76 and was the only station listed as selling diesel, at \$8. Core Resources' regular price was lower than the \$8 charged by B&B Service Station and Randy's Service Station. No premium gasoline prices were reported.

South Caicos motorists paid \$8.35 for regular gasoline and \$8.50 for diesel at both Seaview Marina and Fuel Market. Neither business reported a premium

gasoline price.

Salt Cay had the highest minimum prices among the islands covered. Dickenson Gas Station, the island's only listed retailer, charged \$9 for regular gasoline and \$9.10 for diesel. No premium gasoline price was reported.

The figures were published by the Department of Trade, Industry and Fair Competition in its Fuel Report for August 16–20, 2026. The department encouraged consumers to compare prices among stations and consider filling up during off-peak periods when prices fluctuate.



Turks and Caicos launches 50th Anniversary Celebration of Ministerial Government

Two months of events will honor the territory's political development, recognize 50 nation-builders and place young people at the center of the commemorations.

By Vivian Tyson EWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands is launching a territory-wide celebration marking 50 years of ministerial government, with Acting Premier Jamel Robinson and Education Minister Rachel Taylor calling on residents of every island and generation to take part. The anniversary is being observed under the theme "50 Years of Leadership and Nation Building." Celebrations are scheduled to begin Sunday with an ecumenical service and cultural showcase at the National Stadium. Gates will open at 6:30 p.m., with the program beginning at 7:30 p.m. That event is scheduled to culminate with the raising of the national flag.

On Monday, August 31, every habited island in the chain will stage a motorcade, which are schooled to end with festivities. Speaking during a special edition of Radio Turks and Caicos' "First Edition," Robinson and Taylor said the anniversary commemorates the introduction of ministerial government under the 1976 Constitution and the greater role elected Turks and Caicos Islanders gained in governing the territory.

"It's 50 years of elected Turks and Caicos Islanders having a real say, real representation to build our nation," Robinson said.

Taylor stressed that the commemoration belongs to the entire country rather than any political party.

"This is a celebration of our people," she said. "It's important for our young people to understand from whence we came, where we are and where we are going in the next 50 years."

The anniversary program will run for approximately two months and include religious, cultural, parliamentary and youth-centered activities across the islands. Organizers have established island working groups and several



Acting Premier Hon. Jamell Robinson (centre), Minister of Immigration and Border Services, and Hon. Rachel Taylor (right), Minister Education, Youth Sport and Culture on the First Edition show with host Cheryl Forman, pitching the 50 Years of Ministerial Government festivities.

specialized committees to plan the events and encourage broad public participation.

A central part of the program will be the recognition of 50 people who have contributed to the country's development. Honorees will be drawn from fields including politics and public governance, health care, technology, education, youth development, tourism and infrastructure.

Robinson said the selection process is intended to reach beyond prominent political figures and recognize teachers, fishermen, health-care workers and other community members whose contributions may not have received national attention.

"If you don't have a great foundation, you don't get the chance to become who you are," he said. "There are men and women across these 50 years who have had an integral part."

The minister said community working groups would help identify those "gems" on each island whose service helped shape the territory.

Young people will play a prominent role throughout the anniversary. Planned activities include

mock elections in high schools, parliamentary exercises across the islands, Youth Week events from Sept. 20 to 26 and a special sitting involving youth parliamentarians.

Taylor also announced that the territory's social studies curriculum has been revised and is being piloted as part of a broader effort to strengthen the teaching of Turks and Caicos history, identity, culture, civics and current affairs. Teachers have begun training to deliver the revised material, which Taylor said is intended as a national curriculum for public and private schools.

"Our young people can now understand that the change they want to see, they have to be instrumentally involved in it," Taylor said.

Robinson noted that young people were deeply involved in the political and social movements that preceded the 1976 Constitution. He urged today's youth to view the anniversary not only as a reflection on the past but also as an invitation to shape the territory's future constitutional development.

Organizers are also using the

commemoration to support local businesses. Nine vendors approved through the government's Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) program are producing official anniversary merchandise bearing the TCI 50 Years logo.

Taylor described the initiative as an example of people's empowerment and nation-building, giving local entrepreneurs an opportunity to benefit from the celebrations.

Residents who cannot attend events in person will be able to watch selected programs through livestreams. Updates and schedules will be published through the TCI 50 Years pages on Facebook and Instagram and through the Department of Culture.

Robinson said the anniversary provides an opportunity for Turks and Caicos Islanders to recognize the territory's progress while acknowledging that its development remains unfinished.

"We're not in a perfect position, but we are perfecting our Turks and Caicos Islands," he said. "It's been a great 50-year ride, and I believe the next 50 years will be our best 50 years."

The Movement Isn't Moving

An Op-Ed By Audley Astwood

The People's Democratic Movement calls itself a movement. But the political party has to ask itself a simple question: Are we actually moving? Because from where many people are standing, the answer is becoming obvious to see.

The movement isn't moving. A political movement is supposed to move ideas forward. It's supposed to organize people around a vision. Develop solutions. Challenge bad decisions. It's supposed to give the public something to believe in. It should create momentum. Not spend all its energy fighting over who gets to hold the steering wheel.

The movement isn't moving when internal disagreements become more important than national issues. The movement isn't moving when political energy is spent attacking people instead of advancing ideas. The movement isn't moving when supporters are treated as enemies because they ask uncomfortable questions. And the movement certainly isn't moving when political leaders hide behind masks, anonymous voices or surrogates instead of standing openly behind what they believe.

A movement needs direction. It needs discipline. It needs courage. Most of all, it needs a reason for people to follow. PDM has a long history in these islands. It has contributed to the political development of Turks and Caicos, produced governments and given many citizens a vehicle through which to participate in public life. That history deserves respect. But history isn't momentum.

A political party cannot live forever on what it once was. It has to demonstrate what it in-

tends to become. The movement isn't moving if yesterday's battles keep consuming today's opportunities. And this is where leadership matters. It isn't about having the most loyal followers or the sharpest political attack. Leadership is about giving people somewhere to go. So where is PDM going?

What is the vision beyond opposing the Government? What is the plan beyond criticizing Premier Misick? What does PDM want Turks and Caicos to look like five, ten or twenty years from now? Those are the questions a serious political movement should welcome. Because Opposition isn't an end in itself. It's supposed to be preparation for governing. The movement isn't moving if all the public sees is opposition without direction, criticism without construction and conflict without consequence.

This isn't about whether PDM should challenge the Government. Of course it should. A healthy democracy needs a strong Opposition. But a strong Opposition doesn't merely tell the country what it doesn't like. It tells the country what it would do instead. That's how a movement moves. And perhaps that's the real challenge facing PDM today. Not who speaks loudest. Not who wins the next internal argument. Not who gets the last word on social media.

The question is whether the party can turn political energy into political purpose. Because Turks and Caicos doesn't need a movement that is simply active. It needs a movement that's moving. Moving ideas. Moving the national conversation. Moving toward better. Otherwise, the name may still say movement. But the country will keep asking the same question: Where are you going?



FSC ANNOUNCES IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW EMBLEM & VISUAL IDENTITY, "THE SHIELD"

The **Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission (FSC)** has introduced a new emblem and visual identity, **The Shield**, reflecting the Commission's institutional development and its enduring commitment to professionalism, integrity, transparency and adherence to international standards.

The transition will begin on 1 September 2026, with The Shield being fully implemented across the FSC's digital platforms, official documents, stakeholder communications and other public-facing materials from 1 October 2026.

The new emblem was unveiled on 29 June 2026 at the FSC's Welcome Reception, held at The Palms Resort in Providenciales in honour of the 2026 Annual Industry Meeting. The event was attended by the Premier and Minister of Finance, the Honourable Charles Washington Misick; members of the FSC Board of Commissioners; industry leaders; regulators; licence holders; and other stakeholders.

The following day, 30th June, The Shield was prominently featured throughout the Annual Industry Meeting at The Shore Club. The conference was attended by Her Excellency the Governor, Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam; the Honourable Rhondalee Braithwaite-Knowles, Attorney General; and the Honourable E. Jay Saunders, Minister of Innovation, Technology and Energy. The event attracted more than 165 participants in person, in addition to numerous online attendees.

Since its establishment in 2001, the Commission has continued to evolve alongside the financial services sector while remaining steadfast in its mandate to regulate and supervise



the sector and to promote its stability, integrity and resilience.

This development represents an important milestone in the Commission's institutional evolution. The refreshed identity reflects the Commission's role as a modern, accessible and internationally aligned regulator while remaining firmly rooted in the heritage and character of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Rendered in navy and gold, The Shield represents stewardship, vigilance and direction. Its

elements reflect the Commission's values and the heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands:

- **The Lighthouse** symbolises leadership and guidance;
- **The Wave** reflects the Territory's maritime heritage and global connections;
- **The Flamingo** represents local identity and accessibility; and
- **"EST. 2001"** honours the Commission's history and experience.

Geoffrey Scott, Chairman of the FSC Board of

Commissioners, said: "The Shield is not simply a new visual identity; it is a powerful statement of who we are and where we are going. It embodies the Financial Services Commission's resolve to lead with strength, uphold the highest standards of integrity and inspire lasting confidence in our regulatory framework. As the financial services landscape continues to evolve, we remain committed to shaping a future defined by trust, transparency and global excellence."

Kenisha Bacchus, Managing Director (Ag) of the FSC, added: "The new emblem marks an important step in the FSC's evolution. It reflects an institution that has grown in strength, maturity and purpose, while remaining firmly anchored in the public interest. More than a symbol, The Shield represents confidence, stability and trust, values that guide our work as we protect investors, promote compliance and foster a responsible and resilient financial services sector."

The FSC emphasised that, although its visual identity is changing, its core mission remains unchanged: to safeguard confidence in the financial services sector, promote sound regulatory practices and support the sustainable development of the industry for the benefit of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The introduction of The Shield marks a new chapter for the Commission, one that builds on its legacy while reinforcing its commitment to strong governance, institutional excellence and the future of the financial services sector.

