

**Road Dogs Join
the TCAAA**



PG32

NEWSLINE

Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

Find Us Online!





**Liberty Says It Can
Assist TCI With
Border Security**
PG4



**Why are Foreign
Police Officer
Being Recruited?**
PG19

**‘NO
COVER-UP’**

**CONCIERGE COMPANY DENIES DRIVER’S INVOLVEMENT
IN ARMED VILLA ROBBERY**

>>> STORY ON PG5





Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam, (centre) leads the meeting with a team of maritime domain experts at her office in Providenciales on Tuesday, September 16.



The team of maritime domain experts in a meeting with Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam and her technocrats on Tuesday, September 15, at the Governor's Office in Providenciales.

TCI strengthens maritime security after 471 migrants intercepted and armed villa robbery

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands is moving to strengthen its maritime surveillance and security operations as authorities confront renewed concerns about irregular migration and violent crime.

A maritime-domain expert team from US Customs and Border Protection is in the territory this week to assess existing capabilities, identify operational gaps and help shape future training and mentorship, according to information released by the Governor's Office.

The visit follows the interception of three vessels carrying a combined 471 irregular migrants over seven days, underscoring the pressure on the territory's maritime-security system. It also comes amid an investigation into an armed invasion of a private villa occupied by American tourists.

Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam met with the visiting specialists as they began working with the Marine Operations Centre, the TCI Regiment, the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force Marine Branch and other national-security partners.

Officials said the initiative is intended to improve maritime awareness, operational coordination and the territory's capacity to detect, track and disrupt irregular migration and other illicit activity at sea.

The initiative builds on the territory's longstanding participation in Operation Bahamas, Turks and Caicos, commonly known as OPBAT. The decades-old partnership connects law-enforcement agencies in the United States, The Bahamas and

the Turks and Caicos Islands in operations against drug trafficking and other transnational maritime crime. US participants have included the Coast Guard, Drug Enforcement Administration and Customs and Border Protection. The US State Department describes OPBAT as a trilateral counternarcotics partnership.

"We are moving from individual capabilities towards a more integrated maritime security system," the Governor's Office said, describing a structure that would better connect personnel, intelligence, technology and operations.

The first of the three recent interceptions occurred during the early hours of September 2, when the Marine Operations Centre's Coastal Radar Unit detected an overloaded vessel near Northwest Point, Providenciales. Marine Branch officers intercepted the boat before it could reach land. Its 171 passengers were escorted to South Dock and transferred to the TCI Border Force for processing under local laws.

Five days later, during the early hours of September 7, officers stopped an overcrowded vessel carrying 207 people. Everyone aboard was brought ashore without incident and transferred to the relevant authorities.

Acting Commissioner of Police Kendall Grant said the operation highlighted the risks associated with irregular maritime migration, particularly for vulnerable passengers, including children. Police said investigations into the voyage were continuing.

A third vessel, carrying 93 people, was intercepted on September 8. Police said the passengers were safely taken

ashore and handed over to the Border Force for processing. The RTCIPF said the interception formed part of several successful operations conducted during the preceding week.

The final two vessels carried a combined 300 people and were intercepted within approximately 48 hours. All the passengers aboard the three boats were Haitian migrants, according to the authorities.

The operations increased the reported number of migrants intercepted at sea by the RTCIPF during 2026 to approximately 1,375, since the start of 2026.

The maritime-security assessment is also taking place amid public concern over an armed burglary at a private villa in Blue Hills, Providenciales.

The incident gained widespread attention after American tourists told Atlanta television station FOX 5 that seven masked men armed with guns, machetes and sticks entered their beachfront rental on September 6.

Members of an Atlanta family and their friends were reportedly staying at Aqua Blu Beach Villas for a birthday celebration over the US Labor Day weekend. The visitors said the intruders stole cash, passports, jewellery, purses and mobile phones. One woman was reportedly struck in the head with a firearm. No deaths were reported.

Police subsequently confirmed that a group of armed individuals entered the villa, confronted its occupants, stole property and physically assaulted one guest.

The RTCIPF announced on September 15 that a suspect had been arrested the previous day and that detectives

were searching for other people believed to have participated.

Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey said the Serious Crime Unit had made "significant progress" but stressed that the investigation was not finished. Police have not publicly confirmed every detail contained in the tourists' media accounts, including the precise number of assailants.

Local reporting said the investigation was at an advanced stage, while authorities declined to release further operational details that could compromise the case.

The villa attack and migrant interceptions involve different criminal and security challenges, but both underscore the pressure on the territory's law-enforcement network. Officials say the developing maritime-security system is designed to give agencies a clearer operational picture, improve intelligence sharing and allow faster more coordinated responses.

The United Kingdom has also increased security support for the territory in recent years. In 2024, Britain announced assistance including coastal sensors, surveillance drones, maritime patrol craft and additional crime-fighting equipment amid concern that instability in Haiti could contribute to illegal migration and regional violence. Reuters reported that the package was intended to reinforce the borders of the British Overseas Territory.

Authorities are asking anyone with information about migrant smuggling or the villa burglary to contact police, the Serious Crime Unit at 231-1842 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-8477.



Inspector Huntley Forbes (second left) share lens with Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey (fourth from left) and other participants in the programme



Inspector Huntley Forbes collects an award during the graduation ceremony

TCI Police Inspector Tops Regional Command Course in Jamaica

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Inspector Huntley Forbes Jr. of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force has earned the highest academic marks in a regional command course hosted by the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

Forbes, who heads the Community Policing Unit, also received the award for best presentation during the 92nd Staff and Junior Command Course. The programme included police officers from Jamaica, Saint Lucia, the Turks and Caicos Islands and other Caribbean jurisdictions.

"I think it's the first time someone from the Turks and Caicos Islands has obtained the highest academic marks on the course," Forbes said. "To represent the TCI in such a manner gives me great pride."

The intensive three-month programme was delivered through a combination of online and in-person instruction in Jamaica. It covered management, police operations, command responsibilities, leadership and the emotional challenges associated with supervising personnel.

Forbes described it as one of the most difficult courses he has completed during his policing career.

"The online segment was very difficult because the course was demanding academically," he said. "We had essays, numerous presentations and group work. It taught you how

to learn in an environment that was unfamiliar."

Despite the demanding workload, Forbes said the training substantially strengthened his leadership abilities and prepared him to serve the Police Force more effectively.

"My knowledge capacity has gone to a totally different level," he said. "I am in a much better place and more equipped to lead with excellence for the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force."

As part of the programme, Forbes participated in a community-based practicum and worked alongside units of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, including its Community Safety and Security Branch. That experience exposed him to new crime-prevention methods, community programmes and policing strategies. Forbes said he intends to apply what he learned to the work of the Community Policing Unit, with the support of Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey.

"My thoughts have been broadened," he said. "I've been made aware of new methods, new strategies and new programmes. It is my intention to help implement and drive some of those initiatives in our communities here in the TCI."

He also encouraged other members of the Police Force to pursue the course, particularly officers seeking to rise through the ranks.

"This is a major step in your policing

career," Forbes said. "It gives you the tools you need. It is a necessity for officers coming up through the ranks to attend junior command training." Forbes said he hopes the achievement establishes a standard that future TCI participants will surpass.

"A standard has been set," he said. "Go out and represent your country, and represent your country well. It is my prayer that the next group will do even better than I have done."

He added that the experience changes not only how officers lead, but also how they interact with colleagues, members of the public and themselves.

Reflecting on the wider significance of his achievement, Forbes encouraged young people across the Turks and Caicos Islands to reject limitations and pursue excellence through discipline, faith and positive choices. "There is nothing stopping you from reaching the top mark," he said. "Once you align yourself with good, with God and with positivity, and you push yourself, there is no limit."

Forbes said he never imagined earlier in life that he would achieve such recognition, but credited his progress to a decision to contribute positively to his family, community and country.

"The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force will not be forgotten in the 92nd cohort, and neither will the TCI," he said. "They will remember that someone from the Turks and



Inspector Huntley Forbes displaying his trophies won at the graduation exercise in Jamaica

Caicos Islands participated at a high standard and represented his country."



Liberty Caribbean's Carol Robertson with customers at the Liberty Business Launch in the Turks and Caicos Islands at Beaches Resort and Spa



Inge Smids (right), Head of Liberty Caribbean, is seen with other team members in the audience at the launch of Liberty Business in the Turks and Caicos Islands

Liberty Says It Can Assist TCI With Border Security

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Liberty Caribbean says it has the technology and expertise to help the Turks and Caicos Islands modernise border security as part of a wider transition toward digitally enabled public services. Carol Robertson, Liberty Caribbean representative telecommunications provider, made the announcement during the launch of Liberty Business in the Turks and Caicos Islands on Thursday, September 17, at Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort and Spa. Presenting the company's vision for a "digital-first" TCI, Robertson said Liberty could support the digitisation of border-control operations from start to finish. "We have the partnerships, and we are able to help you digitise your border control," Robertson said. "We also put in the processes, the software, the tools, the scanners, the biometrics. We'll do it end-to-end." Robertson did not announce a contract or formal agreement with the TCI Government. Instead, she identified smart-border technology as one of several areas in which Liberty could serve as a technology and innovation partner. She said a modern border system

could combine secure connectivity with software, biometric tools, scanners and data-processing capabilities. Information collected through such a system could help authorities better understand arrivals and departures and make faster, more informed decisions.

Border security is particularly important to the Turks and Caicos Islands, which continues to face challenges involving irregular migration and maritime arrivals. At the same time, the territory must process large numbers of visitors efficiently while protecting its reputation as a leading tourism destination.

Robertson said Liberty's proposed approach could support both stronger border controls and a more seamless visitor experience, beginning when travellers arrive in the territory and continuing until their departure. The proposal formed part of Liberty's broader vision for a connected TCI in which technology operates largely in the background while improving public safety, government services and everyday life.

"The future for TCI isn't about more screens. It's not about more systems or more complexity. It should be about less

friction," Robertson said. "Technology should quietly remove barriers and make everyday experiences simpler, faster and better."

She said Liberty's services could bring together secure networks, data centres, Internet of Things platforms and analytical applications. The company could also assist with strategy, implementation and preparing employees to use new systems effectively.

Robertson stressed that cybersecurity would have to underpin any digital-transformation programme.

"We don't do anything anymore without making sure it's secure," she said, explaining that secure connectivity must come before additional digital services are placed on a network.

The presentation also outlined possible uses of cameras, sensors and automated alerts to strengthen public safety. Robertson said smart surveillance systems could be programmed to identify unusual behaviour or specific objects and alert authorities without requiring personnel to monitor screens continuously. Other applications discussed included smart poles equipped with Wi-Fi and emergency features, traffic management, dig-

ital healthcare records, fleet monitoring, environmental sensors and systems for reducing energy consumption in public and commercial buildings.

Robertson said the goal should be to move government and businesses away from reacting after an incident or service failure and toward anticipating problems through real-time information.

"Instead of reacting to congestion, we predict it. Instead of reacting to failures, we identify issues before they occur," she said.

Liberty, through its telecommunications arm, Cable and Wireless, has operated in the region for more than a century and has continued investing in telecommunications infrastructure and network resilience. Robertson said the company now wants to build on that foundation by helping governments connect digital systems and make greater use of the information they generate. She encouraged TCI leaders to focus first on the outcomes they want for residents and visitors, rather than on individual technologies.

"Focus on your outcomes," Robertson said. "We'll help you work out how to get there."

Concierge Company Denies Driver's Involvement in Armed Villa Robbery

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Turks Islands Concierge has rejected accusations of a cover-up and denied that one of its drivers helped facilitate an armed home invasion at a Blue Hills villa occupied by American tourists from Georgia.

The victims told FOX 5 Atlanta that seven masked men armed with guns, machetes and sticks invaded the villa, injured a member of the group and stole cash, phones, passports and purses.

One man has since been detained in connection with the robbery. Authorities have not indicated whether he has been formally charged, and no information has been released linking him to the tourists' driver.

The tourists accused their transportation driver of involvement in the attack, an allegation the concierge company says is false and unsupported.

In screenshots shared on social media, one tourist contacted the company about a refund for a transfer before writing: "Your driver had us robbed last night."

A representative of Turks Islands Concierge responded in a video posted online. The representative confirmed that the group had booked transportation

through the business but insisted that neither the company nor its transportation partner had any connection to the robbery.

"My company [and] the company that I partner with, we had nothing to do with that robbery," the representative said.

The representative described the allegation against the driver as serious and damaging, saying the company would not stand by while an employee was publicly accused without evidence.

The company also rejected claims that it attempted to silence the victims or conceal the incident.

A screenshot circulated by the tourists shows a message expressing sympathy and asking that the matter be kept private while the business attempted to resolve it. The message warned that social-media attention could damage the company and the people who depended on it.

The tourists interpreted the request as an attempt to suppress their account, captioning the screenshot: "They ask us to keep quiet so they can continue to run their business."

The company representative denied that interpretation, saying the visitors were never told not to report the robbery or speak publicly about their experience.

"It's definitely your right to report it," the representative said. "If you want to make a video about it and share your experience, you can go ahead and do that."

The representative said the company's objection was specifically to the public accusation against the driver and to what was described as disrespectful and threatening messages directed at him.

Another screenshot appears to show the company receiving a message alleging that it had arranged for the group to be robbed and warning that those responsible would be sent to jail.

The representative expressed sympathy for the victims and acknowledged the severity of the attack, describing such a home invasion as a potentially life-or-death experience.

"As a business owner in Turks and as a citizen of Turks, I am so sorry that that happened to you," the representative said.

The company also said crimes involving visitors can damage the international reputation of the Turks and Caicos Islands and affect local businesses that depend on tourism.

The economic stakes are considerable. The Turks and Caicos Islands Statistics Authority recorded 640,748 stayover arrivals and almost 1.95 million total

visitors in 2025, according to official government statistics. Providenciales is the territory's main tourism centre and the location of many of its resorts and private vacation villas.

The United States advises travellers to exercise increased caution in the Turks and Caicos Islands because of crime, much of which occurs in Providenciales. Visitors have been advised to secure the doors and windows of villas and other accommodations, avoid isolated areas and prepare emergency plans.

