

H.J. ARE
CHAMPIONS

PG32



NEWSLINE

Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage



Immigration, Health
Authority Bills Passed
into Law PG4/19

BermudAir Launches
Service to the TCI on
October 26th PG9

“FREE MIKE”
PG11

STILL BLACKLISTED

EUROPEAN UNION COUNCIL'S OCTOBER 9 REPORT PLACES THE TCI
AMONG EIGHT COUNTRIES CLASSIFIED AS NON-COOPERATIVE
FOR TAX PURPOSES

>>> STORY ON PG5

MSME Business Directory

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Mr. Lofton Ellis, a Director of the Turks and Caicos Islands Tourism Authority, collected the World Travel Awards trophies at the Gala in Jamaica



The Sailrock Resort team collecting the Caribbean's Leading Luxury Island Resort 2026

Local Resorts and Tourism Businesses Shine at 2026 World Travel Awards

Several hotels, resorts and tourism-related businesses in the Turks and Caicos Islands have earned top honours at the 2026 World Travel Awards, highlighting the country's continued excellence in hospitality and tourism services.

The awards, presented during a ceremony in Jamaica on October 10, recognised some of the Turks and Caicos Islands' leading tourism operators, with local businesses securing honours in categories ranging from luxury accommodation and family resorts to car rentals, tour operations and destination management.

Among the major winners was The Palms Turks and Caicos, which captured two prestigious titles: Caribbean's Leading All-Suite Hotel 2026 and Turks & Caicos' Leading Hotel 2026.

Windsong Resort also celebrated a double victory, winning Turks & Caicos' Leading Boutique Hotel 2026, while its Four-Bedroom Oceanfront Penthouse was named Turks & Caicos' Leading Hotel Suite 2026.

Other major winners included Beaches, which secured the title of Caribbean's Leading All-Inclusive Family Resort 2026, and Sailrock South Caicos, which was named Caribbean's Leading Luxury Island Resort 2026.

Ambergris Cay Private Island Resort received the award for Caribbean's Leading Private Island Resort 2026, while Champion VIP was recognised as the Caribbean's Leading Chauffeur Company 2026.

Several other well-known properties also received national honours.

Amanyara was named Turks & Caicos' Leading Luxury Resort 2026, while Seven Stars Resort & Spa captured the title of Turks & Caicos' Leading Resort 2026.

Alexandra Resort was recognised as Turks & Caicos' Leading Family Resort 2026, and Rock House secured the award for Turks & Caicos' Leading Honeymoon Resort 2026.

Beyond the hotel and resort sector, local tourism service providers were also recognised for their contributions to the industry.

Grace Bay Car Rentals was named Turks & Caicos' Leading Car Rental Company 2026,



Caribbean's Leading Chauffeur Company 2026: Champion VIP

Olympia Destination Management Company won Turks & Caicos' Leading Destination Management Company 2026, and Caicos Dream Tours captured the title of Turks & Caicos' Leading Tour Operator 2026.

The recognition of these businesses highlights the range of tourism services available across the islands and the important role local operators play in delivering experiences to international visitors.

The individual awards came as the Turks and Caicos Islands also secured two major regional destination titles.

The country was once again named Caribbean's Leading Beach Destination, marking its 15th victory in that category, and Caribbean's Most Romantic Destination for the eighth consecutive year.

Minister of Tourism, the Honourable Zhavargo Jolly, welcomed the recognition, describing the awards as a reflection of the country's natural beauty and the experiences that continue to attract visitors.

"Being recognised 15 times as the Caribbean's Leading Beach Destination is an extraordinary achievement for the Turks and

Caicos Islands. It reflects the exceptional natural beauty of our country and the experiences that continue to attract visitors from around the world," Jolly said.

"Our beaches are more than a tourism attraction. They are part of our national identity, a source of opportunity for our people, and a natural inheritance that we have a responsibility to protect."

The Minister said the continued recognition also reinforces the Government's commitment to sustainable tourism, responsible development and protecting the country's beaches, reefs and coastal ecosystems.

Mr. Lofton Ellis, a board member of the newly established Turks and Caicos Islands Tourism Authority, represented the organisation at the awards ceremony in Jamaica.

In accepting the destination awards, Ellis paid tribute to the people working throughout the tourism industry, stressing that the honours were not solely about the country's natural attractions.

"These awards do not belong to our beaches alone- they belong to our people.

To every housekeeper, every boat captain, every chef, every immigration officer and every taxi service provider who welcomes our guests with a smile- this is yours," Ellis said.

He added that while Grace Bay continues to receive international recognition for its beauty, the warmth and hospitality of the Turks and Caicos people are central to the destination's appeal.

In a news release, Experience Turks and Caicos congratulated all the local winners, recognising their achievements at the regional and national levels.

The World Travel Awards are among the international tourism industry's recognised awards programmes, honouring excellence across travel, tourism and hospitality.

The latest wins further strengthen the Turks and Caicos Islands' international tourism profile while placing a spotlight on the resorts, hotels and service providers that help sustain the country's reputation as a leading Caribbean destination.



Turks & Caicos' Leading Car Rental Company 2026: Grace Bay Car Rentals



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✈	St Pete/Tampa	Dec 18th
✈	Bermuda and Cayman Islands	Dec 18th
✈	Anguilla	Dec 19th
✈	Toronto	Dec 19th
✈	Raleigh/Durham	Dec 20th
✈	Baltimore/DC	Dec 24th

Launch dates for Bermuda Air Routes to *South Caicos*

✈	Newark	Dec 20th
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IMMIGRATION BILL PASSSES INTO LAW

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands House of Parliament has passed the Immigration Bill 2026 into law on Thursday, October 22, marking a major step toward sweeping reforms of the territory’s immigration system, including stricter work-permit rules, a longer pathway to permanent residence and stronger border enforcement measures. The legislation, introduced in September by Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services Hon. Jamell Robinson, is intended to replace the existing Immigration Act and modernise the management of immigration in the territory.

Among the most significant changes is a restructuring of the pathway to permanent residence, which could have far-reaching implications for thousands of foreign nationals living and working in the Islands. Under the previous system, qualifying individuals could generally apply for a Permanent Residence Certificate (PRC) after 10 years of lawful residence. The new framework introduces a two-stage process that could extend the normal pathway to approximately 20 years. Applicants would first need to complete 10 years of lawful and ordinary residence before becoming eligible for a Residence and Employment Rights Certificate (RERC). They would then be required to hold that certificate for another 10 years before qualifying to apply for permanent residence. The legislation also introduces a points-



Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services Hon. Jamell Robinson

based assessment system for certain residency applications, taking into account factors such as age, education, English-language proficiency, skilled employment, financial stability, character and contributions to the territory.