The Shield — Guiding trust. Protecting the future.

WHAT'S THE SCHOOL PLAY THIS YEAR?

THE TRAGEDY OF "A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT DREAM".

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT WAS A TRAGEDY!

WAIT'LL YOU SEE THE PRODUCTION!

8-27

I NEVER THOUGHT THIS WOULD WORK.

8-27

I TOLD YOU MODELS CAN BE USED TO ATTRACT BIRDS TO NEW BREEDING SITES.

BACK OFF, YOU MUPPETS!

8-27

I SEE YOU HAVE A BACK-TO-SCHOOL SPECIAL!

Kids 1/2 Price

YEP! I'M DOING MY PART TO ENCOURAGE GOOD GROOMING!

8-27

THERE ARE A LOT OF WACKY, OFFBEAT HAIRSTYLES OUT THERE!

Kids 1/2 Price

BUT ENOUGH ABOUT THE PARENTS!

8-27

SNIFF!

ISN'T THAT YOUR BOY-FRIEND?

NO!

HE WAS, BUT POPEYE ONLY GIVES HIM TWELVE CENTS A WEEK ALLOWANCE!

HE CAN'T AFFORD A GIRL-FRIEND!

SNIFF!

8-27

I'M A TOTAL DISGRACE COMING HOME SO LATE AND IN THIS STATE

I BET YOU WONDER WHY YOU EVER MARRIED ME

HE'S TAKEN ALL MY BEST LINES

8-27

YOU KNOW, GARFIELD...

CAT FOOD ISN'T CHEAP

THEN DON'T EAT IT

8-27

NEWSLINETM COMICS

Wayne & Piro 8-27-26

I've never seen you in any of my classes.

I'm being home-stooled.

8-27

Eric Scott

"You got chills, they're multiplying. And you're losing control. I'd say you have a severe case of the Travolta flu."

Does anybody else get suspicious when life starts GOING GOOD?

8-27

"NOT THAT I KNOW ANY... BUT YOU'RE THE BEST COOK I KNOW, MOM."

THE MAN WHO DARED TO DREAM

for Turks and Caicos:

**JAMES ALEXANDER
GEORGE SMITH
MCCARTNEY**

James Alexander George Smith McCartney, more widely known as J.A.G.S. McCartney, stands as the only officially recognized National Hero of the Turks and Caicos Islands—a distinction earned through courage, vision, and an unrelenting devotion to the people of these islands.

Born on June 30, 1945, in Grand Turk, McCartney was a man ahead of his time. He possessed a deep awareness of the political and social limitations faced by Turks and Caicos Islanders during the colonial era. Inspired by movements for self-governance across the Caribbean and beyond, McCartney returned to the islands in the 1970s with a burning desire to bring about change.

In 1975, he founded the People's Democratic Movement (PDM), a political party rooted in empowerment, education, and local leadership. Just one year later, in 1976, he made history by becoming the first Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands at only 31 years old—the youngest person to ever hold that position. His rise symbolized a generational shift and a bold new direction for the islands' political future.

J.A.G.S. McCartney was known not only for his passionate speeches and grassroots organizing but also for his deep concern for young people. He believed that education, national pride, and civic responsibility were essential ingredients for building a strong and self-reliant Turks and Caicos. His administration worked tirelessly to uplift communities, inspire national unity, and challenge systems that held the islands back.

JAGS McCartney



Sadly, McCartney's groundbreaking leadership was cut short. On May 9, 1980, he died in a tragic plane crash in New Jersey, USA. He was only 34 years old. His sudden death shocked the nation and left a void in the heart of a movement that was just beginning to realize its potential.

Despite his brief time in office, McCartney's legacy has stood the test of time. In recognition of his immense contributions, the Turks and Caicos Islands declared the last Monday in May as JAGS McCartney day, a public holiday in his honor. Additionally, the international airport in Grand Turk proudly bears his name: the JAGS McCartney International Airport.

To this day, J.A.G.S. McCartney represents the spirit of hope, transformation, and national pride. His image is etched into the collective memory of the TCI people—not just as a political figure, but as a hero who dared to dream and act boldly for a better Turks and Caicos.



The Retreat Turks & Caicos Appoints Layvern Daniel as Hotel Manager

- **Award-winning Caribbean hospitality professional to lead new Grace Bay boutique hotel ahead of October opening**

The Retreat Turks & Caicos has appointed Layvern Daniel as hotel manager ahead of the locally developed boutique hotel's opening in October 2026.

According to news release from The Retreat, Daniel brings more than 12 years of luxury Caribbean hospitality experience spanning resort operations, guest relations, house-keeping, concierge services, sales, reservations and operational strategy. Her cross-functional background equips her to lead every aspect of the guest journey while maintaining the operational and commercial discipline required to establish a successful new hotel.

The entity said further that throughout her career, Daniel has developed a strong understanding of what discerning travelers expect from a luxury boutique property: attentive service, thoughtful personalization, responsive communication and consistency at every touchpoint. Her experience managing pre-arrival communications, concierge services, VIP requests and service recovery will help The Retreat create seamless stays and build lasting relationships with guests, partners and vendors.

Daniel, The Retreat continued, also brings valuable commercial expertise. She has led reservations and operations while working closely with marketing and ownership on management and brand optimization. Her established relationships with travel advisors, tour operators and industry partners will support The Retreat's market positioning and help introduce the property to local, regional and international travelers.

The boutique resort pointed out fur-

ther that Daniel's familiarity with leading luxury travel networks and programs, including Small Luxury Hotels of the World and top travel networks, provides further insight into the service expectations and commercial standards of the global travel market. Daniel's leadership credentials include being named Manager of the Year in 2025 and being selected for the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association's Young Leaders Forum for 2025-2026. She has also held progressive operational leadership roles involving staff training, interdepartmental coordination, quality assurance and guest satisfaction.

As hotel manager, The Retreat said Daniel will guide the resort through its opening phase, establish its operating and service standards, develop a high-performing team and build a culture centered on genuine Caribbean hospitality.



Daniel's leadership credentials include being named Manager of the Year in 2025 and being selected for the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association's Young Leaders Forum for 2025-2026

Her knowledge of the Turks and Caicos market, combined with her operational breadth and commercial experience, will help The Retreat deliver memorable guest experiences while establishing a strong foundation for sustainable growth, the news release said. Daniel holds a master's degree in Sustainable Management of Tourism and

a bachelor's degree from Monroe College. She is proficient in English, Spanish and St. Lucian Creole.

The Retreat Turks & Caicos is a new, locally developed boutique hotel in the heart of Grace Bay, Providenciales. Founded by Turks and Caicos Islander Trevor Musgrove, the hotel is scheduled to open in October 2026.



The Retreat Turks & Caicos, a new boutique hotel opening in Grace Bay in October 2026.

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

St. Thomas Parish Church: The Oldest Church in the TCI

The St. Thomas Parish Church in Grand Turk is the oldest house of worship in the Turks and Caicos Islands, having been established in 1823. The St. Built by the Bermudan settlers, the Thomas Anglican Church was the first church to be constructed on that island and the second to be built in the Bahamas archipelago. At first the church was thought to have been built from stone transported from Bermuda. However, since the church was is located near the old quarry, it is also speculated that the materials may have been obtained from that location. It is also speculated that the rocks were obtained from the nearby quarry also and the wood imported from Bermuda. The St. Thomas Church is listed as very sturdy, cut-stone building with some walls as thing as two feet. The hard stones that were hand hewn were set to in a primitive mortar of lime mixed with turtle oil.



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.com. 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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HIGHLIGHTS OF ED9 BACK-TO-SCHOOL TREAT

On Sunday, August 23, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, Member of Parliament for Five Cays and Chalk Sound (ELECTORAL DISTRICT 9) hosted more than 700 children of the constituency during the Annual Back-to-School Treat, held at the Felix Morley Community Centre. Not only were the children allowed to engage in a myriad of entertainment activities but were also feted with a variety of foods and sweet treats. They were also presented with school utensils such as backpacks, books, and writing implements. The following are photo highlights of the event.





50th Anniversary of Ministerial Government (1976–2026) - ROAD TO 1976 SERIES... “The Political Achievement of the People”

A Confidential 1978 Government Document Reveals the True Spirit of the Constitutional Awakening in the Turks and Caicos Islands

There are moments in the life of a nation when history ceases to whisper. Moments when ordinary people begin to realise that the future of their country should belong not only to those who exercise authority, but also to the people themselves.

For the Turks and Caicos Islands, one of those defining moments came on 30th August 1976, when the new Constitution came into operation. The Constitution did not itself place the first ministers into office. It created the constitutional framework through which the country could move into Ministerial Government.

The Constitution had to come first. Then the people had to vote. Then a government had to be formed. That sequence is essential to understanding the political achievement of 1976.

A Country Was Changing

The constitutional changes came at a time of considerable social and economic change. The decline of the salt industry had shaken families across Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos. Unemployment, migration, economic hardship and separation affected homes throughout the Islands. At the same time, political consciousness was growing.

People were questioning leadership, opportunity, fairness, representation, dignity and the future direction of the Turks and Caicos Islands. A younger generation was becoming politically active. Among its most powerful voices was J.A.G.S. McCartney.

To many ordinary people, JAGS became more than a politician. He represented political awakening, self-belief and the idea that ordinary Turks and Caicos Islanders deserved a meaningful voice in determining the future of their country.

He spoke to struggling families, unemployed youths, working people, fishermen, labourers, civil servants and communities searching for opportunity and political dignity. But the movement for change was never carried by one man alone.

Around JAGS stood a much wider generation of people whose organising, discussions, activism, encouragement and quiet support helped create the atmosphere in which political change became possible.

