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Nov. 06, 2026 - Nov. 13, 2026

25 TEAMS SET FOR INTER-PRIMARY FOOTBALL

PG32



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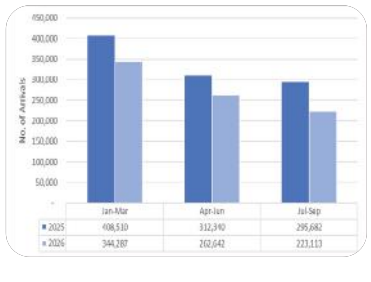
TCIAA NEGOTIATES NEW AIRLIFTS IN RECORD TIME

NEW AIRLIFTS TO TCI OPENS 14 NEW ROUTES FOR WINTER SEASON



The inaugural Porter Airlines Flight from Ottawa, Canada gets the water cannon salute at the Howard Hamilton International Airport in Providenciales on Friday.

>>> STORY ON PG5



TCI Records Highest Third-Quarter Stayover Arrivals

PG3



Government to Restore CPFs

PG10

DMV Warns ATV Operators of Road Restrictions and Penalties



All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are prohibited from being licensed for private or personal use throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands, with their operation restricted exclusively to commercial guided tours, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has reminded the public.

The department is also warning ATV operators that the vehicles are strictly prohibited from entering the Leeward Highway from Suzie Turn or Pratt's Road on Providenciales, as authorities reinforce traffic regulations aimed at improving road safety.

Under the regulations, every commercial ATV tour must have an official guide positioned at both the front and rear of the convoy to ensure proper supervision and the safety of participants and other road users.

All ATVs used in guided tours must also be equipped with highly visible safety indicators, including flags mounted on elevated poles, to make them easily identifiable to approaching motorists.

The DMV said the restrictions apply across all islands and are intended to prevent unauthorised ATV operations while ensuring commercial tour operators comply with established safety standards.

The reminder forms part of a broader advisory issued under Section 23(a) of the Road Traffic Ordinance, which also outlines strict limitations on the operation of golf carts throughout the territory.

Golf Carts Banned from Main Roads on Several Islands

According to the DMV, golf carts are strictly prohibited from operating on main roads in Providenciales, North Caicos, Middle Caicos and South Caicos.

On these islands, golf carts are restricted to private properties and resort boundaries.

Different rules apply on Grand Turk, where golf carts are permitted on public roads only between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily. Nighttime operations are prohibited.

The DMV also clarified that golf carts on Grand Turk can only be licensed as part of commercial rental fleets and are no longer eligible for licensing as privately owned vehicles.

Salt Cay, however, remains exempt from these specific restrictions. Golf carts may continue operating as usual on the island and remain eligible for private licensing.

Violators Could Face Fines and Prosecution

The DMV has warned that motorists, vehicle owners and commercial tour operators who fail to comply with the restrictions could face penalties under the Road Traffic Ordinance.

Although the department's advisory does not identify the exact fines for individual ATV and golf cart violations, a review of the Road Traffic Ordinance, Chapter 13.01, shows that Section 58 provides a general penalty of a $500 fine or three months' imprisonment upon conviction where no specific penalty is prescribed.

Section 23(a), which authorises restrictions on certain classes of vehicles using designated roads, does not itself specify a monetary fine.

Motorists may also face additional penalties if their conduct constitutes separate traffic offences. Under the 2021 consolidated legislation, dangerous driving carries a penalty of up to $5,000 or six months' imprisonment, or both, while driving without due care and attention carries a penalty of $1,000 or three months' imprisonment.

However, these penalties apply to separate traffic offences and are not automatic penalties for breaching ATV or golf cart restrictions. The precise penalties applicable to the DMV's restrictions, including the effect of any subsequent legislative amendments, remain subject to official clarification.

DMV Signals Continued Enforcement

The department said it will continue working alongside law enforcement authorities to monitor compliance with the regulations. Rental agencies, tour operators and vehicle owners are being urged to ensure their vehicles are properly licensed and operated only in authorised locations.

The DMV emphasised that compliance is mandatory and warned that violations could result in enforcement action under the Road Traffic Ordinance.

The department thanked residents, visitors and businesses for their cooperation in maintaining safer roads across the Turks and Caicos Islands and encouraged anyone requiring further clarification to contact the DMV directly.

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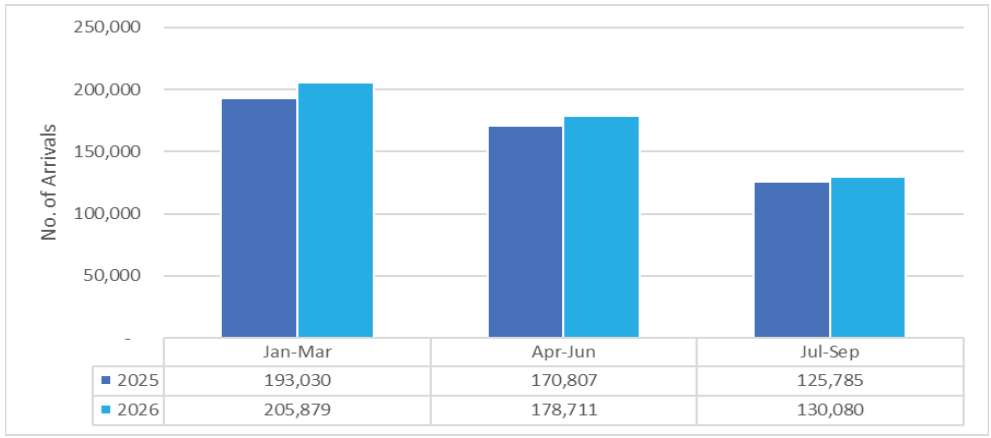
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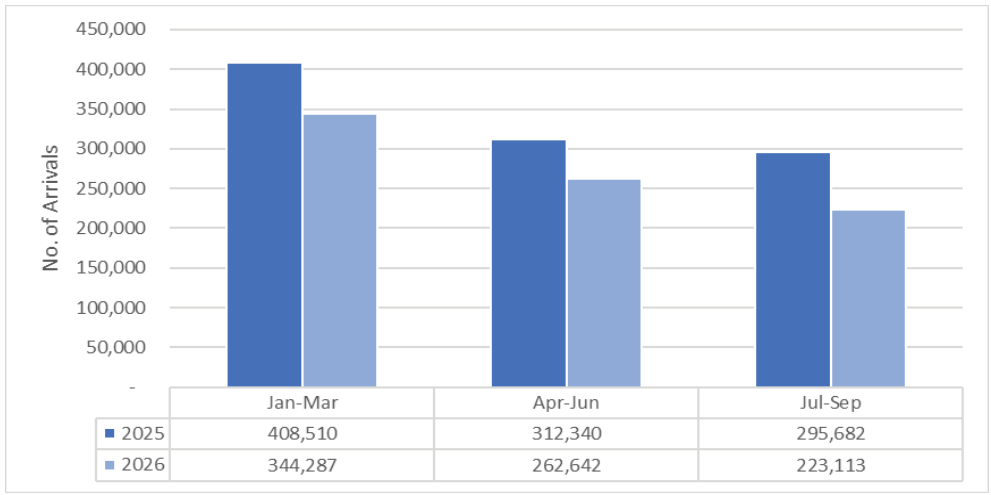
TCI Records Highest Third-Quarter Stayover Arrivals

The Turks and Caicos Islands recorded its highest number of stayover arrivals for the third quarter of the year, with approximately 130,000 visitors welcomed between July and September, representing a three percent increase over the same period in 2025. Preliminary figures from Experience Turks and Caicos show that the destination recorded 514,670 stayover arrivals for the first nine months of 2026, an increase of 25,048 visitors, or five percent, compared with the same period last year. Growth was recorded in every month from January through September, underscoring the destination's continued appeal among travellers and the sustained demand for its tourism product.

Stay Over Arrivals by Quarter (2025/2026)



	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
2025	193,030	170,807	125,785
2026	205,879	178,711	130,080



	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
2025	408,510	312,340	295,682
2026	344,287	262,642	223,113

September closed the quarter on a positive note, with 20,204 stayover arrivals, seven percent more than the 18,795 recorded in September 2025. The year-to-date total of 514,670 is the highest number of stayover arrivals ever recorded for the January-to-September period.

Commenting on the record stayover arrivals, Minister of Tourism, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly said: "These record arrivals are an encouraging achievement for the Turks and Caicos Islands and a reflection of the continued confidence visitors have in our destination. However, I've always maintained that the true measure of tourism's success cannot simply be the number of visitors arriving on our shores. It must also be measured by the opportunities we create for our people."

"Our vision is to build a stronger, higher-value tourism industry where Turks and Caicos Islanders are not simply employees, but entrepreneurs, business owners and active participants in the economic opportunities tourism creates. This is why our recent Community Connect meetings across the sister islands were so important. We want to engage directly with our communities, understand their challenges and ensure that as our tourism industry grows, the opportunities for our people grow alongside it. Ultimately, tourism must do more than bring people to our shores. It must improve the lives of the people who call these islands home."

Cruise arrivals reflect return to regular itineraries

Cruise passenger arrivals at the Grand Turk Cruise Port followed a different trend during the first nine months of 2026, with figures reflecting a return to more typical cruise itineraries following an unusually strong period in 2025.

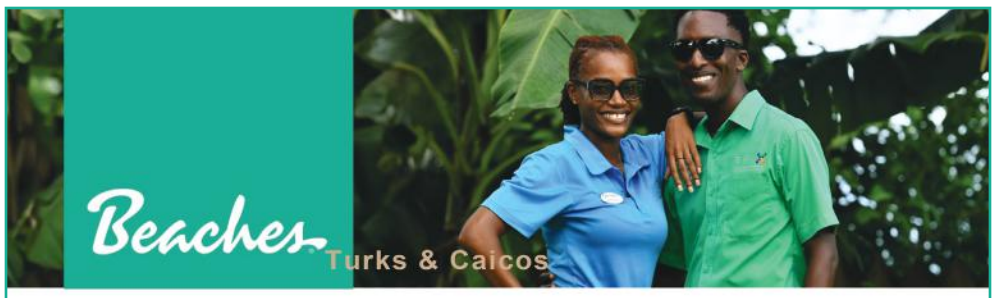
Last year, cruise lines added Grand Turk to their itineraries, resulting in exceptionally high passenger volumes and cruise calls. With itineraries returning to more regular patterns this year, cruise passenger arrivals declined year over year throughout the first nine months.

The destination received 62,095 cruise passengers in September, a 22 percent decrease from the 79,341 recorded in September 2025. From January through September, total cruise passenger arrivals stood at 838,533, compared with 1,016,532 during the same period last year, representing an 18 percent decline.

Cruise Arrivals by Quarter (2025/2026)

While the cruise figures reflect a normalisation from last year's elevated numbers, the continued growth in stayover arrivals provides a positive indicator of the destination's performance in its overnight visitor market.

It is projected that the month-on-month increases in stayover arrivals will continue into the upcoming winter season, especially with the additional airlift expected from new and existing gateways in Canada and the US.



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Governor Calls for Faster, More Accessible Justice as Judiciary Launches Strategic Plan

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam has called for faster court proceedings, greater accountability and improved public confidence, stressing that the true measure of judicial reform must be the experience of those who depend on the justice system.

The Governor made the remarks on Friday, October 30, 2026, during the launch of the Turks and Caicos Islands Judiciary Strategic Plan and Judiciary Customer Service Charter at the Supreme Court Annex on Providenciales.

The event brought together senior judicial officials, legal professionals and government representatives, including the Chief Justice of Jamaica, Brian Sykes, who participated virtually.

Describing the launch as an important milestone, Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam said the five-year plan demonstrates the judiciary's commitment to institutional reform and measurable improvements.

"The strength of an independent institution lies not simply in its protection from interference but in its confidence to examine itself, evolve and lead its own reform," she said.

The Governor emphasised that judicial independence and accountability are complementary principles essential to maintaining public trust.

"Independence protects the ability to administer justice without interference. Accountability demonstrates the confidence to ask with equal independence how justice can continue to be administered better," she stated.

Reflecting on the territory's 50th anniversary of ministerial government, she said democracy requires more than elections. Citizens must also have confidence that their rights are protected, disputes resolved fairly and justice administered without fear or favour.

The Governor acknowledged improvements in access to justice through legal aid, duty counsel, mediation and alternative dispute resolution, alongside advancements in digital systems and court procedures.

The new strategic plan outlines five outcomes aimed at establishing a judiciary that is resilient, accessible and user-centred, digitally enabled and data-driven, trusted by the public, and accountable and well-governed.

It also includes ambitions for a permanent judicial complex to improve security, accessibility and institutional resilience.

However, the Governor cautioned that infrastructure and technology alone cannot guarantee meaningful improvements.

"The deeper transformation lies in how institutions work, how effectively technology is used, how evidence informs decisions, how unnecessary delay is challenged and how consistently the experience of the court user shapes the delivery of justice," she said.

Court Delays Have Human Consequences

A central focus of the Governor's address was the impact of judicial delays on individuals, families and businesses.

She stressed that delays should not be viewed simply as administrative challenges because they directly affect people's lives.

"For the accused awaiting determination, the victim awaiting closure, the family awaiting resolution, the business awaiting certainty or the citizen challenging the exercise of public power, delay is not experienced as a performance indicator, it is experienced personally," she declared.

"Efficiency is therefore not simply about productivity, it is part of the quality of justice itself."

The Governor said improvements must be reflected in timely case progression, respectful treatment of court users, better communication and fewer barriers to accessing justice.

She emphasised that these expectations are not criticisms but questions that institutions committed to improvement must ask themselves.

Partnership Critical to Judicial Reform

Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam also highlighted the importance of cooperation between the judiciary, government and other justice-sector agencies.

She acknowledged existing constraints and said continued investment in infrastructure, technology and institutional capacity would be necessary.

However, she stressed that investments must deliver measurable improvements rather than simply increase available resources.



Daniel-Selvaratnam…"Public confidence in justice is not created by what institutions say about themselves, it is earned through what citizens experience of them."

"Better infrastructure should enable greater resilience, better technology should enable greater efficiency, better data should enable stronger accountability and greater capability should mean better justice," she said.

"Investment creates opportunity, institutional leadership turns that opportunity into change."

She identified the police, prosecution, prison service, rehabilitation services, legal profession, government and civil society as essential partners in delivering timely and accessible justice.

Public Confidence the Ultimate Test

Looking towards 2030, the Governor challenged the judiciary to measure success by improvements experienced by ordinary citizens, rather than simply whether planned projects have been completed.

"Does justice feel different? Is the system easier to navigate? Are cases resolved with greater timeliness? Do those who come before our courts feel their time and dignity matter?" she asked.

She stressed that public confidence must be earned through consistent service delivery and fair treatment.

"Public confidence in justice is not created by what institutions say about themselves, it is earned through what citizens experience of them," she said.

Commending the Chief Justice and judiciary for developing the strategic plan and customer service charter, the Governor reaffirmed the importance of collective responsibility.

"The opportunity before us is to turn partnership, investment and ambition into outcomes that people can see, feel and trust," she concluded.

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Unprecedented New Airlifts To TCI Opens 14 New Routes for Winter Season

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands has secured 33 to 34 additional weekly flight frequencies across 14 new airline routes for the 2026/2027 winter tourism season, in what airport officials describe as an unprecedented achievement in international air service development.

The expansion, involving BermudAir, Porter Airlines and United Airlines, is set to strengthen connections between Providenciales and destinations across the United States, Canada, Bermuda, the Caribbean and Central America, providing a major boost to the country's tourism-dependent economy.

Nikeva Ariza, Director of Corporate Affairs, Communications and Public Engagement at the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority (TCIAA), told NEWSLINE TCI that several airline commitments were secured in approximately five months, compared with the 12 to 48 months normally required for route development.

"It is unprecedented. We did it in record time," Ariza said.

"Route development can take from 12 to 48 months. These routes took us about five months from discussion to commitment. From March 2026, we started discussions with BermudAir and Porter."

However, negotiations with United Airlines took considerably longer.

"United, we started conversation about three years ago, and now we have the direct service," Ariza explained.

The routes were secured through the Airports Authority's development programme, in collaboration with the Turks and Caicos Islands Government and tourism partners.



Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority officials are photographed with the crew of Porter Airlines which made its inaugural flight to the Howard Hamilton International Airport on Friday, November 6.