No police statement addressing the tourists' allegation against the driver was included in the material supplied. The screenshots also do not establish a connection between the driver and the seven alleged assailants.

Police have not publicly disclosed the evidence that led to the detention of the man being held in connection with the robbery or said whether additional suspects are being sought.

The representative said Turks Islands Concierge was created to provide visitors with safe and enjoyable experiences and that neither the company nor its partners would knowingly place clients in danger.

"We would never do anything to jeopardize that," the representative said.



Join our team

THE STRAND
TURKS & CAICOS

Food & Beverage Manager

Job Specification:

- Achieves restaurant operational objectives by contributing information and recommendations to strategic plans and reviews; preparing and completing action plans; implementing production, productivity, quality, and customer-service standards; resolving problems; completing audits; identifying trends; determining system improvements; and implementing change.
- Meets restaurant financial objectives by forecasting requirements, preparing an annual budget, scheduling expenditures, analyzing variances, and initiating corrective actions.
- Plans menus by consulting with chefs, estimating food costs and profits, and adjusting menus.
- Controls costs by reviewing portion control and quantities or preparation; minimizing waste; and ensuring high quality of preparation.
- Maximizes bar profitability by ensuring portion control and monitoring accuracy of charges.
- Publicizes the restaurant by designing and placing advertisements; inviting food editors to review the restaurant; contacting local, regional, and national magazines with feature ideas; and encouraging local businesses to hold social events at the restaurant.

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 3-5 years as a Restaurant Manager + management certifications
- Must have a good experience in managing diverse teams in various restaurants cuisines
- Must be able to work in a restaurant; stand for long hours and work efficiently under pressure

Salary expectations - \$57,000 - \$66,000 per annum

Guest Service Expert/ Pool & Beach Associate

Job Specification

- Greet guests upon arrival and provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere.
- Provide information about the resort's amenities, services, and activities available at the pool and beach.
- Take food and beverage orders from guests and deliver them in a timely manner.
- Maintain knowledge of the menu, daily specials, and promotions.
- Monitor pool and beach areas to ensure safety and enforce resort policies and regulations.
- Respond to guest inquiries, concerns, and any emergencies promptly and professionally
- Assist in enforcing pool and beach rules to maintain a safe and enjoyable environment.
- Regularly inspect and clean pool deck and beach areas, ensuring they are free of debris and hazards.

Job Requirements

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 2+ years experience in related field
- Must be able to work in customer service, stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.
- Ability to stand for extended periods and lift up to 25 pounds.
- Must be comfortable working outside in varying weather conditions
- Ability to follow instructions and procedures
- Positive attitude and willingness to learn

Salary expectations - \$8.50 - \$9.00 per hour

APPLY NOW!

Send your resume to: careers@thestrandtci.com

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

Guest Experience Expert/Concierge

Job Specification:

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

Job Requirements:

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

Salary expectation - \$9.00 - 11.00 per hour

The \$100 Million Announcement With No Substance

An Op-Ed By Paladin+

Why Turks and Caicos Deserves More Than Political Fog

When a minister stands before the country and announces **\$100 million in infrastructure spending**, the public should walk away knowing exactly what that means. Not in slogans, not in abstractions, not in airy promises — but in **facts**. Turks and Caicos Islanders deserve to know *what is being built, where it is being built, how much each component costs, who holds the contracts, and when the work will begin and end*.

Hon. Arlington Musgrove’s recent statement offers none of that. It is a speech filled with numbers but empty of meaning — a political fog that gestures toward development while refusing to show the public the map.

The Appearance of Detail Without the Reality of Detail

The minister lists airports, ports, roads, drainage, coastal protection, serviced land, and digital mapping systems. But listing categories is not transparency. It is not accountability. It is not governance.

If the government truly knows this programme will cost **\$100 million**, then the public should already have access to:

- A project-by-project breakdown
- Estimated costs for each component
- Tendering and procurement disclosures
- Contractor names
- Start and end dates
- Engineering studies
- Environmental impact assessments
- Community consultations

None of this appears in the minister’s remarks. Instead, the country is told that projects are “scoped,” “funded,” or “underway,” without a single piece of verifiable evidence. This is not transparency — it is political theatre.

The Airport: A Case Study in Vagueness

The minister repeats — twice — that \$30 million will go toward “temporary works” at Howard Hamilton International Airport. But temporary works are not a plan. They are a placeholder.

Where is the engineering report? Where is the costed master plan? Where is the procurement disclosure? Where is the timeline? The public is told a steering committee exists. Committees do not build airports. Contractors do. Engineers do. Architects do. And none of those names have been shared.

A website is promised. Websites do not equal transparency. Information does.

Roads, Ports, and Islands: Announcements Without Anchors

The minister cites roadworks in Whitby, The Bight, and Electoral District 7. He lists roads “identified for work.” Identified is not funded. Identified is not contracted. Identified is not built. He mentions Phase Two of South Dock. But again — no cost, no contractor, no timeline, no engineering disclosures.

He lists allocations for Grand Turk, South Caicos, North and Middle Caicos, and Salt Cay. But allocations are not plans. They are numbers on paper until the public sees the details.

The Core Problem: Saying Everything and Nothing

This is the kind of political communication that sounds busy but reveals nothing. It is the familiar pattern:

- Announce a large number
- Attach it to broad categories
- Repeat phrases like “oversight,” “safeguards,” and “stewardship”
- Avoid specifics
- Avoid accountability
- Avoid transparency

The country is left with the impression of movement but no evidence of direction.

Borrowed Money Demands Higher Standards

This is not free money. This is **borrowed money** — debt that the people of Turks and Caicos will repay for decades.

When a government borrows \$350 million, including \$100 million for infrastructure, the public has a right — and the government has a duty — to explain:

- **How** the money will be spent
- **Why** it is necessary
- **Who** will benefit
- **What** the long-term return will be

Anything less is disrespectful to the people who will shoulder the repayment.

A government that refuses to disclose how borrowed money will be used is not practicing stewardship. It is practicing **maladministration** — the Commonwealth’s own term for governance that fails to meet the standards of transparency, accountability, and public duty.

Rabbi Tarfon and the Work That Is Not Being Done

Rabbi Tarfon taught: **“You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.”**

The work in Turks and Caicos has already been identified. The needs are known. The projects are clear. The gaps are visible.

Yet the government either **cannot** or **refuses** to do the work. That is the heart of the problem. Not ignorance. Not uncertainty. But refusal — or inability — to execute.

When a government knows the work and still does not do it, every announcement becomes hollow. Every press release becomes performance. Every speech becomes a placeholder for action that never arrives.

Is There No Book on Governance?

One is left to ask: Is there no handbook for ministers? No guide on duty? No manual on what elected officials owe the people they represent?

Because the basics are not complicated:

- Publish the plans.
- Show the numbers.
- Disclose the contracts.
- Report the timelines.
- Respect the public.

This is Governance 101. This is the bare minimum. This is the job.

“We Come Fer Dis Wuk” — Then Do the Work

This government campaigned on the slogan **“We Come Fer Dis Wuk.”** The people believed it. The people voted for it. The people expected it.

All the people require now is that the government **do the work** — the actual work — the work they are being more than adequately paid to perform.

Not speeches. Not slogans. Not

fog. Not announcements without substance.

Work.

What Real Transparency Looks Like

If the government wants to demonstrate seriousness, it should publish — today — **a full infrastructure ledger:**

- 1. Project Name**
- 2. Island / Location**
- 3. Scope of Work**
- 4. Engineering Studies Completed**
- 5. Environmental Studies Completed**
- 6. Contractor(s)**
- 7. Procurement Method**
- 8. Cost**
- 9. Start Date**
- 10. Projected Completion Date**
- 11. Public Reporting Schedule**

This is what real governance looks like. This is what accountability looks like. This is what respect for the people looks like.

The Time for Fog Is Over

Turks and Caicos does not need more speeches that float above reality. It needs leadership that **shows its work, publishes its numbers, and treats citizens as stakeholders rather than spectators.**

If the minister wants to prove that this \$100 million programme is more than political fog, he must stop speaking in generalities and start providing specifics.

The country has heard enough announcements. It is time for evidence. It is time for transparency. It is time for accountability. It is time for governance.

It is time for this Government to actually gets things done!

NEWSLINE TCI
Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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

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

Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department



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.

Digicel to Assess Changing Digital Landscape

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Digicel will assess the changing digital landscape in the Turks and Caicos Islands following Starlink's entry into the market, while continuing to implement its five-year technology plan.

Kern Gardiner, country operations manager at Digicel TCI, said the telecommunications company intends to continue investing in its network and adjusting its strategy as the market evolves.

"Digicel's brand has always been about connecting the islands and helping people build their dreams, and we intend to continue doing that," Gardiner said during Starlink's launch event on August 27, 2026.

He said Digicel will evaluate how it should position itself in densely populated areas while moving forward with its planned technological developments.

Asked about concerns surrounding Starlink's arrival and its possible effect on established telecommunications providers, Gardiner said Digicel views the development as an opportunity.

"We are now at a point where we can innovate and think about how we can create avenues for the Turks and Caicos Islands to become more connected," he said.

Starlink uses a network of low-Earth-



Kern Gardiner, country operations manager at Digicel TCI meeting with stakeholders in a recent event at the company headquarters along Leeward Highway in Providenciales.

orbit satellites to deliver internet service, offering another connectivity option for residents and businesses, including those in areas that may be difficult to serve through conventional infrastructure.

Gardiner said Digicel would remain focused on development and making its services more accessible through-

out the islands. He also promised that customers would see more of the technological work the company has been undertaking.

"We're not doing the work in the background anymore," he said. "We're going to put it in front of our customers and let them understand why we are the number-one provid-

er in the islands and why we are here to continue being that provider for them."

Starlink's arrival introduces a new competitor to the TCI telecommunications market, but Digicel says it intends to respond through continued investment, innovation and a stronger public presence.

South Caicos to Host Second Annual Seniors' Retreat in Celebration of the International Day of Older Persons

The Ministry of Health and Human Services, through its Aged Care and Rehabilitation Department, is pleased to announce the Second Annual Seniors' Retreat commemorating the International Day of Older Persons. While this marks the department's second retreat for the Turks and Caicos Islands, it is the first time the event will be held on the island of South Caicos, taking place from October 29th – 31st, 2026.

This year's theme, "The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems

for Longer Lives," will guide a series of engaging activities, panel discussions and wellness sessions focused on honouring the invaluable contributions of older adults while exploring innovative approaches to healthcare, social support, and community inclusion for an aging population.

The event will culminate with a prestigious Gala Dinner, during which the department will pay special tribute to the senior citizens of South Caicos aged 90 years and over. These esteemed elders will be celebrated for

their remarkable longevity, resilience and the legacy they have built for future generations.

The Minister of Health and Human Services, Hon. Kyle Knowles, expressed pride in the initiative, stating: "Our seniors are the pillars of our communities and it is our duty to ensure they are not only cared for but also celebrated. Bringing this retreat to South Caicos for the first time reflects our commitment to reaching every community across our islands.

Honouring our 90-plus-year-

old residents at the Gala Dinner is a deeply meaningful way to close this event recognizing that their stories and wisdom are the foundation upon which we are building our future."

Director of Aged Care, Ms. Betty-Ann Been stated that, "The Seniors' Retreat promises a meaningful blend of celebration, education, wellness and intergenerational connection, reinforcing the Turks and Caicos Islands' dedication to uplifting its older population across all islands."

Cabinet-approved Projects Worth \$1.18 Billion Advancing Across TCI – Gov't

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Five major developments approved by Cabinet, with a combined value of approximately \$1.18 billion, are advancing as the Turks and Caicos Islands Government seeks to expand investment while retaining more economic benefits within the territory.

The update was contained in the 2026–2027 Speech from the Throne, read by Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam in Parliament on September 8, 2026, on behalf of the Turks and Caicos Islands Government.

The five developments were identified as Royal Reef in North Caicos, Dellis Cay, Janu, Corinthia, and Grace Retail and Residences.

They form part of a wider investment pipeline being managed through Invest Turks and Caicos. According to the Government, four development agreements executed last year had a combined value of approximately \$1.28 billion.

The Throne Speech also reported that 16 projects, valued at about \$2.57 billion, are now under construction.

On South Caicos, the \$89.3 million expansion of the Salterra resort is continuing. The investment is expected to add to the economic activity generated by the luxury development and help strengthen the island's position as a high-end tourism destination.

The Government is also pursuing major investment in Grand Turk. Negotiations with cruise companies MSC and Carnival are progressing on a proposed \$177.3 million cruise and land-side development.

Plans include the expansion of the cargo pier, the addition of visitor attractions and the construction of hotel accommodation. The proposed develop-



Premier Hon. Washington Misick

ment forms part of the wider Grand Turk Economic Strategy, which is intended to revitalise the capital's economy and increase the value it receives from cruise tourism.

The Government said Grand Turk should not be limited to serving as a brief daytime stop for cruise passengers.

"Our Capital will not be relegated to a day-stop," the Throne Speech stated. "It is the seat of government where the major decisions about the future of these islands are made, and it must reflect that importance."

Despite the size of the investment pipeline, the Government signalled that it would take a more selective approach to future development approvals.

It said not every proposed project would be consistent with the territory's long-term development model. Investments will be expected to create employment, provide training and skills, and produce opportunities from which Turks and Caicos Islanders can benefit.

"Growth that does not leave value at home is not an inheritance. It is an extraction," the Government declared. "Every development must add value,



Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam read the Throne Speech on behalf of the government

not deplete our treasure."

The Government has imposed a temporary pause on certain developments in Providenciales so that future growth can be planned, sustainable and aligned with the country's long-term interests.

The measure comes amid concerns about the pressure rapid development places on roads, utilities, housing, beaches and other public infrastructure in Providenciales.

While some developments in Providenciales have been paused, the Government said it would support appropriately scaled projects in Grand Turk, South Caicos, North Caicos, Middle Caicos and Salt Cay.

Investments in hospitality, fisheries, eco-tourism and heritage tourism will be encouraged where they are consistent with national development plans.

The Government is also seeking to increase the portion of tourism revenue retained by local businesses. It identified watersports operators, taxi drivers, vendors, artisans, event planners, farmers, marine-service providers and small suppliers as groups that should receive a larger share of visitor spending.