Among those remembered within that wider awakening were Edward “Eddie” Seymour, Ronald “Ron” Higgs, Edward “Eddie” Swann, Carol Forbes-Durham, Dennis Durham, Rupert Robinson, Harold Robinson, William Robinson, Virginia Robinson, Leon Watkins, Janet Adams-Fulford, Earl Fulford, Audrey Taylor, Elaine Adams, Jean “Jenny” Williams, Albert “Abbey” Williams, Rupert “Spadyboy” Gardiner, Corleen Williams, Valeria Kennedy-Houseman, Beverly Ingham, Earl “Super C” Ingham, Kathleen “Katie” Williams, Lathia “MaDokie” Steel, Lillian “Ma Lil” Swann, Norman “Normy” Parker, Herbert Been, Marjorie Durham, Helena Jones Robinson, Sir Evan Wood, Mary Wood, Minnie Tatem, Arthur Tatem, Hubert James Jr., Nathaniel “Bops” Francis, Clement Lightbourne, Cille Penn, Harry Lightbourne, Charles Higgs, Biggie Ingham, Kenneth Carter, Alexander Carter, Moses Carter Sr., Beatrice Carter, Rosabelle Adams, Roy Adams, Mildred Garland Astwood, Lewis “Louie” Edwin Astwood, Emmanuel “Manny” Penn, Brenda Sturup-Robinson, Edgar “Mobile” Forbes, Hyacinth Been, Leslie Musgrove, Verna Simmons-Musgrove, Ackee “Big Truck” Haven, Barrington Skipplings, Raphael Graveley, Ariel Misick, Vernon “Codigi” Lightbourne, Douglas “Doggie” Prospere, Carlos Simons and many others.

Not all played the same role, and not all appeared in official records.

But collectively they remind us that political transformation takes place not only inside government chambers, but in homes, neighbourhoods, workplaces, churches, meetings and conversations among ordinary people.

A Confidential Document Surfaces

Nearly half a century later, a government document preserved among the papers of the late Hon. Lewis “Louie” Edwin Astwood provides a remarkable window into how the constitutional achievement was viewed during the earliest years of Ministerial Government.

Dated September 1978, stamped “CONFIDENTIAL” and identified as Executive Council Paper No. 78/58, the document states: “The present Constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands came into operation on 30th August 1976.”

It further explains:

“An important feature of the Constitution was the introduction of the office of Chief Minister and Ministerial Government to the Islands.”

But perhaps its most powerful statement was its explanation of why Constitution Day deserved recognition:

“The observance of Constitution Day is an annual event that merits some form of recognition, as it marks the political achievement of the people of that particular territory.”

The political achievement of the people. Not simply the achievement of government. Not simply the achievement of politicians. The people. Those words provide an important key to understanding 1976. A Constitution may establish offices and distribute authority, but behind constitutional change are people who speak, organise, challenge, sacrifice and vote.

From Party to Movement

The change from the People’s Democratic Party, PDP, to the People’s Democratic Movement, PDM, also reflected the political mood of the period. To many involved, the word Movement represented something larger than electoral politics.

It represented youth activism, grassroots participation, political awakening, constitutional advancement, dignity and the growing belief that ordinary Islanders had a right to participate in shaping their homeland. But political struggle could also carry consequences. That is where Section 57 of the 1976 Constitution becomes particularly interesting.

Section 57: The Question of Pardon

Section 57 dealt with the Governor’s powers of pardon and other forms of constitutional mercy. Read alone, it may appear to be simply a legal provision. But within the remembered history of the Movement, the question of pardon carried much greater significance.

The political struggle of the 1970s had included demonstrations, confrontations with authority, the Junkanoo Club struggle and the dramatic events of June 1975. People involved in political action could expose themselves to arrest, prosecution or punishment.

According to accounts preserved from people close to the political struggle, McCartney regarded the question of pardon as part of his wider concern for members of the Movement.

Political advancement could not simply mean obtaining constitutional change and ministerial office while forgetting those who had stood in the struggle.

The written Constitution establishes the power of pardon. It does not, by itself, record every discussion surrounding McCartney’s motives or constitutional strategy. That part of the story must continue to be reconstructed through private papers, oral histories, recollections of participants and surviving records of the negotiations.

But the accounts matter because they place Section 57 within the human story of the Movement.

Then the People Voted

With the Constitution in force, Turks and Caicos Islanders went to the polls on 29th September 1976. The result was close. The PDM won five seats. The PNO won four.

Two Independents were elected: Daniel Anthony Williams, representing Bottle Creek, North Caicos, and Charles William “Liam” McGuire, representing South Caicos South.

The five successful PDM candidates included J.A.G.S. McCartney, Oswald O’Neal Skipplings, Lewis Edwin Astwood, Henry Leon Wilson and Walter Ebenezer Cox, who won the Providenciales constituency.

The result left neither political party with an outright majority of the eleven elected seats.

For a brief but decisive period, the formation of the first Ministerial Government could have gone either way. The two Independents held the balance. Negotiations followed between 29th September and 1st October 1976. This was not a minor footnote.

The Constitution had been established. The peo-

ple had voted. But the question of who would form the first Ministerial Government remained unsettled. Ultimately, both Independents joined the governmental arrangement.

The First Ministerial Government

On 1st October 1976, the country’s first Ministerial Government took office. J.A.G.S. McCartney became the first Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands, with responsibility for Home Affairs and Communications.

Serving as the three other Ministers were:

- Lewis “Louie” Edwin Astwood, responsible for Public Works, Utilities and Labour;
- Oswald O’Neal Skipplings, responsible for Health, Education, Welfare and Local Government; and
- Charles William “Liam” McGuire, responsible for Tourism, Development of Industries and Resources.

The new governmental structure also included two Parliamentary Secretaries: Daniel Anthony Williams and Henry Leon Wilson.

McGuire’s position was particularly significant. He had been elected as an Independent, yet following the negotiations he entered the first Ministerial Government as one of its three Ministers.

Williams, the other Independent, became a Parliamentary Secretary.

The sequence therefore deserves to be remembered clearly: 30th August 1976: the Constitution came into operation. 29th September 1976: the people voted, producing a result of PDM 5, PNO 4 and Independents 2. 29th September–1st October: negotiations followed because neither party held an outright majority. 1st October 1976: the first Ministerial Government took office. The Constitution created the framework. The people voted.

The election left the balance of power undecided. The negotiations determined who would govern. And Ministerial Government became a functioning reality.

A Generation Was Losing Its Fear

But constitutions cannot be understood through dates and offices alone. The deeper story of the 1970s was the changing political consciousness of the people. A younger generation was awakening. Fear was beginning to break. Ordinary people were beginning to believe that their voices mattered.

JAGS did not create that awakening alone, but he became one of its strongest voices. He is remembered not simply because he became the first Chief Minister, but because many ordinary people believed he fought for their dignity, representation, opportunity and right to participate in determining the future of their own country.

The people came first. Yet honouring McCartney should never erase the generation around him.

Some marched. Some organised. Some spoke publicly. Some opened their homes. Some provided transportation or assistance. Some challenged authority. Some participated quietly. Some voted. And many found the courage to believe that political change was possible.

Their names may not all appear in constitutional documents, but their presence remains woven into the political memory of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Fifty Years Later

As the Turks and Caicos Islands commemorate fifty years since the Constitution of 1976 and the establishment of Ministerial Government, the story should be remembered in its proper sequence. The Constitution came first. Then the people voted. The election produced no outright party majority. The Independents held the balance. Negotiations followed.

And on 1st October 1976, the country’s first Ministerial Government took office. But perhaps the deepest meaning of that constitutional journey was captured only two years later in the confidential Executive Council paper: “The political achievement of the people.”

Those words still speak across half a century. Because the Constitution of 1976 was never only about government. It was never only about ministers. And it was never only about JAGS. It was about people beginning to recognise the power of their own political voice.

It was about ordinary Islanders beginning to believe that they had a right to help shape the future of their homeland. The Constitution opened the door. The people walked through it. And on 1st October 1976, Ministerial Government became a reality. It was the people’s political achievement.

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 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.

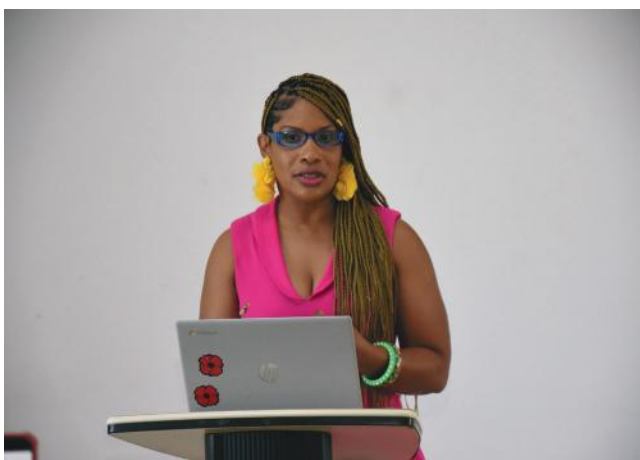
3163	
S T A T U T O R Y I N S T R U M E N T S	
1976 No. 1156	
CARIBBEAN AND NORTH ATLANTIC TERRITORIES	
The Turks and Caicos Islands (Constitution) Order 1976	
Made - - - -	23rd July 1976
Laid before Parliament	9th August 1976
Coming into Operation	On a day to be appointed under section 1(2)
ARRANGEMENT OF ORDER	
PART I	
Introductory	
Section	
1.	Citation, commencement and revocation.
2.	Interpretation.
PART II	
The Governor	
3.	The Governor.
4.	Emoluments of Governor.
5.	Acting Governor.
6.	Governor's deputy.
7.	Exercise of Governor's functions.
PART III	
The Executive	
8.	The Executive Council.
9.	Oaths.
10.	Tenure of office by Chief Minister.
11.	Tenure of office by Ministers.
12.	Performance of functions of Chief Minister in certain events.
13.	Assignment of responsibilities to members of Executive Council.
14.	Governor's special responsibilities.
15.	Summoning of Executive Council.
16.	Proceedings in, and quorum of, Executive Council.
17.	Attendance of other persons at meetings.