Another major provision is a general 10-year limit on work permits. Under the proposed framework, most foreign workers who reach that limit would be required to leave the territory and remain outside the work-permit system for at least one year before becoming eligible to return. However, exemptions are provided for several categories of workers, including healthcare professionals, teachers, caregivers, farmers, utility workers, aviation and marine personnel, and certain government

employees.

The changes are expected to attract considerable attention from employers in tourism, hospitality, construction and other industries that depend heavily on expatriate labour.

The Bill also seeks to strengthen employment opportunities for Turks and Caicos Islanders. Employers with 15 or more work-permit holders would be required to submit staffing plans outlining recruitment needs, training commitments and strategies for developing local employees.

For foreign investors, the legislation proposes a renewable 25-year Long Term Residence Permit, replacing certain existing investment-based residency arrangements. However, the investor permit would not automatically confer permanent residence or Turks and Caicos Islander status. The framework also provides for lower investment thresholds on Grand Turk, Salt Cay, South Caicos, North Caicos and Middle Caicos to encourage development beyond Providenciales.

Border security and immigration enforcement are also central to the reforms. The legislation provides for enhanced passenger screening, Electronic Travel Authorisation, biometric identification and electronic border-control systems. It also seeks to strengthen penalties and enforcement procedures relating to illegal entry, overstaying, unauthorised employment and immigration fraud.

Additional provisions address new visa categories, including business visitor and student visas, as well as responsibilities placed on employers, airlines and immigration

representatives.

Importantly, transitional arrangements are intended to protect certain individuals who have already qualified for permanent residence under the existing system.

According to the Government’s explanation of the Bill, individuals who have reached the previous 10-year residency threshold, or who reach that threshold within 12 months of the new legislation taking effect, would be allowed to apply under the former arrangements, subject to the applicable requirements.

The Government has maintained that the reforms are designed to strengthen border security, improve immigration administration and ensure that economic growth translates into greater opportunities for Turks and Caicos Islanders.

However, the legislation also raises important questions about its impact on expatriate families, businesses and the territory’s ability to attract and retain skilled foreign workers.

Although the Bill has passed the House of Parliament, its provisions will not necessarily take effect immediately. Implementation will depend on the required legal procedures, including commencement arrangements and any accompanying regulations. With the legislation now approved by Parliament, attention will turn to how the Government implements the reforms and manages their impact on residents, employers and the wider economy.

The Immigration Bill represents a significant shift in the territory’s immigration policy, with implications likely to be felt across the Turks and Caicos Islands for years to come.

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TCI Remains on EU Tax Blacklist as Questions Mount Over Government’s Efforts to Secure Removal

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands remains on the European Union’s tax blacklist following its latest review, raising fresh concerns about the territory’s international financial reputation and whether sufficient action has been taken to address the regulatory deficiencies that led to its inclusion.

The Council of the European Union announced on October 9 that TCI would remain among eight jurisdictions classified as non-cooperative for tax purposes, even as Panama and Vietnam were removed from the blacklist after making progress in addressing outstanding international tax compliance concerns.

The development comes eight months after TCI was placed on the list in February 2026, following concerns raised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) about weaknesses in the territory’s enforcement of economic-substance requirements.

However, information reaching NewslineTCI raises questions about whether the Government’s efforts to secure removal from the blacklist may have stalled following the early retirement of an official reportedly entrusted with overseeing the undertaking.

NewslineTCI understands that following the announcement of TCI’s blacklisting, responsibility for coordinating efforts to have the territory removed was entrusted to Henry Saunders.

Saunders subsequently took early retirement, and information reaching this publication suggests that the assignment was left unattended following his departure.

If confirmed, the circumstances would raise serious questions about whether the Government established adequate arrangements to ensure continuity and whether any interruption affected the territory’s ability to satisfy the requirements for removal.

NewslineTCI has not independently

established that the work stopped following Saunders’ retirement or that his departure contributed to TCI remaining blacklisted.

Nevertheless, the information raises questions about accountability, continuity of leadership and the Government’s handling of an issue with potentially significant implications for the financial services industry.

When TCI was blacklisted in February, the Government acknowledged that the international assessment had identified weaknesses in its economic-substance compliance programme, particularly in enforcement, monitoring and statistical reporting.

Economic-substance requirements are intended to ensure that companies operating in offshore financial jurisdictions maintain genuine economic activities rather than simply establishing corporate structures to benefit from favourable tax arrangements.

In response, the Government announced several corrective measures, including improvements to its reporting systems, stronger data collection and analysis, and enhanced monitoring capabilities within the Financial Transactions Information Exchange Unit.

It also outlined plans to strengthen enforcement through legislative amendments giving the unit sanctioning powers, while providing additional statistical and analytical training for personnel.

However, TCI’s continued inclusion on the blacklist has renewed questions about how much progress has actually been made and whether the promised reforms have been implemented effectively.

The EU’s October announcement did not provide a detailed assessment of the territory’s progress, meaning its continued listing does not, by itself, establish that corrective work was neglected.

Attention is also turning to the Financial Services Commission (FSC), the territory’s principal financial services regulator, over what role it has played in safe-

guarding confidence in the jurisdiction during the blacklisting controversy.

While responsibility for administering economic-substance compliance rests with designated government authorities, questions remain about the extent of the FSC’s involvement in identifying regulatory risks and coordinating with other agencies.

Was the FSC aware that Saunders had reportedly been assigned responsibility for securing TCI’s removal from the blacklist, and was it informed when he retired?

Did the Commission seek assurances that the assignment had been transferred to another official, and did it raise any concerns about the pace of corrective action?

More importantly, has the FSC assessed whether continued blacklisting is affecting the territory’s attractiveness to international investors, financial institutions and companies seeking to establish operations in TCI?

The Commission should also clarify whether it has identified weaknesses within its own regulatory responsibilities that could undermine confidence in the territory’s financial services framework.

These questions do not establish wrongdoing by the FSC, but they underscore the need for greater transparency about the responsibilities of the various institutions involved.

Meanwhile, Panama and Vietnam have been moved to Annex II of the EU’s tax cooperation framework, which recognises jurisdictions working with European authorities to address outstanding commitments.

Although both countries remain subject to further assessments, their removal from the blacklist demonstrates progress in addressing the concerns raised against them.