Dwayne Gardiner (left), Chairman for the Airports Authority Board, and Nikeva Ariza Director of Corporate Affairs, Communications and Public Engagement present a bouquet of flowers to one of the Porter Airlines Passengers, who goes by the name of 'Baba', who has chose the TCI to celebrate her 90 birthday.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES PLANNING NASHVILLE SERVICE

NEWSLINE TCI understands that Southwest Airlines is planning nonstop service between Nashville, Tennessee, and Providenciales beginning in the second quarter of 2027.

The route, which has not yet been officially announced, would provide another direct connection from the United States.

The exact launch date and flight frequency have not yet been ascertained. Nashville would be additional to the 14 routes announced for winter.

BERMUDAIR LEADS WITH 11 ROUTES

BermudAir accounts for the largest share of the expansion, introducing 11 routes and between 25 and 26 weekly flights.

Its network includes Fort Lauderdale, Boston, Newark, Baltimore, St. Petersburg/Tampa and Raleigh-Durham in the United States, along with Toronto, Bermuda, Belize City, Grand Cayman and Anguilla.

Fort Lauderdale and Belize City services were scheduled to begin October 26, 2026, offering three and five to six weekly flights, respectively.

Beginning December 18, BermudAir will add twice-weekly flights from Bermuda, St. Petersburg/Tampa and Grand Cayman, along with four weekly flights from Anguilla.

Boston, Newark and Toronto services are scheduled to commence December 19, followed by Raleigh-Durham on December 20 and Baltimore on December 24.

Most routes will operate through April or early May 2027.

PROVIDENCIALES TO BECOME REGIONAL AVIATION HUB

In another significant development, BermudAir intends to use Providenciales as a regional aviation hub within its expanding network.

According to the Airports Authority, the airline proposes to overnight aircraft in Providenciales up to six nights weekly during the winter season.

The arrangement could position the Turks and Caicos Islands as an important aviation connection point linking North America, Bermuda, the Caribbean and Central America.

It could also create opportunities for ground handling, aircraft servicing and other aviation-related businesses, while strengthening the country's strategic importance within the regional aviation industry.

PORTER INAUGURAL FLIGHT BRINGS SPECIAL VISITORS

Porter Airlines made its inaugural flight from Toronto Pearson to Howard Hamilton International Airport on Friday, November 6, marking the launch of its new Canadian service.

Among the passengers was a visitor returning to the Turks and Caicos Islands after 27 years, while another memorable arrival was a woman celebrating her 90th birthday accompanied by 25 family members.

The occasion highlighted the personal connections behind international travel, as families and returning visitors joined in marking the airline's inaugural service.

Porter will operate five weekly flights from Toronto, while twice-weekly Ottawa service begins December 17, establishing the first scheduled nonstop connection between Canada's capital and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The airline's Embraer E195-E2 aircraft provides approximately 132 seats, with both routes potentially delivering 924 additional inbound passenger seats weekly.

UNITED OPENS DENVER GATEWAY

United Airlines will introduce the first nonstop service between Denver, Colorado, and Providenciales on December 19, 2026.

The Saturday service, operating through April 24, 2027, will improve access from the Rocky Mountain region and western United States through United's Denver hub.

The route follows approximately three years of discussions with the Airports Authority.

BREAKDOWN OF NEW AIRLIFT

Airline
New routes
Weekly flights
BermudAir
11
25–26
Porter Airlines
2
7
United Airlines
1
1
Total
14
33–34

The 14 routes cover 13 distinct origin airports, with Toronto served by both BermudAir and Porter.

TOURISM AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

The additional airlift is expected to increase visitor arrivals, strengthen hotel occupancy and generate revenue for hotels, restaurants, transportation operators, tour companies and other tourism-related businesses.

The Airports Authority has been preparing for increased passenger traffic and coordinating official representation for inaugural flights.

in the meantime, Ariza has indicated that an Information Paper had been prepared for Cabinet detailing the new services, winter schedule and operational readiness.

The Magazines That Failed Turks and Caicos Islands — And the Ones That Could Have Saved Us

An Op-Ed by Paladin

Turks and Caicos Islands has always been rich in talent, culture, and identity. What we have not been rich in is institutional courage — the courage to invest in our own people, our own stories, and our own national narrative. Nowhere is this failure more visible than in the magazines we have allowed to define us.

For decades, the publications placed in our airports, resorts, villas, and tourist centers have been **glorified real estate brochures** dressed up as magazines. They are not cultural documents. They are not national storytelling. They are not reflections of who we are. They are commercial catalogues designed to sell property, promote resorts, and steer tourist spending.

They do not educate. They do not empower. They do not preserve. They do not inspire. They do not build national identity.

They exist for one purpose: **to circulate advertising dollars among the elite.**

And yet, at the very same time, Turks and Caicos produced two extraordinary, locally created magazines — **GEEMS** and **KARIB** — publications that actually served the people of this country. Publications that should have been funded, supported, and elevated as national assets. Publications that represented the best of who we are.

But they were left to struggle, unfunded, unsupported, and ultimately overshadowed by tourism magazines that contribute nothing to the advancement of the country.

This is not just a media failure. This is a governance failure.

The Tourism Magazines: Useless by Design

Let us speak without hesitation.

The tourism magazines we have today — D T & C; W W H, and their imitators — are **commercial tourism instruments**, not cultural publications. They exist to promote:

- resorts
- real estate
- excursions
- luxury consumption
- development interests

They are not written for Turks and Caicos Islanders. They are not written for workers. They are not written for families. They are not written for anyone who calls this country home.

They are written for visitors who have already arrived, already booked their rooms, already planned their itineraries, already allocated their spending. A magazine handed to a tourist at the airport or hotel lobby does not influence their decisions. It does not bring new visitors. It does not expand markets. It does not generate new revenue.

It is a souvenir, not a strategy.

Tourism Economics: The Missing Depth

Tourists today want more than a list of places to eat, shop, or buy real estate. They want:

- cultural context
- historical understanding
- environmental insight
- authentic local stories
- meaningful engagement with the country they are visiting

But our tourism magazines do not provide this. They offer a shallow, repetitive cycle of:

"Here is where to eat." "Here is where to shop." "Here is where to buy property."

This is not tourism education. This is not cultural exchange. This is not national representation.

It is commercial noise — and it is useless.

GEEMS Magazine: A Blueprint for National Empowerment

Contrast this with **GEEMS Magazine**, founded by Barbara Handfield — a publication rooted in empowerment, wellness, identity, and community.

GEEMS was built on the principle of "adding value to people's lives and fostering healthy living: mind, body and soul." It addressed issues that tourism magazines never touch:

- domestic violence
- mental illness
- single parenthood
- financial hardship
- community resilience

GEEMS highlighted local advocates, cultural stories, health features, parenting guidance, financial literacy, and life-changing personal narratives. It was a **non-profit,** created to uplift residents, not tourists.

GEEMS documented the real lives of Turks and Caicos Islanders — their struggles, their hopes, their resilience. It preserved cultural identity. It empowered vulnerable communities. It provided mental and emotional support in a country where such support is scarce.

GEEMS was a **nation-building publication.**

And yet, it received no meaningful institutional support.

KARIB Magazine: A Celebration of Turks and Caicos Identity

Then came **KARIB Magazine,** founded by Ange Toussaint — a bold, vibrant, culturally rich publication designed to showcase Turks and Caicos personalities, models, entrepreneurs, performers, athletes, musicians, and Islanders succeeding both at home and abroad.

KARIB was a celebration of identity. It documented contemporary history. It uplifted young creatives. It provided representation in a country where cultural visibility is often overshadowed by tourism imagery.

It was exactly the kind of magazine a healthy nation invests in.

Cultural Identity vs. Real Estate Sales

KARIB offered what our tourism magazines never have:

- stories of local achievement
- profiles of cultural figures
- narratives of ambition and resilience
- Caribbean fashion, beauty, and lifestyle
- a sense of belonging and pride

Tourism magazines offer:

- property listings
- resort promotions
- restaurant ads
- excursion coupons

One builds identity. The other sells inventory.

One strengthens the nation. The other strengthens the market.

One tells our story. The other tells someone else's.

Why KARIB Could Not Attract Advertiser Spend

This is the core of the problem.

KARIB could not attract advertiser spend — not because it lacked value, but because the advertising economy in Turks and Caicos is built entirely around tourism consumption. Advertisers spend money where tourists will see it, not where residents will benefit.

KARIB served the people. Tourism magazines serve the industry.

And the industry controls the money.

The Governance Failure: Why TCIG Did Not Invest

The question is simple: Why did TCIG not invest in GEEMS or KARIB?

Why did the government not buy ads, sponsor issues, provide grants, or support distribution?

Why did the government not recognize these magazines as cultural infrastructure?

The answer is uncomfortable but clear:

1. TCIG invests in tourism, not culture.

Tourism is treated as the only economic engine. Everything else is secondary.

2. Tourism magazines reinforce the government's narrative.

They present prosperity, growth, luxury, and success — without ever addressing environmental decline, social issues, or governance failures.

3. Cultural magazines do not serve political convenience.

GEEMS and KARIB confront reality. They highlight real people, real issues, real stories. They cannot be controlled by commercial interests.

4. Supporting cultural media requires vision — and courage.

It requires a government willing to invest in identity, not just arrivals. In people, not just visitors. In nationhood, not just tourism.

That courage was absent.

What We Lost — And What We Must Rebuild

By failing to support GEEMS and KARIB, Turks and Caicos lost:

- a platform for local voices
- a record of cultural history
- a tool for youth empowerment
- a vehicle for mental wellness
- a celebration of national identity
- a counterbalance to tourism narratives
- a foundation for creative industries

We lost the magazines that could have strengthened the country.

And we kept the magazines that do nothing for it.

This is the tragedy of our media landscape.

What We need: A New Cultural Mandate

If Turks and Caicos is serious about nation-building, then we must adopt a new mandate:

1. Fund local cultural publications.

GEEMS and KARIB should have been national assets. Their successors must be.

2. Require TCIG to invest in cultural media as part of good governance.

A government that invests only in tourism is not building a nation. It is building an industry.

3. Redirect advertising dollars toward local empowerment.

Resorts, developers, and tourism businesses must be encouraged — or required — to support cultural publications.

4. Create a national cultural media fund.

This is how small nations preserve identity. This is how creative industries grow. This is how communities thrive.

5. Replace tourism brochures with real national storytelling.

If a magazine is needed, it must:

- educate visitors about environmental rules
- highlight local culture and history
- promote small businesses and artisans
- connect tourism to community benefit
- protect the tourism product by protecting the country

This is what a real national magazine looks like.

My Plea….

Turks and Caicos Islands stands at a crossroads. We can continue producing glossy brochures that serve the elite and tell visitors nothing of who we are. Or we can invest in publications that empower residents, preserve culture, and build national identity.

GEEMS and KARIB were the magazines we needed. Tourism magazines are the magazines we settled for. And the cost of that choice is visible in every corner of our society.

If we want a future where Turks and Caicos is more than a destination — where it is a nation — then we must invest in our own voices, our own stories, our own identity.

Good governance demands it. Cultural survival requires it. And the people of Turks and Caicos deserve nothing less.

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viviantyson@newslinetci.com

Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

Report Medicine Side Effects

The Ministry of Health and Human Services is calling on residents across the Turks and Caicos Islands to report suspected side effects from medications as part of a global campaign aimed at improving medicine safety and protecting public health.

The appeal comes as the territory joins countries around the world in observing MedSafety Week, which runs from November 2 to 8 under the theme, "Side Effects – Don't Ignore Them, Report Them."

Now in its 11th year, the international campaign is coordinated by the Uppsala Monitoring Centre, which operates the World Health Organization's Programme for International Drug Monitoring.

Health officials say reporting suspected adverse reactions to medicines is essential to identifying potential safety concerns and preventing harm to other patients.

Although medicines play a critical role in treating illnesses and saving lives, they can sometimes cause unintended reactions. These side effects may develop shortly after treatment begins or emerge gradually following prolonged use.

Some reactions are easily recognised, while others may go unnoticed until detected through medical examinations or laboratory testing.

The Ministry is therefore encouraging patients and healthcare professionals to remain vigilant and report suspected side effects, even when they are uncertain whether a particular medication is responsible.

Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Kyle Knowles stressed that public participation is vital to strengthening the territory's medicine safety monitoring system.



Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Kyle Knowles

"Side effects are more likely to occur when starting a new medicine, changing the dose, or combining treatments with certain foods and herbal remedies," Knowles said.

"Therefore, reports from the public and healthcare professionals play a vital role in helping us monitor the safety of medicines. Every report adds to our understanding about patient safety and can help protect others from future harm."

The Minister also encouraged residents to participate in a special show of solidarity by wearing green on Friday, November 6.

"To show solidarity, I invite everyone in the TCI to wear green on Friday, 6 November 2026, as a symbol of our shared commitment to safer medicines. Together, we can protect our health and the health of our community!" he added.

As part of the awareness campaign, the Ministry is reminding patients to carefully read the information leaflets accompanying their medications and consult healthcare professionals about possible side effects.

Residents are also being advised to pay close attention to new or unusual symptoms, particularly those that interfere with daily activities, appear serious or are not identified in the medication's information leaflet.

Importantly, health officials emphasised that patients do not need definitive proof that a medicine caused a reaction before submitting a report.

Several activities have been organised throughout the week to raise awareness and encourage greater public involvement.

Primary and secondary school students will have an opportunity to participate in essay-writing and short-video competitions focused on medicine safety.

The Ministry will also conduct educational presentations at primary healthcare clinics and schools throughout the islands, while sharing information and awareness messages through its social media platforms.

Healthcare professionals will receive additional training during a continuing education session scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, in collaboration with the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA).

The initiative is intended to strengthen awareness among healthcare workers and reinforce the importance of identifying and reporting suspected adverse drug reactions.

The Ministry said information collected through these reports will help health authorities monitor the safety of medicines and respond to emerging public health concerns.

Residents seeking further information about MedSafety Week or how to report suspected medicine side effects can contact the National Pharmacist at 338-3072.

Additional health information and campaign updates are available through the Ministry of Health and Human Services' official Facebook page at facebook.com/tciministryofhealth and Instagram account, @tciministryofhealth.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCES SPECIAL EDUCATION MONTH 2026

The Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, through its Department of Special Education Needs Services (SENS), is pleased to announce the observance of Special Education Month 2026, under the theme "No Learner Left Out: The Power of Inclusive Teaching."

Throughout November, the SENS Department will host activities aimed at raising awareness, celebrating learners with special educational needs, and strengthening inclusive practices across schools in the Turks and Caicos Islands. This year's theme places particular emphasis on the role of educators and school leaders in ensuring that every learner is supported, valued, and given meaningful opportunities to succeed.

The Minister of Education, Youth, Sports & Culture, Hon. Rachel Taylor, reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to inclusive education, stating, "Every child in the Turks and Caicos Islands deserves an education that recognises their abilities and responds to their individual needs.

As a Ministry, we remain committed to strengthening our schools, supporting our educators, and ensuring that all learners have opportunities to reach their full potential. I commend the SENS Department, our teachers, and families for their continued dedication and encourage everyone to embrace this year's message that no learner should be left out."

Special Education Month activities include:

• Inter-High School SEN Speech Competition – November 6: Students from public and private High Schools across the TCI will gather at Beaches Turks & Caicos to speak on the topic "Every Learner, Every Classroom: Reimagining What Inclusive Teaching Looks Like."

• 3rd Annual SEN Conference – November 20: Held at Beaches Turks & Caicos under the theme "Leading Inclusion: Building Schools Where Every Learner Can Succeed," the conference will focus on strengthening inclusive education through school leadership, collaboration, and practical strategies.

• Fridays in Colour: Schools, workplaces, and communities are encouraged to participate by wearing Yellow (November 6 – Inclusion), Blue (November 13 – Autism), Orange (November 20 – ADHD), and Red (November 27 – Physical Differences).

• Assessment Opportunities: Hearing and psychoeducational assessments will be facilitated across the islands throughout November.

• School-Based Awareness Activities: Schools are encouraged to host activities promoting understanding, acceptance, and inclusive teaching.

• SNAP Fun Day: An inclusive recreational event will be held in collaboration with Ashley's Learning Center.

The Department is also pleased to release the Special Education Month awareness video featuring educators and education leaders from across the islands, highlighting their commitment to inclusive teaching.