S.I. 1976/1156		3165
The Court of Appeal		
Section		
52.	Constitution of Court of Appeal.	
53.	Tenure of office of judges of the Court of Appeal.	
54.	Acting Judges of Court of Appeal.	
55.	Oaths to be taken by judges of Court of Appeal.	
PART VII		
Miscellaneous		
56.	Grants of land.	
57.	Powers of pardon, etc.	
58.	Public offices and appointments.	
59.	Discipline of public service.	
PART VIII		
Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of the Individual		
60.	Fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual.	
61.	Protection of right to life.	
62.	Protection from inhuman treatment.	
63.	Protection from slavery and forced labour.	
64.	Protection from arbitrary arrest or detention.	
65.	Provisions to secure protection of law.	
66.	Protection for privacy of home and property.	
67.	Protection of freedom of conscience.	
68.	Protection of freedom of expression.	
69.	Protection of freedom of assembly and association.	
70.	Protection of freedom of movement.	
71.	Protection from discrimination on grounds of race, etc.	
72.	Protection from deprivation of property.	
73.	Provisions for periods of public emergency.	
74.	Enforcement of fundamental rights.	
75.	Interpretation of Part VIII.	
PART IX		
Transitional and Supplementary		
76.	Existing law.	
77.	Electoral law.	
78.	Existing offices and officers.	
79.	Existing courts and pending proceedings.	
80.	Exercise of Governor's powers pending first meeting of Legislative Council.	
81.	Transitional provision relating to bill awaiting assent.	
82.	Power reserved to Her Majesty.	
SCHEDULE		
Forms of Oaths and Affirmations.		



Miss International Adesha Gustave Hosts Poverty Alleviation Skills Workshop

Adesha Gustave, the 2026 winner of the Miss International Turks and Caicos Islands Pageant has made Poverty Alleviation her platform. Against that background, Gustave and her team, led by Sharlene Grant Richards, the chair for the Miss International Pageant, staged a Poverty Alleviation Workshop on Poverty Alleviation on Saturday, August 22, at the Ports of Call Conference Room in Grace Bay. Workshop was in alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 1, which calls for an end to poverty in all its forms. The following are photo highlights of the event.



ROCK HOUSE

GRACE BAY RESORT
PROVIDENCIALES

OPEN JOB POSITION SPA THERAPIST

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

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

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

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

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES REQUIRED

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

Full time. Weekend and holiday work may be required.

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

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

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

Deadline for submission: September 15th , 2026

Undocumented Haitians Reportedly Among Victims of Five Cays Fire

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Many of the people left homeless by Monday morning's (August 24, 2026) devastating fire in Five Cays, which gutted a densely-populated section of the community, are reportedly undocumented individuals of Haitian background, according to residents of the community.

NewslineTCI was reliably informed that several victims do not have legal immigration status and may therefore encounter difficulties qualifying for government welfare assistance.

The victims' nationalities and immigration status have not been officially confirmed. Government officials also have not said whether undocumented residents will qualify for longer-term welfare assistance. Emergency meals, assessments and temporary shelter were being provided without any publicly announced distinction based on immigration status.

Director of Family and Children Services Ashley Adams said that 28 individuals were displaced. They comprise 18 men and 10 women, including at least one pregnant woman. Approximately 13 homes were destroyed.

Social workers began conducting needs assessments in Five Cays at about 4 a.m. The Felix Morley Community Centre was opened as a distribution point, where victims received hot meals and other immediate assistance.

Officials also identified two potential shelters and said accommodation would be provided to people requiring it. Checks with the authorities confirmed that the shelters were opened and some of the victims were accommodated. Other victims, NewslineTCI was told, are staying with family members.

The firefighting effort, however, was hampered by a shortage of personnel and the lack of proper equipment within the domestic Fire and Rescue Service.

Fire Chief Dr. Hezedeane Smith disclosed that Providenciales had no conventional fire engine in operation when the blaze erupted. The island's more-than-20-year-old fire truck was out of service because of mechanical and other problems, leaving firefighters to rely on a water tender functioning temporarily as a pumper. Smith said only one off-duty domestic firefighter responded after attempts to contact other officers were unsuccessful. With several structures already engulfed and surrounding homes in danger, the small local response team initially focused on containing the blaze and preventing it from spreading. Five firefighters from the Airport Fire Service later joined the operation.

Despite those limitations, crews contained the fire at approximately 4 or 5 a.m. Hon. Shaun Malcolm, Minister of Public Safety and Welfare, acknowledged concerns about the response and ordered an urgent review of the department's call-out, mobilisation and escalation procedures.

"Our immediate priority is to ensure that the affected families are safe, supported and cared for," Malcolm said during the



A section of the housing settlement in Five Cays that was razed by fire on Monday, August 24, 2026.

government briefing.

Malcolm promised that the government would do everything "reasonably possible" to assist those affected. However, officials did not clarify whether undocumented victims would receive the same recovery assistance available to legal residents.

That uncertainty could leave some victims in an especially vulnerable position. People without legal status may be reluctant to approach government agencies for help because of fears that their information could be shared with immigration authorities.

Haitians form the largest foreign-national community in the territory, accounting for 33.49 per cent of the population in figures cited by the government's Citizenship and Naturalisation Department. The Turks and Caicos Islands have also faced sustained irregular maritime migration from Haiti amid worsening political, economic and security conditions in that country.

In June, authorities rescued and intercepted 240 migrants aboard an overloaded Haitian vessel that lost power and began taking on water approximately 15 miles south of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The operation involved the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, the TCI Regiment, the United States Coast Guard and US Customs and Border Protection, the US Coast Guard said. The United Kingdom has provided the territory with additional equipment, coastal sensors, surveillance technology and other border-security support in response to the threat of irregular migration and instability spilling over from Haiti, the UK Government said.

Fire response under scrutiny

The Five Cays blaze has exposed serious weaknesses within the domestic Fire and Rescue Service.

Smith said the emergency dispatch centre received the first call at approximately 12:36 a.m. He was notified at 1:51 a.m. and arrived at the scene about seven minutes later. The lone off-duty firefighter reached the area at approximately 2:11 a.m.

Crews encountered multiple structures fully engulfed, with neighbouring homes also threatened. The fire was contained at about 4 or 5 a.m., and the scene was handed over at approximately 6 a.m.

The Fire and Rescue Service has approximately 24 officers divided between Providenciales and Grand Turk, with about 13 or 14 assigned to Providenciales.

Questions were raised during the news conference about whether pay and over-

time concerns contributed to the failure of other firefighters to respond. Smith declined to speculate about the reasons but acknowledged that the department faced several challenges and "opportunities for improvement."

Malcolm said the review of the response would examine the department's equipment, staffing, operational capacity and other resource needs.

Cabinet recently approved the acquisition of new firefighting equipment, Malcolm said, but a specialised fire engine could take between 12 and 15 months to manufacture and deliver.

The cause of the fire remains undetermined.



Minister of Public Safety and Welfare Hon. Shaun Malcolm (third from left) addresses a news briefing on the Five Cays Fire, occurred on Monday, August 24 in the community of Five Cays, Providenciales. From left are: Joran Harvey – Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Safety, Gender and Religious Affairs and Social Welfare; Dr. Hezedeane Smith – Fire Chief for the country; Ms. Ashley Adams - Director of Family and Children Services; and Jason Hills - Director of D.D.M.E.



Formalising a new five-year partnership aimed at strengthening the Caribbean's response to the significant and growing burden of cancer. (L-R) Dr. Erica Wheeler, Consultant, CAO; Dr. Dwight Lowe, Clinical Chair, CAO; Dr. Marisa Nimrod, Chair and CEO, CAO; Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director, CARPHA; Dr. Horace Cox, Director, CARPHA and Mrs Helen Royer, Director of Human Development, Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM) at the signing of the MoU.

Cancer continues to represent one of the greatest public health challenges facing the Region. The Caribbean experiences some of the highest cancer incidence and mortality rates in the Americas, placing enormous demands on our health systems, economies, and communities.

The Global Cancer Observatory indicates that the regional cancer burden is high and will continue to rise substantially, with annual new cancer cases for the Caribbean projected to increase by approximately 55%, from 123,884 in 2024 to 191,997 by 2050. In response to these challenges, the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the Caribbean Association for Oncology and Hematology (CAOH) have formalised a new five-year partnership aimed at strengthening the Caribbean's response to the significant and growing burden of cancer.

The partnership, established through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), provides a collaborative framework for joint action in cancer surveillance, prevention, workforce development, nutrition, access to safe and quality-assured cancer medicines, and public awareness.

The MoU brings together the regional public health leadership of CARPHA and CAOH's specialised expertise in oncology and haematology to support more coordinated, evidence-informed approaches to cancer prevention and control across CARPHA Member States.

Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director of CARPHA, welcomed the partnership, noting that addressing cancer requires sustained collaboration, as no single institution can address the growing burden of cancer alone. "Regional collaboration has always been one of the Caribbean's greatest strengths and this partnership provides an important opportunity to bring together technical expertise, regional data and public health action to strengthen prevention, early detection, cancer control and access to quality-assured medicines".

Under the MoU, CARPHA will provide technical leadership and support through relevant technical departments, including its Chronic Disease and Injury Department (CDI), Caribbean Regulatory System (CRS), and Medicines Quality Control and Surveillance Department (MQCSD).

Dr. Marisa Nimrod, Chief Executive Officer of CAOH, said the partnership represents an important step towards strengthening regional collaboration in oncology and haematology. "Through this partnership with CARPHA, our members will benefit from joint programmes, regional training, research collaboration, professional networking, and

opportunities to contribute to strengthening cancer surveillance and advancing Caribbean cancer policy and programme development".

This partnership establishes a framework for cooperation in several important areas; strengthening cancer surveillance and improving the quality and use of cancer registry data to support evidence-informed cancer control planning. CARPHA and CAOH will collaborate on key areas, such as:

- Workforce development and professional training
- Support for research and knowledge exchange
- Promote healthy nutrition and physical activity as key cancer prevention strategies
- Strengthen workplace safety related to hazardous cancer medicines, and
- Improve regional systems for medicines quality assurance, pharmacovigilance and post-market surveillance of oncology medicines.