TCI, however, remains listed alongside American Samoa, Anguilla, Guam, Palau, Russia, the US Virgin Islands and Vanuatu.



Premier and Minister of Finance, Investment and Trade Hon. Washington Misick

The EU blacklist, established in 2017, is designed to promote tax transparency, fair taxation and compliance with international standards. Inclusion does not mean that individual businesses have committed tax offences, but it can expose jurisdictions to increased scrutiny and reputational concerns.

With the next review expected in February 2027, the Government now faces mounting pressure to demonstrate meaningful progress.

Of particular importance is whether another official assumed responsibility following Saunders’ retirement, what corrective measures have been completed and whether any delays occurred in implementing the Government’s commitments.

The Government should also clarify whether Saunders was formally assigned the undertaking, when he relinquished responsibility and what arrangements were made to ensure continuity.

Ministry Provides Update on Temporary Closure of Three Degrees Building in Grand Turk

The Ministry of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development wishes to provide an update on the temporary closure of the Three Degrees Building in Grand Turk and the ongoing efforts to ensure its safe reopening.

Following initial environmental assessments, Legionella bacteria were detected in the building’s water system. In response, the building’s landlord, working in close coordination with the Public Works Department (PWD) and Environmental Health Department (EHD), undertook remedial measures, including flushing and chemical disinfection of the

water system.

These remedial works have been completed, and post-remediation water samples were collected on Wednesday, 21 October 2026, and submitted for laboratory analysis. The Ministry is awaiting the results of this testing to determine whether the building can safely reopen.

The health, safety and well-being of government employees and members of the public remain the Ministry’s foremost priorities. Accordingly, staff will not return to the building until the testing results have been reviewed and the appropriate safety clearance has been obtained.

Temporary Government Service Locations

To ensure the continued delivery of essential public services, the following departments are operating from alternative locations during the temporary closure:

Government Department	Temporary Location
Border Force	Port Of- fice, South Base
Registrar General’s Office	Minis- try of Home Affairs Headquarters, Church Folly
Department of Citizenship	Minis- try of Home Affairs Headquarters, Church

Folly and Naturalisation

The temporary operating arrangements for the Department of Labour will be confirmed separately, if applicable.

The Ministry appreciates the patience and cooperation of affected employees and members of the public and remains committed to providing timely and transparent updates as the necessary safety assessments are finalised.

A further announcement will be made once the required clearance has been obtained and a reopening date will be communicated.

The Real Issue Isn't Haitian Investment — It's years of Governmental Neglect!

An Op-Ed By Paladin

Turks and Caicos Islands is once again being told to fear the wrong people. In Parliament this week, the Deputy Premier warned that Haitian investors — through pooled capital, community networks, and lower construction costs — may accumulate more property and wealth than Turks and Caicos Islanders over the next century. He framed this as an existential threat, a slow moving economic displacement, a cultural erosion driven by immigration mismanagement. But the argument collapses under scrutiny. Not because the numbers are wrong — though they are speculative — but because the **entire premise is misdirected.** The Haitian community is not the cause of Turks and Caicos Islanders' economic stagnation. The Haitian community is the **symptom** of a government that has failed, for decades, to build a financial system that empowers its own citizens. The Deputy Premier's speech warns of a future in which Haitian investors own more rental units, build more efficiently, and accumulate more equity. But he never asks the only question that matters: **Why were Turks and Caicos Islanders left so economically vulnerable in the first place? The Deputy Premier's Argument Begins With a False Premise** The speech imagines a Haitian investor who:

- pools community capital
- avoids bank financing
- hires workers cheaply
- builds at \$100 per square foot
- ends with 75% equity

Meanwhile, the Turks and Caicos Islander:

- cannot access credit
- pays full labour costs
- builds at \$350 per square foot
- ends with 5% equity

The comparison is dramatic — but it is also **an indictment of the Government,** not of Haitian immigrants. If Haitian investors can pool capital, why can't Turks and Caicos Islanders? If Haitian communities can organize labour, why can't Turks and Caicos Islanders? If Haitian families can save, plan, and invest, why can't Turks and Caicos Islanders? The Deputy Premier's own words reveal the truth: **Haitian investors succeed because they do what Turks and Caicos Islanders were**

never structurally empowered to do. This is not a Haitian advantage. This is a Turks and Caicos disadvantage — engineered by policy, not by immigration. **The Haitian Community Did Not Create the Banking Crisis — TCIG Did** The Deputy Premier admits: "This is partly the fault of our own banking and financing models." Partly? It is **entirely** the fault of those models. For decades:

- Banks refused to lend to ordinary Turks and Caicos Islanders.
- National Insurance funds were guarded like relics instead of deployed as development capital.
- The Sovereign Fund remained underutilized.
- No cooperative financing institutions were built for locals.
- No national credit union was empowered to support citizen developers.
- No construction cost reforms were implemented.
- No labour market modernization occurred.

The result is predictable: **Locals cannot build. Locals cannot borrow. Locals cannot compete.** And now, instead of confronting this failure, the Government points to Haitian investors — people who saved, planned, obeyed the law, and built their futures — and frames their success as a threat. That is not leadership. That is deflection. **The Deputy Premier's Scenario Quietly Assumes Haitian Criminality — Without Evidence** The speech repeatedly suggests:

- undocumented labour
- illegal payment practices
- non compliance with labour laws

But provides **no data**, no investigations, no audits, no prosecutions, no evidence. If illegal labour practices exist, then:

- **enforce the law**
- **inspect worksites**
- **penalize violators**
- **protect workers**

But do not imply that an entire ethnic community is prospering because of illegality. That is xenophobia dressed as economics. **Haitian Success Is Not a Threat — It Is a Blueprint** The Haitian community in Turks and Caicos:

- saves aggressively
- pools capital
- builds cooperatively

- supports one another
- invests in property
- plans generationally

These are not threats. These are **best practices.** If Turks and Caicos Islanders adopted the same discipline, the same community based financing, the same long term planning, the same cooperative structures, the same refusal to wait for government handouts — the Deputy Premier's hypothetical "75% equity vs 5% equity" gap would disappear overnight. The Haitian community is not undermining Turks and Caicos prosperity. It is demonstrating how prosperity is built. **The Real Economic Threat Is Not Haitian Investment — It Is Foreign Wealth Colonizing the Islands** The Deputy Premier warns of Haitian investors building 10 unit apartments. But he says nothing about:

- multimillion dollar foreign developers
- luxury enclaves
- gated communities
- offshore capital
- land banking
- speculative real estate
- foreign ownership of beachfronts
- the pricing out of locals
- the erosion of national sovereignty through wealth concentration