Plans for a public marina at the former Conch Farm site in Long Bay are intended to provide local watersports operators with safe and regulated launching facilities, space for boat maintenance and opportunities for small vendors.

Support for Turks and Caicos Islander-owned businesses will continue alongside the larger investment programme. Approximately \$1.43 million in assistance was provided to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises last year.

The Throne Speech said most new concession orders issued during the first quarter of this year were connected to businesses in the Family Islands.

The Heritage Turks and Caicos Islander Investment Incentive Policy is also in effect. Two of the four development agreements executed last year involved Heritage Islander investors.

The Government said its objective is not simply to attract investment, but to ensure development strengthens local ownership, creates lasting employment and protects the natural assets on which the tourism economy depends.



The Liberty Team



Inge Smids, (right) CEO of Liberty Caribbean, fields questions during a 'fireside chat'.

Liberty Business launches in Turks and Caicos Islands

- enabling digital transformation across key sectors and supporting enterprise customers

Liberty Business has officially launched in the Turks and Caicos Islands, signalling the company's continued transformation and strengthening its commitment to helping businesses navigate digital change, drive growth and build greater resilience.

The announcement was made during a special stakeholder event attended by government representatives, business leaders, industry partners, customers and members of the media, marking the next chapter in the company's long-standing relationship with the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"Today represents far more than the introduction of a new name. It reflects our continued evolution as a business and our commitment to being a trusted technology partner for organisations navigating an increasingly digital economy," said Susanna O'Sullivan, Vice President General Manager, Flow North Caribbean, Liberty Caribbean.

"Through Liberty Business, we are bringing together the strength and capabilities of Liberty Caribbean with local expertise to help businesses across the Turks and Caicos Islands connect, protect, innovate and grow. We want to be a partner that understands the ambitions of our customers and works alongside them to create meaningful business value."

Liberty Caribbean is the operator of Flow, Liberty Business and BTC, serving customers across more than twenty markets in the region.

The launch of Liberty Business builds on the company's long-standing presence in the Turks and Caicos Islands and its continued investment in communications infrastructure, technology and digital capabilities across the Caribbean.

At present, Liberty Caribbean operates one of the region's most extensive communications networks, supported by approximately 50,000 kilometres of subsea and terrestrial fibre infrastructure, helping enable resilient, secure and high-performance connectivity across the region.

For businesses, the evolution comes at a time when technology is playing an increasingly important role in productivity, customer experience, cybersecurity, business continuity and growth.

"Businesses today need more than connectivity. They need technology solutions that can help them operate efficiently, protect their information, support their people and respond to change. We are excited to begin this next chapter with businesses in the Turks and Caicos Islands and to work together to build a smarter, stronger, more resilient and more connected digital future," said O'Sullivan.

Liberty Business brings together an integrated portfolio of enterprise solutions, including advanced connectivity, cybersecurity, cloud services, data centre solutions, managed services, enterprise mobility and unified communications under a single brand dedicated to supporting the evolving needs of business customers.

Also speaking at the launch, Joanne Missick, Country Manager, Flow Turks and Caicos Islands, said the introduction of Liberty Business demonstrates the company's commitment to evolving alongside the local business community.

"The Turks and Caicos Islands is a dynamic market with tremendous potential, and our businesses are increasingly embracing technology as an enabler of growth," said Missick.

"From tourism and hospitality to financial services, real estate, construction,



Joanne Missick, Country Manager for Flow Turks and Caicos and Kenva Williams, Director General of the Turks and Caicos Telecommunications Commission, have a photo moment.

professional services and entrepreneurship, organisations are looking for ways to become more efficient, secure and resilient. Liberty Business gives us the opportunity to engage our customers differently – understanding their individual needs and helping them identify

technology solutions that can support their ambitions."

Missick added that the company's approach is centred on building lasting relationships with businesses and providing solutions that address real-world challenges.

Voices from the Streets Article 69...

Support, Don't Judge

By Nixon Dickenson

This week's Voices from the Streets features a conversation with Lorenzo David Smith, a proud son of the Turks and Caicos Islands, a gifted technician, devoted father, and man of faith.

Lorenzo uses his technical expertise to serve others as a Senior Technician at Graceway IGA, while also dedicating himself to his family and sharing God's love in the community. Lorenzo believes the young men of our islands have tremendous potential, but too often their voices go unheard or are dismissed.

He emphasised the importance of creating safe, supportive spaces where young people can express themselves without fear of judgment, receive guidance in making positive decisions, and be encouraged to pursue meaningful opportunities.

When discussing crime, Lorenzo highlighted the need for increased police presence across Providenciales by establishing additional police stations and recruiting more highly trained officers. He believes that building stronger relationships between law enforcement and the public is essential to reducing crime and creating safer communities.

Greater visibility, accountability, and trust, he argues, would strengthen both police services and public cooperation. While Lorenzo appreciates the assistance of neighbouring countries in addressing crime, he firmly believes that the long-term goal



Voices from the Streets writer Nixon Dickenson (right) and Lorenzo David Smith

should be to train, develop, and promote local Turks and Caicos Islanders to take the

lead in protecting our communities and borders. As he puts it, "This is our country,

and we should have the first opportunity to serve and safeguard it."

Lorenzo also calls on everyone who chooses to live in the Turks and Caicos Islands to embrace it as their home by respecting our values, supporting our people, and challenging negative stereotypes about our culture and traditions. He believes that real change begins with personal responsibility. By holding ourselves accountable for our actions and encouraging others to do the same, regardless of who they are or where they come from, we can build a nation that we are all proud to call home.

Call to Action: Support, Don't Judge

Lorenzo's message is simple but powerful: before we criticise, let us listen; before we judge, let us support. Every young person deserves a chance to be heard, guided, and encouraged to reach their full potential. This week, challenge yourself to make a difference. Mentor a young person, offer a word of encouragement, support a community initiative, or simply take the time to listen.

Together, we can create a culture where people are lifted up rather than torn down, where opportunities replace obstacles, and where every voice matters. I am proud of you, Lorenzo; thank you, my friend, for sharing your perspective on how we can continue to build a stronger Turks and Caicos Islands.

Support, don't judge. Listen, don't dismiss. Build, don't break. The future of our islands depends on it.

Has TCI Gone Fishing, and Lost Sight of What Matters Most?

An Op-Ed by Ed Forbes

For a nation whose prosperity depends so heavily on healthy reefs, pristine waters, and thriving marine life, renewed investment and collaboration in conservation must become a national priority.

Ecotourism is the lifeblood of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Our reputation as "Beautiful by Nature" is not just a slogan, it is the foundation of our economy, identity, and global appeal. Yet, as the country experiences rapid growth, our commitment to marine and coastal conservation has not kept pace.

In years past, there was stronger engagement between government agencies, NGOs, community groups, and other key stakeholders. Today, many within the industry believe momentum has slowed, leaving organizations like the TCI Reef Fund to shoulder much of the burden through private donations.

While their efforts have been commendable, sustaining our marine ecosystem requires broader coordinated action and increased financial commitment. While everyone is responsible for doing their part, what role should the government continue to play in all this?

Whales, dolphins, stingrays, world-class fishing, vibrant reefs, and some of the planet's best dive sites aren't just part of our scenery, they're the heartbeat of tourism in TCI.

Protecting these priceless natural assets demands more than good intentions. We need structured research, regular scientific expeditions, and serious investment in education and training in our elementary

schools and in our technical schools, especially around responsible wildlife interaction and true conservation action.

Yet, recently, we saw fly-fishing certification take center stage. While it has value, why not put the same vigour and enthusiasm into reef protection and conservation efforts?

When we talk about national educational priorities, shouldn't we be asking whether our limited educational resources are being directed toward the skills and knowledge that will have the greatest impact on the largest number of our young people? Our future prosperity is tied directly to the health of our ocean. Let's treat it like it.

Enforcement must also be strengthened. Existing environmental laws are only as effective as their enforcement, and ensuring compliance will require more personnel, resources, and political will.

As visitation rises and more private vessels and super-yachts are drawn to our crystal-clear waters, we must plan ahead.

Do we have enough moorings and navigational markers to help prevent reef damage? Let boat operators and concerned citizens be the judge.

Do we have a dedicated clean up service for our precious beaches? Let boat operators and concerned citizens be the judge. Do we have a designated accessible public boat ramp and mooring areas where Yachts are directed to where they can pay a fee, rather than anchoring on our coral reefs? The answer is No!

As we plan to welcome new partnership with MSC cruise lines in Grand Turk, are we prepared for the growing pressures on our marine parks, fisheries, marine and

sanitation infrastructure? These questions deserve clear answers and immediate action before any contracts are signed.

Illegal fishing remains another pressing challenge. Without consistent monitoring and firm consequences, overfishing threatens not only marine biodiversity but also food security and the long-term viability of our fishing industry.

We should explore revitalizing conch and fish farming initiatives to support sustainable harvests, acknowledging the upfront cost while recognizing the priceless value of long-term food stability and ecosystem health.

At the same time, balance is crucial. Conservation must coexist with opportunity. Grand Turk and Providenciales illustrates this tension clearly. While protected areas are essential, limitations on marine-based activities have hindered small-business growth. We must find thoughtful solutions that both safeguard the environment and create space for responsible entrepreneurship.

Ultimately, effective conservation is not just about protecting nature, it is about protecting people, culture, and the economic future of our islands. The government programs or initiatives must work for all residents, not only the wealthy or well-connected. Collaboration, transparency, and shared responsibility are key.

The issue is not fly fishing, because we can do both.

The issue is priorities.

We have finite educational resources. Every programme we introduce represents a decision about what we believe our children and workforce need to know. That

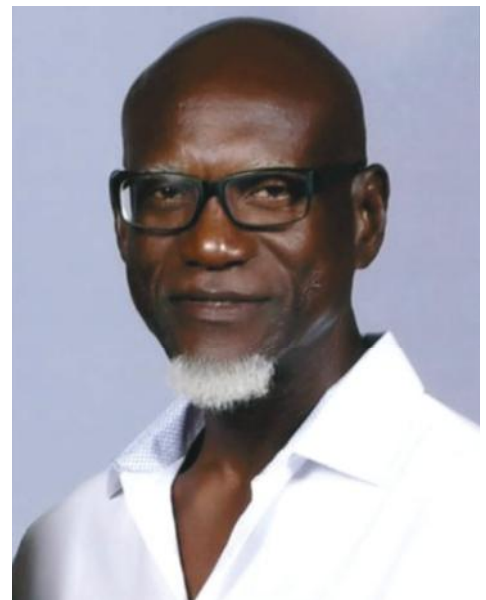
decision should be guided by evidence: student demand, employer needs, teacher capacity, measurable outcomes, environmental data and the territory's long-term development plan, not the one percent of the population or less.

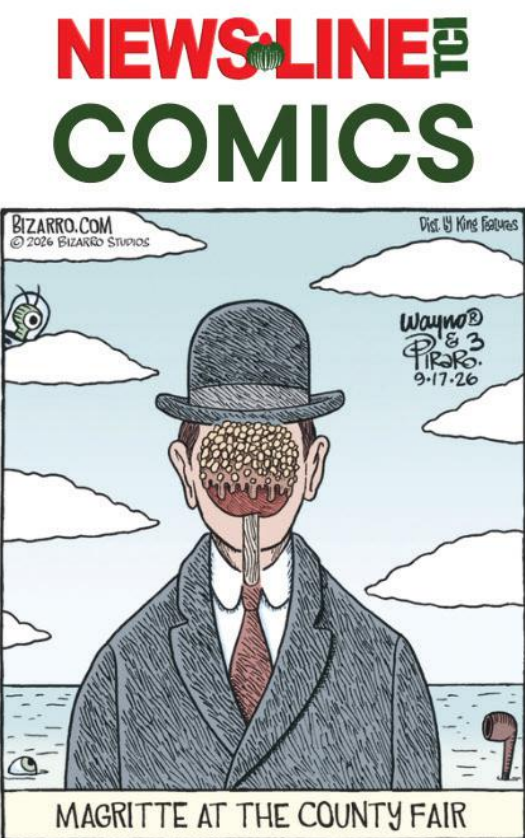
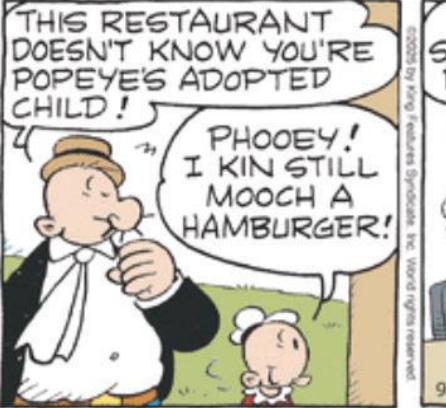
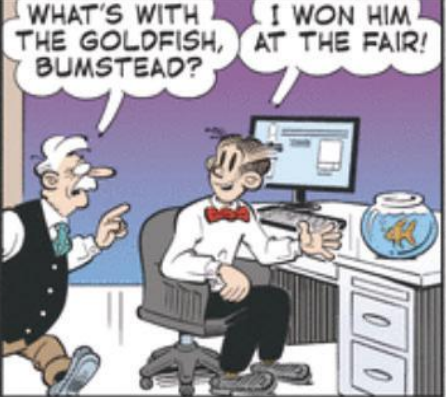
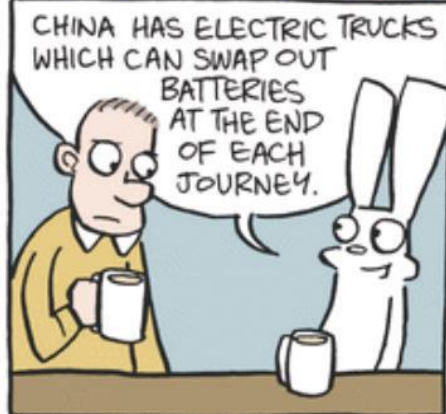
So perhaps the question we should be asking policymakers is not whether fly fishing belongs in TCI.