CARPHA continues to expand its work across the cancer control continuum through the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Caribbean Cancer Registry Hub. Population-based cancer registration and surveillance, is strengthened, ensuring that countries have the high-quality data needed

CARPHA and CAOH Strengthen Regional Partnership to Address the Growing Burden of Cancer

to guide policy and evaluate interventions. CARPHA is also advancing work in non-communicable disease prevention, healthy nutrition, physical activity, medicines quality assurance, and pharmacovigilance, which are all essential components of comprehensive cancer care.

Strengthening Medicines Quality and Pharmacovigilance in Oncology Care Across the Region

Ensuring that patients have access to safe, effective and quality-assured medicines is a critical component of quality cancer care. As the use of increasingly complex oncology therapies expands across the Caribbean, strengthening systems to monitor medicine quality, safety and effectiveness has become essential to protecting patients and improving treatment outcomes.

At the 14th CAOH Annual Scientific Conference held on July 17, 2026, Dr. Chantelle Bailey, Programme Manager, CARPHA's Caribbean Regulatory System (CRS), and Ms. Nicole Ennis, Head of the Medicines Quality and Control Surveillance Department (MQCSD) contributed to the Conference's scientific programme through a dedicated technical high-level session. They both led a hybrid panel discussion examining the critical role of medicines quality assurance, pharmacovigilance and post-market surveillance including medicines used in oncology treatment and care.

The session, titled "Advancing Cancer Prevention and Control Across the Eastern Caribbean" highlighted the importance of robust national and regional systems to detect and address risks associated with medicines,

including substandard, falsified and unregistered products. Such risks can compromise treatment effectiveness, contribute to adverse outcomes and undermine confidence in health systems.

Session participants explored national and regional challenges to ensuring the quality, safety and efficacy of cancer medicines, while examining approaches for pharmacovigilance and post-market surveillance systems across CARPHA Member States (CMS). The session emphasised the shared responsibility of regulatory authorities, healthcare professionals and other stakeholders in identifying medicine-related risks, reporting adverse drug reactions and supporting effective surveillance.

Discussions centred around risk-based post-market surveillance, laboratory testing and quality monitoring, improving the detection and reporting of substandard and falsified medicines, regulatory collaboration among CMS, and emerging challenges in oncology medicine quality assurance. The session concluded with recommendations for strengthening medicines quality assurance and pharmacovigilance in oncology care, to support CMS in advancing patient safety and more resilient health systems across the Caribbean.

Ultimately, this session — the first output delivered under the newly signed CARPHA-CAOH partnership — reflected the shared commitment to strengthening access for patients throughout the Caribbean to medicines that are safe, effective and quality-assured, supported by robust regulatory and surveillance systems.



Mr. Francis Burnett, Interim Head of the Pooled Procurement Services (PPS) Unit, OECS, CARPHA's Dr. Chantelle Bailey, (seated at head table) and Ms. Nicole Ennis (virtual) welcome participants at the start of the hybrid technical session at the 14th CAOH 2026 Annual Scientific Conference at the Trinidad Hilton. Also present at the session are CARPHA's Dr. Heather Armstrong, Head, CDI and Ms. Sarah Quesnel-Crooks, Programme Coordinator, IARC Caribbean Cancer Registry Hub.

Country Legend Dolly Parton Dies at 80

Dolly Parton, the country singer from the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, will be remembered for her songs that told beautiful stories so honestly, such as Coat of Many Colours, Jolene and I Will Always Love You.

In a seven-decade career, Parton won 10 Grammy awards, sold more than 100 million records worldwide, and wrote in excess of 3,000 songs.

Parton took her writing seriously, and considered herself a songwriter over everything else. "It's my way of expressing myself," she said. "It's my therapy."

She was also a savvy businesswoman who wasn't afraid to make tough decisions. Armed with a quick wit and southern charm, she took control of her show business career that spanned more than 60 years.

Dolly Rebecca Parton was born in 1946, the fourth of 12 children, into a poor farming family who lived in a one bedroom cabin in Tennessee.

Her father, Robert Lee Parton, was a tobacco farmer and paid a missionary a sack of cornmeal for delivering her.

There was already music in the family - her mother, Avie Lee, sung folk songs all the time and her aunt played the guitar and wrote songs. During some of Parton's earliest performances, her uncle, Bill Owens, accompanied her on the guitar - formative years for the future music legend.

From the age of six, she sang in the local church where her grandfather was the pastor, and was performing on her local TV station by the time she was a teenager.

In 1959, when she was 13 years old, Parton performed with Uncle Bill at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville - a live broadcast that is regarded as country music's biggest stage.

She was introduced by Johnny Cash and received three encores.

'The Town Tramp'

During her teenage years, Parton began to model herself on a local character who was known as the "town tramp".

The lady wore bright red nail polish, low-cut tops and high heels - young Dolly thought she was beautiful.

When people said to her: "She ain't nothing but trash", Parton would reply: "Well, that's what I'm gonna be when I grow up".

Parton sang "I'm just a backwards Barbie / too much make-up, too much hair", but her image was both a coat of armour and an astute disguise that helped get her noticed in show business.

She would get ahead of the jokes by making them first, and had a quick and simple response for anyone who suggested she should tone it down: "Go to hell."

After graduating from high school in



Parton won 10 Grammy awards, sold more than 100 million records worldwide

1964, she moved to Nashville to launch her singing career and met her future husband, Carl Dean, on her very first day.

They married two years later and remained together until his death in 2025.

In Nashville, Parton's singing caught the eye of country performer Porter Wagoner, who hired her to perform on his television programme.

Over the next seven years, the pair became one of country music's most popular duos, releasing so many duets that many fans assumed they were a couple.

But their relationship was a complicated one, and as Parton's solo career started to rise, so did tensions behind the scenes.

Writing in her book *Star of the Show: My Life on Stage*, Parton said Wagoner saw her success away from his show as a "threat".

While travelling with Wagoner on a tour bus in 1969, Parton wrote Coat of Many Colours, a beautifully emotive tale of how she grew up poor, but rich with love.

Scrawled on the back of one of Wagoner's dry cleaning receipts, it was rated by Rolling Stone magazine as her second best-ever song. Years later, Parton named her own children's book Coat of Many Colours, and it was the name of a 2015 TV movie based on her life.

"It's a song that's just stood by me... it's created a life of many colours for me," she said.

'Sad little country song'

Despite being unable to read sheet music, Parton played several instru-

ments including the banjo, harp, piano and saxophone.

She had her first number one hit - and first Grammy nomination - with the song Joshua in 1971 and finally left The Porter Wagoner Show in 1974 to concentrate on her solo career.

To say goodbye to him, she wrote I Will Always Love You, a song that many think is about two lovers parting ways. "That's the prettiest song I ever heard," Wagoner cried when he first heard it, her website says.

The same year, Elvis Presley was set to record a cover of the song, but Parton pulled the deal when his manager demanded half of the songwriting rights. She cried all night at the difficult decision, and Priscilla Presley later told her that Elvis sang the song to her during their divorce.

In 1992, Whitney Houston transformed it into a now-iconic power ballad.

Parton said she was driving when she first heard the cover and had to pull over: "When I heard her go from the a cappella into the music part, I honestly thought I was going to have a heart attack, it was one of the most overwhelming things."

Houston's cover of Parton's "sad little country song" was one of the proudest moments of her life, she said.

Parton re-recorded the song for The best Little Whorehouse in Texas, a 1982 film in which she starred in and was nominated for a Golden Globe for best actress.

That other woman

Another of her most famous songs was released in 1974 - Jolene.

Showing her aching vulnerability, it's

about a bank clerk with flaming locks of auburn hair who flirted with her husband.

"Jolene, I'm begging of you, please don't take my man," she pleads.

Parton said her husband, who was notoriously private, was a bit embarrassed by the song. But it was nothing serious - just a running joke between them: "I was saying, 'Hell, you're spending a lot of time at the bank. I don't believe we've got that kind of money.'"

The song has been covered by many artists including The White Stripes, Miley Cyrus and Beyoncé, who changed up to the lyrics to the more ominous: "I'm warning you, don't come for my man."

In the years to come, Dolly Parton's success only grew, with more hits, nominations and awards - she won her first Grammy in 1978 for Here You Come Again.

Playing her acrylic nails

It was the theme song that Dolly Parton wrote for the 1980 movie 9 to 5 that fully propelled her to stardom.

Actress Jane Fonda, who produced and starred in the film about women being discriminated against in the workplace, made a deal with Parton - she'd star in the film if she could also write the theme song.

Realising her nails clicking together sounded like a typewriter, she wrote 9 to 5 while waiting around on set. Fonda said she realised straight away that it wasn't just a theme song - it was an anthem.

The film was a big success at the box office and the song won several awards, including a Golden Globe.



Join our team

Rooms Division Specialist

Job Specification:

- Assist management in hiring, training, scheduling, evaluating, counseling, disciplining, and motivating and coaching employees; and serve as a role model and first point of contact of the Guarantee of Fair Treatment/Open Door Policy process.
- Follow all company and safety and security policies and procedures; report accidents, injuries, and unsafe work conditions to manager; and complete safety training and certifications.
- Welcome and acknowledge all guests according to company standards, anticipate and address guests' service needs, assist individuals with disabilities, and thank guests with genuine appreciation.
- Speak with others using clear and professional language.
- Develop and maintain positive working relationships with others, support team to reach common goals, and listen and respond appropriately to the concerns of other employees.
- Ensure adherence to quality expectations and standards; and identify, recommend, develop, and implement new ways to increase organizational efficiency, productivity, quality, safety, and/or cost-savings.
- Enter and locate work-related information using computers and/or point of sale systems.
- Stand, sit, or walk for an extended period of time or for an entire work shift. Move, lift, carry, push, pull, and place objects weighing less than or equal to 25 pounds without assistance.