Haitian investors are not the ones buying entire coastlines. They are not the ones driving land prices into the stratosphere. They are not the ones reshaping the country's demographic and economic landscape. The Deputy Premier is pointing at the wrong horizon. **Turks and Caicos Islanders Were Not Outcompeted — They Were Unprotected** The Haitian community did not disenfranchise Turks and Caicos Islanders. The Government did. By failing to:

- create citizen first financing
- regulate construction costs
- modernize labour markets
- enforce labour laws
- build cooperative institutions
- deploy national capital strategically
- protect local land ownership
- support citizen developers
- plan for demographic change

The Government left Turks and Caicos Islanders exposed — and now blames immigrants for filling the vacuum. **Immigration Is Not the Problem — Governance Is** Immigration does not transfer

wealth away from locals. **Weak institutions do.** Immigration does not create economic vulnerability. **Policy failure does.** Immigration does not determine who owns the future. **Leadership does.** The Deputy Premier warns of a 100 year transformation. But the transformation already happened — not because Haitians built apartments, but because Turks and Caicos leaders failed to build a nation. **Stop Blaming Haitians. Start Building Turks and Caicos.** The Haitian community is not the threat. The Haitian community is the **control group** — the example of what disciplined, cooperative, community driven investment looks like. If Turks and Caicos Islanders want to compete, they must adopt the same principles:

- pooled capital
- cooperative finance
- community investment
- disciplined saving
- long term planning
- shared ownership

And the Government must finally do its job:

- enforce labour laws
- modernize financing
- deploy national capital
- protect local land
- empower citizen developers

The Deputy Premier is right about one thing: **The next 100 years will determine who owns Turks and Caicos.** But the deciding factor will not be Haitian investors. It will be whether Turks and Caicos Islanders finally receive the tools, institutions, and protections they were denied for the last 50 years.



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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

Morris Backs Health Services Authority Bill, Demands Greater Accountability and Better Healthcare Across TCI

Grand Turk North Member of Parliament Hon. Otis “Chuck” Morris has thrown his full support behind the Turks and Caicos Islands Health Services Authority Bill 2026, describing the legislation as a long-overdue opportunity to strengthen healthcare governance, improve accountability and ensure better medical services for residents throughout the territory.

Speaking during parliamentary debate on the Bill, Morris stressed that healthcare reform must deliver meaningful improvements for patients and families rather than simply establish another statutory institution.

“The patient must come first,” Morris declared, emphasizing that healthcare must prioritize people over bureaucracy, personalities and institutional interests.

He said the proposed legislation represents an important step toward modernizing the administration of healthcare services as the Turks and Caicos Islands continues to experience population growth, economic expansion and increasing demands on its medical infrastructure.

“We cannot build tomorrow’s Turks and Caicos Islands with yesterday’s systems,” he told Parliament.

Accountability Must Drive Healthcare Reform

Morris emphasized that establishing a Health Services Authority must be accompanied by stronger financial oversight, transparency and measurable improvements in healthcare delivery.

He argued that public confidence depends on clear standards, effective management and institutions that are answerable to the people they serve.

“There must be accountability for public resources. There must be accountability for

performance. There must be accountability for standards,” he stated.

The Grand Turk North MP challenged policymakers to examine whether patients receive timely treatment, healthcare professionals have adequate support, medical facilities are properly equipped and complaints are effectively addressed.

He also called for responsible management of public funds, insisting that healthcare expenditure must produce tangible benefits. “Every dollar must work for the people,” Morris said.

He maintained that every major expenditure should be justified and that institutions entrusted with taxpayers’ money must demonstrate value and accountability.

Family Islands Must Receive Fair Treatment

A major focus of Morris’s contribution was the importance of equitable healthcare access across the territory, particularly for residents living outside Providenciales.

He warned that smaller communities must not be disadvantaged because of their geographical location.

“Our people should not feel forgotten because they live outside the largest population centre,” Morris declared.

He acknowledged that providing every specialized medical service on every island would be impractical, but insisted that improvements in medical transportation, patient referrals, specialist visits and continuity of care must remain priorities.

Morris identified telemedicine, electronic health information systems and improved diagnostic capabilities as opportunities to address geographical barriers.

He said residents of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, South Caicos, Middle Caicos and North Ca-

icos deserve a healthcare system that responds effectively to their needs.

Invest in Local Healthcare Professionals

Morris also called for greater investment in developing a skilled local healthcare workforce, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, therapists, technicians and public-health specialists.

He urged increased scholarships, professional training and opportunities for Turks and Caicos Islanders to return home after completing medical studies abroad.

“Our young people must be able to look at our healthcare system and see opportunities for themselves,” he said.

According to Morris, developing local talent is essential to building a sustainable healthcare system capable of serving future generations.

He also praised existing healthcare professionals for their dedication and compassion, reminding Parliament that successful healthcare delivery depends on people rather than buildings and equipment alone. “Buildings do not care for patients — people do,” he remarked.

Prevention and Healthier Lifestyles

Beyond institutional reform, Morris advocated stronger preventive healthcare programmes aimed at reducing illness and improving residents’ overall wellbeing.

He called for greater emphasis on health education, early disease detection, regular screening, proper nutrition, physical activity and mental health.

He also highlighted maternal and child healthcare and the importance of addressing chronic illnesses.

Morris argued that the healthcare system must focus not only on treating sickness but also on helping people remain healthy.

Implementation Will Determine Success



Government Backbencher Otis Morris

While endorsing the proposed legislation, Morris cautioned that parliamentary approval would represent only the beginning of meaningful healthcare reform.

“Passing legislation is only the beginning. The real test comes with implementation,” he warned.

He said success must be measured through shorter waiting times, improved medical standards, stronger accountability and better treatment experiences for patients and families.

Morris urged lawmakers to consider the long-term consequences of their decisions, stressing that today’s healthcare policies will shape the wellbeing of future generations.

He concluded by reaffirming his support for the Bill and calling for a healthcare system grounded in professionalism, transparency, compassion and measurable results.

“We must build it. We must strengthen it. We must modernize it. We must hold it accountable. And above all, we must ensure that it serves the people,” Morris declared. His message was clear: healthcare reform must ultimately be judged not by the creation of another institution, but by improvements experienced by ordinary residents across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

TCI Bar President Fulford Pays Courtesy Call on Korean Bar Association

President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Bar Association, Mark A. Fulford, paid a courtesy call on the Korean Bar Association at its headquarters in Seoul on Monday, 12 October 2026.