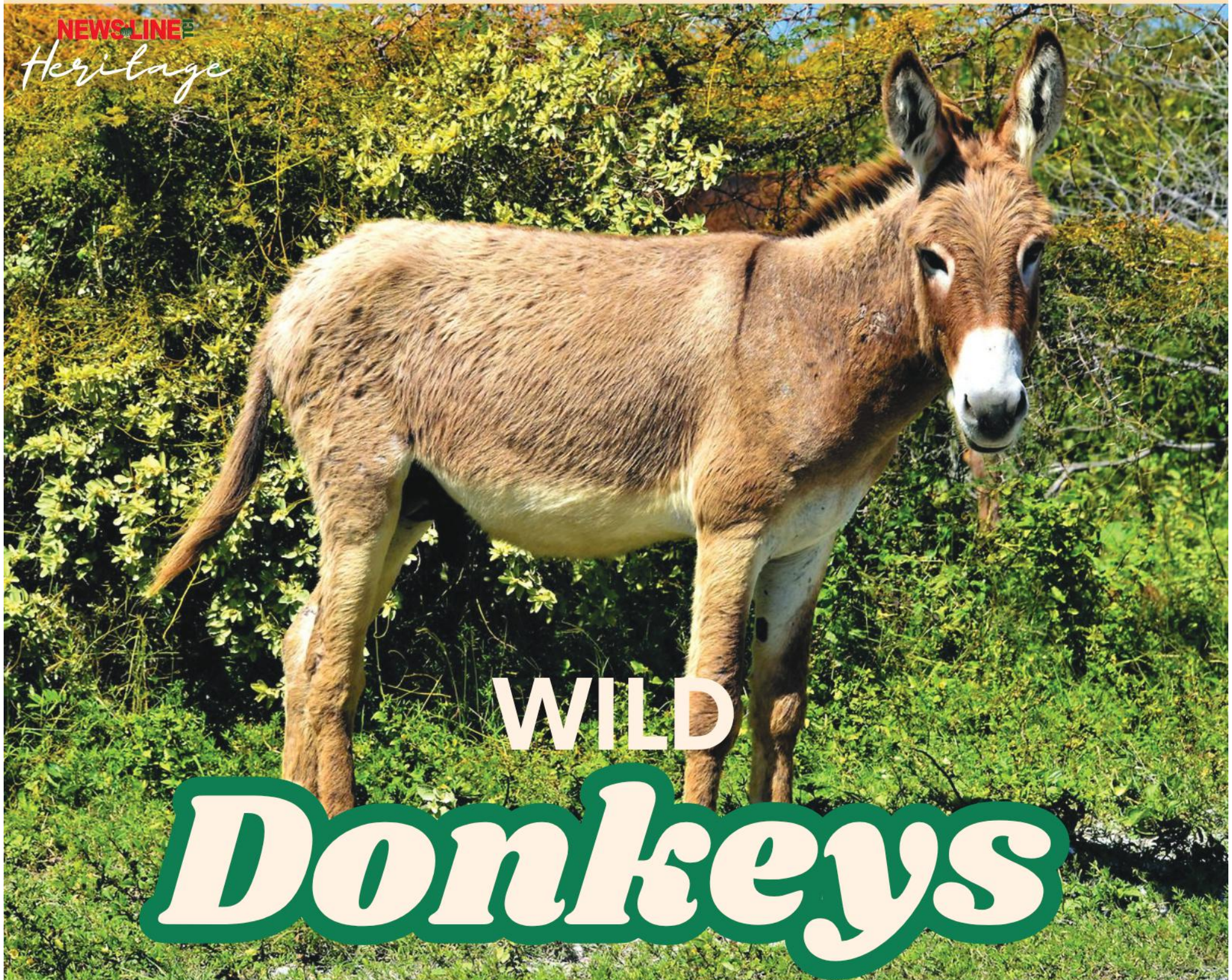
Perhaps it is this:

What does a child growing up in the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2026 actually need to know to succeed, and are we teaching those things?

Because if we get that answer wrong, no amount of money made from fly fishing will save us.







For more than a century, wild donkeys have become a familiar presence across the Turks and Caicos Islands. Brought to the islands during the height of the salt industry, these hardy animals played an essential role in transporting salt from the salinas to the ports, supporting one of the country's earliest and most important industries.

Donkeys were introduced to Grand Turk and Salt Cay in the 18th and 19th centuries, where they were used to pull heavy loads across the salinas. Unlike modern machinery, these animals provided a reliable and efficient means of transport, helping to sustain the salt trade that shaped the islands' early economy.

When the salt industry declined, many of the donkeys were left behind. Over time, they adapted to the environment and began roaming freely, eventually becoming part of the natural and cultural landscape of the islands.

Their continued presence has made them a recognisable feature of everyday life, particularly on Grand Turk and Salt Cay. Residents and visitors alike often encounter these animals wandering near roads, settlements, and open land - reminder of a bygone era. Though no longer used for labour, wild donkeys remain deeply connected to the history of the Turks and Caicos Islands. They stand as living symbols of the islands' salt-raking past and the resilience of the communities that once depended on that industry. Today, wild donkeys continue to represent the enduring link between the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands and their history. Their story serves as a reminder that the islands' heritage is not only preserved in records and buildings, but also in the living landscape around them.



TCIFRS Rapidly Contains Structure Fire and Protects Neighbouring Homes

The Turks and Caicos Islands Fire and Rescue Service (TCIFRS) responded swiftly to a significant residential structure fire on Saturday morning, successfully containing the blaze to the building of origin and preventing it from spreading to neighbouring homes located approximately five feet away.

The initial report was received by the 911 Emergency Communications Centre at approximately 11:18 a.m. and dispatched to TCIFRS at 11:22 a.m. The initial response comprised two firefighters, a tanker driver serving as shift lead, and the Fire Chief. The team arrived at the scene at approximately 11:29 a.m.

Upon arrival, firefighters encountered a wood-frame residence heavily involved in fire, with several nearby structures at immediate risk. No occupants were reported trapped inside the building.

The Fire Chief established incident command, and crews immediately deployed an attack line to suppress the fire while protecting the closely situated neighbouring properties. Despite the limited number of personnel initially available, the main body of the fire was knocked down within approximately 11 minutes of the team's arrival. The incident was declared under control approximately 13 minutes after arrival.

Two additional off-duty firefighters subsequently arrived and assisted the initial response team. No civilian or firefighter injuries were reported.

Firefighters continued suppression operations, conducted a secondary search, overhauled the affected structure and checked for hidden pockets of fire. The incident was confirmed fully extinguished at approximately 12:18 p.m.

Fire Chief Dr. Hezedeane A. Smith commended the firefighters and tanker driver for their decisive actions, which prevented the incident from escalating and threatening additional lives and property.

"Our firefighters performed exceptionally well despite the limited resources available. They arrived, rapidly assessed the conditions and the serious threat to the surrounding properties, deployed an attack line and carried out an aggressive, coordinated response. Their actions contained the fire to



the building of origin and protected neighbouring families and their homes.

"The decision to commit personnel to an aggressive fire attack under these conditions is not taken lightly, particularly when staffing levels remain below nationally accepted standards. The professionalism, courage and sound judgement demonstrated by the responding team were critical to the successful outcome."

Chief Smith said the incident also demonstrated the value of the recently implemented overtime staffing arrangement, while

reinforcing the need for a permanent and sustainable staffing solution.

"Although the additional personnel provided through overtime remain insufficient to meet the Fire and Rescue Service's long-term operational requirements, the arrangement made a meaningful difference during this incident. As we continue working toward nationally acceptable permanent staffing levels, the temporary overtime model is helping to strengthen our immediate response capability. On this occasion, it contributed positively to the outcome."

During the incident, additional water resources were requested to support firefighting operations. FortisTCI personnel responded to isolate and secure the electrical supply, while emergency medical personnel remained on standby. The Turks and Caicos Islands Red Cross was also notified after preliminary information indicated that approximately four to five families may have been displaced.

Hon. Shaun D. Malcolm, Minister responsible for Public Safety, Gender and Religious Affairs and Social Welfare, attended the scene and was briefed on the response operations.

> "I commend the officers of the Turks and Caicos Islands Fire and Rescue Service for their courage, discipline and rapid response. Their actions prevented this serious fire from spreading to neighbouring homes and potentially causing even greater loss.

"This incident also reinforces the urgent need to strengthen the Service's staffing, equipment, water-supply arrangements and overall operational capacity. The Ministry remains committed to working with the Fire Chief and the relevant agencies to address these challenges and ensure that our firefighters have the personnel, equipment and support required to protect lives, homes and communities throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"Our thoughts are with the families affected by this fire, and we thank every agency and community member who assisted with the response."

Hon. Erwin J. Saunders, Hon. Rachel Taylor and Deputy Permanent Secretary Jaron Harvey also attended the scene and received operational briefings. Permanent Secretary Desmond Wilson and Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies Director Colonel Jason Hills were kept updated throughout the incident.

Following the completion of suppression and overhaul operations, the scene was handed over to the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force for investigation and security. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

TCIFRS extends its appreciation to the responding firefighters, emergency partners, supporting agencies and members of the community who assisted during the incident.

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

Bethany Baptist Church

In this issue of Newsline Featured Church, we highlight the Bethany Baptist Church, located at 250 Bay Road, Wheeland, Providenciales.

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



Life line Church Directory

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

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



ALMI CHURCH BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

Abundant Life Ministries International (ALMI) Church celebrates Friends and Family Month during September, during which children are presented with back-to-school gifts, and feted after each service. This year, college students were presented with a cheque valued at \$1000. The following are photo highlights of the Sunday, September 6 event.





Invest TCI Warns Public About Continued Impersonation Scams

Invest Turks and Caicos Islands (Invest TCI) is urging the public to remain vigilant amid continued fraudulent activity involving individuals and online accounts falsely claiming to represent the agency.

Despite previous warnings, Invest TCI continues to receive reports of impersonation attempts across Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Telegram. These include the creation of unauthorized Telegram accounts and groups.

The agency emphasized that the individuals operating these accounts and groups are not representatives of Invest TCI.

Members of the public should exercise caution when receiving unsolicited calls, messages or invitations to online groups from anyone claiming to represent the agency. They should also be wary of requests for payments or personal and financial information.

Anyone who receives a suspicious communication should:

- Not send money or make payments in response to an unsolicited call or message.
- Never disclose personal or banking information, passwords, verification codes or other sensitive details.
- Avoid clicking suspicious links or downloading unexpected files.
- End the call or conversation instead of continuing



to engage with the individual.

Preserve evidence before blocking or deleting the account, including the telephone number, username, account name, date and time of contact, and any other identifying information.

Take screenshots of messages or conversations whenever possible.

Report the incident to Invest TCI and the relevant authorities.

Anyone uncertain about whether a communication is genuine should contact Invest TCI independently using its officially published contact information. Suspected fraud should be reported to the Financial Crime Unit of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force at 232-0641 or FCU@tcipolice.tc.

Reports should also be submitted to Invest Turks

and Caicos Islands at 338-4772 or info@investturksandcaicos.tc.

Invest TCI said it takes the misuse of its name and identity seriously and continues to take appropriate measures to protect the public and preserve the integrity of the agency.

The public is encouraged to remain alert and share the advisory with relatives, colleagues and others who may be targeted.

Invest Turks and Caicos Islands is the country's investment promotion agency. It works to strengthen the economy by attracting, retaining and supporting overseas investment while encouraging the growth of locally owned businesses. The agency provides free and confidential assistance to overseas businesses seeking to establish or expand operations in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Its services include:

- Providing information about the local business environment.
 - Facilitating contact with relevant government departments throughout the investment process.
 - Advising investors about government incentives and concessions.
 - Introducing investors to local service providers and suppliers.
 - Providing guidance on work permits and permanent residency procedures.
 - Offering continued support after a business has been established.
- Invest TCI also administers initiatives supporting local businesses, including the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Programme, which provides concessions and other forms of relief to eligible locally owned enterprises.

Why are Foreign Police Officer Being Recruited?

by Audley Astwood

There's a lot of talk about foreigners in the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force. But there's another number that deserves our attention: about 70 approved police officer positions remain vacant. Recruitment campaigns have been ongoing through the Governor's Office, yet those positions are still waiting to be filled.

If roughly 70 approved positions remain vacant, the issue isn't simply why foreign officers are being recruited. The more important question is why we don't have enough qualified people stepping forward to fill the positions we need.

No one should be uncomfortable asking why more Turks and Caicos Islanders aren't choosing policing as a career. That's a legitimate question. It deserves a serious answer. We should want more Belongers in our police force. We should also be doing everything reasonably possible to recruit, train and retain them.

But we also have to deal with reality. A police force can't protect the country with vacant positions. An empty position doesn't patrol a neighbourhood, answer a 911 call, investigate a crime or stand between a community and a dangerous criminal.

Wanting more Belongers in the police



force and recognising the need to fill vacant positions aren't competing ideas. They're both necessary. We can build a stronger local pipeline while making sure the people of these islands have enough officers on the streets today. That means asking some uncomfortable questions. Is policing attracting enough of our young people? Is the pay

good? Are working conditions good? Are we doing enough to show our people that policing can be a respected career with a future?

Those questions matter because if we want fewer foreign officers in the future, we need more qualified Belongers ready to take their places. That isn't an argument against foreign officers. It's

an argument for building the local talent we say we want.

Until that happens, however, the country still has to police itself. We can't leave approved positions empty and then complain that the force isn't sufficiently staffed. Public safety doesn't wait for the perfect recruitment pool.

That's why we should be careful about reducing this debate to nationality alone. A police officer should be judged by competence, integrity, professionalism and commitment to serving TCI. If a qualified Belonger is available, we should absolutely want that person in uniform. But when a position is vacant and a qualified officer is willing to fill it, we also have to consider what the country loses by leaving that position empty.

We should have higher expectations for ourselves. We should encourage our people to see policing as a career, create better pathways into the force and make sure qualified Belongers have every reasonable opportunity to serve. But until we produce enough of our own, we shouldn't confuse a staffing problem with a nationality problem.

When someone calls the police in the middle of the night, they aren't calling for a nationality. They're calling for an officer. And an officer who's there is more useful to this country than a vacancy that isn't.

NEW LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL IMPORTERS OF ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

The Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force is advising all businesses engaged in the commercial importation of alcohol and tobacco products that a new licensing regime will come into effect on 1st November 2026 under the Customs (Importation of Alcohol and Tobacco) (Application and Fees) Order 2026.