Job Requirements:

- Must have 2- 3 years experience in related field
- Must be able to move over sloping, uneven, or slippery surfaces. Reach overhead and below the knees, including bending, twisting, pulling, and stooping. Perform other reasonable job duties as requested.t

Salary expectation - \$20,596 - \$25,167 per annum

Front Office Manager

Job Specification:

- Lead and manage the front office team ensuring these departments are provided with support as needed.
- Assist the reservation department, ensuring accurate and efficient handling of room reservations, group bookings, and guest inquiries, and implementing strategies to optimize room revenue and occupancy levels.
- Guest services enhancement
- Develop and implement guest service initiatives and standards to enhance the overall guest experience, including personalized service, VIP amenities, and special touches that exceed guest expectations.
- Quality assurance
- Implement and maintain quality assurance standards for guest accommodations, including room cleanliness, maintenance, and amenities, conducting regular inspections and audits to ensure compliance with brand standards and guest satisfaction.
- Revenue optimization
- Develop and implement strategies to maximize room revenue and occupancy levels, including pricing strategies, distribution channel management, and upselling initiatives, to achieve revenue targets and profitability goals.
- Provide training, coaching, and professional development opportunities to front office staff, ensuring they have the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to deliver exceptional service and meet performance standards.
- Budget management
- Prepare and manage departmental budgets, including staffing, operating expenses, and capital expenditures, to achieve financial targets and control costs while maintaining service quality and standards.

Job Requirements:

- Must have 3-5 years experience as an FOM
- Certificates and advancement qualifications within the Rooms remit
- Must be able to meet deadlines and work under pressure

Salary expectation - \$48,000 - \$58,000 per annum

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Reservations Manager

Job Specification:

- Team leadership
- Provide leadership, guidance, and direction to the reservation team, including recruitment, training, performance management, and professional development, to foster a high-performing and motivated workforce.
- Reservation management
- Oversee all aspects of the reservation process, including handling inquiries, managing bookings, confirming reservations, and resolving issues or discrepancies, ensuring accuracy, efficiency, and compliance with hotel policies and procedures.
- Revenue optimization
- Develop and implement strategies to maximize room revenue and occupancy levels, including setting pricing strategies, managing inventory, and implementing upselling and cross-selling initiatives to achieve revenue targets.
- Distribution channel management
- Manage relationships with distribution partners, online travel agencies (OTAs), and global distribution systems (GDS), negotiating contracts, optimizing distribution channels, and monitoring performance to increase market share and revenue.
- Forecasting and analysis
- Analyze reservation trends, booking patterns, and market demand data to forecast occupancy levels, identify opportunities for revenue growth, and make data-driven decisions to optimize pricing and inventory management strategies.
- Guest experience enhancement
- Collaborate with other hotel departments, including front office, sales, and marketing, to ensure a seamless and personalized guest experience from booking to check-out, implementing initiatives to enhance guest satisfaction and loyalty.
- Technology integration
- Evaluate and implement reservation management systems, booking engines, and revenue management tools to streamline processes, enhance efficiency, and improve the guest booking experience.
- Reporting and analytics
- Generate reports and analytics related to reservation performance, revenue metrics, and market trends, providing insights and recommendations to senior management for strategic planning and decision-making.
- Quality assurance

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 3-5 years as a Reservations Manager + management certifications
- Must have a good experience in sales and revenue management.
- Must be articulate, professional and able to meet targets set for revenue generation.

Salary expectations - \$50,000 - \$65,000 per annum





Join our team

Jnr. Cook

Job Specification:

- Assists with preparing, cooking, and serving soups, sauces, meats, eggs, dairy products, hot foods, sandwiches, vegetables, salads, salad dressing, fruits, pastries, desserts, breads and beverages.
- Relieves the Cook II of routine operations including watching, turning, and stirring food etc.
- Performs grill work, as needed.
- Preparing beverages by adding dry mixes, syrups, carbonation, water, and restocking milk and other beverage machines;
- Cleans and maintains culinary utensils and equipment and the working area with the assistance of helpers.
- Washes dishes and eating utensils; cleans tables; and maintains the cleanliness and stocking of food and other items in preparation areas, guest areas and workstations, as needed.
- May supervise the work of Foodservices Assistants/Cashiers as required.
- Follows and re-enforces policies and procedures regarding the proper handling, sanitation, and dispensing of food and beverage products.
- Responsible for other duties as assigned

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have experience working in a restaurant kitchen
- Must have 2+ years as a Cook 1
- Certifications
- Must be able to work in a kitchen environment; stand for long hours and work efficiently under pressure

Salary expectations - \$9.00 - 12.00 per hour

Guest Environment Expert/Room Attendant

Job Specification:

- Clean and tidy guest rooms, bathrooms, and common areas
- Change bed linens and make beds
- Replenish guest room supplies, such as toiletries and towels
- Dust and polish furniture and fixtures
- Vacuum and sweep floors
- Report any maintenance issues to the appropriate department
- Assist guests with any requests or needs they may have
- Follow all safety and sanitation policies and procedures

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 2- 3 years experience in related field
- Must be able to work in a restaurant environment, stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.
- Prior experience in housekeeping or related field preferred
- Knowledge of cleaning chemicals, proper storage, and disposal methods
- Ability to follow instructions and procedures
- Positive attitude and willingness to learn

Salary expectation - \$20,596 - \$22,880 per annum

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Property Maintenance Manager

Job Specification:

- Provide leadership, guidance, and direction to the maintenance team, including recruitment, training, scheduling, performance management, and professional development.
- Oversee all property maintenance operations, including preventative maintenance, repairs, inspections, and the upkeep of hotel buildings, guest rooms, public areas, and facilities.
- Develop and implement preventative maintenance programs to minimize equipment breakdowns, reduce operational costs, and maintain the property to a high standard.
- Oversee the maintenance and safe operation of electrical, plumbing, HVAC, mechanical, fire safety, and other building systems and equipment.
- Respond to maintenance issues and emergencies promptly, ensuring repairs are completed efficiently with minimal disruption to guests and hotel operations.
- Coordinate with contractors, suppliers, and service providers to ensure maintenance work is completed safely, efficiently, and to the required standards.
- Conduct regular property inspections, identify maintenance and safety concerns, and ensure appropriate corrective action is taken.
- Work closely with hotel departments to address maintenance needs and ensure guest rooms, public areas, and back-of-house facilities are maintained to a high standard.
- Maintain accurate maintenance records, work orders, equipment logs, and service reports, providing recommendations to senior management for improvements.
- Monitor maintenance procedures, team performance, equipment condition, and operating costs to ensure standards are consistently maintained and opportunities for improvement are identified.

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 3-5 years as a Property Maintenance Manager, Maintenance Manager, or similar role + relevant technical or maintenance certifications
- Must have good experience in hotel/property maintenance, preventative maintenance, building systems, repairs, and contractor management.
- Must be articulate, professional, able to respond effectively to maintenance emergencies, and capable of leading a maintenance team while maintaining high safety and property standards.

Salary expectations - \$75,000- \$85,000 per annum





A section of the massive turnout at the Felix Morley Community Centre in Five Cays, where the Member of Parliament Hon. Rachel Marshall-Taylor hosted the Back-to-School Treat on Sunday, August 23.

ED9 Back-to-School Giveaway Reaches More Than 700 Children

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

More than 700 children attended the annual Electoral District 9 back-to-school giveaway at the Felix Morley Community Center in Five Cays on Sunday, August 23. Now in its eighth year, the event provided students from kindergarten through high school with backpacks and age-appropriate school supplies.

Hon. Rachel Marshall-Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture and Member of Parliament for ED9, which encompasses Five Cays, South Dock and Chalk Sound, said organizers packed 800 backpacks for the initiative.

Each package also included a reusable shopping bag for parents. Backpacks were set aside for residents who were away and unable to attend the event.

Marshall-Taylor said she was pleased to see parents accompanying their children instead of simply sending them to collect the supplies.

"That made the experience a bit more worthwhile," she said.

Families also enjoyed face painting, basketball, soccer and activities on the community center's playground. Raffles offered laptops, iPads and other electronic devices to help students with their schoolwork. Gift certificates for beauty services and gasoline were also available to help families prepare for the new academic year.

Marshall-Taylor said the event was made possible through donations and assistance from residents, businesses, community



organizations, fellow parliamentarians and members of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force.

Food and refreshments were largely donated by residents of ED9, while local companies and civic organizations contributed drinks, prizes and other forms of support. Minister of Innovation, Technology and

Energy Hon. E. Jay Saunders and Hon. Jameka Williams, Deputy Speaker for the House of Parliament, along with Adesha Gustave, the 2026 winner of the Miss International Turks and Caicos Beauty Pageant assisted with handing out of gifts to the children.

Marshall-Taylor also thanked her parlia-

mentary colleagues for contributing financially to the initiative and helping organizers increase its impact.

"I just want to say a special thank you to the residents of ED9 for making today's event possible," she said.

PLEASE SEE RELATED PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS ON PAGES 15-16



Residents try to flip over a car to bloc a street as they protest for police intervention after deadly gang attacks in Kenscoff neighbourhood of Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, August 24, 2026

More than 50 kidnapped as Violent Gang Attack in Haiti leaves 47 Dead

At least 47 people were killed and more than 50 others kidnapped when armed men attacked a once-peaceful community near Haiti's capital earlier this week, the United Nations said Tuesday. It is believed to be one of the largest mass kidnappings in Haiti in recent years, and one gang leader is threatening to kill the hostages if authorities kill any gang members as they try to secure the community nestled in the hills above Port-au-Prince.

Sunday's attack on Kenscoff pierced the belief that security in the troubled Caribbean country was improving.

"This is a major political and security test, for the government, for the police and for the international mission," said Romain Le Cour, head of the Haiti Observatory at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. He said the threat of executing hostages is a trap: If forces don't act, they've failed to protect



People watch as the bodies of their loved ones who were killed in a gang attack are carried away by undertakers in the Kenscoff neighborhood of Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, August 24, 2026

them; if they do and hostages die, the gangs will blame the state. Kenscoff resident Marc Paul, 42, said gangs kidnapped his brother, stepmother, stepfather and two cousins. He said his 16-year-old niece also was kidnapped and raped but was

able to escape and has reunited with him.