Director of Special Education Needs Services, Dr Anya Malcolm-Gibbs, emphasised the importance of meaningful inclusion within classrooms: "A child can be present in a classroom every day and still not feel included. This year, we wanted our focus to return to the classroom because that is where inclusion must become a reality.

Inclusive education is a shared responsibility that requires school leaders, teachers, families, and communities to work together. We have made meaningful progress, but there is still work to be done. Our hope is that this month challenges each of us to ask: What am I doing to ensure that no learner is left out?"

The Ministry and SENS Department invite schools, families, businesses, and the wider community to participate in the month's activities and continue advocating for an education system where every learner has the opportunity to thrive.



Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor

GRAND TURK ENHANCEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

JOB VACANCY

MANAGING DIRECTOR

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The Managing Director will oversee the preservation, restoration and maintenance of historic buildings, landmarks, museums, monuments and other heritage sites in Grand Turk. The role includes managing conservation projects, promoting the island's cultural heritage and balancing preservation efforts with revenue generation and long-term sustainability.

SKILLS & EXPERIENCE:

- **Undergraduate Degree, MBA preferred. Minimum 15 years' managerial experience.**
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills required.
- Target-oriented and self-motivated.
- Honest, responsible, and ethical.
- Must posses ability to start from scratch.

CLOSING DATE: 13 NOVEMBER 2026

LOCATION: GRAND TURK
MORE INFO: CAREERS.GOV.TC

SEND YOUR CV HERE :
Recruitment.gtesa@gov.tc

Applicants must title submission: "Application- Managing Director, Grand Turk Enhancement and Sustainability Agency"



PDM Engages Police Top Brass at Strategic Planning Session, Offers Practical Ideas for Action

The People's Democratic Movement engaged the Commissioner of Police and senior police leadership in frank, constructive discussions at the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force's Strategic Management Retreat stakeholders' meeting, offering practical ideas to strengthen policing and community safety.

The PDM delegation comprised Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Edwin Astwood; PDM Leader, Hon. Douglas Parnell; PDM Member of Parliament for The Bight, Hon. Audric Skippings; and Secretary General, Mr. Mark Fulford.

The engagement demonstrated the party's willingness to recognise progress, raise concerns directly and contribute concrete proposals to the Force's strategic planning.

Hon. Parnell welcomed the opportunity for open dialogue between police leadership and the Opposition. He revisited matters he had previously raised publicly, engaging the Force directly on those concerns and outlining improvements the PDM would like to see in policing across the country.

Among those priorities, he reiterated the need for a local police training centre and a properly equipped firearms range to support officers' professional development, operational readiness and safe, effective firearms training.



From left: Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood; Police Commissioner Fitz Bailey; PDM Leader Doug Parnell; and PDM's Secretary General Mark Fulford.

He also emphasised the importance of ensuring that officers have the equipment, support and resources needed to respond to emerging threats at any hour. Whether on duty or called upon while off duty, officers should have appropriate resources readily available whenever they are required to respond.

The discussion was frank, open and direct, with a focus on practical ideas that could be translated into action.

Hon. Parnell also highlighted the growing burden of traffic congestion on the public in Providenciales, particularly its implications for emergency response. He raised concerns about residents needing urgent assistance while police vehicles struggle to move through congested roads, alongside issues involving driving standards, roundabout use and motorists' response to emergency vehicles.

Hon. Astwood commended the Force for its work in addressing the serious crime challenges of recent years and acknowledged improvements in community policing.

He also drew attention to changing crime patterns, including brazen robberies affecting shops, bars and their patrons. Reflecting on experiences in Grand Turk South and Salt Cay, he highlighted the impact on businesses and residents, and called for sustained community engagement and attention to young people's involvement in gangs.

The PDM welcomed the Commissioner's invitation for stakeholders to help shape the Force's future direction. The party's participation reflected its commitment to combining scrutiny with constructive engagement, bringing the experiences of communities into discussions with those responsible for their protection.

The PDM will continue to advocate for well-trained, properly equipped officers, responsive policing and safer communities throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands. Its focus remains on turning constructive dialogue into practical improvements that the public can see and experience.

RESTORATION OF CUSTOMS PROCESSING FEE AND IMPORT DUTIES ON NON-CORE BREADBASKET ITEMS

The Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force, through the Ministry of Immigration and Border Services, wishes to advise importers, customs brokers, businesses and the general public of Cabinet's approved changes to the Customs Processing Fee (CPF) and customs import duty treatment of certain commodities previously benefiting from the breadbasket waiver.

The prevailing CPF and import duty rates have been restored on non-core commodities that were previously included under the breadbasket waiver. The waiver remains in effect for designated core staple commodities considered essential to household consumption, ensuring continued support for basic household needs.

The following items remain covered under the breadbasket waiver:

- Evaporated milk
- Condensed milk
- Eggs
- Grits
- Chicken
- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Sugar
- Bread
- Flour
- Rice
- Baby formula
- Cooking oil
- Adult and baby diapers

All other commodities previously included under the breadbasket waiver will revert to the prevailing Customs Processing Fee and applicable customs import duty rates.

Importers, customs brokers and businesses are advised to review their import arrangements, customs declarations, product classifications and applicable tariff rates to ensure compliance with the revised treatment.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force is responsible for updating ASYCUDA World and related customs systems to reflect the approved changes against the applicable tariff codes.

The Ministry recognises the importance of clear and timely communication regarding adjustments that may affect import costs and business operations. Importers and other stakeholders are therefore encouraged to familiarise themselves with the revised arrangements and seek clarification where necessary.

The Department of Trade has also been tasked with monitoring retail price movements and the impact of the policy adjustment on consumers.

The Ministry thanks the business community, customs brokers, importers and the general public for their cooperation and understanding.



A rendering of the ANDAZ Resort



One of the Restaurants to open on the ANDAZ property

Andaz Unveils Plans for Luxury Resort in Grace Bay Ahead of Spring 2027 Opening

Andaz has unveiled details of its highly anticipated luxury resort on Grace Bay, offering a first look at the property's architecture, accommodations, dining experiences and wellness facilities ahead of its scheduled opening in spring 2027.

Andaz Turks & Caicos at Grace Bay will mark the brand's first Caribbean island resort and Hyatt's entry into the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Located along the world-famous Grace Bay Beach, the 132-key development will feature 59 hotel rooms and 73 branded residences, including 10 penthouses with private rooftop plunge pools. The residences will also be available for guest stays.

The resort's design, led by RAD Architecture with interiors by Modus Operandi, draws inspiration from the islands' maritime history, natural surroundings and cultural heritage.

Among its distinctive architectural features is an arrival corridor modeled on the skeleton of an overturned boat, reflecting the islands' historical connection to the sea. Guestrooms will incorporate design elements inspired by the distinctive stripes of traditional Turks and Caicos dress.

The building will follow the natural curve of the coastline, taking advantage of its west-facing orientation to provide guests with sweeping ocean views and spectacular sunsets.

Dining will be a major component of the resort experience, with four culinary concepts planned: Tamarà, Baie, Palmette and the lobby bar.

Tamarà will offer indoor and outdoor oceanfront dining in a setting featuring deep bottle-green tiles inspired by tropical forests. Baie, a two-level venue, will operate as a casual pool bar during the day before transitioning into a more refined dining and social setting in the evening.

The resort's lobby bar will feature a cocktail programme inspired by centuries-old punch traditions, incorporating island flavours, fresh citrus and botanicals.

Palmette will serve single-origin coffee and daytime fare while showcasing a curated selection of locally made products.

Wellness will also feature prominently, with the 7,000-square-foot Runa Spa & Wellness offering a range of treatments and recovery experiences. The spa will include Nordic-style thermal treatments, massage chairs, compression boots, red light therapy and vibroacoustic therapy. Locally sourced salt will also be incorporated into treatments, paying tribute to the Turks and Caicos Islands' longstanding salt-making heritage.

Additional amenities will include three swimming pools, a fitness centre, a dedicated Kids Club, tennis and pickleball courts, and facilities for weddings and special events.

Beyond its luxury offerings, the development has outlined a commitment to environmental conservation and protecting the surrounding marine ecosystem.

The resort is situated near the world's third-largest barrier reef system, and its environmental initiatives include operational conservation measures, direct funding and support for marine protection projects.

Among those efforts is the installation of a protective buoy system in 2025, while a portion of proceeds from guest stays will benefit the Turks & Caicos Reef Fund.

The unveiling provides a clearer picture of the resort's planned offerings as it prepares to enter the territory's competitive luxury hospitality market. With its combination of beachfront accommodations, branded residences, upscale dining and wellness experiences, Andaz Turks & Caicos at Grace Bay is expected to add another high-end hospitality offering to Providenciales when it opens in spring 2027.

GRAHAM SHAW
DISCOVERY BAY, PROVIDENCIALES

VACANCY

Graham Shaw, Discovery Bay, Providenciales is currently seeking a

LIVE-IN HOUSEKEEPER

Looking for a hard-working, energetic, and honest individual to be a live-in housekeeper. Must have a strong command of the English language (both spoken and written) and hold a valid driver's license. The individual must have experience in housekeeping duties.

The successful candidate is required to work 5 days a week at **$15.00 per hour.** Duties will involve daily household cleaning, laundry, grocery shopping, coordination, and general garden maintenance. The candidate must be confident in handling 1 large dog with respect to bathing, grooming, feeding, and administering medication.

Deadline for All Applications: November 14th, 2026

POSITION IS HELD BY A WORK PERMIT HOLDER – APPLICATION RENEWAL

BELONGERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY AND SHOULD SEND COVER LETTER, RESUME WITH QUALIFICATIONS, Attention to Sade Williams, accounts@bsd.tc and LABOUR DEPARTMENT EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

We appreciate all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

WHEN THE RULES CHANGE, WHO PROTECTS THE PEOPLE?

An Op-Ed by Audley Astwood

There is something unsettling about George Orwell's Animal Farm. The pigs never had to tear down the commandments to take control. They simply changed the wording. A few words were added here and there. Then suddenly what was once forbidden became acceptable. The other animals continued living by the rules, believing those rules had not changed. By the time they understood what had happened, the pigs had already secured their power.

Orwell was telling us something important. Those who control the rules can also control the people who must live by them. And when people stop paying attention to changes in the rules, they may not realise what they have lost until it is too late.

I have been thinking about that story as I reflect on what happened in the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2009, and the long road that eventually led to the conviction and imprisonment of our former Premier, Michael Misick.

Let us go back to that period. The Islands were in turmoil. A Commission of Inquiry had raised serious allegations about corruption and the misuse of public office. Public confidence was shaken. Nobody should suggest that allegations of wrongdoing involving public officials should be ignored. Those entrusted with public money must answer for their actions.

But something else happened during that period, and it deserves our attention.

In 2009, the British Government suspended significant parts of our Constitution, removed the elected Government and assumed direct control of the Islands. Among the changes was the suspension of the former constitutional guarantee of an unqualified right to trial by jury. The Trial Without a Jury Ordinance followed, and the 2011 Constitution did not restore that earlier guarantee in the same form. Judge-alone trials became possible in certain circumstances. These were not minor administrative adjustments. They changed the constitutional arrangements under which our people lived.

We must understand what that meant. Our elected representatives were removed, our Parliament was dissolved, and decisions about the future of our country were placed in the hands of people appointed by Britain. Whatever one's opinion of the former Government, this was a major interruption of our democratic life.

There will always be people who believe the intervention was necessary. Others will remember it as a period when TCI lost control of their own affairs. Both perspectives deserve to be understood. But there is a question that should concern every Turks and Caicos Islander: when political circumstances become difficult, how easily can the protections we take for granted be changed?

And perhaps there is an even more uncomfortable question we should be prepared to ask: Did Britain change the law to restore good governance, or did it change the rules to make it easier to secure convictions against those it had removed from office?

That question deserves consideration, particularly when we remember that the suspension of our constitutional arrangements was followed by legislation allowing certain criminal cases to be heard without a jury. We should be careful not to confuse the timing of these events with proof of intent. But neither should we be afraid to examine the circumstances in which these changes were made.

The implications become even more significant when we consider the prosecution of Michael Misick. The allegations were serious. The investigation was extensive. The case took years to reach its conclusion. Charges were brought in 2011, the trial began in December 2015. In May, he was sentenced to four years and 26 days in prison. He has the right to pursue his appeal, and the courts must be allowed to deal with that process.

Nobody should confuse raising questions about justice with defending corruption. They are not the same thing. If wrongdoing is proved, those responsible must face the consequences. A former Premier should not receive special treatment because of the office he once held. But neither should he receive less protection because he is unpopular, politically controversial or accused of serious wrongdoing.

That is where our Constitution matters. Section 6(1) of the 2011 TCI Constitution guarantees every person charged with a criminal offence a fair hearing within a reasonable time before an independent and impartial court. Notice that it does not say a reasonable time for ordinary people, but a different time for Michael Misick. It does not say that the protection applies only when the public feels sympathy for the accused. It applies to everyone.

Fifteen years between the laying of charges and a conviction is a long time. There were complications, changes in the proceedings and delays along the way. The courts have had to deal with those matters. But the length of this case should give us reason to think seriously about how justice is administered in our country. Justice delayed is not simply an inconvenience. It can affect the accused, the witnesses, the families involved and public confidence in the courts.

There is also a wider lesson here. A government can change. A Premier can leave office. A political party can lose an election. But the constitutional protections of the people should not rise and fall with the fortunes of those in power.

Today, it is Michael Misick. Tomorrow, it could be someone who holds an entirely different political view, someone with no political connections or an ordinary citizen who finds himself on the wrong side of a powerful institution. That is why we should never judge the fairness of a system only by whether we like the person standing before it.

I do not ask anyone to forget what happened during the years before 2009. Nor do I ask anyone to overlook the findings of the



courts. What I am asking is that we look beyond the personalities and political loyalties involved. The real issue is whether we are comfortable with the principle that constitutional protections can be altered during a crisis and whether we are sufficiently alert to the consequences.

Future generations will inherit the constitutional arrangements we leave behind. They will not necessarily share our political loyalties, our grudges or our opinions about the people who once governed us. But they will have to live with the laws and institutions we allow to develop.

In Animal Farm, the animals eventually looked at the commandments and discovered that the rules they thought protected them no longer meant what they once did. By then, challenging those who had changed them had become almost impossible. We should not wait until we find ourselves in a similar position before recognising the value of what we have.

We must demand honest government. We must demand accountability. We must also insist that justice is fair, that constitutional rights are respected and that no one is placed beyond their protection. The true test of TCI's commitment to justice is not how it treats the people it likes. It is how faithfully it protects the rights of those it does not.

CIBC Caribbean Invests in Baking Masterclass

In a demonstration of its commitment to community development, and meaningful partnerships CIBC Caribbean has made a donation of $1,500 to the 'Baking Masterclass'.

This support aims to continue to create meaningful opportunities for the youth to develop their baking skills and techniques while enhancing their confidence, creativity, teamwork and entrepreneurial potential.

Recipient of the donation is founder/coordinator Lakeisha Wilson who holds 26 years of experience in Culinary Arts and Food Science as a Nutritionist, Food and Nutrition Teacher and Baker.

Wilson described the donation as "generous" and understands the importance of giving youth a platform to express themselves given her interest in baking since she was 9 years old.

"This financial support will enable the procurement of essential baking tools and equipment to facilitate our practical sessions, ensuring that participants have the resources required to learn, practice, and refine their skills. This partnership is an investment in our young people, empowering them to discover their potential, develop practical skills, and build confidence that extends beyond the kitchen," Wilson said.

She further expressed her sincere gratitude stating, "I am so incredibly grateful to CIBC and the whole team for supporting this initiative and helping me make a meaningful difference in the lives of our girls."

The Baking Masterclass is a community-based baking program that runs for 8 weeks and provides hands-on training, empowering aspiring young pastry chefs to learn and enhance their baking skills and techniques.

The current Girls' Edition hosts three-hour sessions every Saturday with 27 girls ages 10-15. In addition to the Girls' Edition, she also coordinates a Boys' Edition and is currently organizing a one-day pie-making session for women, extending these learning opportunities to a wider community. The initiative is designed to develop practical baking skills, confidence, creativity, teamwork and entrepreneurial potential.

"At CIBC, we take great pride in supporting initiatives that make a meaningful impact in our communities. The Baking Masterclass will equip young people with practical baking skills and knowledge that can serve them throughout their lives, while also encouraging creativity, entrepreneurship, and self-confidence," Corporate Manager at CIBC Caribbean Alonzo Higgs said.