Mr. Fulford was received by Mr. Jung-Hyuk Hur, First Vice President of International Affairs, and Ms. Chay-Eun Ha, Second Vice President of International Affairs.

The Korean representatives spoke of an Association serving more than 30,000 lawyers, with a governance body comprising approximately 40 members. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange perspectives on the organisation and work of their respective Associations.

Mr. Fulford conveyed greetings on behalf of the Turks and Caicos Bar As-



Mark Fulford (centre), President of the TCI Bar Association shares a photo op with Mr. Jung-Hyuk Hur (right), First Vice President of International Affairs, and Ms. Chay-Eun Ha, Second Vice President of International Affairs in South Korea.

sociation and welcomed the opportunity to discuss shared professional

interests.

Electronic court systems featured prominently in the discussions. The Korean representatives explained that Korea has had electronic civil court processes for 22 years and has now moved fully to electronic criminal court processes. Their experience provided a valuable perspective on the transition from paper-based systems to digital court working.

Mr. Fulford shared developments in the Turks and Caicos Islands, including the judiciary’s own civil electronic filing and digital court processes, and its approach to the responsible use of artificial intelligence.

The Korean representatives also discussed their Association’s work on guidance concerning AI in legal practice. The exchange highlighted the

importance of embracing technological advances while maintaining professional standards and confidence in the administration of justice.

The discussions extended to continuing legal education and international arbitration, including the value of exchanging knowledge and strengthening practitioners’ skills, particularly those of younger lawyers.

Mr. Fulford emphasised the importance of ensuring that the TCI legal profession remains equipped to meet the demands of an evolving economy and increasingly complex legal work.

The courtesy call established contact between the two Associations and provided a useful exchange of experiences on shared professional interests.



Local government and tourism officials meet with representatives of BermudAir



Local Government and tourism officials, and Representatives of BermudAir take time for a photo op

BermudAir Launches Service to the TCI on October 26th, Expanding Connectivity Ahead of Winter Season

The Turks and Caicos Islands welcomes BermudAir as the airline begins its service to the destination on Monday, October 26th, marking the start of a wider expansion that will connect us with additional cities across the United States, Canada and the Caribbean.

BermudAir's service will begin with a new nonstop service between Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Providenciales. The flight will depart from the Howard Hamilton International Airport at 8 am on Monday morning and arrives at 7.40 pm.

Aboard the inaugural flight will be a delegation from the Turks and Caicos Islands led by Experience Turks and Caicos and the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority (TCIAA), and will include Deputy Governor, Her Excellency Anya Williams, Minister of Tourism, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, as well as representatives of the Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA), the board of the Turks and Caicos Islands Tourism Authority, Invest TC and local media.

BermudAir will operate the Fort Lauderdale–Providenciales route three times weekly, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, through May 3rd, 2027,

making it easier for business travellers with the schedule offering the potential for same-day return trips. The airline is also launching nonstop service between Fort Lauderdale and Belize City, Belize, on the same schedule, offering travellers in South Florida direct access to both destinations.

The new service introduces BermudAir's premium leisure in-flight experience to the Turks and Caicos Islands. Flights will operate on Embraer E190 aircraft configured without middle seats, giving every passenger a window or aisle seat, alongside complimentary snacks and beverages.

Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, welcomed the airline's arrival, noting the importance of expanding airlift to support the continued development of the destination's tourism industry.

"Air connectivity remains one of the most important factors in the continued development of our tourism industry. BermudAir's expansion represents an opportunity to strengthen our connections with key international markets while opening new doors for our sister islands. I am particularly encouraged by

the planned direct service between Newark and South Caicos, which speaks directly to our vision of expanding tourism opportunities across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"Our objective is to ensure that improved connectivity translates into greater economic activity, stronger local businesses and more opportunities for Turks and Caicos Islanders to participate in and benefit from tourism," said Minister Jolly.

Commenting on the significance of the new route for the country's development, the Hon. Arlington Musgrove, Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development (PPID), stated: "The introduction of BermudAir's new service is a testament to the continued growth and development of our aviation sector. The Ministry of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development, alongside the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority, remains dedicated to enhancing our airport infrastructure to accommodate increased airlift. We are committed to working to ensure that our facilities provide a seamless, world-class experience for all incoming passengers and we warmly welcome BermudAir to our shores."

The Fort Lauderdale launch is the first of several new services BermudAir plans to introduce to the Turks and Caicos Islands for the 2026–2027 winter season. Additional connections to Providenciales are scheduled from:

- Bermuda to TCI and Grand Cayman: Beginning December 18th, 2026
- Anguilla: Beginning December 19th, 2026
- Boston, Massachusetts: Beginning December 19th, 2026
- Toronto, Canada: Beginning December 19th, 2026
- Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina: Beginning December 20th, 2026
- Newark, New Jersey to South Caicos: Beginning December 20th, 2026
- St. Petersburg/Tampa, Florida: Beginning December 21st, 2026
- Baltimore-Washington: Beginning December 24th, 2026

The expansion will give travellers more options for reaching the destination during the winter travel season, while broadening access from established and developing source markets. The additional routes also create opportunities for tourism stakeholders to reach new audiences and encourage visitors to explore more of the islands.

Turks & Caicos Real Estate Market Stages Remarkable Third-Quarter Rally

Traditionally the slowest sales quarter of the year, Q3 2026 emerges as the strongest, signalling renewed momentum despite a changing property market.

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks & Caicos Islands real estate market staged an impressive comeback in the third quarter of 2026, with sales volume surging approximately 54% compared with the same period last year, according to a market report released by Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty, using transaction data from the Turks & Caicos Real Estate Association (TCREA).

The unexpected rally transformed what has historically been the quietest sales period into the strongest quarter of 2026, providing a welcome boost following an unusually subdued first half of the year.

According to the report, year-to-date real estate sales reached approximately \$310.6 million across 255 transactions, with an average selling price of \$1.2 million.

While overall sales volume remains approximately 25% below the corresponding period in 2025, the improvement is significant. At the halfway point of 2026, sales volume had been running approximately 50% behind the previous year.

Joe Zahm, President and Broker of Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty, described the third-quarter performance as an encouraging turnaround in a year marked by changing market conditions.

"Typically our slowest quarter, this year our largest quarter," Zahm noted in the company's market commentary, highlighting the unusual nature of the recovery.