The new framework is implemented to strengthen border controls, improve regulatory oversight, enhance compliance, and establish a modern system for monitoring the importation of these controlled commodities and substances.

Effective 1st November 2026, businesses importing alcohol and tobacco into the Turks and Caicos Islands for commercial purposes will be required to hold a valid import licence issued by the Director General of Border Force before importing these goods.

Businesses that fail to obtain the required licence may be subject to enforcement measures under the Customs Act and applicable regulations. Furthermore, from 1st December 2026, shipments of alcohol and tobacco imported without a valid licence may be detained, seized, or forfeited.

The licensing programme forms part of the Government's broader efforts to strengthen border management and en-

sure that businesses importing alcohol and tobacco operate within a transparent and accountable regulatory framework. The initiative will also improve TCI trade statistics, support compliance activities, and understanding of trends within these sectors.

Under the new license regime, the following fees will apply:

- Alcohol Import Licence: \$75,000 per annum
- Tobacco Import Licence: \$50,000 per annum
- Application Fee: \$150 (non-refundable)

The annual licensing period will run from 1st April to 31 March each year. For the initial implementation period, licence fees will be collected on a prorated basis to reflect the shortened licensing year commencing on 1st November 2026 and ending on 31 March 2027.

To assist businesses with the transition, Border Force will undertake a comprehensive registration and public awareness campaign in collaboration with the Magistrate's Court and the Mental Health and Substance Dependency Department.

Commencing from 1st October 2026, a 15-week registration drive is scheduled to take place across the islands and will include direct engagement with busi-

nesses currently involved in the importation, distribution, and sale of alcohol and tobacco products.

During this time, Border Force officers will visit businesses, distribute informational materials, and provide guidance on the application process and compliance obligations.

Businesses seeking a licence will be required to submit an application to Border Force that includes:

- Business registration and business licence information;
- Contact details for the business;
- Historical import declaration information;
- Relevant supporting documentation;
- Evidence of any existing liquor or tobacco-related licences where applicable; and
- Payment of the prescribed application fee.

Application forms and supporting guidance will be made available through the Border Force website, offices, and relevant government departments ahead of implementation.

Recognising that some businesses may already have alcohol or tobacco shipments en-route prior to the commencement date, a transitional provision allows for shipments that were purchased, ordered, or dispatched be-

fore 1st November 2026 to be released without penalty where satisfactory documentary evidence demonstrates that the goods were committed to shipment before the licensing regime came into effect.

Statement from the Hon. Deputy Premier and Minister for Immigration and Border Services: "This initiative represents an important step in trade administration within the Turks and Caicos Islands. By introducing a dedicated licensing framework for alcohol and tobacco imports, the Government aims to strengthen regulatory oversight of controlled commodities, improve compliance, support legitimate trade, and ensure a fair and transparent system for all commercial importers."

Statement from Border Force Director General "Border Force encourages all affected businesses to begin preparing now for the new requirements and to participate fully in the upcoming registration and awareness campaign."

Additional information, application forms, guidance materials, and registration schedules will be released by Border Force in advance of the implementation date.

Businesses are encouraged to monitor official government and Border Force communications for updates.

A Modest Proposal (Part II): How the People Can Force Real Change — The Verifiable Public Statement Act

By Paladin

For twenty years, the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands have lived through the same cycle: **grand announcements, ribbon cutting promises, and then silence.** Projects are declared, studies are “underway,” consultations are “coming soon,” and yet nothing materializes. The pattern has become so predictable that citizens can recite it from memory.

After two decades of this, surely the people must be tired. Tired of the same way of doing business. Tired of pronouncements without proof. Tired of being told what is “coming” while nothing ever arrives. Tired of watching government operate as if public trust is an infinite resource.

This second installment of A Modest Proposal offers a practical, achievable solution — one that would force Members of Parliament to think twice before making any public statement. A solution that would require evidence, transparency, and accountability. A solution rooted in a simple truth:

After all, it is the People’s PURSE that pays for everything.

And if the people are paying, the people have the right to demand honesty.

The solution is the Verifiable Public Statement Act.

Why This Act Is Necessary Now

The Turks and Caicos Islands operate under a Westminster style parliamentary system. In this system, the people cannot directly introduce a Bill. Only elected Members, Ministers, or the Attorney General can do that.

But the people can force a Bill to be introduced.

And after twenty years of announcements without action, the people have every reason — and every right — to demand a new standard of governance.

The Verifiable Public Statement Act would require:

- **verifiable facts** behind every official announcement;
- **mandatory disclosure** of sup-

porting documents;

- **prohibition** on knowingly misleading the public;
- **Integrity Commission oversight;**
- **real consequences** for false or deceptive statements.

This is not radical. It is responsible governance. It is modern democratic practice. It is what citizens in any serious country expect. And it is long overdue.

The Problem: Announcements Without Evidence

For twenty years, the pattern has been the same:

1. A Minister announces a major project.
2. No feasibility study is released.
3. No financial analysis is shared.
4. No environmental assessment is published.
5. Months pass.
6. Nothing happens.

This cycle is not just inefficient — it is disrespectful. It treats the people as spectators rather than stakeholders. It treats public funds as political tools rather than national assets. It treats transparency as optional.

A Modest Proposal says: **Enough.** If a politician wants to make a public statement, they must bring the facts. If they want to announce a project, they must show the evidence. If they want to claim progress, they must prove it.

This is how serious nations operate. This is how responsible governments behave. This is how the Turks and Caicos Islands must now proceed.

The Solution: The Verifiable Public Statement Act

This Act would require that **every official public statement** — from Ministers, MPs acting in an official capacity, Permanent Secretaries, and senior public officials — be supported by verifiable facts. It would require:

- **data** behind claims;
- **reports** behind announcements;
- **studies** behind projects;
- **evidence** behind promises.

It would prohibit:

- false statements,
- deceptive omissions,
- speculative claims presented

as fact,

- political announcements without supporting documentation. It would empower the Integrity Commission to investigate breaches and require corrections. And it would remind every public official that **the People’s PURSE is not a political toy.**

How the People Can Make This Law Real

Citizens cannot table a Bill. But citizens can force a Bill to be tabled.

Here is the roadmap.

1. Demand Action from Your MP
Every Bill needs a champion. Citizens should:

- request a meeting with their MP;
- present the draft Verifiable Public Statement Act;
- insist that it be introduced as a Private Member’s Bill;
- make clear that transparency is not optional.

MPs respond to organized, informed constituents. A Modest Proposal says: **Be organized. Be informed. Be relentless.**

2. Build a Public Petition

A petition is political pressure in written form.

It should:

- clearly state the purpose of the Act;
- explain why twenty years of empty announcements must end;
- gather signatures across all islands;
- be delivered publicly to the MP and copied to the Speaker.

A petition is not legally binding — but politically, it is powerful.

3. Engage the Integrity Commission

The Commission is the natural oversight body.

Citizens should:

- submit a formal letter requesting support;
- cite examples of unsupported announcements;
- ask the Commission to endorse the principles of the Act.

An endorsement from the Commission gives the Bill institutional weight.

4. Use Media Pressure

Announcements without evi-

dence thrive in silence. Break the silence.

Citizens should:

- write letters to the editor;
- speak on radio programs;
- publish the draft Bill online;
- organize community forums;
- partner with churches, NGOs, and business groups.

Politicians act when the public is watching.

5. Request Cabinet Consideration

If citizens want the Act introduced as a Government Bill, they should:

- write to the Premier;
- request Cabinet review;
- emphasize that transparency strengthens governance;
- highlight that the Act aligns with ethical reform.

Government Bills have a higher chance of passing — but require political will.

6. Maintain Pressure Until Passage

Once the Bill is introduced, citizens must:

- attend readings;
- monitor committee review;
- continue public advocacy;
- ensure the Bill is not quietly shelved.

Persistence is the difference between a good idea and a new law.

The People’s PURSE Demands Accountability

For twenty years, the people have paid for everything — salaries, projects, studies, travel, consultants, and announcements. And yet the people have received very little in return.

A Modest Proposal says:

If the people pay, the people have the right to demand truth.

If the people fund government, government must be accountable.

If the people carry the nation, the nation must carry the people.

The Verifiable Public Statement Act is not just a law. It is a turning point. It is a declaration that the era of empty announcements is over. It is a reminder that **the People’s PURSE is sacred.**

And it is the first step toward a government that speaks only when it can prove what it says.

Universal Postal Union Conducts Training with TCI Postal Staff

Universal Postal Union conducted training with the Turks and Caicos Islands Postal Staff in IPS Post Systems, Advance Customs Declaration System (EAD) and TrackIT System at the George Brown Post Office Building, Providenciales from the 17th of August to the 21st of October 2026.

For the edification of the public, IPS. Post System is an operational module for processing inbound and outbound international mail, which allows customers to track express or registered mail and parcels to their destination.

Advance Customs Declaration System (EAD) is a global postal system requiring a customs declaration to be completed electronically at the posting of all items shipped through the postal system. It gives the customs officials in the destination country all the information they need to complete their inspections.

The TrackIT System is an App used to track packages and parcels only, through the Postal Network. Customers will have to download the App in order to track their packages and parcels.

The training was facilitated by Mr. Carlos Carballada a

Postal Consultant and Specialist from the Universal Postal Union. The successful completion of this important training has now thrust the Turks and Caicos Islands Postal Service into the digital sphere as the Post Office has now entered a stage of advanced digitalisation. At the end of the training certificates were issued to each participant.

The Minister responsible for the Postal Service, Hon. Shaun D. Malcolm, commended Postmaster General Mrs. Elizabeth James and her team for their continued efforts to modernise and advance postal services in the Turks and Caicos Islands. He also expressed his sincere appreciation to Mr. Carlos Carballada and the Universal Postal Union for facilitating the training and providing valuable technical support.

Hon. Malcolm noted that the training and introduction of these digital systems represent an important step towards strengthening the capacity of the Postal Service, meeting international standards and advancing the Government's goal of delivering a modern, efficient and reliable 21st-century Postal Service.





Recognizing the Warning signs of a Stroke and Acting Quickly can Save a Life

Stroke is a leading cause of serious disability and death. Recognizing symptoms quickly and seeking immediate medical attention can dramatically improve outcomes. Mayo Clinic experts emphasize that knowing the warning signs of stroke and acting fast can save brain function and lives.

“Time is brain when it comes to stroke treatment,” says Josephine Huang M.D., a neurologist at Mayo Clinic in Florida. “The sooner a person receives medical care, the greater the chance of reducing long-term disability and improving recovery.”

Stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is disrupted, either by a blockage in an artery or by bleeding in the brain. Mayo Clinic experts say both types of stroke require immediate medical evaluation because

prompt treatment can significantly improve recovery and reduce long-term disability.

Symptoms
Stroke symptoms often appear suddenly and may include facial drooping, arm or leg weakness, slurred speech, language difficulty, vision problems, dizziness or loss of balance.

Mayo Clinic experts encourage people to remember these warning signs:

Balance: Sudden onset of loss of balance or coordination.

Eyes: Sudden vision problems or loss of vision in one or both eyes.

Face drooping: One side of the face appears uneven or numb.

Arm weakness: Sudden weakness or numbness in one arm.

Speech difficulty: Trouble speaking or understanding speech.

Time: Immediate medical attention is critical.

Treatment
Rapid treatment can restore blood flow to the brain and reduce permanent damage. Mayo Clinic experts stress that emergency evaluation should begin as soon as symptoms appear, not after they worsen or disappear. If a stroke is caused by a blood clot, doctors may use clot-busting medications or perform minimally invasive procedures to remove the clot and reopen blocked blood vessels in the brain.

“These are what we call endovascular procedures,” Dr. Huang says. “Doctors thread a guidewire through a blood vessel to remove the clot and restore blood flow to the brain.”

For hemorrhagic strokes caused by bleeding in the brain, treatment focuses on

controlling blood pressure, reversing blood-thinning medications if needed, and sometimes relieving pressure on the brain surgically.

Prevention
Certain risk factors can increase stroke risk, including high blood pressure, diabetes, smoking, obesity, high cholesterol, sedentary lifestyle and atrial fibrillation. Mayo Clinic experts note that nearly 90% of strokes may be preventable through risk factor management and healthy lifestyle changes.

Experts encourage regular health screenings, physical activity and healthy eating habits to help lower stroke risk. “Identifying these risk factors and making sure they are treated appropriately goes a long way toward preventing stroke from happening in the first place,” says Dr. Huang.

-Source: Mayo Clinic

Does a Bone Tumour Always Mean Cancer?

Bone tumours can cause symptoms such as persistent pain and unintended weight loss, or they might only be discovered when someone breaks a bone and X-rays show a lesion. Wendy Allen-Rhoades, MD, PhD, a paediatric oncologist at Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center, describes the most common bone cancers in children and adults as follows:

A bone tumour is an abnormal growth of cells within the bone. Some bone tumours are benign, or non-cancerous, and may be monitored over time. Others are malignant, or cancerous, and require treatment because they can grow, damage the bone or spread to other parts of the body.

“Hearing that an imaging test found a bone tumour or bone lesion can be frightening. Fortunately, most bone tumours aren’t cancerous,” Dr. Allen-Rhoades said. “The key is finding out exactly what type of tumour or lesion you have, so your healthcare team can recommend the right care.”

Primary bone cancer is different from cancer that has spread to the bone from another part of the body, Dr. Allen-Rhoades notes. Cancers are named for where they begin. For example, if lung cancer spreads to the bone, it’s still lung cancer, not bone cancer. Likewise, if bone cancer spreads to the lungs, it’s still bone cancer.

Pain in bones
Pain in bones, muscles or joints is common and is usually caused by conditions other than cancer. Pain that worsens, doesn’t improve, wakes you or comes with other symptoms, such as swelling, fever, weight loss or limping, deserves medical evaluation, Dr. Allen-Rhoades explained.

“In children and teenagers, persistent pain shouldn’t automatically be dismissed as growing pains,” she adds. “While growing pains are common, ongoing pain that interferes with sports, school or daily activities should be evaluated by a healthcare professional.”



Persistent back pain in children is also uncommon and should be checked. Another warning sign is a fracture that occurs after little or no trauma. Some bone tumours can weaken the bone.