Higgs further recognized the importance of baking being a part of Turks and Caicos culture "Beyond the skills being taught, baking is an important part of our cultural heritage. Many of us in the Turks and Caicos Islands were raised on traditional staples such as johnny cakes, flour bread, banana bread, and potato bread. Preserving and passing down these treasured traditions to the next generation is both meaningful and important. We are therefore delighted to support this initiative and the positive impact it will have on our youth, our culture, and our wider community."

Through this donation CIBC Caribbean hopes to assist the Baking Masterclass and continue its efforts to inspire young people and create meaningful opportunities for learning and development.





















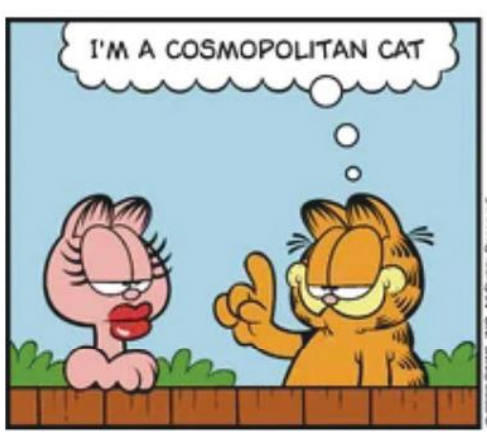


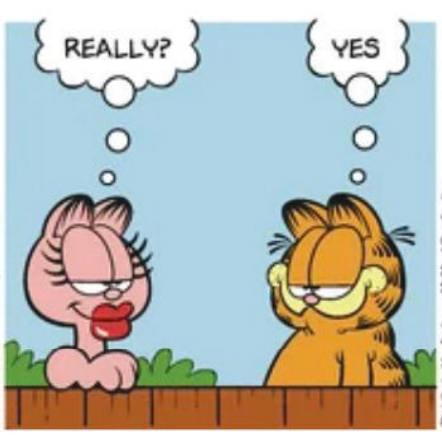






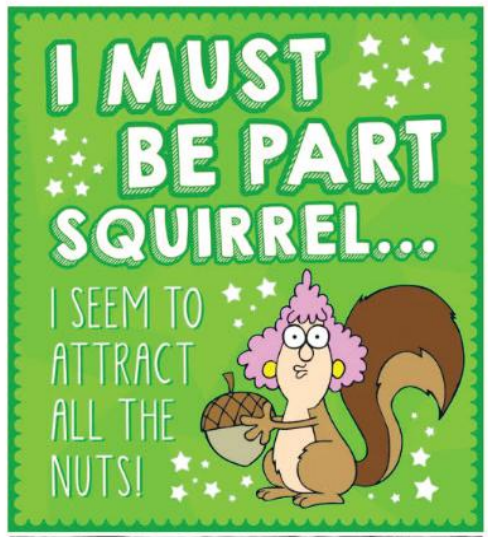


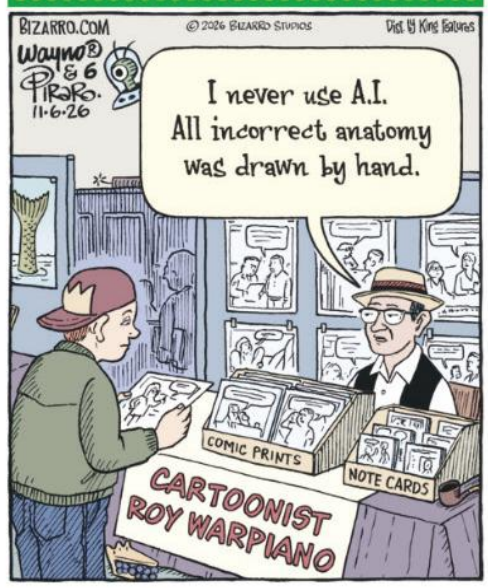






NEWSLINE TCI COMICS



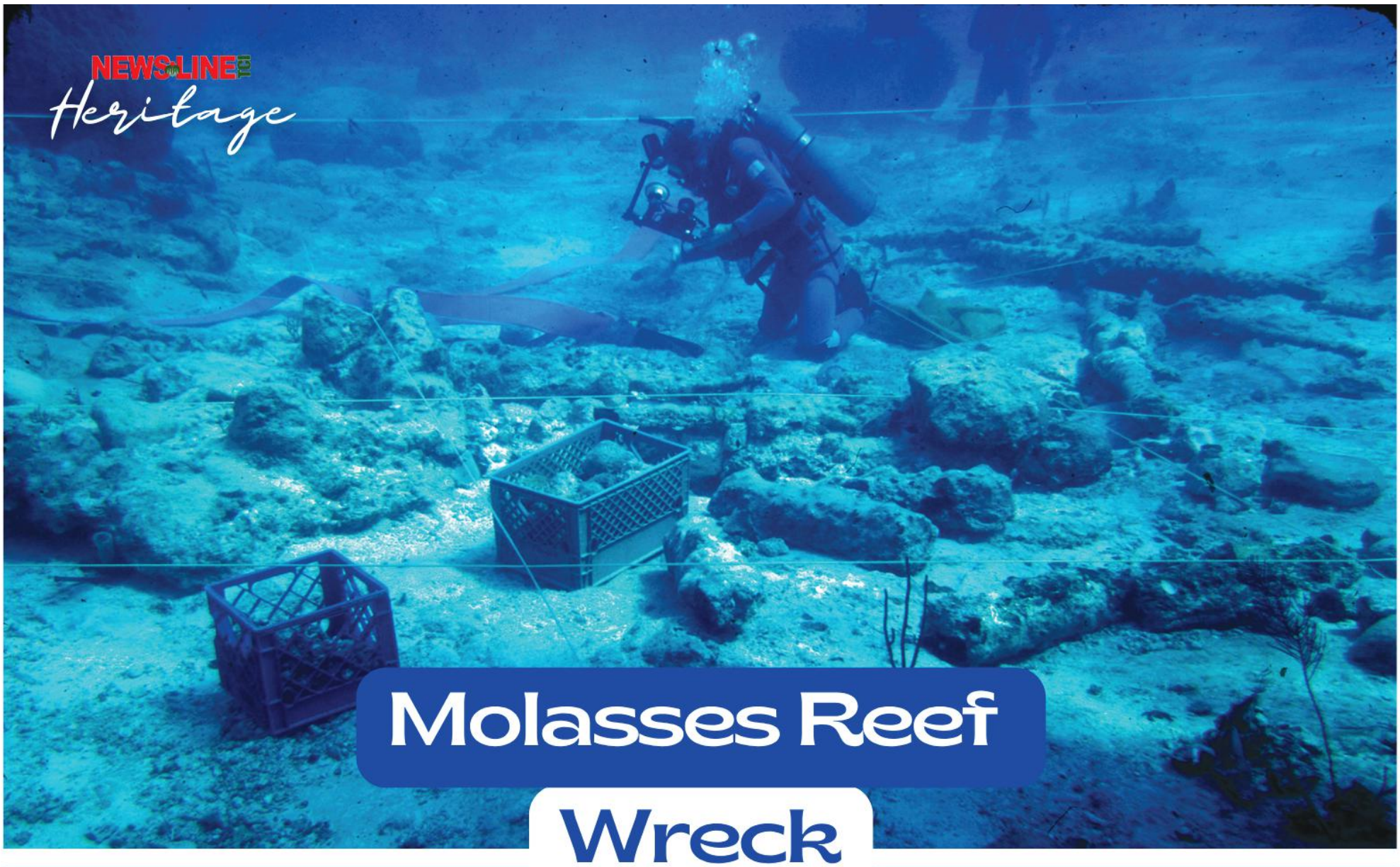




"As soon as we figure out the next step, you'll be swimming with the fishes."



"IT'S GONNA FEEL LIKE A WHOLE YEAR BEFORE YOUR NEXT BIRTHDAY."



Molasses Reef Wreck

The Molasses Reef Wreck is one of the Turks and Caicos Islands' greatest archaeological treasures. Lying beneath the waters south of the Caicos islands, it is believed to be the oldest European shipwreck ever scientifically excavated in the Americas, dating to the early sixteenth century.

Discovered in 1976 and excavated by the Institute of Nautical Archaeology during the early 1980s, the wreck provided historians with a remarkable glimpse into the Age of Discovery. Although the ship's name has never been identified, archaeological evidence suggests it was probably a Portuguese vessel built in Lisbon around 1505.

Unlike many Caribbean wrecks that have been heavily disturbed by storms or treasure hunters, the Molasses Reef site has remained unusually well preserved. Archaeologists have been able to carefully map the hull timbers, ballast stones, anchors, bronze cannons and hundreds of smaller artifacts exactly where they rested on the seabed. This painstaking work allowed researchers to reconstruct the ship's size, cargo and even the circumstances of its loss.

One of the most fascinating discoveries came from the ship's ballast—the stones carried to stabilize the vessel. Geological analysis showed that these rocks likely originated from Portugal, Spain and Atlantic islands, providing clues about the ship's previous voyages before it met its fate on the reefs of the Turks and Caicos islands.

Today, the Molasses Reef Wreck is recognized as a landmark in underwater archaeology. Rather than searching for treasure, researchers focused on preserving the site's historical value, setting new standards for the scientific study of shipwrecks around the world.

Although its crew, destination and official name remain unknown, the wreck tells an extraordinary story of courage, exploration and the hazards faced by the first European sailors crossing the Atlantic. More than five centuries later, the Molasses Reef Wreck continues to reveal new insights into one of history's most important periods of maritime exploration.

Keith, D.H., Duff, J.A., James, S.R., Oertling, T.J. & Simmons, J.J. (1984) The Molasses Reef Wreck, Turks and Caicos Islands, B.W.I.: A Preliminary Report. International Journal of Nautical Archaeology, 13(1), pp.45–63.
Keith, D.H. & Simmons, J.J. (1985) Analysis of Hull Remains, Ballast, and Artifact Distribution of a 16th-Century Shipwreck, Molasses Reef, British West Indies. Journal of Field Archaeology, 12(4), pp.411–424.
Lamb, W.R., Keith, D.H. & Judy, S.A. (1990) Analysis of the Ballast of the Molasses Reef Wreck. National Geographic Research, 6(3), pp.291–305.
Keith, D.H. (1989) The Molasses Reef Wreck Project. INA Newsletter, 16(3).
Institute of Nautical Archaeology (1989) The Molasses Reef Wreck Project. Available in INA Newsletter, Vol. 16, No. 3.

WEST BAY CLUB
GRACE BAY RESORTS

DATE OPEN: November 2, 2026 **START DATE: ASAP**
POSITION: Assistant Restaurant Manager **PROPERTY: West Bay Club**

Job Overview: The Assistant Restaurant Manager is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the restaurant to ensure exceptional guest service, operational efficiency, and compliance with Grace Bay Resorts standards. This role consists of managing the Food & Beverage team, maintaining high service standards, ensuring food quality, supporting staff development, and creating memorable dining experiences for all guests.

Main duties:
• Lead, motivate, coach, and support the Food & Beverage team to deliver exceptional guest service.
• Ensure all team members consistently follow West Bay Club service standards, policies, and procedures.
• Conduct pre-shift briefings to communicate daily specials, promotions, VIP arrivals, and operational updates.
• Monitor service quality throughout each shift and provide immediate coaching where necessary.
• Address guest concerns and complaints promptly, professionally, and effectively to ensure guest satisfaction.
• Assist with recruiting, onboarding, training, and evaluating restaurant employees.
• Prepare staff schedules and ensure appropriate staffing levels based on business demands.
• Monitor employee attendance, appearance, productivity, and adherence to company standards.
• Ensure compliance with health, safety, sanitation, and food handling regulations.
• Monitor restaurant cleanliness, organization, and presentation throughout each service period.

Requirements:
• 3+ years' experience working in high-volume Food & Beverage operation.
• Must have a minimum of 2 years experience working in the similar or same role
• Ability to multitask and deliver drink and food requests in a timely and efficient manner while maintaining consistency.
• Must be efficient, observant, knowledgeable of the role and tasks.
• Must have strong people and English communication skills.
• Must be reliable and a flexible schedule is preferred.
• Silverware/Micros experience is a plus.

Qualified Belongers need only to apply
Salary Range: $43,200 per annum

Interested persons can contact our Human Resources Department no later than November 13, 2026
@ (649) 946-8550 Ext. 7500
Email: humanresources@thewestbayclub.com
Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

Paradise Baptist Church

This week we feature one of the Turks and Caicos Islands' longest serving churches – the Paradise Baptist Church located in Five Cays, Providenciales. The Paradise Baptist Church has been serving that community and its environs for decades. Pastored by Rev. Goldstone Williams, the Paradise Baptist Church, a few years ago underwent a major redevelopment exercise, to better serve the community. It is now one of the largest halls in the Turks and Caicos, thus making it a magnet for large church-related events, such as valedictory service and graduations. In addition to its regular Sunday service, Paradise Baptist Church conducts Prayer meeting and bible study on Wednesday; Every 2nd and 4th Friday of each month Daughters of The King meetings; Thursday & Saturday at 7pm Praise team practice; and Friday evening at 7pm Youth Fellowship. Its contact number is 941-4349.



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 Prophesy,
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 Prophesy,
Providenciales Tel:941-3438

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

Faith Tabernacle Church of God,
Providenciales, Tel:946-4073

New Testament Church of God,
Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175

New Testament Church of God,
South Caicos Tel:946-3631

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

Healing Waters Ministries,
Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867

House of Prayer Church of God,
Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses,
Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727

Mount Mariah Baptist Church,
Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205

New Beginning Harvest Ministry,
Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759

New Testament Church of God
Orea Alley
P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales
Tel: 946-1255
Airport Road, South Caicos
Tel:231-2402

Firm Foundation Ministries International
Waterloo Road, Grand Turk.
Telephone: 649-332-624

Paradise Baptist Church,
Five Cays, Providenciale
Tel:941-4349

Revival Faith Center,
North Backsalina, Grand Turk
Tel:946-2349

Salem Baptist Church,
Mission Folly, Grand Turk
Tel:946-2565

Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries International,
Discovery Bay Providenciales
Tel: 946-5181

St. Monica's Anglican Church
P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales
Tel: 946-4046
Fax:946-4046;941-8499

Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh Day Adventists,
P.O. Box 803, Providenciales

United Pentecostal Church,
Brown's Plaza, Leeward Highway,
Providenciales Tel: 956-5852

Wesleyan Methodist Church,
Blue Hills, Providenciales
Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596

Editor's Note: If your Ministry is not listed and/or you would like for it to be part of the NEWSLINETCI Church Diary, contact us at: contact@newslinetci.com





TCI JUDICIARY LAUNCHES STRATEGIC PLAN AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARTER

The Turks and Caicos Islands Judiciary, Friday, October 30, 2026, launched its Strategic Plan and Judiciary Customer Service Charter at the Supreme Court Annex on Providenciales. The event was attended by Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam; Deputy Premier Hon. Jamell Robinson; Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams; Minister of Home Affairs Hon. Akierra Missick; Hon. Shaun Malcolm, Minister of Public Safety, Gender Affairs, Religious Affairs and Social Welfare; Police Commissioner Fitz Bailey; and President of the Bar Council Mark Fulford. The following are highlights of the event.





















50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MINISTERIAL GOVERNMENT, 1976–2026. ROAD TO 1976 SERIES

WHO HELD THE POWER?

ARTICLE 16 OF 23

The Governor, the Chief Minister, and the Constitutional Reality of Ministerial Government in 1976

By Joan Astwood-Sutton
Author, Cultural Historian, Heritage Educator

The Government the People Elected, but Did Not Fully Control

On 29 September 1976, the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands voted for a new political future. They elected representatives who, for the first time under the new constitutional arrangements, would assume ministerial responsibility. Yet behind the celebrations surrounding this historic achievement lay a fundamental question that would shape the country's political development for decades: how much power did the elected government actually possess?

The answer was more complicated than the creation of a Chief Minister and three ministerial offices might suggest. The new ministers were expected to improve roads, schools, healthcare, utilities, employment opportunities, and economic development. However, the Governor, senior appointed officials, and the United Kingdom retained important financial, administrative, and constitutional powers. The people gained a stronger voice in government, but that voice operated within a system that still reserved substantial authority elsewhere.