For more than 15 years, the company has published quarterly market reports tracking the evolution of the islands' real estate sector. Zahm explained that the dramatic increase in sales volumes over the past six years has transformed the market, making quarterly fluctuations increasingly important in understanding broader trends.

Luxury Sales Lead the Recovery

The third-quarter rally was driven in part by several significant luxury property transactions, most notably the \$27 million sale of La Dolce Vita, alongside other high-value sales and properties under contract at prices exceeding \$8 million.

According to the report, single-family homes remained the largest contributor to overall sales volume, generating \$168.4 million across 62 transactions, with an average selling price of approximately \$2.7 million.

Other notable transactions included Kailoa, a Long Bay beachfront property that sold for \$7.5 million, and Nine Signature, which achieved \$5.7 million.

The condominium sector recorded \$67.8 million across 66 transactions, with an average selling price of approximately \$1.03 million. Although activity declined compared with the corresponding period in 2025, several major resort and residential developments continue to provide a substantial pipeline of future transactions.

Projects including The Loren at Turtle Cove, Andaz Residences and Arc Sky Villas



SUMMARY

With approximately \$310.6 million in completed sales in 255 transactions the market experienced a bit of a rally this 3rd Quarter playing catch up to the previous years' sales volume. And with the significant sale it was also surprising to see the drop in overall average sales price albeit the condominium sector was a contributing factor as displayed in the following graphs.

With a range of properties currently available across the islands, buyers have more options to consider and can take a more selective approach to their purchasing decisions. This competitive environment places greater emphasis on pricing, property features and overall value, as buyers evaluate the opportunities best suited to their needs and investment objectives.

The data in the graphs was compiled from the TCREA MLS System on October 5, 2026. The information is reliable, but is in no way guaranteed.

A chart showing the overall performance of the real estate market in the Turks and Caicos Islands over the past six years

at South Bank are expected to contribute additional momentum as construction progresses and pending sales reach completion.

Meanwhile, land sales demonstrated particularly strong performance, generating \$71.2 million across 124 transactions, with an average selling price of approximately \$574,000.

This represented a substantial increase from the \$47.5 million recorded during the corresponding period in 2025, reflecting continued investor interest in development opportunities and long-term land ownership.

Market Undergoing Structural Shift

Despite the encouraging third-quarter performance, Zahm cautioned that the broader real estate market is undergoing a meaningful transition.

The report highlights what industry experts have described as an "asymmetric structural shift," in which property supply remains steady or increases while buyer

demand slows.

This changing balance is creating a more selective purchasing environment, offering buyers greater choice and additional time to assess investment opportunities.

However, softer transaction activity has not yet translated into significant downward pressure on property prices.

Zahm explained that the strength of the islands' tourism sector continues to provide an important buffer, with many property owners able to generate rental income while maintaining their asking prices.

Consequently, sellers are often prepared to remain patient rather than accept substantial reductions, contributing to a market characterised by lower transaction volumes but relatively resilient property values.

The report suggests that the developments of 2026 may ultimately represent a sustainable rebalancing following several years of extraordinary growth.

The Enduring Appeal of Island Living

Beyond sales figures and market cycles, Zahm emphasised that the enduring strength of the Turks & Caicos Islands lies in its distinctive lifestyle and international appeal.

The islands continue to attract a diverse community of homeowners and investors drawn by their award-winning beaches, turquoise waters, luxury residences, quality amenities and accessibility.

For many purchasers, the attraction extends well beyond financial investment, encompassing the opportunity to establish family connections and embrace a unique Caribbean lifestyle.

"At the end of the day, the real measure of a destination's success is not how quickly it grows, but how deeply people come to love it," Zahm stated in the report.

He noted that many investors have discovered in Turks & Caicos an exceptional combination of natural beauty, quality services, welcoming communities and lifestyle opportunities that distinguish the destination from other Caribbean islands.

Outlook Remains Encouraging

As the market enters the final quarter of 2026, the third-quarter rally offers encouraging evidence of continued demand, particularly for exceptional properties in prime locations.

Although changing market conditions call for measured expectations, the islands' established international appeal, strong tourism sector and continued development activity remain important foundations for future growth.

For Zahm and Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty, the focus remains on providing informed market guidance while helping buyers, sellers and investors navigate an evolving property landscape.

The company, which has documented the market's development for more than 15 years, reaffirmed its commitment to helping clients and their families discover their own place within the Turks & Caicos lifestyle.



Joe Zahm, President and Broker of Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty

Musgrove Backs Immigration Bill 2026, Says Turks and Caicos Islanders Must Come First

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Former Minister of Immigration and Border Services, Hon. Arlington Musgrove, has thrown his full support behind the Immigration Bill 2026, describing the legislation as a major step towards protecting employment opportunities for Turks and Caicos Islanders, strengthening border security and ensuring greater control over population growth. Speaking during debate in the House of Assembly on Thursday, October 15, 2026, Musgrove said the Bill places Islanders at the centre of national development while recognising the contributions of foreign workers and investors to the country's economy. "This is not a Bill against anyone," Musgrove declared. "The Turks and Caicos Islands has grown through enterprise, investment, tourism and the contribution of many people who have come here lawfully to work and build." However, he warned that unmanaged population growth places increasing pressure on housing, education, healthcare, infrastructure and employment opportunities. "Growth without proper management places pressure on our housing, schools, health services, infrastructure, labour market, culture and sense of national belonging. A small country cannot afford to let those pressures be managed by chance," he said. Musgrove insisted that population development must be determined by the country's long-term interests rather than simply responding to immediate economic demands. **Islanders Must Get Fair Chance at Jobs**



Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Arlington Musgrove

A central focus of Musgrove's contribution was the need to ensure that qualified Turks and Caicos Islanders are given meaningful opportunities to secure employment in their own country. He argued that businesses should not be permitted to bypass suitably qualified Islanders when recruiting workers, while acknowledging that foreign expertise remains necessary in sectors experiencing skills shortages. "That is not discrimination. It is responsible nation-building," he declared. "We cannot simply import skills forever while failing to build the skills, confidence and careers of our own people." Musgrove welcomed provisions requiring larger employers and businesses designated by the Commissioner of Labour to submit staffing plans aimed at encouraging workforce development and training.