"I had to run over bodies," he said as he recalled how he fled the attack. "I can't sleep knowing all these people died."

Paul and his family had already lost their home to a previous gang

attack in January 2025, but he said it was not as violent as Sunday's attack. Paul was upset about the video the gangs posted: "My brother is probably going to die." In a video posted on social media, the gang leader threatened Vladimir Paraison, director of Haiti's National Police.

"Paraison, if any of our soldiers are hurt, I will kill all of them," he said, referring to the hostages.

The gang member identified himself as Izo 2, a reference to Izo, or Johnson André, one of Haiti's most powerful gang leaders.

Le Cour said Izo 2 is also known as "Didi" and leads the armed group in Kenscoff on behalf of and in coordination with Izo and other gang leaders.

Kenson Paul, the 17-year-old nephew of Marc Paul, said he managed to escape the attackers. "They have not called us to let us know what they want," he said of the gang. "I worry for my family's life."

US set for Largest Mass Visa Revocation in History, Targeting up to 200,000 Foreigners

The Trump administration is preparing to revoke the visas of up to 200,000 foreigners who have applied for or are currently seeking asylum status in the United States. The Trump administration is preparing to revoke the business and tourism visas of up to 200,000 foreigners who have applied for or are currently seeking asylum status in the United States. If it happens, the move would be the largest single mass revocation of visas in U.S. history and would likely face legal challenges. Unless challenged or revised, the State Department is expected to announce in the coming weeks the revocation of so-called B1 and B2 visas issued between 2016 and 2026 whose holders have sought asylum or are now seeking asylum, according to State Department documents obtained by The Associated Press and two U.S. officials. The action will be taken in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security. "We are coordinating with DHS to identify and revoke the nonimmigrant visas of foreigners who have come to the United States claiming to be short-term visitors, but then file for asylum to stay here permanently," said State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott. He declined to comment on the number

of visas that might be revoked, saying "as the process will be ongoing, the number of revocations remains dynamic and will be done on a rolling basis." The revocations would not necessarily result in their immediate deportation, the officials said. Most of those with asylum cases currently pending would be recategorized but would lose their status as business or tourism travelers, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the revocations are not final yet. Since President Donald Trump took office for his second term last year, his administration has steadily ramped up restrictions on visa applicants — demanding more information about their social media histories, requiring the posting of expensive bonds for the processing of visas, and outright banning the issuance of visas to citizens of certain countries. In a social media post on Monday, Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau called out people who he said try to use tourist and business visas to get into the United States and then apply for asylum. "People in the US and all over the world are fed up with bogus asylum claims," Landau wrote on X. "Asylum isn't supposed to be a loophole to circumvent immigration



President Donald Trump walks past Secretary of State Marco Rubio as he arrives for a roundtable on the American mining industry, Friday, Aug. 7, 2026, at the State Department in Washington.

law." Landau cited the case of a Colombian citizen who came to the U.S. in 2015 on a tourist visa and then applied for asylum. B1 visas are generally issued for business trips and B2 visas are generally issued for tourism, family visits or medical care. It was not immediately clear from the documents or the officials how many of these visa holders are seeking or have sought asylum in the United States and would be affected by the revocations. Current applicants for B1 and B2 visas are asked to affirm that they will not apply for asylum in the United States and prove that they intend to return to their home countries. In the past 18 months, the State Department has revoked about 175,000 visas for people who have been convicted or accused of crimes ranging from drunken driv-

ing to rape and robbery, as well as for people who have spoken out publicly against U.S. policies, particularly in the Middle East. The administration has also moved to crack down on so-called birth tourism, a practice the administration claims is used by foreign pregnant women to come to the United States to give birth so that their child will benefit from birthright citizenship. Trump has tried several times to end birthright citizenship, but those challenges have been rejected by courts, including the Supreme Court. The State Department documents obtained by the AP suggest screening of current B1 and B2 visa holders began after the State Department received information about asylum requests from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Panama Canal to Cap Daily Transits, Anticipating Severe El Niño

The Panama Canal Authority will cap daily transits as of early September as it gears up for a longer-than-usual El Niño season expected to reduce water levels, it said on Thursday, walking back a previous pledge to not limit vessel passage. Under the new measures, the canal will limit daily transits as of September 4 to 34 vessels, and reduce the number to 32 as of September 15. The canal had registered an average of 35 daily transits through June 2026, corresponding to vessel demand, with the capacity to handle around 40 crossings per day. In May, canal authorities told Reuters that the waterway was not planning vessel passage restrictions this year, and had already been taking water conservation measures since 2025. According to an advisory issued Thursday, daily capacity as of September 4 at the canal's Neopanamax locks will be capped at nine slots, while capacity at the older Panamax locks will be limited to 25 slots. As of September 15, capacity at the Panamax locks will be further reduced



A drone view shows the Bahamas-flagged LNG tanker Nohshu Maru sailing through the Panama Canal, in Panama City, Panama, March 24, 2026.

to 23 slots. The canal authority had previously tightened draft limits several times as part of its water management strategy. The authority also disclosed that rain-

fall from May through August was 34% below the historical average, while watershed inflows plummeted 44% below normal. It warned that the anticipated severity of the 2026-2027 El Niño event could

further reduce precipitation, threatening the long-term sustainability of the waterway and local water supplies. Additionally, the authority is postponing previously scheduled reductions to maximum authorized drafts. A planned adjustment to 14.63 meters (48.0 feet) in the Neopanamax locks was delayed until September 2, while a subsequent move to 14.48 meters (47.5 feet) was pushed back to October 1. Draft is the depth of water a ship needs to float safely; a lower draft limit means vessels may have to carry less cargo in order to pass through the canal. Panama Canal administrator Ricaurte Vasquez said El Niño this year could last much longer than before, requiring the canal to limit transit capacity, as it did during a drought in 2023 and 2024, in addition to imposing draft restrictions. "The experience of 2023 and 2024 has prepared us well for what we know and has given us the discipline to deal with what we do not know. The canal does not improvise," Vasquez said on Wednesday at a business event.



**PROVO TO HOST
SIX NATIONS LEAGUE
RETURN GAMES**

SEE PG36

Infantino Attends CFU Meeting despite Concacaf objection

FIFA President Gianni Infantino has reportedly angered Concacaf President Victor Montagliani by attending a Caribbean Football Union (CFU) meeting at the weekend.

According to reports, multiple sources at the CFU meeting said several Concacaf members were infuriated by Infantino's actions, particularly because he had been asked by the confederation's president to stay away.

Infantino allegedly announced FI-FA-funded development projects for the region worth millions of dollars that had been delayed for months.

In a letter addressed to Infantino on Friday, Montagliani asked him not to attend the CFU Challenge Series in the Dominican Republic, although the correspondence made no mention of the meeting itself.

According to Montagliani, Infantino's presence would shift attention away from the regional Under-14 tournament being staged alongside the meeting.

"I believe that considering the gov-



FIFA President Gianni Infantino

ernance crisis surrounding FIFA as a result of your controversial FIFA Forward Enterprise proposal, the media will focus on this situation, which will unfortunately significantly take away from the technical nature of the CFU

youth competition," the letter, which was obtained by multiple media outlets, stated.

"As such, I respectfully ask you in the name of football to reconsider your attendance as it will unfortunately

undermine the technical nature of this important youth development activity."

Despite the request, Infantino is understood to have arrived at the Punta Cana resort with a large FIFA delegation that included Secretary General Mattias Grafström and Elkhann Mam-madov, a close ally responsible for maintaining relations with FIFA's 211 member associations in his role as director of member associations.

The FIFA president has also come under pressure from other football leaders, with Montagliani joining his counterparts from European governing body UEFA and the Asian Football Confederation in calling for a re-evaluation of FIFA's current leadership, saying their trust had been "broken through deception".

The criticism followed Infantino's advancement of the FIFA Forward Enterprise proposal, which would allow private investment in the World Cup, including the sale of shares to investment group Thrive Eternal, founded by Josh Kushner.

Chinese Humanoid Robot sets new 100-meter Sprint Record in 8.86 sec at Beijing Games

A Chinese humanoid robot set a new 100-meter sprint record of 8.86 seconds in Beijing on Tuesday, beating its robot competitors – and the fastest recorded human time.

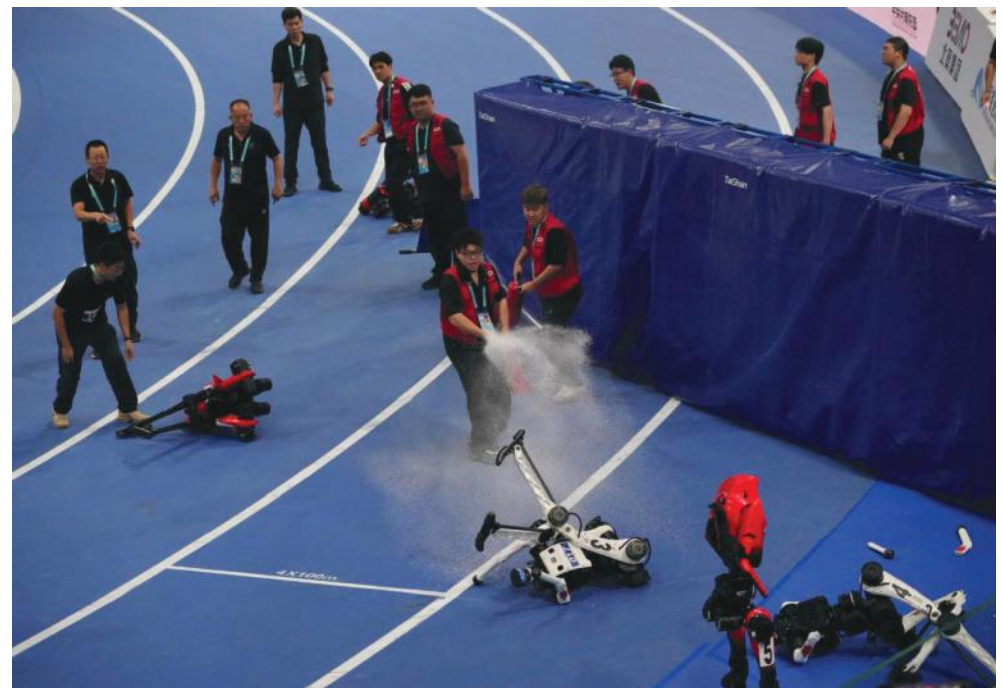
The race was part of China's World Humanoid Robot Games, an Olympic-style competition now in its second year in Beijing. The event is also a showcase for China's rapid

advances in robotics amid an intensifying technology rivalry with the United States.