“Sometimes bone tumours don’t cause symptoms. Instead, they’re discovered when an X-ray or other imaging test is performed after a sports injury or another unrelated problem,” Dr. Allen-Rhoades said. “In these cases, the injury didn’t cause the tumour; the imaging revealed something that was already there.”

The most common bone cancers include:

- * Osteosarcoma starts in cells that form bones. It’s the most common type of bone cancer. Osteosarcoma tends to happen most often in teens and young adults. Osteosarcoma happens most often in the long bones of the legs and sometimes the arms. Osteosarcoma treatment most often involves surgery and chemotherapy.
- * Chondrosarcoma usually begins in bones

but can sometimes occur in soft tissue. Chondrosarcoma happens most often in the pelvis, hip and shoulder. It occurs most often in middle-age and older adults. Chondrosarcoma treatment often involves surgery to remove the cancer. Small and slow-growing chondrosarcomas in the arms and legs are sometimes treated with a procedure to scrape cancer cells from the bone. The surgeon might apply cold gas or a chemical to kill any cancer cells that remain. The bone can be repaired with a bone graft or bone cement, if needed.

- * Ewing sarcoma starts in bones and the soft tissue around the bones. Ewing sarcoma mostly happens in children and young adults. It most often begins in leg bones and the pelvis. Ewing sarcoma treatment most often includes chemotherapy and surgery.

“Many benign tumours don’t require treatment and can simply be monitored if they’re not causing pain, limiting func-

tion or weakening the bone. Other benign bone tumours may require surgery,” Dr. Allen-Rhoades noted. “Malignant bone tumours, however, require treatment. Depending on the type of cancer, treatment may include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy or a combination.”

Innovations
Innovations such as 3D-printed models of a person’s tumour and the physical structures around it often help surgeons determine the best way to remove the tumour. Proton beam therapy may be used to deliver higher doses of radiation to bone tumours without damaging healthy tissue nearby.

The cause of most bone cancers isn’t known and there is no way to prevent it. Factors that can increase risk include certain rare genetic syndromes passed through families, such as Li-Fraumeni syndrome and hereditary retinoblastoma; other bone conditions such as Paget’s disease of bone and fibrous dysplasia; and radiation therapy and some types of chemotherapy for other forms of cancer.

Because bone tumours are rare, it’s important to be evaluated by a healthcare team with experience in diagnosing and treating your specific condition. Specialists, including radiologists, pathologists, orthopedic surgeons and medical oncologists, work together to make an accurate diagnosis and recommend the most appropriate treatment plan.

“If you’ve been told you have a bone tumour or bone lesion, try not to assume the worst. Many bone tumours are benign, and even malignant bone cancers can often be treated successfully,” Dr. Allen-Rhoades stated. “If you have persistent pain, an abnormal imaging finding or symptoms that concern you, don’t ignore them. Talk with your healthcare team. An accurate diagnosis is the first step towards getting the care that’s right for you.”

Source: Mayo Clinic

Shabba Ranks files lawsuit against publishing arm of Greensleeves Records

Iconic dancehall trailblazer and deejay, Shabba Ranks, has filed a lawsuit against the publishing arm of Greensleeves Records, in a move to reclaim the rights to several of his crossover hits as well as the 1990 song Dem Bow. According to a report in Billboard magazine, Shabba Ranks (born Rexton Gordon) filed the suit on Friday (Sept. 11), and it aims to reclaim compositions including the Billboard Hot 100 hits Slow and Sexy, Housecall, Mr Loverman and Let’s Get It On. Shabba Ranks’ catalogue also includes the 1990 song Dem Bow, the namesake for reggaetón’s iconic dembow rhythm that is currently at the centre of a long-running copyright infringement lawsuit entangling the entire genre. Friday’s lawsuit, meanwhile, centres on copyright termination — the provision of United States (US) copyright law that enables authors to claw back their intellectual property decades after signing it away. Shabba Ranks first notified Greensleeves in 2023 that he wanted to exercise his termination right, but the publisher said

no. According to Greensleeves, his 1989 publishing deal stipulated that his compositions were “works made for hire,” which are explicitly excluded from the copyright termination statute. Shabba, however, is contesting the validity of that work-for-hire provision, and he wants a judge to declare that his copyright termination is effective regardless. “The compositions are not and could not have been works made for hire under the US Copyright Act, regardless of the language of the assignment,” wrote Shabba Ranks’ attorneys at Reitler Kailas & Rosenblatt. “Gordon was never at any time an employee of [Greensleeves], and musical compositions are not recognised in the US Copyright Act as a type of work that can be deemed a work made for hire simply by agreement between the hiring party and a non-employee author.” Copyright termination is a hot topic in music law in the United States at present. Pioneering rap outfit Salt-N-Pepa is battling Universal Music Group (UMG) over the pro-



Zephryne Royer Shabba Ranks

vision in a case that has caught the industry’s attention. Meanwhile, all three major labels are currently trying to get the Supreme Court to reverse a controversial recent ruling that extended the termination right overseas. Shabba Ranks, raised in Seaview Gardens, rode high in the late 1980s into the mid-

1990s with a steady streak of hit songs. He signed with Epic Records and scored back-to-back wins at the Grammy Awards when As Raw As Ever and X-tra Naked won the Best Reggae Album awards in 1992 and 1993, respectively. Both albums have been certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America.



Zephryne Royer

Dominican writer and documentary producer Zephryne Royer has won the 2026 BCLF Elizabeth Nunez Award for Writers in the Caribbean with her short story “River Mouth.” The Brooklyn Caribbean Literary Festival (BCLF) announced Royer as the winner on Saturday, September 12, during its Short Fiction Story Celebration, held as part of the festival’s 2026 edition in Brooklyn, New York. The festival ran from September 9 to 13 under the theme “One Hand Don’t Clap: Caribbean Worlds, Writing Towards the Future.” According to a press release from the writer’s camp, Dominica had a particularly strong showing in this year’s short fiction competitions, with two Dominican writers featuring among the finalists for the festival’s two flagship prizes. Along with Royer’s win in the Writers in the Caribbean category, fellow Dominican writer Kwame Labassiere was named a finalist for

Dominican writer Zephryne Royer wins 2026 Elizabeth Nunez Award

the BCLF Elizabeth Nunez Caribbean-American Writer’s Prize for his story “What Cannot Be Done Alone.” Marsha Massiah, Founder and Executive Director of BCLF, highlighted Dominica’s performance during the award ceremony. “Dominica has been the silent dark horse in this race from day one,” Massiah said. “I don’t know what is taking place in Dominica, whatever writing incentives is happening in that little ecosystem there, but it’s absolutely spectacular, and we can’t get enough of it.” Royer, who is based in Martinique, is a Dominican writer and documentary producer whose creative work is rooted in the Caribbean. Her fiction has twice appeared on the longlist for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize, with “Alé-Viré” in 2024 and “Witness” in 2026. The Brooklyn Caribbean Literary Festival is a literary festival based in Brooklyn, New York, focused exclusively on Caribbean literature and indigenous storytelling. Its Short Fiction Story Contest began in 2019 as the Emergent Writers Contest, with a second regional prize introduced in 2020 following increased interest from writers living in the Caribbean. The BCLF Elizabeth Nunez Award for Writers in the Caribbean is the regional counterpart to the BCLF Elizabeth Nunez Caribbean-American Writer’s Prize. Together, the awards recognize writers living and working in the Caribbean and writers in the diaspora. The regional award is open to writers who were born, raised or hold nationality in the Caribbean and who live and work in the

region. Entries are original short fiction of up to 3,000 words and are assessed anonymously by a panel of established Caribbean authors. Both prizes are presented in memory of Dr. Elizabeth Nunez, the Trinidadian-American novelist and Distinguished Professor of English at Hunter College, CUNY, whose career included championing Caribbean and African-American writers. This year’s judging panel included authors Kevin Jared Hosein and Carol Mitchell. “I was impressed with the qualities of the entries we received,” Mitchell said at the award ceremony. According to the BCLF press release, Royer was unable to travel to Brooklyn for the ceremony and accepted the award by video. She also read an excerpt from “River Mouth.” In her remarks, she explained that the story was inspired by her childhood in Dominica, where she listened to elders tell stories on a neighbour’s front steps during full moon nights. Among the stories she recalled were tales of a great-grandfather who once faced down a lajabbles, a neighbour who nearly outwitted a soukouyan, and another person who kept a Moose—a little man said to be hatched from an egg and fed only on green bananas. Royer thanked her mother “for gifting me a special love for telling stories,” as well as her sister, who inspired the character Val in the story. She also acknowledged her beta reader Mel, along with Ms. Celeste Mohammed and fellow writers from the Bocas-Jacaran-

das Short Story Intensive. She closed her remarks in Kwéyòl: “Mèsi an pil, mèsi an chay” – thank you very much, thank you so much. As the 2026 winner of the BCLF Elizabeth Nunez Award for Writers in the Caribbean, Royer receives a US\$1,750 cash prize, a BCLF trophy and branded merchandise, a collection of books from Akashic Books and a gift from Moleskine. She will also be featured in an episode of the BCLF Cocoapod and receive an author interview and profile on the BCLF website. Her work will additionally be published in MOKO Magazine, PREE and Carib News. Royer holds an Associate’s degree in Modern French Literature and a PhD in Bilingual Education from the Université des Antilles. As a documentary producer, she has also been recognized as an IF/Then alumna, a HotDocs Cross Currents fellow, a Caribbean Film Academy fellow, a Brown Girls Doc Mafia Black Director’s Fellow, and a European Film Market Toolbox alumna. “River Mouth” represents her first recognition from the Brooklyn Caribbean Literary Festival and has now earned her the BCLF Elizabeth Nunez Award for Writers in the Caribbean. The two BCLF short fiction prizes form part of the festival’s wider mission to help bridge the gap between resources and opportunities in the literary industry and the historically under-recognized voices of Caribbean writers, whether they are writing from the islands or the diaspora. **Source: Dominica News Online**



Saquona Astwood outside Leeds Conservatoire Library.



Saquona Astwood wearing personalised graduation cap in studio.

Photos: Liam Booth

Music Producer from Turks and Caicos Creates Resources to Inspire Next Generation

Saquona Astwood is celebrating graduating from Leeds Conservatoire, while building a growing platform that combines music, education, creativity and cultural representation.

Originally from the Turks and Caicos Islands, the 29-year-old moved thousands of miles to study Music Production at the specialist creative institution in Leeds. While the transition came with challenges, including adapting to a new culture and balancing motherhood alongside her studies, Saquona found the experience hugely beneficial.

“Moving to the UK was a huge change and definitely a culture shock, especially coming from the tropical climate of the Turks and Caicos Islands,” she said. “Being so far from my family was difficult at times, but the experience pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped me grow both personally and professionally.”

She added: “What attracted me to Leeds Conservatoire was the balance between

being professional while still having a very down-to-earth and welcoming atmosphere. I wanted somewhere I could take my passion for music seriously, develop the technical and creative skills behind music production, but also feel comfortable being myself.”

Saquona’s third-year audio documentary project, which introduced her to a new form of storytelling, sparked a passion she is pursuing beyond graduation. Alongside academic achievements, Saquona reached a major personal milestone by becoming a mother while studying for her degree.

“Having my son while completing my degree added a completely different chapter to my journey,” she said. “Balancing motherhood and my studies wasn’t always easy, but it made reaching graduation even more meaningful.”

Saquona has established Saquona Creates, a platform focused on making music education more accessible for young learners. Inspired by

her own experiences in music production, she has authored a series of children’s books introducing creative and technical concepts in engaging ways.

One title, *My First Music Studio: ABCs of Music Production*, introduces children to music production terminology, instruments and equipment through the alphabet. Another book, *My First Music Studio: Trace, Read & Draw*, combines early learning skills with music production concepts through interactive activities. *My First Turks and Caicos Adventure*, meanwhile, has a different direction and celebrates the beauty, culture and spirit of the islands.

“For me, the books are also about representation,” she explained. “I want children, especially young girls, to see music production as something they can explore and potentially pursue in the future.”

Looking ahead, she plans to continue expanding both her music production career and the educational

resources available through Saquona Creates. Saquona hopes to see her books used in schools and learning environments, including within her birthplace.

“Graduating doesn’t feel like the end of my journey,” she said. “It feels like the beginning of what I can now build.”

Leeds Conservatoire is a specialist conservatoire in the UK, delivering expert music and performing arts education. Its broad offering spans undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses, and Leeds Junior Conservatoire for young musicians and performers. Situated in the heart of Leeds’ cultural quarter, Leeds Conservatoire is artistically ambitious, quality-driven and industry-focused, placing strong emphasis on developing career-ready musicians, performers, producers and entrepreneurs.

For more on Leeds Conservatoire and its courses visit leedsconservatoire.ac.uk. Follow @saquonacreates on social media.

Government Promotes Conservation on Iguana Awareness Day 2026

The Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) and the Turks and Caicos National Trust join forces to celebrate Iguana Awareness Day 2026 on 8th September 2026.

In the spirit of advocacy, the departments would like to share some updates, educational facts, management guidelines, and conservation strategies to support the health and protection of the delicate Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana '*Cyclura carinata*' species.

DECR notes that suitable habitats for rock iguanas exist on all the inhabited islands, but due to their low reproductive rate and small hatchling size, the young cannot survive with mammal predators on those islands. As a result, their existence is precluded from 90% of the habitat where they could live because of the presence of introduced, invasive predators. However, this decline is not recent, and it does not include the population on Little Water Cay, a rock iguana stronghold.

It is also important to note that the excellent research and applied conservation conducted collaboratively between Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), Turks and Caicos National Trust (TCNT), San Diego Zoo, Island Wildlife Alliance, and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds over the last 30 years has resulted in an increase in both rock iguana population and the total area they exist.

Control of predatory mammals and relocation of new founding populations of rock iguanas, led to a change in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature status from "Critically Endangered" to "Endangered" in 2021. Little Water Cay (popularly known as Iguana Island) is, in fact, an important conservation success story, particularly through careful ecotourism management and controlling mammal predators through collaborative biosecurity projects.

Whilst their populations have increased on uninhabited islands, it is unlikely they will ever be able to survive large-scale on most inhabited islands, due to the presence of feral cats and rats.