He said the requirement would encourage employers to plan beyond immediate vacancies and invest in preparing Islanders for future employment opportunities. "This is not an anti-business measure. It is a pro-fairness, pro-training and pro-national-development measure," he stressed. **Ten-Year Work Permit Limit** Among the significant provisions highlighted by Musgrove is a proposed ten-year limit for most work permit holders. Under the framework outlined during his contribution, affected foreign workers would be required to spend one year outside the Turks and Caicos Islands before beginning another work-permit cycle. Exceptions would apply to certain sectors where continuity of employment is considered essential. Musgrove argued that temporary work permits should not become an indefinite substitute for a structured long-term immigration policy. He maintained that the measure would balance the country's need for skilled foreign labour with responsible population management. **Stronger Border Security** Drawing on his experience as a former Immigration Minister, Musgrove said legislative reform was essential to address growing challenges involving irregular migration, transnational crime, increased international travel and pressure on public services. "As a former Minister of Immigration and Border Services, I have seen firsthand that immigration reform is not optional. It is essential," he told lawmakers. Musgrove recalled championing legislative changes during his tenure and said the Im-

migration Bill 2026 advances those efforts by providing clearer immigration rules, stronger enforcement powers and greater accountability. He emphasised that the Turks and Caicos Islands must remain welcoming to lawful migrants while maintaining firm enforcement against immigration violations. "This Bill affirms a simple but fundamental principle; the Turks and Caicos Islands must remain welcoming to those who come lawfully and contribute positively, but firm with those who seek to evade our laws or take advantage of our hospitality," he stated. **Immigration and National Sovereignty** Musgrove also linked immigration reform to the country's ability to manage its own affairs, arguing that effective border control is a practical expression of sovereignty. "Sovereignty is not an abstract idea," he declared. "It is the practical ability of a country to decide who may enter its territory, on what terms they may remain, whether they may work, and when the law requires that they leave." He stressed that immigration enforcement must remain fair, lawful and consistent with due process. Concluding his contribution, Musgrove said the legislation offers a framework for protecting local employment, supporting responsible economic growth and strengthening national security. "For secure borders, fair processes, stronger opportunities for Islanders, responsible economic growth and a modern immigration system worthy of these Islands, I wholeheartedly support the Immigration Bill 2026," he declared.

CRIMESTOPPERS TCI WINS PRESTIGIOUS CRIMESTOPPERS INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND AWARENESS

Crimestoppers Turks and Caicos has won the Crimestoppers International Award for Community Engagement and Awareness, in recognition of its outstanding efforts to engage communities through its District Domino Tournaments, while promoting crime prevention and public safety throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands. The prestigious award was presented during the Crimestoppers International Awards Program in Panama City, Panama. President Lewis Smith and VP Clayton Thomas attended the event, which brought international recognition to the organization's ongoing commitment to strengthening partnerships between communities, law enforcement agencies, businesses and residents. The Community Engagement and Awareness Award recognizes the impact of initiatives designed to encourage communities to take an active role in preventing and reporting crime, while promoting awareness, public participation and confidence in crime-prevention programs.

Crimestoppers Turks and Caicos has worked consistently to expand community involvement through initiatives including the annual Crimestoppers Walk, and the District Domino Tournament program, the P3 anonymous reporting platform and partnerships with stakeholders across the Islands. President Smith expressed his appreciation for the international recognition. "This award is historic and a tremendous honor for Crimestoppers Turks and Caicos, but more importantly, for the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands. It demonstrates that the work being done at the community level is making a meaningful difference. "This achievement belongs to our volunteers, directors, community partners, law enforcement partners, sponsors and, most importantly, the members of our communities who continue to support our mission. We are committed to creating an environment where everyone understands that they have an important role to play in preventing and reporting crime."

The award also recognizes the importance of anonymous crime reporting and community participation. Through Crimestoppers, members of the public are encouraged to provide information about criminal activity without having to identify themselves. Smith said Crimestoppers Turks and Caicos remains committed to strengthening its presence throughout the Islands and developing innovative programs that bring crime prevention directly into communities. He said the organization extends its sincere appreciation to the Governor's Office, the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, community organizations, businesses, sponsors, volunteers and residents whose continued support has contributed to this achievement. He pointed out that the international award is a significant milestone for Crimestoppers Turks and Caicos and represents an opportunity to further strengthen its mission of engaging communities, raising awareness, encouraging anonymous reporting and contributing to safer communities through-



President of Crimestoppers Turks and Caicos Lewis Smith (left) and Vice President Clayton Thomas

out the Turks and Caicos Islands. "Crimestoppers Turks and Caicos is proud to bring this international recognition home," Smith pointed out.

FREE MIKE

Justice Must Never Become Persecution

By Audley Astwood

I cannot remain silent when serious questions arise about how justice is being served in our country. The lengthy court proceedings involving former Premier Michael Misick, former Minister McAllister "Piper" Hanchell and attorney Thomas Chalmers Misick raise important questions about fairness, human rights and the constitutional right to a hearing within a reasonable time.

Nobody should be above the law, but everyone is entitled to its full protection. The central question is whether our justice system has done enough to ensure that these cases were dealt with within a reasonable time and that the rights of everyone involved were properly protected.

Nobody is above the law, but nobody should be denied its protection either. People must answer for their actions, and accountability is essential to the rule of law. However, accountability does not excuse unnecessary delays or unfair treatment. A justice system must do more than secure convictions. It must also deliver justice fairly and within a reasonable time.