The previous robot record of 9.39 seconds had been set just three days earlier, on Saturday.

For comparison, the men's 100-meter world record is 9.58 seconds, set by Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt in 2009.

The record-breaking robot fell



Officials extinguish the fire to a Humanoid robot after hitting the barrier at the end of the 100m race during the World Humanoid Robot Games in Beijing, China, on Tuesday.

after crossing the finish line and crashing into a padded barrier, with sparks flying from its waist.

The Games feature over 1,300 competitions and include more than 2,000 robots in 51 events like running, long jump and table tennis, as well as ballroom dancing.

Unlike the traditional Olympics, the robots also compete in teams in real-world scenarios, including

household tasks, hotel services and emergency response.

"'Housekeeper' and 'caregiver' robots are still in the pilot and validation phase," China's official newspaper People's Daily said on Monday, "(but) challenges are precisely where the focus of development lies ... China's robotics industry is evolving toward higher quality and innovation."

Seville Thrilled with Diamond League win in Poland

World Champion Oblique Seville says his men's 100m victory at the Wanda Diamond League meeting in Silesia, Poland, on Sunday, sets him up well for the remainder of the season. The Jamaican ran a meet record 9.83 seconds (1.4m/s) during the Kamila Skolimowska Memorial, effectively securing his place in the Diamond League final set for Brussels, Belgium, in two weeks.

Kenny Bednarek ran a season's best 9.87 for second and fellow American Christian Coleman was third in 9.93. Jamaican Ackeem Blake ran 10.26 in his first-round race and failed to advance. Seville, 25, said he is also eyeing success at the first-ever Ultimate Championships set for Budapest, Hungary, in mid-September. "I am in pretty good shape and I feel pretty good about the win. I



Jamaica's Oblique Seville (centre) races to victory in the men's 100m event, finishing ahead of Kenneth Bednarek (left) of the United States and Andre de Grasse of Canada at the Silesia Diamond League athletics meeting in Katowice, Poland, on Sunday.

am in great shape for the Ultimate Championships. The victory feels nice — especially as I ran close to my personal best — and I am just having fun," he said. After placing second at the London Diamond League last month, he qualified for Sunday's final after running 9.90 (1.9m/s) in the preliminaries. He then broke the meet record of 9.87 that was held

jointly by three men, including compatriot Kishane Thompson. "There are great things ahead of me," Seville said. "Many sprinters ran under 10s, that is really special. For the rest of the season I would like to keep winning, and the next win should be in Brussels."

Haiti are CFU U-14 Boys Champs

Jamaica were dethroned as kings of the Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Under-14 Boys Tier 1 Challenge Series on Sunday after they were outplayed and beaten 4-0 by Haiti in the final played at Cap Cana, Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic. Wensley Dumorne scored twice early in the second half to take the game away from Jamaica, who trailed 1-0 at half-time and were losing for the first time in two trips to the competition. It was the first time Jamaica had conceded a goal in the tournament after winning their previous four games by an 8-0 aggregate, including a 1-0 win over Bermuda in Friday's semi-final. Haiti went into the final as favourites after dismantling hosts Dominican Republic 6-1 in their semi-final. After dominating early, Haiti were rewarded when Jodeley Sheeck Delmas opened the scoring in the 28th minute. Dumorne doubled the lead in the 39th minute and then completed his brace in the 47th minute before Ronelson Pele Janvier added a fourth in the 59th minute.



The Haitian Under 14 Boys celebrate winning the championship

Salt Rakers Aquatic Club to Host Second Annual Mini-Triathlon

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club will host its second annual Mini-Triathlon on Saturday, October 31, 2026, beginning at 8 a.m. at The Bight Park in Grace Bay.

The community sporting event will bring together swimmers, cyclists and runners across four age divisions: 9–10, 11–15, 16–18, and 19 and older. Beginners, experienced athletes and relay teams are invited to participate.

Competitors ages 9–10 will complete a 1-kilometre swim, 1-kilometre bicycle ride and 1-kilometre run. Distances increase to 1.5 kilometres in each discipline for athletes ages 11–15, two kilometres for those ages 16–18, and 2.5 kilometres for adults.

Registration options include individual participation, two- and three-person relay teams, and group teams. The listed team entry fee is \$100, while the individual registration fee is not specified on the registration form.

Organizers are also encouraging



residents to attend and cheer on the competitors as they test their endurance in the three-discipline event.

Participants must submit a com-

pleted registration form, payment confirmation, emergency contact and medical information, and a signed liability waiver. A parent or guardian must sign for

competitors younger than 18.

For registration details, contact the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club at saltrakers@gmail.com or call or WhatsApp (649) 241-1272.

Felix Morley Community Center Expands Sporting Opportunities in Five Cays

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Residents of Five Cays and surrounding communities have access to a growing range of sporting and recreational opportunities at the Felix Morley Community Center.

The center offers activities including basketball, soccer, boxing, karate and Zumba as part of an effort to encourage active lifestyles and provide a safe environment for children and adults.

Hon. Rachel Marshall-Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture and Mem-

ber of Parliament for Five Cays, South Dock and Chalk Sound, highlighted the programs during the ED9 back-to-school giveaway on Sunday, August 23.

Marshall-Taylor said improvements to the property have reduced the need to bring in temporary attractions for community events.

"We didn't really need the bouncy castles this time because we have built out our basketball court," she said.

A soccer pitch was added this year, while the center also has a playground for younger children. Marshall-Taylor said the

aim is to continue strengthening the facilities and making the area a safer and more welcoming community space.

The center's sporting activities provide children with opportunities to exercise, develop new skills and participate in structured programs outside school hours. Adults can also take part in activities such as Zumba.

In addition to sports and recreation, the Felix Morley Community Center offers computer and music classes, homework assistance and other educational programs.

Marshall-Taylor said families at-

tending the back-to-school giveaway were encouraged to learn about the year-round opportunities available at the center.

"It's important for us to ensure that the parents not only come here for the experience of the back-to-school event, but also learn of activities that they can enroll their children in upon the commencement of school," she said.

The Felix Morley Community Center is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and parents may visit during those hours to register their children for available programs.

Provo to Host Six Nations League Return Games

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Providenciales will take centre stage when the Concacaf Nations League returns, hosting all six League C Group A matches at the TCIFA National Academy from September 23 to October 6, with the Turks and Caicos Islands facing Montserrat and the British Virgin Islands twice each.

The two-week football showcase will open on Wednesday, September 23, when the Turks and Caicos Islands meet Montserrat at 3 p.m.

Montserrat will then face the British Virgin Islands on Saturday, September 26, before the British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos clash on Tuesday, September 29.

The action will continue in October with the British Virgin Islands playing Montserrat on Thursday, October 1. Turks and Caicos will return to the field against the British Virgin Islands on Sunday, October 4, before closing the group stage against Montserrat on Tuesday, October 6.

All six matches are scheduled to kick off at 3 p.m. at the TCIFA National Academy.

Group A fixtures

- | Date | Match | Time |
|--------------|--|--------|
| September 23 | Turks and Caicos Islands vs Montserrat | 3 p.m. |
| September 26 | Montserrat vs British Virgin Islands | 3 p.m. |
| September 29 | British Virgin Islands vs Turks and Caicos Islands | 3 p.m. |
| October 1 | British Virgin Islands vs Montserrat | 3 p.m. |
| October 4 | Turks and Caicos Islands vs British Virgin Islands | 3 p.m. |
| October 6 | Montserrat vs Turks | |



File...TCI football

and Caicos Islands 3 p.m. The Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association is promoting the event as “six matches, two weeks” and an unforgettable experience for local football supporters. The centralized format means the territory will host the entire Group A schedule, giving residents the opportunity to watch six senior international matches while allowing the national team to contest all four of its group fixtures on familiar ground. Every point will be critical.

League C consists of nine teams divided into three groups of three, with each country playing its two group opponents twice. The three group winners and the best second-placed team will qualify for the League C Championship, scheduled for March 2027. In Group B, Antigua and Barbuda will host Aruba and Anguilla at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium. Group C, featuring Saint Martin, the Bahamas and the US Virgin Islands, will be staged at Bethlehem Soccer Complex in St. Croix.

The Group B and C matches will be played on the same dates as the Providenciales series: September 23, 26 and 29, followed by October 1, 4 and 6.

The 2026/27 competition is the fifth edition of the Concacaf Nations League and features national teams across Leagues A, B and C. Concacaf has scheduled 74 group-stage matches throughout the region during the September-October window.

League A includes Costa Rica, Jamaica, Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Curaçao, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Suriname, Martinique and El Salvador. Mexico, the United States, Canada and Panama have received direct entry into the November quarterfinals.

League B comprises 16 countries divided into four groups. Those teams will play during the September-October window and again from November 9–17, with each group winner advancing to the League B Championship.

The competition will also play a role in determining qualification for the 2027 Concacaf Gold Cup.

For Turks and Caicos, however, the immediate task is to make home advantage count. Four important matches—and a possible place in the League C Championship—await the national team as international football returns to Providenciales.

Local supporters will have their first opportunity to rally behind the team on September 23, when Turks and Caicos opens its campaign against Montserrat.