This distinction is essential to understanding the first Ministerial Government. It explains why the achievement of 1976 was historically significant without representing complete internal self-government or independence. It also provides a more accurate basis for examining what the first ministers accomplished, the obstacles they encountered and the constitutional reforms that followed.

An Election That Required Political Agreement

The 1976 Constitution came into operation on 30 August, establishing the framework for the general election held on 29 September. Of the eleven elected seats, the People's Democratic Movement secured five, the Progressive National Organisation four, while Independents Daniel A. Williams and Charles William "Liam" Maguire won the remaining two. Neither political party had secured an outright majority, making the political decisions that followed the election particularly important.

Contemporary reporting indicates that Williams joined the PDM on 30 September, while Maguire agreed to support the incoming administration without immediately relinquishing his Independent position. These developments enabled JAGS McCartney to secure the necessary support to become the country's first Chief Minister. However, the constitutional process involved more than political agreement. Under section 8 of the 1976 Constitution, the elected members of the Legislative Council selected the Chief Minister, whom the Governor formally appointed to the Executive Council. The Governor also appointed the other three ministers on the Chief Minister's advice.

The country commemorates 1 October 1976 as the beginning of Ministerial Government, while the Legislature formally opened on 6 October. Yet the manner in which the first administration was constituted reveals an important distinction: the people elected their representatives, but the exercise of executive authority remained subject to constitutional arrangements involving the Governor. Understanding that distinction is essential to appreciating how the first Ministerial Government operated and why its powers were more limited than many might assume.

The Executive Council: Elected Ministers and Appointed Authority

The structure of the Executive Council reveals the constitutional balance that existed in 1976. The Council consisted of the Governor, Chief Minister, three other ministers and three senior officials: the Chief Secretary, Attorney General and Financial Secretary. The Governor normally presided, meaning that the first Chief Minister did not chair an executive body composed entirely of elected political leaders.



A Stamp containing image of the country's first Chief Minister JAGS McCartney

McCartney held responsibility for Home Affairs and Communications. Lewis "Louie" Edwin Astwood became Minister of Public Works, Utilities and Labour. Oswald O'Neil Skippings assumed responsibility for Health, Education, Welfare and Local Government, while Charles William "Liam" Maguire held Tourism, Development of Industries and Resources. Daniel A. Williams and Henry Leon Wilson served as Parliamentary Secretaries.

These portfolios represented an enormous range of public responsibilities for a small administration. Astwood's ministry addressed infrastructure, utilities, and employment at a time when communities needed better roads, electricity, water, and opportunities to earn a living. Skippings' portfolio brought together services affecting children, families, healthcare, and local administration. Maguire's responsibilities concerned the economic development of a territory seeking alternatives to declining traditional industries. McCartney carried the additional burden of leading the administration while directing Home Affairs and Communications.

Allocating these responsibilities gave the public identifiable political leaders from whom to seek answers. However, a minister's responsibility for a department did not automatically confer unrestricted authority over its staffing, expenditure or every decision affecting its operation. Important public service matters remained subject to constitutional arrangements involving the Governor and other authorities.

For example, responsibility for education did not permit a minister to appoint or dismiss teachers according to personal preference. Similarly, responsibility for Public Works did not allow a minister to spend public funds without the required financial authorisation. Ministers could identify needs, develop proposals, argue for priorities, and pursue implementation, but they had to operate within the legal and administrative machinery established by the Constitution.

The Governor's Powers Were Real, Not Ceremonial

The Governor retained special responsibility for defence, external affairs, and internal security, including the Police Force. The Governor also exercised important public service powers under constitutional provisions that placed them beyond ordinary ministerial discretion. Britain retained ultimate constitutional authority over the territory, which remained a British dependency rather than an independent state.

These arrangements made the Governor a central participant in government rather than a purely ceremonial representative. Decisions concerning reserved responsibilities could directly affect the operation of public institutions and the practical reach of elected leadership.

Nevertheless, it would be inaccurate to describe the Executive Council as an institution whose advice the Governor could simply ignore whenever he wished. In matters requiring consultation with the Council, the Constitution directed the Governor to act according to its advice, subject to specified exceptions and procedures. Those exceptions had legal significance and could involve referring matters to the Secretary of State and recording reasons or comments.

The distinction matters because constitutional authority must be examined through the actual provisions governing its exercise. The first ministers had meaningful responsibilities and avenues to influence decisions. They also faced restrictions that could complicate or delay their efforts.

The Financial Secretary and the Power to Spend

Finance was among the most consequential limitations upon ministerial authority. Section 13 of the Constitution required responsibility for finance to be assigned to the Financial Secretary. Ministers could advocate programmes, identify priorities, and seek development assistance, but they did not possess unrestricted control over the Treasury.

Consider the practical implications for an island awaiting improvements to its water supply. A minister might recognise the urgency of the problem and support a proposed project, but construction required money, technical planning, equipment, and personnel. Once completed, the service also required continuing expenditure for maintenance and operation. Similar considerations applied to school extensions, public buildings, generators, roads, and transportation facilities.

For the public, the immediate concern was whether the promised improvement would arrive. For the minister, the problem involved securing approval, identifying resources, and ensuring that the project could function beyond its initial construction. The distance between public expectation and constitutional authority was therefore not merely theoretical. It affected the everyday work of government.

The financial arrangements also required ministers to negotiate within government while advocating for their communities. They had to establish priorities among competing needs, knowing that every decision carried consequences for people whose circumstances might be equally deserving of attention.

When Constitutional Limitations Became Political Frustrations

By April 1980, McCartney was openly expressing concerns about the influence available to elected ministers under the existing arrangements. During discussions with the United Nations Visiting Mission, he complained about the system's limitations and referred to a delay of about one year in obtaining assent to legislation concerning international banking.

That account should be understood as McCartney's statement to the mission, not as independent proof that every legal or administrative circumstance surrounding the delay was improper. Its importance lies in what it reveals about the first Chief Minister's experience. He believed that the powers available to elected leaders did not adequately match the responsibilities for which they were publicly accountable.

The law-making process provided another example. The Legislative Council could debate and pass legislation, but passage was not necessarily the final constitutional stage. Provisions concerning assent, reservation, the return of bills and disallowance preserved powers beyond the elected vote. The Governor also possessed reserved legislative powers under the Constitution.

These arrangements could affect the timing and implementation of reform. They also demonstrate why the history of the first administration cannot be reconstructed accurately from political speeches or announcements alone. Council proceedings, official correspondence, financial records, and legal instruments are necessary to establish what was proposed, what was approved and what was delivered.

From Chief Minister to Premier

The constitutional arrangements established in 1976 did not remain unchanged. The 2006 Constitution replaced the title Chief Minister with Premier and introduced Cabinet and the House of Assembly in place of the earlier institutions. The 2011 Constitution subsequently provided another framework for government.

Further amendments in 2024 renamed the House of Assembly Parliament, changed its elected membership and clarified aspects of Cabinet's authority in domestic affairs, subject to constitutional exceptions. The reforms did not make the territory independent or remove every power retained by the Governor and the United Kingdom.

During the fiftieth anniversary year, additional constitutional discussions remained underway. In a written answer dated 30 October 2026, the United Kingdom Government confirmed that further discussions were continuing following the 2024 amendments. No final agreement on those additional reforms was announced in that response.

The continuing debate demonstrates that the distribution of political authority remains relevant. The country has moved beyond the arrangements of 1976, but questions about elected responsibility, reserved powers and constitutional accountability have not disappeared.

What Fifty Years of Experience Should Teach Us

The first Ministerial Government entered office under conditions that were both historic and demanding. Its members accepted responsibilities that connected them directly to the needs of the population, while important powers remained outside their control. Those limitations must be considered when assessing their achievements and shortcomings.

They do not, however, excuse every failure. Ministers remained responsible for the choices available to them, the preparation of proposals, the priorities they established and the effort they made to secure results. Equally, it would be unfair to judge them as though they possessed constitutional powers that the law had assigned elsewhere.

The generation of 1976 helped establish the principle that Islanders should play a stronger role in determining their country's future. Subsequent constitutional reforms expanded that responsibility, creating new opportunities and new obligations for political leadership.

Fifty years later, the question is no longer simply whether elected leaders have acquired greater authority. It is whether that authority is being exercised lawfully, competently and in the interests of the people.

The achievement of 1976 was that Islanders gained a stronger voice in government. The challenge of 2026 is to ensure that the power gained through fifty years of constitutional development produces the results that voice was intended to secure.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

With this sixteenth instalment, the Road to 1976 series enters its final eight numbered articles commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Ministerial Government in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

I thank the readers who have followed the series, shared their reflections, and encouraged me to preserve these historical accounts in book form. Following publication of the final article, I intend to bring together all 23 numbered articles, along with the Special Editions and historical features, into a commemorative collection for present and future generations.







Grand Turk Launch of 'The Soul of a Nation'

Premier Hon. Washington Misick has launched his first book – The Soul of a Nation. The chronicles, among other things, social, cultural and political life in the Turks and Caicos for more than 50 years. The book had two launches- on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at the historic Victoria Public Library in Grand Turk, and in Providenciales, on Wednesday, October 28, at Le Vele Plaza in Grace Bay. In our last issue, we carried the Provo Launch. The following are photo highlights of the Grand Turk Launch.

















SANDALS/BEACHES RESORTS CELEBRATE 27 WINS ACROSS WTA CARIBBEAN & THE AMERICAS, WORLD MICE AWARDS AND WORLD CULINARY AWARDS

Sandals Resorts and Beaches Resorts are celebrating a remarkable week of recognition, earning a combined 27 prestigious awards across the 2026 World Travel Awards Caribbean & The Americas, World MICE Awards and World Culinary Awards.

The honors recognize excellence across the brands' portfolio of Caribbean resorts and experiences, from all-inclusive vacations and romantic escapes to family getaways, culinary innovation and group travel.

The celebrations began on Sunday, October 11, at the World Travel Awards Caribbean & The Americas Gala Ceremony held in Jamaica, where Sandals Resorts International was once again named Caribbean's Leading Hotel Brand, marking its 33rd consecutive year receiving the title. The company earned 19 honors during the ceremony, including Caribbean's Leading All-Inclusive Resort for Sandals Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Caribbean's Leading Luxury All-Inclusive Resort for Sandals Dunn's River and Caribbean's Leading All-Inclusive Family Resort for Beaches Turks and Caicos.

The momentum continued at the World MICE Awards on Monday, October 12, with six awards recognizing the brands' offerings for meetings, incentives and group travel. Sandals South Coast in Jamaica earned two distinctions, including Caribbean's Best Incentive Hotel, while Beaches Turks and Caicos was recognized as Turks & Caicos' Best Incentive Hotel.

Rounding out the week, the World Culinary Awards on Wednesday, October 14, honored Sandals Dunn's River as the World's Best All-Inclusive Culinary Resort, while Mario's at Sandals Grande Antigua was named Antigua & Barbuda's Best Hotel Restaurant. Together, the accolades underscore the brands' continued investment in distinctive dining experiences and culinary innovation across the Caribbean.

World Travel Awards
Caribbean & The Americas 2026

The 19 awards earned by Sandals Resorts International and its affiliated brands include:

- Caribbean's Leading Hotel Brand 2026: Sandals Resorts International
- Caribbean's Leading All-Inclusive Resort 2026: Sandals Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Caribbean's Leading Luxury All-Inclusive Resort 2026: Sandals Dunn's River, Jamaica
- Caribbean's Most Romantic Resort 2026: Sandals Grande Antigua
- Caribbean's Leading Honeymoon Resort 2026: Sandals Grande St. Lucian
- Caribbean's Leading Dive Resort 2026: Sandals Royal Curaçao
- Caribbean's Leading All-Inclusive Family Resort 2026: Beaches Turks & Caicos
- Caribbean's Leading Adventure Tour Operator 2026: Island Routes
- Antigua & Barbuda's Leading Adult-Only Resort 2026: Sandals Grande Antigua
- Bahamas' Leading All-Inclusive Resort 2026: Sandals Royal Bahamian
- Barbados' Leading All-Inclusive Resort 2026: Sandals Royal Barbados
- Curaçao's Leading All-Inclusive Resort 2026: Sandals Royal Curaçao
- Grenada's Leading All-Inclusive Resort 2026: Sandals Grenada
- Jamaica's Leading All-Inclusive Resort 2026: Sandals Montego Bay
- Jamaica's Leading Adult-Only All-Inclusive Resort 2026: Sandals Negril
- Jamaica's Leading All-Inclusive Family Resort 2026: Beaches Negril
- Saint Lucia's Leading All-Inclusive Resort 2026: Sandals Grande St. Lucian
- St. Vincent & The Grenadines' Leading All-Inclusive Resort 2026: Sandals Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- St. Vincent & The Grenadines' Leading Wedding Hotel 2026: Sandals Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

World MICE Awards 2026

Recognizing excellence in meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibi-













tions, the World MICE Awards honored six properties across the Sandals and Beaches portfolio:

- Caribbean's Best Incentive Hotel 2026: Sandals South Coast, Jamaica
- Antigua & Barbuda's Best Incentive Hotel 2026: Sandals Grande Antigua
- Barbados' Best Incentive Hotel 2026: Sandals Barbados
- Jamaica's Best Incentive Hotel 2026: Sandals South Coast
- Saint Lucia's Best MICE Hotel 2026: Sandals Grande St. Lucian
- Turks & Caicos' Best Incentive Hotel 2026: Beaches Turks & Caicos

World Culinary Awards 2026

Celebrating excellence in culinary hospitality, the World Culinary Awards recognized two standout dining experiences within the Sandals Resorts portfolio:

- World's Best All-Inclusive Culinary Resort 2026: Sandals Dunn's River, Jamaica
- Antigua & Barbuda's Best Hotel Restaurant 2026: Mario's at Sandals Grande Antigua

The latest honors come at a particularly meaningful time for Sandals Resorts International, with this year's award ceremonies hosted in Jamaica, the birthplace of the Sandals brand and the focus of its next chapter of growth. As part of its continued commitment to the island, Sandals Resorts is investing US$200 million to reimagine three of its beloved properties through its Sandals 2.0 vision.

Sandals South Coast will welcome guests back on November 18, 2026, followed by Sandals Montego Bay and Sandals Caribbean Cay, formerly Sandals Royal Caribbean, on December 18, 2026. From elevated accommodations and refreshed resort spaces to new dining concepts celebrating Jamaica's rich culinary heritage, the transformations mark an exciting new era for the brand while reinforcing its longstanding commitment to the destination it calls home.

The cancer-causing virus you can carry without knowing

You can carry a cancer-causing virus, pass it to your partner and have no idea it is there.

No pain. No discharge. No visible warning.

The human papillomavirus, better known as HPV, is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections. Most infections clear naturally, but persistent infection with high-risk types can cause cancers years after the original exposure.

For Jamaica, the conversation needs to move beyond genital warts and Pap smears. Men need to understand what HPV can do to their throats. Women need to understand why waiting for symptoms can mean missing the opportunity to prevent cervical cancer.

HPV spreads through intimate sexual contact, including oral sex. Condoms reduce the risk but cannot eliminate it because the virus can infect skin they do not cover.

Men are part of this conversation

Many men still consider HPV a women's health issue. That misunderstanding can have serious consequences.

HPV can cause cancer in the oropharynx: the back of the throat, including the tonsils and base of the tongue. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that HPV causes 60 to 70 per cent of these cancers in the US. Oropharyngeal cancer is also the most common HPV-associated cancer among American men.

Those are American figures, not Jamaican statistics. But the medical warning applies here: HPV can cause cancer in men too.

A persistent sore throat, difficulty swallowing, unexplained ear pain or a lump in the neck deserves medical assessment. Do not repeatedly dismiss these symptoms or keep treating them without finding the cause.

For women, the danger can develop silently. The World Health Organization estimated that 660,000 women developed cervical cancer worldwide in 2022, and approximately 350,000 died.

Persistent high-risk HPV infection causes almost all cervical cancers. Precancerous changes can develop without symptoms, creating a dangerous gap between feeling well and being well.

Screening gives us an opportunity to identify risk and treat precancer before invasive cancer develops. Bleeding after sex, bleeding between periods or after menopause, and unusual vaginal discharge require assessment, even if a previous screening result was normal.

What PCR testing actually tells you

PCR, or polymerase chain reaction, detects genetic material from the virus. Validated HPV PCR tests can identify high-risk HPV in an appropriate sample, while genotyping identifies particular types that help guide follow-up.