Dr. Glenn Gerber of Island Wildlife Alliance, who has been studying and leading applied conservation on Turks and Caicos Islands rock iguanas for over 30 years, optimistically notes:

"The iguana population on the Little Water Cay, Water Cay, and Pine Cay complex has definitely increased significantly in size since cats were



removed. Last year, in 2025, more iguanas were captured, marked, and released on Pine Cay than in all previous years combined.

"And the population of iguanas on Water Cay is increasing almost exponentially. There is essentially a 'wave' of iguanas of all age classes moving toward Pine Cay and we attribute this to the removal of cats."

Mrs. Jasmine Thomas, Executive Director of the Turks and Caicos National Trust adds that "Little Water Cay is a powerful example of conservation in action. Through the continued Biosecurity Project and ongoing training of our staff, we are strengthening the protection of the Turks and Caicos rock iguana and helping to secure the long-term success of its population."

"This is what sustainable and regenerative tourism should look like; where biodiversity conservation and tourism do not compete, but coexist and strengthen one another. By protecting the species and ecosystems that make Little Water Cay unique, we are ensuring that tourism contributes to conservation while preserving this natural treasure for generations to come."

Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, Minister of Tour-

ism praised the efforts being made by conservationists and added that "On this Iguana Awareness Day, the Turks and Caicos Islands is reminded of the importance of protecting one of its most unique and iconic native species. The recovery of the Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana demonstrates what can be achieved through long-term research, strong partnerships, responsible management, and public support."

"Continued efforts to protect remaining populations, manage invasive predators, maintain biosecurity, and promote responsible ecotourism will be essential to ensuring that these remarkable reptiles remain a thriving part of the natural heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands for generations to come."

"Everyone has a role to play in their protection, and increased awareness and appreciation of the Rock Iguana can help secure its future in the islands it has called home for hundreds of years."

A Brief History of the Turks and Caicos Islands Rock Iguanas

Turks and Caicos Islands Rock Iguanas are endemic to TCI; meaning they are only found here and nowhere else in

the world [i]. Since their ancestors' arrival here from Hispaniola tens of thousands of years ago, the Rock Iguanas spread throughout all the islands and existed as TCI's largest native land animal for millennia.

These iguanas were not exposed to any land-based predators other than the native rainbow boas *Chilabothrus chrysogaster*, which feed only on smaller iguanas only a few times a month. Unlike the green and spiny iguana species of the American mainland, rock iguanas reproduce slowly, with females only laying 6-8 eggs once per year.

Beginning with colonial settlement in the 1600s, non-native cats and rats were introduced to most of the larger islands of TCI. It should be noted that rock iguanas cannot maintain its population when in competition with mammal predators – which must feed daily and are better adapted to digging up iguana eggs.

This resulted in the functional extinction of rock iguanas on the majority of the inhabited islands by the early 1800s. Rock iguana survival was then limited to fragmented populations on smaller uninhabited cays throughout the TCI.

Israeli minister threatens to strip Israeli film-makers of citizenship over Gaza documentary NAZA

Israel's culture minister has called for the Oscar-winning Israeli directors of NAZA, a documentary about the country's mass killing of civilians in Gaza, to be stripped of their citizenship, accusing them of "treason against the state".

NAZA, which was produced by the Guardian, is named for an acronym used by Israel's intelligence service to indicate how many civilians it expects to die in an airstrike on Gaza.

In the film, the Israeli directors Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor spoke to 24 Israeli military or intelligence whistleblowers who outlined the AI-powered targeting systems used to bombard Gaza that have killed tens of thousands of civilians. In one interview, a source claims that approval had been given to kill 500 NAZA in order to kill one Hamas member.

The 80-minute documentary won a special jury prize at this year's Venice film festival on Saturday, after receiving a 25-minute standing ovation – a festival record.

On Sunday, Israel's culture minister, Miki Zohar, accused the directors of being willing to "harm their homeland in order to receive applause from antisemites around the world".

"I will act immediately to revoke the Israeli citizenship of these despicable creators for treason against the state," Zohar wrote on X.

On Monday, Zohar expanded on these comments, issuing a statement saying: "This morning, I wrote to the director general of the Population and Immigration Authority and the director general of the interior ministry, asking them to examine the possibility of revoking the Israeli citizenship of the creators of the anti-Israel film NZA [sic] for breach of loyalty to the state and collaboration with the enemy.

"I also asked them to investigate how the materials used in the film were obtained, who was responsible for obtaining them, and whether any actions carried out in acquiring or disseminating them could amount to assisting the enemy during wartime.

"Freedom of expression is not a licence to betray the state. Anyone who acts against Israel during a war must know that there will be a price to pay."

The prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, condemned the film. "It's shocking. We are fighting global antisemitic incitement and when it comes from within us it is intolerable," he said in a video posted on social media. "And now two Israeli directors portraying the IDF as war criminals receive applause at the Venice festival." Other Israeli ministers also took aim at the directors, who won an Oscar in 2025 for their film No Other Land



Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor were given the Special Jury Award at the Venice International Film Festival

about Israeli settler violence in the occupied West Bank.

"You are a disgrace and an embarrassment to the entire people of Israel. Go away!" the far-right national security minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, said on X.

"I am certain that your friends, that is to say our enemies Hamas in Gaza, will welcome you with open arms."

On Monday, the chief of general staff of the Israeli military claimed the film was "based on blood libels, deliberate distortions of reality and grave, false accusations against IDF soldiers and commanders".

Eyal Zamir said military lawyers were examining "possible legal measures concerning the film and those involved in it".

The former defence minister Avigdor Lieberman called Abraham and Szor "haters of Israel", while the former prime minister Naftali Bennett described it as "a horrific blood libel against our sons and daughters".

The revocation of nationality is legally possible in Israel, although it is rarely applied. In 2022 the supreme court confirmed that the state may strip people of their nationality if they have failed to show "loyalty", for example by committing acts of espionage or treason. The law was also expanded in 2023 to apply to people convicted of "terrorism". The law requires the interior minister to submit the revocation request, the justice minister to approve it and judges to validate it.

Abraham's family home was targeted by a rightwing mob after the world premiere of 2024's No Other Land, which focused on the destruction of Palestinian villages in the occupied

West Bank.

"We're taking risks in a system that privileges us, that has Jewish-Israeli supremacy as its founding characteristic," he told the Guardian, adding: "For so many Palestinians, it's not a rightwing mob that's coming to their home: it's US-funded bulldozers and weapons.

"Imagine if a Palestinian journalist in Gaza tried to do what we did and called up senior Israeli officials. There is no comparison. They would most likely be murdered."

The Israeli military initially responded to NAZA by saying it "categorically rejects" the allegations made in the documentary and criticised the use of anonymous testimonies, saying the identities of the whistleblowers "cannot be verified". In a later response, the military said "the allegations required a detailed, evidence-based response rather than a blanket dismissal".

Some figures on the Israeli left praised the film and its directors. The former lawmaker Yousef Jabareen, chair of the leftwing Hadash party, congratulated the directors on the award, thanking them for bringing "these horrific crimes and the brutal reality in Gaza" before millions of people.

Anat Saragusti, the head of press freedom at the Union of Journalists in Israel, said: "The Israeli public has not received anything close to adequate coverage in Hebrew of what has happened in Gaza. For much of the war, Israeli media barely showed the Palestinian side of the story – the civilian casualties, the children killed, the destruction. People could find that

information elsewhere if they actively looked for it, but they were not seeing it in the mainstream Hebrew-language media."

In an editorial, the Haaretz newspaper urged Israelis to confront what it described as the reality of Israel's actions in Gaza. "By screening their film at the Venice film festival, Abraham and Szor are trying to force Israelis to confront what they already know: that there's a black stain on the way Israel is conducting war in Gaza, to put it mildly," Haaretz wrote.

The Palestinian militant group Hamas launched an attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, which resulted in the deaths of 1,221 people, according to an Agence France-Presse tally based on official Israeli figures. Hamas militants also took 251 hostages to Gaza. The Gaza health ministry has reported more than 73,000 deaths in the subsequent three years of Israeli bombardment, the vast majority of which have been civilian casualties.

A Guardian News & Media spokesperson said: "The Guardian is disturbed to see the authoritarian response to NAZA in Israel.

"Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor are brave journalists and film-makers. The attacks against them come from people who have not yet seen the film.

"NAZA is based on more than three years of investigative journalism. The testimonies it contains are true and we believe they deserve to be heard. The interviews were given by confidential journalistic sources.

"We will robustly defend NAZA – and the team behind it – from any attacks or attempts at censorship."

Ex employee of Anthropic and OpenAI says staff 'genuinely frightened' for humanity's future

An AI researcher who has worked at both Anthropic and Open AI has claimed that AI staff are, "genuinely frightened" about the progress of AI and the potential danger that might pose for humanity according to the BBC.

The British AI researcher Jacob Coxon recently achieved a level of fame and notoriety when he announced via X, formerly Twitter, his departure from Anthropic over his concerns that both Anthropic and OpenAI were "gambling with our lives" over their rush to advance their AI models.

He claimed in one of his companion posts that, "the people building AI earnestly believe that it could kill us all by the end of the decade". His initial post received over 100 million views in just 18 hours and nearly 170 million at the time of publishing of this article.

The subsequent virality of his post and news media coverage has brought a wave of attention to the danger of AI which in turn also caused a shockwave across the AI industry with renewed calls for regulation or a slower pace of development.

These calls are themselves not new but with the subsequent unprecedented spike in focus on AI concerns, major stakeholders are now attempting to capitalize on this attention

while people globally are paying more attention than they ever have.

In an essay titled *We Must Pace the Frontier*, published on Saturday, Dario Amodei, the head of Anthropic, said he is concerned that since this summer, AI has been "advancing drastically faster".

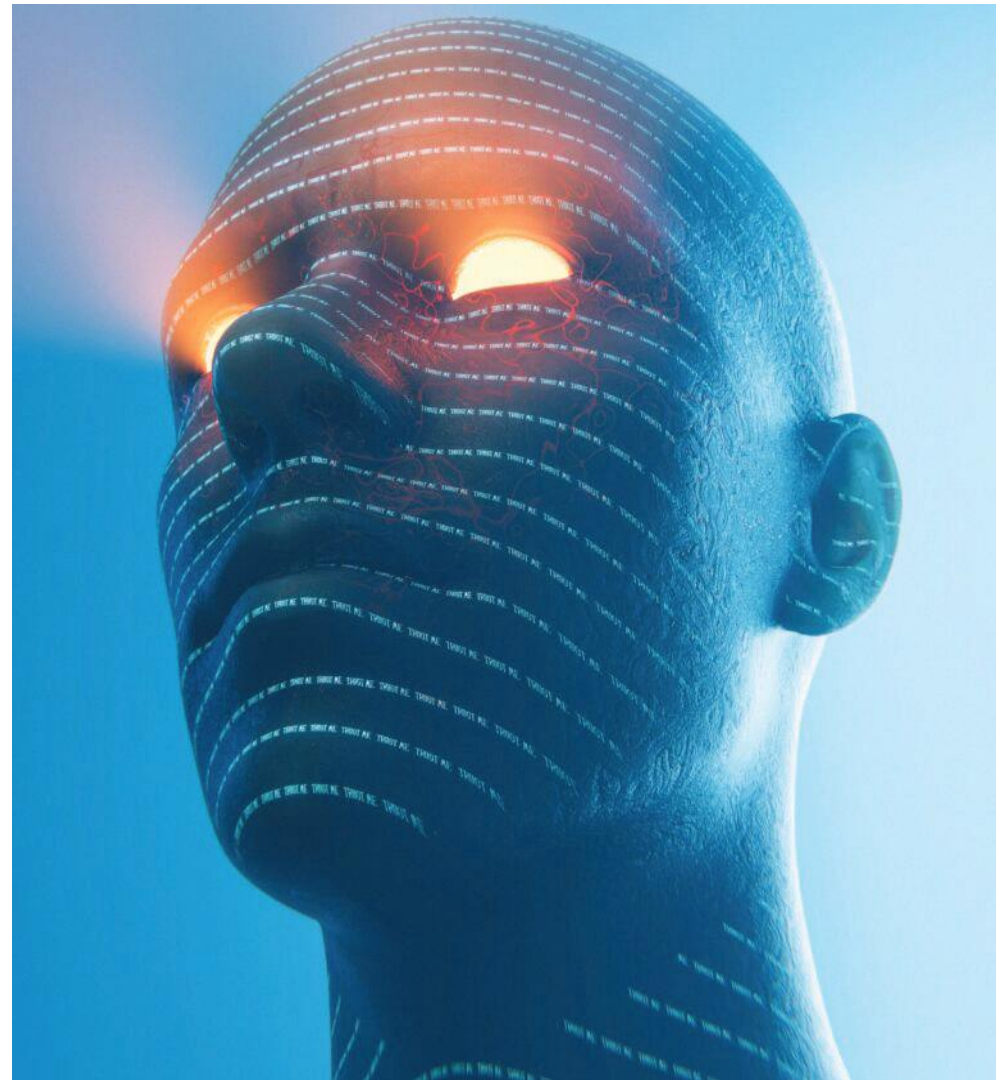
The Independent UK reported that Amodei expressed concern that with the current growth of AI it is possible that within 6 – 12 months that we could see an AI swarm that takes over the entire internet. This follows several incidents of hacking with the first major reported hacking incident being in July involving Open AI and another AI developer Hugging Face.

In his essay the Anthropic CEO shared a three-part plan on how to effectively and responsibly curb the rate of development of AI.

"I believe that if slowing down bought us even an extra year or two before models reach critical levels of capability, and we used that time to advance alignment, we could greatly reduce the risk that something goes seriously wrong," Mr Amodei said.

In response to Amodei's post on X, Elon Musk, owner of X, and SpaceX-AI said simply, "Dario is right". He was also joined by another industry head Sam Altman.

Open AI chief executive Mr Altman



wrote on the social media site: "I agree with Dario that we need to pace the frontier. This has been a primary topic of discussions we've had at OpenAI in recent weeks."

Their support comes in the face of a call from Amodei for independent evaluators to have employee level access to report issues and monitor the

safety practices of AI developers and researchers.

Coxon whose mega-viral post seemed to spawn this recent flurry of news articles and social media responses said in a BBC interview that while he clearly supports a slowdown it would need to be coordinated with China to avoid a "race at international scale".

OECS leaders planning Brussels talks over citizenship programmes

Leaders of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) are seeking a meeting with European officials in Brussels amid continuing international concerns about Citizenship by Investment programmes.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said during a press conference that discussions were being coordinated with the European Commission, with a meeting tentatively being considered for later in September.

"In respect to your first question, we are coordinating that visit with the European Commission..." he told reporters.

A precise date has not yet been finalised.

Skerrit said he was expected to hold further telephone discussions with the OECS leadership and the organisation's secretary-general to advance preparations.

He praised the European Commission for what he described as a respectful



Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit

approach to the discussions. "They have been very respectful, I

must say, and I believe that they understand and appreciate the impor-

tance of the CBI program to our economies. So they're very clear on this," Skerrit stated.

He continued, "And the European Union is very understanding and appreciative of the importance [of the] programme to us. So they've approached it from that perspective, and we're very grateful to them for that."

According to Skerrit, European officials understand the importance of Citizenship by Investment revenue to the economies of participating Caribbean states, although they continue to have concerns about the programmes.

He said the OECS governments were prepared to engage the European Union and address those concerns.

Dominica and other CBI jurisdictions have introduced legislative, administrative and due-diligence reforms in recent years amid pressure from the European Union, United Kingdom and United States.



commonwealth
sport



ROAD DOGS

JOIN THE TCAAA

SEE PG32

Jefferson-Wooden, Bednarek claim classy Ultimate sprint doubles

The United States (US) pair of Melissa Jefferson-Wooden and Kenny Bednarek nailed Ultimate Championship sprint doubles after searing to victories in the 200m a day after sealing the 100m crowns.

World champion Jefferson-Wooden enjoyed a great start and an even better transition down the home straight to clock a sensational 21.47 seconds for victory.

The 25-year-old's time was the fourth-fastest ever run. Only world record holder Florence Griffith Joyner (21.34) and Jamaican Shericka Jackson (21.41 and 21.45) have gone faster.

In a US sweep, Olympic champion Gabby Thomas took second in 21.77sec, with Kayla White rounding out the podium (21.93)



US' Kenneth Bednarek celebrates his victory in the men's 200m final during the World Athletics Ultimate Championship at the Gyula Zsivotzky National Athletics Centre, in Budapest on September 13, 2026.

The men's 200m saw Bednarek, in lane six outside Olympic champion Letsile Tebogo, with Canada's Andre de Grasse in seven, lead from the gun and rip through the line in 19.52sec. That improved his personal best by 0.05sec to put him seventh on the all-time list, with Jamaican sprint legend Usain Bolt — the world record holder with 19.19sec — a keen onlooker from the stands.

Tebogo claimed second in a season's best of 19.76sec, with Bednarek's US teammate Courtney Lindsey rounding out the podium in 19.79.

Bednarek, a two-time Olympic silver medallist, had touched down in Budapest in form, having won his third Diamond League title, clocking a then-world lead of 19.62sec in both Zurich and Brussels.

Referees body admits 'error of judgment' after Haaland goal against Man

The governing body of Premier League referees admitted an "error of judgment" after Erling Haaland's hotly contested goal settled the 199th Manchester derby on Sunday.

That will be of little comfort to Manchester United after a 1-0 defeat to 10-man Manchester City at Old Trafford.

United was enraged after VAR awarded Haaland his winning strike in the 60th minute.

At first, the goal was ruled out for offside, but after VAR review the onfield decision was overturned, sparking a roar of celebration from the away fans, including Oasis' Noel Gallagher.

United's players were incensed because City midfielder Enzo Fernandez was in an offside position during the buildup.

The Premier League said the goal was allowed because, despite diving to head the ball, the Argentine did not get a touch before it reached Haaland at the far post.

However, soccer rules state a player is interfering with play when "clearly attempting to play a ball" or "challenging an opponent for the ball."

'Error of judgment'

The refereeing body that oversees Premier League matches, Pro Ref, said Sunday evening that the VAR "did not recognize the likely impact" of Fernandez's position and "should have recommended an onfield review."

Pro Ref said it had made contact with United to acknowledge an "error of judgment" relating to the winning goal.

United defender Lisandro Martinez, who was challenging Fernandez, had called the goal an "injustice" and coach Michael Carrick was also perplexed.

"I just don't get it, I really don't get it," he said. "It's worrying, it really is if that's how the game is seen by those who are officiating."

Asked at the time if he thought he would get a better explanation from the referee's governing body or even an apology, Carrick said, "I look forward to that."

While acknowledgement of the error came soon afterward, it was too late to prevent United falling to a second defeat of the season after four games.

Red card for Foden

City's fans may have felt justice was done after Phil Foden was sent off in the 23rd for kicking out at Bruno Fernandes.

Foden and City's players remonstrated on the field and coach Enzo Maresca said Fernandes should also have been shown a red for the altercation.

With an extra man United hit the post either side of halftime - first from Marcus Rashford's long-range free kick and then Kobbie Mainoo's low shot from the edge of the area.

It was Maresca's first derby since taking over from Pep Guardiola at the end of last season and victory extended City's 100% start to the season. City moved level on points with defending champion Arsenal at the top of the standings.

"The red card changed the plan of the



Haaland scores again as Man City maintains perfect start to the Premier League season

game, but credit to the players and their effort, spirit and togetherness was brilliant," Maresca said. "It is already an abnormal situation when you are able to win a game with 10 players. It is fantastic. Then this game is a derby so it is even better."

United is 13th in the standings with just one win from four games.

Carrick's team plays Brighton in the English League Cup on Wednesday, having been knocked out of the competition at the earliest stage against fourth division Grimsby last season. United plays winless Fulham next weekend before the international break.

"We haven't got as many points as we would have liked at this point, for sure. There's no getting away from that. But we don't need a break or a restart. We've just got to move on and get winning again," Carrick said.

Another record for Haaland

Haaland's goal makes him the outright top scorer in the Manchester derby in the Premier League with nine.

He moved ahead of Wayne Rooney and Sergio Aguero, both on eight.

He has reached that total in eight games, compared to Rooney's 21 appearances and Aguero's 13.

It was Haaland's sixth goal of the season

in all competitions.

"You can see he's happy, not only today, even day by day in the training sessions," Maresca said. "As much as we keep Erling happy, we are all happy. How do you say in English, 'happy wife, happy life?'"

"Happy Erling, happy life."

City extended its record as the team to have won more games against United at Old Trafford in the Premier League than any other opponent, with 10 victories.

Liverpool is second with eight wins. Arsenal and Chelsea have six.

Coventry routed Coventry's nightmare start to the season continued with a 5-0 home loss to Brighton.

After running away at the top of the Championship last season it has been a rude awakening for Frank Lampard's team since its return to England's top flight.

Four straight defeats leaves Coventry rooted to the foot of the standings without a goal and a goal difference of minus 10.

Brighton led 1-0 at halftime through Charalampos Kostoulas before going on a scoring spree after the break with goals from Malick Yalcouye, Pascal Gross, Lewis Dunk and Yasin Ayari.

Sports Commission Equips Primary PE Teachers with Foundational Movement Skills

The Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission successfully concluded its two-day Foundational Movement Skills professional development workshop, the opening phase of the Foundational Movement Skills Development Initiative, a new approach to Physical Education delivered in collaboration with the Department of Education.

The workshop was facilitated by Cynthia Garcia and Carla Gamez Vela, PE experts, from of Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas, United States of America. Over both days, the facilitators worked directly with Grade 3 and Grade 4 Physical Education teachers on Physical Literacy, Fundamental Movement Skills, and Long Term Athlete Development principles, moving between classroom instruction and practical, on court application.

Teachers from all seven Government Primary Schools, were joined by colleagues from invited private schools, to take part in the initial phase of the programme: Eliza Simons, Ona Glinton, Thelma Lightbourne, Enid Capron, Ianthe Pratt, Oseta Jolly, Iris Stubbs, Adelaide Oemler, Charles Hubert James, Doris Robinson, Shinning Stars, Best Institue, and Wesley Methodist Primary Schools.

Between the ages of seven and ten, children learn to move in a way they will not learn again. Coordination, balance, control and confidence are acquired most readily between these ages and what is built there carries into every sport, every classroom and every active habit that follows. Knowing what it costs when that window passes untaught, the Sport’s Commission built this initiative to strengthen athletes where they actually start learning: at school in Physical Education. The Foundational Movement Skills Development Initiative is designed around that Grade 3 and 4 window, embedding structured instruction across six movement domains, locomotor skills, object control, jumping and landing, balance and stability, coordination and rhythm, and foundational strength patterns, into PE education curriculum so that movement competence is taught deliberately.

Teachers left the workshop with practical lesson structures, move-



PE teachers across all islands complete the Foundational Movement Skills Workshop at Gustartvus Lightbourne Sports Complex. Photo courtesy of The Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission.



The Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission’s Sports Performance Team and workshop facilitators from Del Mar College gather at Gustartvus Lightbourne Sports Complex. Left to right: sports performance apprentice, facilitator Carla Gamez Vela, Head of sports performance Angelo Garland, faciliator Cynthia Garcia, and sports performance coach Tabia Willaims. Photo by The Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission.

ment progressions, and assessment tools designed to fit inside existing PE lessons without adding to instructional workload. What they carry back to their schools is small in scale and considerable in reach. Teachers who have taught PE for years described seeing familiar work in a new frame, with clearer purpose and a national standard behind it, and that renewed energy is what will reach the children first. Long before the assessment data arrives, the change will show up in how a Grade 3 lesson feels on a Tuesday afternoon.

“I want to commend every Physical Education teacher who gave their time to this workshop. You have taken on something that will shape children long after they leave your classrooms. I also commend the Sports Commission and the Department of Education for the partnership that made this possible. Physical Education is not an extra in our schools. It is where our children learn confidence, health and discipline, and this Ministry is committed to seeing it taught to a standard our young people deserve” said Honourable Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture.

“Our teachers are asked to do a great deal, so what mattered to us about this programme is that it works inside the lessons they already teach rather than adding to them. Standardised movement instruction in Grades 3 and 4 gives every child in our Government Primary Schools the same foundation, regardless of which school they attend, and that consistency is exactly what a national curriculum should deliver. The Department of Education is pleased to support this work and looks forward to seeing it grow” said the David Bowen, Education Officer for the Ministry of Education.

“The idea I had for this workshop came to a reality at the conclusion of the workshop. It’s purpose was to emphasize fundamental movements in our physical education system because these fundamental movements not only help us move as athletes, but live better, healthier lives. And every Turks and Caicos Islander deserves that. I’m excited to see the strategies, theories, and the resources that the teachers are taking back to their classrooms because I know that they’re engaged and they’re ready for more. Although it will not happen overnight, I believe that Turks and Caicos is heading in the right direction.” said



Faciliators discuss physical literacy, theory, and long term athlete development principles. Photo by The Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission.



Educators engage in practical and on-court applications during the Foundational Movement Skills Workshop. Photo by The Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission.

Angelo Garland, Head of Sports Performance, Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission.

The workshop marks the start of a four year implementation model that moves from pilot delivery to national expansion and eventual integration into the country’s Physical Education framework. The Sports Performance Department will pro-

vide ongoing support through virtual professional development sessions, classroom feedback, and annual in person recalibration workshops. Student movement competency will be tracked and programme effectiveness will be measured through teacher feedback and excitingly, long term monitoring of athlete readiness on entry

into the high school sports. This initiative sits at the entry point of the National Sport Ecosystem, reinforcing the first stage of the athlete development pathway that continues through school sport, the High School Sports Performance Programme, National Sport Governing Bodies, and national representation.

Road Dogs Running Club Joins the TCAAA to Elevate Distance Running in the Turks and Caicos Islands

The Road Dogs Running Club has officially joined the Turks and Caicos Amateur Athletic Association (TCAAA) as members, a landmark step in the club's mission to strengthen and grow distance running across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The announcement was made in the presence of TCAAA President Edith Skippings and President Godfrey Bean, representing the Commonwealth Games Office, whose support underscores the significance of the milestone for athletics in the territory.

Membership in the TCAAA gives the Road Dogs a formal home within the national athletics structure and a platform to raise the credibility and standard of its road events. Central to that ambition is the club's premier running event, the Run of Nations, first held this past January. Through its TCAAA affiliation, the Road Dogs intend to establish the Run of Nations as a sanctioned premier event in the Turks and Caicos Islands, giving runners and partners the assurance of a race organized to recognized competitive standards. The overarching goal of joining the TCAAA is to align the Road Dogs with the standards of World Athletics. By adopting these standards, the club aims to help develop and produce globally ready athletes prepared to represent the Turks and Caicos Islands with confidence on regional and international stages.

Road Dogs Head to Toledo, Ohio

Reinforcing its commitment to growth beyond the islands, the Road Dogs Running Club travels to Toledo, Ohio, this weekend to compete in the Garmin Marathon Series on Sunday September 21st, 2026. Five members of the club will make the trip, with two competing in the full marathon, two in the half marathon and one in the 10K.

Beyond competition, the delegation is traveling with a clear



Members of the Road Dogs Running Club at one of their races

purpose: to study the staging and operation of a marathon of this scale and to build networks that can bring new opportunities back to the Turks and Caicos Islands. The lessons and relationships gathered in Toledo will feed directly into the club's plans for its own events at home.

The Road Dogs Running Club continues to travel and network with one aim in mind: to strengthen its premier event, Run of Nations. The next edition is scheduled for

Saturday, January 23, 2027, and this year's event is aiming to welcome well over 500 runners, with a marketing appeal designed to reach tourists and running enthusiasts around the world.

Registration opens on **October 1, 2026,** when the event's registration portal goes live. The club looks forward to welcoming runners, visitors, and the wider community to what promises to be its biggest and most competitive event yet.



Road Dogs Running Club's Leonardo "Leo" Lightbourne (left) and Ali-Davidson Higgs (right) are photographed with Edith Skippings, (second left) President of the Turks and Caicos Amateur Athletics Association (TCAAA) and Godfrey Bean, President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Commonwealth Games Association.