A Pap smear looks for abnormal cervical cells. An HPV test looks for the virus associated with those changes. They answer different questions and may be used separately or together, depending on age, medical history, and the screening pathway.

MDLink Diagnostic Laboratory offers broad HPV PCR testing covering a range of HPV genotypes. Patients should ask which types their panel detects and what follow-up their result requires.

A positive HPV result does not mean you have cancer. It means the result needs appropriate interpretation and follow-up. A negative cervical or genital HPV result cannot rule out HPV in the throat. There is currently no standard screening test for HPV-related throat cancer.

Make sexual health a routine responsibility

Every sexually active Jamaican should make an annual sexual-health review a priority and discuss an appropriate STI screen. Many people need annual testing; those with ongoing higher-risk exposures may need testing more frequently. The tests and timing should reflect age,



partners, sexual practices and medical history.

An annual STI review does not mean everyone needs an annual HPV test. Cervical screening follows its own schedule, and HPV is not automatically included in a routine STI panel.

Vaccination is another major opportunity to prevent HPV-related cancers. Ask about eligibility for yourself and your children. Vaccination prevents new infections; it does not treat an existing infection or replace cervical screening.

We need to stop treating sexual-health testing as something reserved for people with symptoms or suspected infidelity.

You should not have to discover a preventable cancer before taking a common virus seriously.

For information on HPV testing and appropriate STI screening, visit theMDLink.com.

Dr Ché Bowen is CEO of the MDLink Group Ltd. Send feedback to columns@gleanerjm.com or to info@themdlink.com.

Study Identifies Five Distinct Subtypes of Fatty Liver Disease

Researchers identified five biological subtypes of fatty liver disease, a condition that affects 30% of adults, each associated with different risks of complications.

A liver disease affecting nearly 30% of adults worldwide is not a single illness but five biologically distinct subtypes, Mayo Clinic researchers have found. Each carries different risks for heart disease, liver failure, cancer and the need for liver transplantation.

The study, published in Nature Communications and conducted in collaboration with scientists at Virginia Tech, shows that metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease has multiple pathways — some tied to obesity and diabetes, others driven by inherited genetic factors.

Notably, genetic subtypes are associated with a higher risk of progression to advanced liver disease, including in patients without typical metabolic risk factors.

The findings could help identify high-risk patients earlier and guide more precise screening and personalized treatment.

"When clinical and genomic data are analyzed together at this scale, you begin to see patterns of disease progression that would otherwise remain hidden," says Shulan Tian, Ph.D., co-senior author and a bioinformatician at Mayo Clinic. "Once you separate these subtypes, you can start to match treatments to the biology that's actually driving the disease."

Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease, formerly called nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, occurs when fat builds up in the liver. It often develops without symptoms but can progress to inflammation, scarring and irreversible damage. It is a leading cause of cirrhosis, liver



cancer and transplantation worldwide.

Decoding liver disease at scale

To uncover these subtypes, researchers integrated genetic sequencing with detailed clinical data from more than 4,600 patients with the disease. The dataset spanned a wide range of measures — from liver enzymes, body mass index and lipid levels to coexisting conditions such as diabetes, depression and sleep apnea.

Using advanced computational modeling, the team identified groups of patients who shared underlying biological signals, defining distinct subtypes of the disease.

"What's emerging here is a way to systematically identify meaningful subgroups within complex disease," says Eric Klee, Ph.D., co-senior author and the Everett J. and Jane M. Hauck Midwest Associate Director of Research and Innovation. "It helps us map complex disease with such precision that we can begin to anticipate its course and intervene before the most serious damage occurs."

The discovery was powered by Mayo Clinic's Research Data Atlas, a platform that connects genetic data with patient records to reveal patterns across large populations — a system Dr. Klee helped build. A key component of the Atlas is the Tapestry Study, which has generated Mayo Clinic's largest collection of exome data from more than 100,000 participants. The dataset captures key genetic information that shapes how diseases develop and progress.

"This is exactly the kind of insight large-scale genomic research was built to deliver," says Konstantinos Lazaridis, M.D., the Carlson and Nelson Endowed Executive Director for the Center for Individualized Medicine who led the Tapestry Study and is a co-author of the research. "When you connect genetic data with detailed clinical information across large populations, you can start to redefine diseases in ways that directly impact patient care."

Liver disease's hidden effects across the body

The study also revealed links beyond the liver. For the first time, researchers found that specific subtypes are associated with conditions such as depression, sleep apnea and migraine, underscoring the disease's broad systemic impact across multiple organ systems.

Next, the team plans to test the approach in broader patient populations and explore how these subtypes respond to different treatments, including therapies such as GLP-1 receptor agonists.

TCI TOP MODEL IS BACK - ENTER THE NEW RENAISSANCE

The organisers of TCI Top Model are delighted to announce the return of the Turks and Caicos Islands' premier modelling and fashion event. The Cycle 8 grand finale, themed The New Renaissance, will take place on Saturday, 24 April 2027.
Renowned for its high production values, multimedia presentations and cutting-edge fashion, TCI Top Model is much more than a runway competition. The programme is dedicated to nurturing aspiring models and creatives through comprehensive training and education. Participants develop essential industry knowledge and skills, providing them with a structured pathway into fashion modelling and the wider creative industries.
The Contest also gives participants visibility and opportunities to connect with a diverse range of professionals and industry leaders, helping to link local talent with opportunities further afield. It has opened doors to commercial modelling and acting, enabling participants to build professional portfolios and pursue work in competitive markets.
Since its inception, TCI Top Model has become the flagship platform for local talent. Alumni have appeared in professional media, commercial projects and fashion weeks at home and abroad, while some have signed with international modelling agencies. These achievements demonstrate the event's capability to support participants' long-term development.
Dr Courtney Robinson, Founder and Executive Producer of TCI Top Model, said the new season would reflect the industry's evolution: "Cycle 8 will be a departure from the contests of the past: a transformative journey shaped by the evolving industry. With The New Renaissance, we are ushering in a new era for TCI Top Model and its participants. We are seeking individuals who possess not only elegance and poise but also the passion and professionalism to make their mark on the global stage."
Emphasising the programme's commitment to its contestants, Dr Robinson said: "Our past winners and alumni have achieved remarkable success, and we are committed to giving this new cohort the same rigorous training, mentorship and opportunities to do more than shine — to thrive. This cycle, we will challenge our contestants to realise their potential and redefine what it means to be a model in the modern age."
TCI Top Model is pleased to announce the launch of its new website: www.tcitopmodel.com.
The site is a central hub for information about the competition, highlights from past winners, and editorial and commercial work by alumni. Visitors can also enquire about booking models through Good Street Management. The website will feature the latest news and event information, with tickets available to purchase when sales open.
Prospective contestants can register for Cycle 8 and begin their journey towards the spotlight. Returning and prospective sponsors and collaborators are also invited to express their interest in partnering with TCI Top Model through the site.
TCI Top Model: a legacy of excellence in motion.
For further information, visit www.tcitopmodel.com.





"I was unexpectedly asked a question, and my answer was a genuine reaction."

'I was speaking from my heart,' says Beenie Man of ITV interview

The Beenie Man brouhaha continues to generate memes, a whole lot of conversation and now – not surprisingly – even a song.
The dancehall artiste, whose real name is Moses Davis, has now released a song titled Weh Di Money Deh, using the visuals of one of the memes with him dressed as the biblical patriarch Moses, carrying the rod as he leads his people from exile in Egypt to the Promised Land.
Weh Di Money Deh falls neatly into the type of social commentary that is not alien to reggae and dancehall, but Beenie Man told The Gleaner that it wasn't his intention to go down this path.
"I was unexpectedly asked a question, and my answer was a genuine reaction. I never had no song planned, none at all whatsoever at that point. I was speaking from my heart, out of concern for the people who have been affected by the hurricane. Weh Di Money Deh came after. Trust me," Beenie Man said, adding that the song will be officially released as a digital single by 12 midnight on Monday on all major platform"even on your phone ringtone".
The song is the latest salvo in a debate that has its genesis in an interview that Beenie Man did with Britain's ITV News reporter Cree-Summer Haughton. On the cusp of Hurricane Melissa's one-year anniversary, Beenie Man was questioned about relief efforts, specifically the distribution of recovery and donation funds. In his response, Beenie Man expressed his criticism of the government's handling of the donations
"This is nothing new that the government get the money, the government distribute the money the wrong way. The people who supposed to get the money haven't been getting any. These things, it's a regular thing that happens. The money comes in and you nuh see where it go," Beenie Man said.
At last Wednesday's reopening of the Black River Hospital in St Elizabeth, Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness, told the gathering that $300 million was spent on the rebuilding effort and he called out Beenie Man by name.
"The Minister [of Health] neglected to invite Beenie Man, because then he would see first-hand how the Government has been spending on the recovery," Dr Holness said.
The prime minister also said during his time at the podium that "It is a lie that was told on Jamaica by someone who benefits from Brand Jamaica ... . We must call them out because they go and wave our flag and get people to come to attend their shows, while they're out there tearing down our country."
Calling out Beenie Man by name created the perfect storm for going viral, and the creation of a slew of memes alongside arguments in favour of and against the Grammy Award-winning dancehall deejay.
Beenie Man told The Gleaner that he has "received encouragement from people who understand why I spoke up, including Jamaicans at home and people overseas who love Jamaica".
He added, "What matters most to me is that the attention leads to meaningful help for the people affected. Their recovery must remain the priority."
The veteran deejay also spoke about his mission as a musical ambassador.
"Reggae and dancehall have always given a voice to the people, especially those who feel unheard. For more than three decades, I've helped carry Jamaica's name around the world through my music, and that love for Jamaica also means speaking up when our people are hurting," Beenie Man said.

CLAPBACK AND BLOWBACK

Entertainment analyst and cultural commentator, Clyde McKenzie, in responding to the issue, notes that this is "delicate" since it now involves "both personal and political – not partisan politics".
"An opinion was expressed and, given the exigencies of this new paradigm, there was a clapback and now a blowback," McKenzie told The Gleaner.
Noting that it is the right of every citizen to express his or her opinion on government policy, he stressed that it should be done respectfully. The government, he stated, should respond "if it is deemed to be of national importance ... and if it is deemed to be inaccurate ... and this response should also be respectful".
He cautioned, however, that "sometimes, when we respond to comments made publicly about us, all we do is amplify the volume of what was said".
"Beenie Man is a citizen with a soapbox – he has a huge platform – but, at the end of the day, he is an ordinary citizen. The Government feels wrongly done and is responding, However, from what I can gather … what people are concerned about is the nature of the response," McKenzie said.
McKenzie, who was an integral part of Beenie Man's former outfit, Shocking Vibes, and even has credits on his Grammy Award-winning album, told The Gleaner that he was "not surprised that Beenie Man responded the way he did" during the ITV interview.
"Beenie Man responded to a question [that was] posed to him. Sometimes he responds off the cuff and he may not say things as delicately as some would want them to be," McKenzie said of the Girls Dem Sugar deejay.
Beenie Man's publicist, Claude Mills, told The Gleaner that his client "has the charisma and the creative skill to overcome even a mild rebuke from the Prime Minister".
"I was surprised that the Prime Minister would have made this story even bigger by responding in the manner he did but he provided the perfect opportunity for Beenie Man to 'seize the moment' and chef up a major hit out of this controversy. And the Prime Minister actually stirred up a hornet's nest on social media and in every rum bar and every street corner," Mills said.

Future Fambo and Sean Paul double up With 'Money Money' and 'Rong Bong' video premiere



Future Fambo (left) and Sean Paul

Dancehall star Future Fambo is doubling up with his latest project, literally. He is bringing double the music, while saluting a superstar who has stood by him, and been his mentor and friend during the darkest chapters of his life.

The dancehall veteran teams with Sean Paul for a video premiere pairing Money Money (Remix) and Rong Bong, arriving Friday on Sean Paul's official YouTube channel. For Fambo, the release represents more than another collaboration: it is the latest chapter in a relationship that extends beyond the recording booth.

"This is a major, major music video because the general Sean Paul, he always supportive. It is on Sean Paul's channel, Money Money produced by Supa hype, and Rong Bong produced by Sean Paul, on his Dutty Rock label. Go stream it, go support it," Future Fambo told Observer Online.

The two-song presentation brings together separate productions under one premiere, with Supa Hype behind Money Money (Remix) and Sean Paul's Dutty Rock operation handling Rong Bong.

In recent interviews, Future Fambo described the personal support behind their working relationship, crediting Sean Paul with paying to bring him home from New York during a period of homelessness and helping him enter rehabilitation.

"That's why the Money Money remix project is so important to me because I am doing it with a dancehall superstar, Sean Paul who has been always supportive to me. Always. In everything," Fambo said.

Following advice from figures like Shaggy's former manager Robert Livingston, Sean Paul encouraged Fambo to check into a rehabilitation programme to address his battles with substance abuse and health scares. That stay reportedly cost US$107,000.

"This is a full circle moment for me because Sean Paul believed in me when no one else did, and his support means a lot to me, and we are bringing a double to the fans," he said.

Fambo, who first emerged under the name Future Troubles, built his reputation through records including Kung Fu and later reached another generation with the Beenie Man collaboration Rum and Red Bull. Then Future Fambo grabbed the national spotlight for the third time with his ubiquitous viral hit, Red Light Pepper Light.

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Dr. Amartya C. Hosein demonstrates correct grooming technique using a dandy brush, as horse operators look on. Participants were also introduced to a range of other grooming tools, which were provided to them by the Department, and shown how to use each one correctly. Dr. Hosein also explained body condition scoring, a simple hands-on method owners can use to monitor their horse's weight and overall health.



Dr. Amartya C. Hosein observes as a horse operator picks out his horse's hoof, allowing him to compare each owner's usual technique with correct practice. Where improvements were needed, Dr. Hosein offered corrective guidance and practical tips to help owners keep their horses' feet clean and healthy.

Department of Agriculture Promotes Better Horse Care in Grand Turk

The Department of Agriculture, Animal Division Grand Turk Office, hosted a hands-on, practical workshop on equine nutrition and husbandry on Monday, 26 October 2026, at the Manilik Stable Grounds, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The workshop brought together local horse owners and operators for an engaging, interactive learning experience led by Dr Amartya C. Hosein, Veterinary Officer based in Grand Turk. The session combined informative discussions with practical, hands-on demonstrations focused on improving equine nutrition, husbandry practices, and overall animal welfare. As part of the workshop, participants received essential horse-care equipment, including lead ropes, hoof picks, curry combs, equine grooming brushes, and graduated feed-measuring scoops, providing them with practical tools to support improved daily horse management.

A key highlight of the initiative was the introduction of a customised equine feeding reference chart, developed by Dr Hosein to help horse owners determine appropriate hay/silage and concentrate feed quantities based on their horses' body weights and workload. The chart was specifically adapted for use with the SureScoop® graduated measuring scoops distributed to participants, making daily feeding recommendations easier to understand and implement.

"The welfare of animals in the Turks and Caicos Islands is at the forefront of our Ministerial efforts. We have already seen the strides Agriculture is making with the stray dogs throughout the islands. Horses, as we know, are animals that require keen attention and care to sustain their quality of life, so it's good to see that the essential resources and attention are being concentrated on the upkeep of horses on the island of Grand Turk and the wider Turks and Caicos Islands." — Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, Minister of Tourism, Environment, Agriculture, Fisheries, Maritime, Heritage and Gaming.

The Department of Agriculture extends its appreciation to Manilik Stables for facilitating the workshop, and to all horse owners and operators who participated and demonstrated their commitment to improving equine welfare in Grand Turk.

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CARPHA and The UWI Strengthen Strategic Partnership to Advance Public Health Research and Innovation across the Region



(L-R) Dr. Horace Cox, Director – Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control (SDPC), CARPHA; Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director, CARPHA; Professor C. Justin Robinson, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic-Industry Partnerships and Planning, The UWI and Ms. Sandrea Maynard, Pro Vice Chancellor Sandrea Maynard, The UWI, following the signing of the agreement between both institutions.

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and The University of the West Indies (The UWI) have reaffirmed their commitment to advancing public health across the Caribbean. During a commemorative signing ceremony held on October 22nd, 2026, the two institutions renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), establishing an expanded framework for collaboration in research, education and innovation in the Region.

The five-year agreement builds upon a longstanding relationship between the two regional institutions and reinforces their shared commitment to strengthening the Region's capacity to address existing and emerging public health challenges through evidence-based research, knowledge exchange and other areas of cooperation.

Speaking on the significance of the renewed partnership, Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director, CARPHA, underscored the importance of strategic partnerships in strengthening regional health security and resilience. "The renewal of this Memorandum of Understanding reflects our shared commitment to regional integration, self-reliance and collective action. It demonstrates the determination of CARPHA and The University of the West Indies, two flagship regional institutions, to leverage their respective strengths in service of healthier, more resilient and more sustainable Caribbean societies."

Professor C. Justin Robinson, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic-Industry Partnerships and Planning, The UWI who signed the MOU on behalf of Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, stated, "Our region carries one of the heaviest burdens of chronic non-communicable diseases in the world. No single institution can turn this around alone. This renewed agreement is about putting our own house in order, bringing together the region's leading research university and its premier public health agency so that Caribbean solutions are designed by Caribbean minds, for Caribbean people."

The MoU represents a continuation and expansion of the institutions' previous agreement signed in February 2019, which facilitated collaboration in academic and technical training, health and environmental research, staff exchanges, student internships among other areas of mutual interest.

Under this renewed agreement, CARPHA and The UWI will pursue opportunities for enhanced cooperation across several strategic areas, including disease prevention and control, health surveillance, disaster preparedness and emergency response, climate change and environmental health, food safety and security, and medicines quality and pharmacovigilance.

The renewed agreement builds upon a longstanding and productive relationship between CARPHA and The UWI, which has facilitated collaboration across several areas of public health research, surveillance and capacity building.

Notable achievements included the advanced training in Geographic Information for Vector Surveillance (GIVeS), hosted at The UWI St. Augustine Campus in August 2019, which equipped participants from 15 CARPHA Member States with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) skills to strengthen surveillance and response to vector-borne diseases, including Zika.

The partnership has also supported regional health security through technical collaboration on SARS-CoV-2 genomic sequencing under the New Variant Assessment Platform. These collaborative efforts demonstrate the institutions' shared commitment to advancing scientific research, strengthening regional public health capacity and promoting evidence-based approaches to addressing the Caribbean's health priorities.

Moreover, the partnership also embraces emerging areas of regional and global significance, including One Health, artificial intelligence education and digital competency, technological and scientific innovation, health economics, and public health governance and policy development. These areas reflect the evolving public health landscape and the growing need for multidisciplinary approaches to protecting the health and well-being of Caribbean populations.

Building on their longstanding partnership, the two entities will seek to deepen engagement among academia, public health practitioners, policymakers and communities, supporting the translation of scientific evidence into practical interventions and policies that address regional health priorities. To facilitate implementation, CARPHA and The UWI will establish a joint Overseeing Panel, comprising representatives from both institutions, to monitor progress, identify opportunities for expanded cooperation and guide the development of collaborative activities.

At The UWI, The Office of Global Affairs, led by Pro Vice Chancellor Sandrea Maynard, will serve as a connector across the campuses and function as a centralised communication hub for the execution of this agreement, ensuring streamlined coordination and collaboration. At CARPHA, Ms. Cherril Sobers, Specialist, Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships, will serve as the primary point of contact, facilitating communication, coordination and collaboration in support of the implementation of this agreement.

CDB and GCF Sign Agreement to Scale Up Clean Energy in Barbados, Belize and Jamaica

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) have signed a Funded Activity Agreement (FAA) for the Scaling up the Deployment of Integrated Utility Services (IUS) to Support Energy Sector Transformation in the Caribbean (Phase 1) Programme.

The Agreement unlocks a US$68.7 million investment to help households and businesses in Barbados, Belize and Jamaica invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The FAA was signed by Dr. Isaac Solomon, Vice President (Operations), CDB, and Ms. Kristin Lang, Director, Department of the Latin America and the Caribbean Region, GCF.

The Programme is being delivered by CDB as the Accredited Entity, with the national electric utilities – Barbados Light & Power Company Limited, Belize Electricity Limited and Jamaica Public Service Company Limited – serving as national Executing Entities, working closely with energy Ministries, regulators and National Designated Authorities.

Under the IUS model, each utility will provide upfront financing for eligible technologies – including rooftop solar photovoltaic systems (with or without battery storage), solar water heaters, energy-efficient air conditioning and LED lighting – installed at customers' premises by qualified service providers. Customers will then repay the cost through their monthly electricity bills.



Highlighting the initiative, Dr. Solomon said, "The FAA advances a cleaner, more resilient and affordable energy future for the Caribbean. By enabling customers to repay clean energy investments through electricity bills, the IUS Programme removes the barrier of high upfront costs. We thank GCF for partnering with CDB to deliver transformative results for our Borrowing Member Countries."

Underscoring GCF's commitment, Ms. Lang said, "Caribbean energy systems must become both cleaner and more resilient. This Programme represents a paradigm shift, turning utilities from suppliers of electricity into partners in their customers' journey to clean energy transition. GCF is proud to partner with CDB on a model that can be replicated across the region."

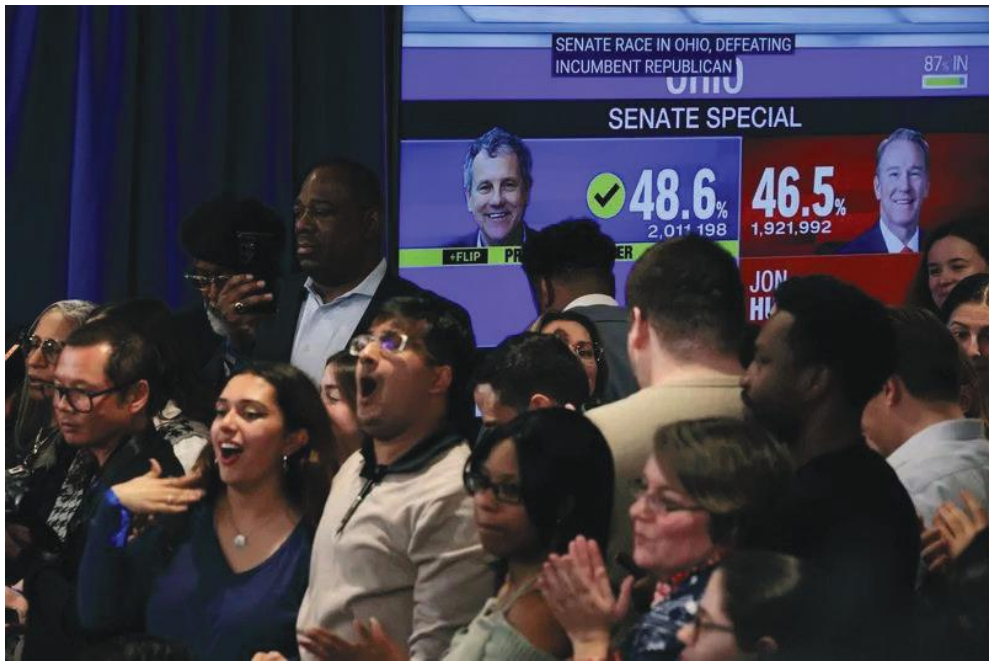
Barbados, Belize and Jamaica rely heavily on imported fossil fuels for electricity. This exposes consumers to volatile prices and makes the power sector a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. It also exacerbates vulnerability to climatic and economic shocks. The transition to a more sustainable, resilient, and decentralised energy sector is therefore of paramount importance in all three countries.

The IUS Programme is supported by US$26.74 million in financing from the GCF – comprising concessional loans of US$20.8 million and grants of US$5.94 million. CDB is contributing US$16.2 million in loans plus in-kind support, while the national utility companies will invest approximately US$25 million in smart meters.

This first phase will lay the foundation for scaling up the IUS model across CDB's other Borrowing Member Countries



US Vice President JD Vance speaks at a campaign rally ahead of midterm elections, at Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express Airport, in Swanton, Ohio, November 2, 2026.



Supporters react at a Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) midterm election night watch party as election results point toward Democrats regaining control of the US House of Representatives, in Washington, DC, US, November 3, 2026.

Republicans call for Trump to change course after midterm drubbing

President Donald Trump faced pressure from Republicans on Wednesday to change course after a midterm election rout handed Democrats control of Congress and voters rejected his handpicked candidates in key races.

Republican allies and strategists called for Trump to shake up his White House personnel, restore discipline and scrap policies they blamed for the losses, including the Iran war and tariffs, as his presidency enters its final years.

Veteran Republican strategist John Feehery called the results a "huge disaster" for Trump.

"He needs to clean house," Feehery said. "Every day from this point forward, he's becoming more and more lame."

But Trump showed little indication that he viewed the election outcome as a reason to change direction.

"I don't view it as a hit on me," he told Fox News late on Tuesday.

Democrats will now have the power to block Trump's legislation, investigate his administration and challenge his nominees. That is expected to push Trump, who has already used executive authority aggressively, toward an even greater reliance on unilateral action.

He will also have to decide whether to double down on an agenda that some Republicans fear has become a political liability, particularly for potential successors eyeing White House bids in 2028.

Vice President JD Vance, who is viewed as Trump's likely political heir, appeared to put some distance between himself and the president on Wednesday, blaming the Iran war for the midterm losses. Such breaks could become more common if Republicans conclude Trump's longtime grip on the party's voters is weakening, strategists and party officials said.

WHITE HOUSE BRACES FOR STAFF SHAKE-UP, INVESTIGATIONS

Inside the White House, senior aides were bracing for staff departures, possible Cabinet changes and Democratic investigations, according to a senior official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"It absolutely sucks to be here right now," the official said. "Morale is as low as it can get."

The official said internal polling had warned six weeks before the election that Republicans were headed for losses in both chambers, but Trump refused to change course on Iran despite warnings about the political consequences.

"Ultimately, he just didn't care," the official said. "He refused to listen to anyone."

Trump acknowledged late on Tuesday that the eight-month-old Iran war had hurt Republican candidates but defended his decision to launch the conflict.

Republican concerns extended beyond the war. In focus groups conducted for competitive Senate races in places like Michigan and Iowa, national Republican political advisers grew increasingly concerned this summer as more Republican and independent voters voiced opposition to the president's focus on the White House ballroom and Washington renovations, a Republican political adviser said.

"If Trump spends the next two years talking about this same shit, we will get shellacked again in the next election," the adviser said.

Yet on Wednesday, Trump gathered reporters for an impromptu visit to the ballroom construction site and defended the time he has devoted to the project.

"For me it's relaxing," he said.

The White House also struck a defiant public tone, posting a photograph of Trump on social media with the message: "PSA: TRUMP IS STILL YOUR PRESIDENT."

Trump still holds considerable power. Reuters previously reported that the White House has spent months preparing executive actions on immigration, tariffs, housing and federal spending that could allow him to advance parts of his agenda despite Democratic opposition.

But executive authority will not be able to shield the administration from congressional probes.

"Nobody wants to deal with the investigations," the official said.

Newsline Sports

25 TEAMS SET FOR INTER-PRIMARY FOOTBALL



SEE PAGE 32

SVG Football Federation Lauds FIFA Youth Development

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

St Vincent and the Grenadines Football Federation President Otashie Spring has praised FIFA President Gianni Infantino's commitment to youth football, describing the opportunity for young players from around the world to come together as "the closest thing to a World Cup".
Speaking about the significance of the first-of-its-kind youth tournament, Spring highlighted the scale of the initiative and the invaluable experience it offers young footballers.
"It says that his interest in youth development is pretty much intentional," Spring said.
"I think that the experience here, being first of its kind, it's exceptional."
Spring pointed to the ambition of bringing together representatives from FIFA's 211 Member Associations, with more than 2,000 young players from across the globe having the opportunity to meet, interact and compete.
"It's the closest thing to a World Cup and it's a very good experience for the youngsters," he added.
The SVG Football Federation President also expressed strong support for Infantino's vision of making football accessible to everyone, everywhere, over the next four years.
Reflecting on FIFA's evolution over the past decade, Spring said the organisation's progress had reinforced his confidence in its leadership and future direction.
"When you look at what FIFA have become and how much it would have grown over the last ten or so years, it's hard not to basically be lending your support," he said.
"There is progress there and quite frankly, I'm in support of what is to come the next four years."
Spring concluded by expressing his belief that FIFA's continued emphasis on development under Infantino would benefit football at every level.
"I believe that with Infantino, football and its development is in exceptional hands," he said.



SVG Football Federation President hails FIFA's commitment to youth development

Grenada FA President Hails FIFA's Investment in Grassroots Football at Historic Youth Tournament in Azerbaijan

Grenada Football Association (GFA) President Marlon Glean has praised FIFA President Gianni Infantino's commitment to expanding football development opportunities across the Caribbean and other underserved regions, as Grenada participates in the inaugural FIFA U-15 World Cup and Festival in Baku, Azerbaijan.
Speaking on the sidelines of the international youth tournament, Glean highlighted the impact of FIFA's investment in grassroots football, infrastructure and talent development, particularly in countries where financial resources for the sport remain limited.
The tournament, which concludes on October 30, has brought together more than 3,000 players and officials, with 189 nations participating. Of those countries, 78 are making their first appearance at a FIFA World Cup event, marking a significant milestone in the global expansion of youth football.
Glean said FIFA's development initiatives over the past decade have helped create opportunities for young players in regions that have historically struggled to attract sufficient investment.
"Since the president has been in office, he's invested heavily in areas where there's not much resources in Caribbean, in Africa, in Asia, in Oceania," Glean stated.
He pointed to the inaugural tournament as further evidence of FIFA's efforts to make football more accessible to young players worldwide.
"This tournament also shows his commitment to youth development, to grassroots," Glean said, noting that FIFA's Talent Development Scheme (TDS) complements the competition by supporting the identification and development of emerging football talent.



Grenada Football Association (GFA) President Marlon Glean

According to the GFA president, these programmes are particularly important for smaller footballing nations such as Grenada, where limited government and corporate funding can present significant challenges to the growth of the sport.
"His thinking is always on development, on providing resources to the less developed and to areas where, you know, governments and corporate is not really putting money into the sport," he explained.

Grenada Reaffirms Commitment to Football Development

Glean also reaffirmed the Grenada Football Association's support for Infantino's vision for the future of world football, emphasizing that the association's commitment extends beyond participation in international competitions.
He said Grenada continues to invest in grassroots programmes, football infrastructure and opportunities for young players to benefit from FIFA-supported development initiatives.
"I've made it very clear, not once, not twice, on many occasions that the Grenada Football Association fully, fully supports Gianni Infantino and his vision for the development of football," Glean declared.
He added that the association has demonstrated its commitment through its involvement in FIFA programmes, including the Talent Development Scheme, alongside its own efforts to strengthen football development at the national level.
"We're committed and we've shown that in terms of our involvement, our participation, our ability to access some of these programs ... our investment in grassroots, in infrastructure development," he said.
For Grenada, participation in the inaugural youth tournament represents an opportunity for young footballers to gain valuable international exposure while competing alongside players from across the world.
The event also underscores the growing emphasis on creating pathways for young talent from smaller nations to participate on the global stage.
Glean expressed optimism about the continued partnership between the Grenada Football Association and FIFA, saying the association looks forward to supporting further development initiatives over the next four years.
"We're fully supportive and we look forward to working with the president over the next four years," he said.
The FIFA U-15 World Cup and Festival concludes in Baku on Friday, October 30, bringing to a close an international gathering aimed at broadening participation and strengthening the foundations of youth football worldwide.



Local political directorate and delegates to the NACCAC Gender Leadership Conference and Workshop make time for a group photograph

Governor Champions Young Women in Sports Leadership at 2026 NACAC Conference

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, has called for greater opportunities for women and girls to assume leadership roles in sport, declaring that true gender equality must extend beyond participation to meaningful influence and decision-making.

Addressing delegates at the 2026 North American, Central American and Caribbean Athletics Association (NACAC) Gender Leadership Conference and Workshop, held October 30–31 at Beaches Resort in the Turks and Caicos Islands, Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam challenged sporting organisations across the Caribbean to dismantle long-standing barriers preventing women from advancing into executive positions.

The regional gathering, held under the theme "Levelling the Playing Field: Women Leading in Sports," brought together female sporting leaders, coaches, officials and administrators to promote gender equality, mentorship and greater representation in sporting leadership.

"Being present is not the same as having influence," the Governor declared, emphasising that women's achievements on the field must be matched by opportunities to shape the future of sport.

She noted that while women continue to excel as athletes, coaches and administrators, questions remain about their representation at the highest levels.

"Who makes the decisions; who controls the resources; who shapes policy; who sits around the executive table; and who are we preparing to occupy those seats next?" she asked.

Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam stressed that meaningful progress requires fundamental changes to the structures and attitudes that have traditionally determined who holds positions of authority.

"We cannot expect different outcomes while leaving untouched the assumptions, structures and habits that have determined who leads," she stated.

TCI Women Recognised as Trailblazers

Highlighting the contributions of pioneering women in the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Governor paid tribute to two prominent figures whose leadership has advanced women in sport locally and internationally.

Rita Gardiner was recognised for her long-standing gender advocacy and contributions to athletics, the Commonwealth Games Association and the TCI Sports Commission, as well as helping to establish Turks and Caicos Women in Sports.



Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam (centre) share lens with delegates in attendance at the NACCAC Gender Leadership Conference and Workshop at Beaches Turks and Caicos

The Governor also commended Sonia Fulford Missick, who made history as the first woman to serve as President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association before extending her leadership influence internationally.

Their achievements, she said, demonstrate that women belong not only in sporting competitions but also at the highest levels of administration.

However, Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam cautioned that progress should not be measured solely by individual breakthroughs, but by opportunities created for future generations.

"Progress is not simply about being the first woman through the door. Real progress is when the path becomes clearer for those coming behind," she said.

Mentorship Key to Developing Future Leaders

The Governor emphasised the importance of mentorship and leadership development, urging sporting organisations to provide young women with practical opportunities to gain experience in decision-making roles.

She said emerging female leaders must be encouraged not only to observe established leaders but also to develop their abilities through meaningful responsibilities and institutional support.

"Sometimes a woman has the ability long before she has the confidence. A mentor sees that ability. A good organisation develops it. And a strong leader creates space for it," she remarked.

Sport Can Help Prevent Domestic Violence

Beyond gender representation, Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam highlighted the wider social responsibilities of sporting institutions, particularly their potential to help prevent domestic violence and promote healthier relationships.

She said sport provides an important platform for developing discipline, teamwork, accountability and mutual respect among young people.

The Governor argued that sporting environments should teach children to manage disagreements without aggression, respect personal boundaries and build relationships founded on dignity and equality.

"If we are serious about preventing domestic violence and building healthier relationships, that work must begin early," she stated.

She explained that prevention involves challenging harmful attitudes before they become deeply rooted, including beliefs that diminish women or restrict their opportunities.

Coaches, administrators and sporting officials were urged to recognise their influence in shaping young people's values through the standards they establish and behaviours they demonstrate.

"We should be developing not only better athletes, but young people who understand that real strength includes discipline, respect and restraint," she said.

Call for Lasting Change Across the Region

Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam described the conference as an important opportunity to accelerate women's leadership in sport throughout the Caribbean.

She challenged delegates to ensure discussions translate into meaningful progress through stronger mentorship networks, greater leadership responsibilities for women and the removal of institutional barriers.

The Governor also urged established female leaders to create opportunities for others, ensuring their achievements become a foundation for future generations.

"To every woman gathered here, whether you already occupy a seat at the table or are preparing yourself to take one: Keep stepping forward. Keep making your voice heard," she encouraged.

In closing, she quoted celebrated author Toni Morrison: "If you have some power, then your job is to empower somebody else."

"As you lead, make room for someone else. That is how progress becomes lasting. That is how leadership becomes legacy. And that is how we truly level the playing field," Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam concluded.



Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam (left) and Minister of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor (left) flank Mike Sands, President of NACAC, at the Gender Leadership Conference and Workshop at Beaches Turks and Caicos.

Grace Bay Resorts Foundation Fun Run Returns November 14 with 5K and 10K Events

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief



The Grace Bay Resorts Foundation is preparing to host its second annual Fun Run on Saturday, November 14, 2026, bringing the community together for a morning of fitness, fun and charitable giving.

The event, scheduled to begin at 6 a.m. at the National Stadium in Providenciales, will feature both 5K and 10K distances, with proceeds benefiting two local charitable organisations, Food for Thought and the National Cancer Society.

Building on the success of its inaugural event in November 2025, the Foundation is once again inviting residents, families, fitness enthusiasts and corporate teams to lace up their running shoes in support of worthy causes.

Last year's inaugural Fun Run attracted approximately 300 participants, including runners, walkers, volunteers and supporters, demonstrating the community's willingness to rally behind charitable initiatives.

The first event supported United Way TCI and the Turks and Caicos Reef Fund, two organisations involved in community development and environmental conservation.

The strong turnout and support from local businesses helped establish the Fun Run as a promising addition to the Foundation's community outreach activities.

This year, organisers are expanding the event to include a 10K option alongside the 5K, providing an additional challenge for experienced runners while maintaining an accessible distance for those who simply want to walk, jog or participate for a good cause.

One of this year's beneficiaries, Food for Thought, is a local charitable organisation dedicated to combating childhood hunger and ensuring that students have access to nutritious meals during the school day.

Established in 2016 by Jeanne Savory and Karen Savory Igini, the charity was created in response to concerns that some children in the Turks and Caicos Islands were attending school without having eaten breakfast.

Through its school breakfast programme, Food for Thought provides meals to hundreds of children attending government schools across the islands, helping to improve their ability to concentrate, learn and participate fully in classroom activities.

The organisation's work recognises that proper nutrition is essential to a child's physical development, educational performance and overall well-being.

Support from fundraising initiatives such as the Grace Bay Resorts Foundation Fun Run helps raise awareness of childhood food insecurity and the importance of ensuring that no child begins the school day hungry.

The National Cancer Society, the second beneficiary of this year's Fun Run, plays an important role in promoting cancer awareness and supporting individuals and families affected by the disease throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Society works to educate the public about cancer prevention, the importance of early detection and the need for regular health screenings, while also providing support to those facing the physical, emotional and financial challenges associated with cancer.

Through community outreach and fundraising initiatives, the organisation continues to highlight the importance of public awareness and collective support for cancer patients and their families.

Its inclusion as a beneficiary of this year's event provides another opportunity for the community to contribute to efforts aimed at improving the lives of those affected by the disease.

Beyond raising funds, the annual Fun Run also promotes physical activity, healthy lifestyles and community involvement.

The addition of a 10K distance this year marks an expansion of the event and is expected to appeal to a broader range of participants, including seasoned runners seeking a longer-distance challenge.

The 5K option remains suitable for walkers, casual joggers, families and individuals who simply wish to participate in support of the two charities.

For the Grace Bay Resorts Foundation, the event represents another opportunity to bring the hospitality sector and the wider community together around shared charitable goals.

Registration costs $25 per participant, which includes an event T-shirt.

Participants can register by scanning the QR code on the official event flyer, while T-shirts can be collected from the Grace Bay Resorts office in Regent Village.

For additional information, interested persons can contact Jessica Frattolillo at jessica.frattolillo@gracebayresorts.com.

Hope nominated for ICC Player of the Month award

West Indies white-ball captain Shai Hope is among the trio nominated by the ICC for their Player of the Month award for October.

Hope, along with South Africa's Marco Jansen and Arafat Minhas of Pakistan, were announced as nominees by the ICC on Thursday.

The 32-year-old Hope delivered spectacular performances in both the recently concluded One Day International and T20I series against India last month.

After scoring just 12 in the ODI opener, Hope rebounded by scoring 104 in the second match, which helped the West Indies post their highest ever ODI score of 405 for seven.

He then scored an unbeaten 162 in the third and final match to lead his team to its highest-ever successful ODI run chase of 352 for five.

Hope carried that momentum into the five-match T20I series, registering two centuries, including an unbeaten 102 off 50 deliveries in the fourth match.



West Indies skipper scored a match-winning 162 not out off 143 balls in the third One-Day International cricket match against India on Saturday, October 3, 2026.

His remarkable consistency saw him finish the T20I series with 261 runs at a staggering strike rate of 190.51.

Meanwhile, Jansen delivered a series-defining performance against Australia, making valuable contributions with both bat and ball across the three ICC World Test Championship fixtures to help the Proteas clinch the series 2-1.

His standout effort came in the second Test at Gqeberha, where he scored 85 and claimed six wickets to help South Africa secure an innings and 31-run victory.

He followed it up with another half-century and three wickets in the series-deciding third Test as South Africa completed a turnaround in the series.

Minhas emerged as one of Pakistan's standout performers in their home ODI tri-series triumph over England, producing impactful performances with both bat and ball.

He starred against England with a crucial 59 before returning figures of 6-40, the second-best ODI bowling figures by a Pakistan bowler on home soil.

The all-rounder continued his fine form in the final against Sri Lanka, smashing 61 off just 31 deliveries to help Pakistan chase down 326 and lift the trophy.

His contributions throughout the tournament earned him the Player of the Series award.

25 TEAMS SET FOR INTER-PRIMARY COMPETITION

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Twenty-five teams are set to participate in the upcoming inter-primary competition, with excitement building among schools, teachers, coaches and young athletes ahead of what promises to be an entertaining and highly competitive tournament.

The opening round of matches is scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2026, beginning at 10 a.m., with the Under-12 Girls' Group A competition featuring simultaneous encounters between Oseta Jolly Primary School and MILLS Institute on Grass Field 1, and Enid Capron Primary School and Alpha Christian Academy on Grass Field 2.

The action will continue at 10:50 a.m., when Enid Capron Primary School oppose Thelma Lightbourne Primary School on Grass Field 1, while Provo Christian School take on MILLS on Grass Field 2. The final two matches listed for the morning will see Alpha Christian Academy facing Oseta Jolly Primary School and Thelma Lightbourne Primary School meeting Provo Christian School at 11:40 a.m. on Grass Fields 1 and 2, respectively.

The competition is expected to provide a platform for talented primary school athletes to showcase their abilities while representing their respective institutions in pursuit of championship honours.

With 25 teams preparing to compete, organisers will be hoping for keenly contested encounters as the participating schools seek to establish themselves among the leading contenders.

For many of the youngsters, the tournament will present an opportunity to test their skills against their peers while gaining valuable experience in an organised competitive environment.

Coaches and teachers are expected to play an important role in preparing their respective teams, with emphasis on physical readiness, teamwork, discipline and maintaining a positive attitude throughout the competition.

Although capturing the championship will undoubtedly be the main objective for several schools, the tournament is also expected to promote friendship, mutual respect and good sportsmanship among the young competitors.

The participation of 25 teams should ensure a lively atmosphere, with each institution hoping to make a strong impression during the opening round and build momentum as the competition progresses.

Supporters can anticipate spirited performances as the youngsters seek to demonstrate their abilities and reward the efforts of those who have assisted with their preparations.

The competition is also expected to attract interest from parents, guardians and members of the respective school communities, whose encouragement could provide additional motivation for the participating athletes.

Beyond the results, the tournament will offer an opportunity to identify promising young talent who could benefit from further coaching and development.

Sporting competitions at the primary school level provide youngsters with valuable exposure to structured competition while helping them develop confidence, leadership qualities and the ability to work effectively with others.

For the participating schools, the event presents an opportunity to strengthen their sporting programmes and assess the progress of athletes who have been undergoing preparation.

The opening round will be particularly important as teams seek to establish an early advantage and avoid setbacks that could affect their championship ambitions.

While some schools may enter the tournament with high expectations, determined performances from less-fancied teams could produce surprises.

The challenge of competing against other institutions is expected to inspire the youngsters to produce their best performances while maintaining respect for their opponents and the officials responsible for overseeing the matches.



Organisers will be hoping for a successful tournament characterised by fair play, enthusiastic participation and strong support from the school communities.

With 25 teams set to participate, the stage is being prepared for an exciting competition that could produce memorable performances, closely fought encounters and emerging sporting stars.

SALT RAKERS KIA RAFFLE FALLS SHORT OF FUNDRAISING TARGET AS GRAND DRAW APPROACHES

Swimming club makes urgent appeal for public support to help finance long-awaited Bight Community Swimming Pool

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

With less than four weeks remaining before its grand fundraising raffle draw, Salt Rakers Aquatic Club is appealing to residents, businesses and supporters across the Turks and Caicos Islands to help close a financial shortfall in its campaign to construct the proposed Bight Community Swimming Pool.

The club's highly anticipated raffle, featuring a brand-new 2026 Kia K3 motor vehicle among 10 prizes, is scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 28, 2026, at IGA Gourmet Supermarket in Providenciales.

However, with just 25 days remaining before the draw, organisers say ticket sales and fundraising contributions have not yet reached their financial target, prompting a renewed appeal for community support.

Bennett Williams, founder and head coach of Salt Rakers Aquatic Club, is urging individuals and corporate sponsors to purchase additional raffle tickets or make financial donations to help advance the ambitious community project.

"We are currently behind our financial target," Williams acknowledged in his appeal to supporters.

He stressed that the fundraising initiative is about much more than winning a vehicle, describing it as an investment in the future of swimming, water safety and youth development throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Bennett Williams, founder and head coach of Salt Rakers Aquatic Club

AMBITIOUS SWIMMING POOL PROJECT MOVING CLOSER TO REALITY

Despite the fundraising challenges, the proposed Bight Community Swimming Pool has reached several important development milestones.

According to Williams, the project has already secured approval from the Planning Department, while construction plans are currently being reviewed by BCQS for an updated financial assessment.

A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for December 15, 2026, with construction expected to begin in late December or early January 2027.

If the proposed schedule is achieved, the facility could be completed by summer 2027.

The planned development will feature a 25-metre, 10-lane swimming pool designed to accommodate swimming lessons, competitive training, water safety education and community aquatic programmes.

The facility is expected to serve children attending Enid Capron Primary School, other nearby educational institutions and families living in The Bight and surrounding communities.

For Williams, the project represents a significant step towards addressing the need for a dedicated swimming facility accessible to young people in Providenciales.

EIGHT YEARS OF DETERMINATION

For approximately eight years, Salt Rakers Aquatic Club has operated without a permanent training facility, relying on beaches and various swimming pools throughout Providenciales to develop its athletes.

Despite those limitations, the club has continued to train young swimmers who have gone on to represent the Turks and Caicos Islands in local, regional and international competitions.

Williams believes a permanent aquatic facility would provide greater consistency in training, expand access to swimming instruction and create additional opportunities for aspiring athletes.

The proposed pool would also strengthen water safety education, an important consideration for an island community where beaches, boating and other water-based activities are central to everyday life.

"This project is about more than constructing a swimming pool. It is about saving lives, teaching children essential water safety skills, developing future champions, and creating opportunities for generations to come," Williams emphasised.

$20 TICKETS OFFER CHANCE TO WIN KIA K3

As the November 28 deadline approaches, Salt Rakers is encouraging supporters to purchase raffle tickets priced at $20 each.

The raffle offers 10 prizes, with the 2026 Kia K3 motor vehicle serving as the headline attraction.

Organisers are hoping the opportunity to win the vehicle, combined with the wider community benefits of the swimming pool project, will generate a final surge in ticket sales.

The grand draw will take place at 4 p.m. at IGA Gourmet Supermarket, with music, entertainment and ticket sales planned throughout the day.

Members of the public are being encouraged to attend the celebration and demonstrate their support for the club's long-term vision.

In addition to purchasing raffle tickets, individuals and businesses can make direct financial contributions towards the proposed swimming pool.

Donations can be deposited into the club's Royal Bank of Canada account under the name Salt Rakers Aquatic, account number 7894777. Cheques can also be made payable to Salt Rakers Aquatic.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT CRITICAL TO SUCCESS

With the groundbreaking ceremony scheduled just over two weeks after the raffle draw, the club is entering a crucial period in its efforts to move the swimming pool project from planning to construction.

Although significant progress has been made in securing planning approval and advancing the construction process, the fundraising shortfall remains an immediate challenge.

Williams expressed appreciation to parents, swimmers, coaches, businesses and community members who have supported the organisation over the years.

He said their encouragement and generosity have helped sustain the club through years of operating without a permanent home.

Now, he is calling on that same community spirit to help deliver a facility that could benefit generations of young people.

The club is also inviting potential corporate sponsors and other interested supporters to discuss additional ways of contributing to the development.

For Salt Rakers Aquatic Club, the November 28 raffle represents more than a fundraising event. It is an important opportunity to secure further financial support for a project that aims to transform swimming development and water safety education in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

With the grand draw fast approaching and the fundraising target still unmet, the message from the club is clear: every ticket purchased and every donation received could help bring the Bight Community Swimming Pool one step closer to reality.