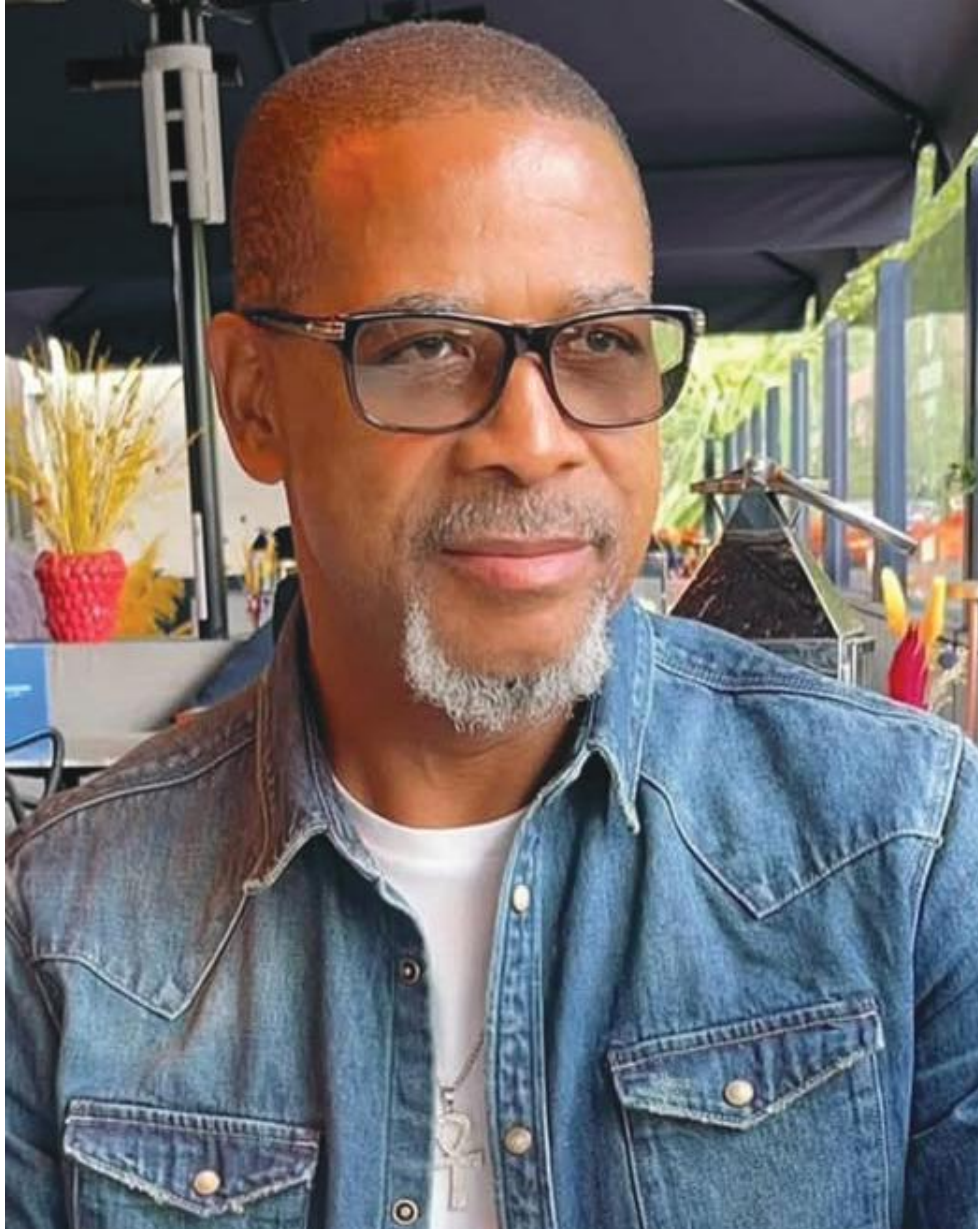
The investigation began in 2010, charges followed in 2011, and the trial began in 2015. Convictions came in February 2026, followed by prison sentences in May. These proceedings took many years to reach judgment at trial. We must ask why, what went wrong and what can be done to prevent similar delays.

A criminal case that continues for years does not affect only the people standing trial. It can place a lasting burden on families, witnesses and others connected to the proceedings. As time passes, memories can fade and evidence can become harder to secure. That is why the right to a hearing within a reasonable time is so important. It protects individuals while helping to preserve confidence in the justice system.

What does such a lengthy process mean for those facing charges, their families and the wider community? Can we be satisfied with a system in which proceedings take more than a decade to reach judgment? These are legitimate questions about whether our justice system is meeting the standards required by our Constitution. They do not require us to dismiss the seriousness of the offences or disregard the findings of the courts.

I respect the independence of the judiciary. However, respect for the courts does not require the public to remain silent when serious concerns arise. Citizens have a right to question their institutions, particularly when the way they operate affects people's lives and public confidence. The courts recognised that delays were relevant to sentencing. We should therefore examine what caused those delays and whether changes are needed to prevent other defendants from facing the same prolonged uncertainty.

I am not asking for special treatment for former political leaders or anyone else. I am asking for the same standards of fairness, timeliness and dignity that every person in our country should expect. The strength of a justice system is not measured by how it treats those who are popular or powerful,



Former Premier Michael Misick

but by whether it applies the law fairly, regardless of a person's position or political connections.

We must also be honest about our national history. Between 2003 and 2009, Michael Misick led a PNP Government during a period of significant economic growth and development. Tourism expanded, international investment increased, and the Turks and Caicos Islands strengthened their position as a leading luxury destination in the Caribbean.

Developments such as the Grand Turk Cruise Centre, Amanyara, Seven Stars and the expansion of Beaches helped strengthen our tourism industry. Construction, transportation, real estate and professional services created opportunities for businesses and workers. The North Caicos-Middle Caicos Causeway improved travel between the islands, while hosting the 2007 CARIFTA Games gave our country a proud moment in regional sport. Scholarships, healthcare reform and investment in hospital facilities also formed part of that period's development.

Acknowledging these achievements does not excuse wrongdoing or challenge the findings of the courts. It simply recognises that a period of government can have lasting achievements and serious failures. Neither should be erased to serve a polit-

ical argument. Our history belongs to the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and it should be recorded on the strength of the facts, not rewritten to satisfy political loyalties.

I am also concerned about the human cost of prolonged legal proceedings and the importance of protecting the rights and dignity of Michael Misick, McAllister Hanchell and Thomas Chalmers Misick while their appeals are pending. Their convictions do not remove their entitlement to lawful treatment, proper healthcare, access to legal representation and the other protections afforded to people in custody. These are not special privileges. They are standards that the justice system must uphold for everyone.

Human dignity is not a reward for good behaviour, nor does it depend on popularity or political affiliation. It is a basic human right. A person does not lose that right upon conviction.

I therefore call for an independent examination of the delays in these proceedings. It should establish where the delays occurred, what caused them and whether any institutional shortcomings contributed. It should also recommend practical measures to ensure that future cases are handled more efficiently, without weakening the rights of defendants or the ability of

the state to prosecute crime. The examination should not interfere with the pending appeals or attempt to replace the proper legal process. Its purpose must be to identify the facts and improve the administration of justice.

We must also remember the constitutional history of our islands. The 2009 Commission of Inquiry, the investigations that followed and the suspension of parts of our Constitution marked a defining period in our modern history. Those events raised serious questions about accountability, democratic rights, British authority and the ability of Turks and Caicos Islanders to govern their own affairs.

Investigating crime and holding people accountable are necessary. So are constitutional protections and the right to fair treatment. Our status as a British Overseas Territory must not weaken our expectations of justice. We should demand a system that protects our rights, respects our dignity and resolves cases within a reasonable time, regardless of who stands before it.

This issue is bigger than Michael Misick, the PNP or the political divisions that have shaped our recent history. It concerns the standards we expect from our institutions and the kind of justice system we want for our country.

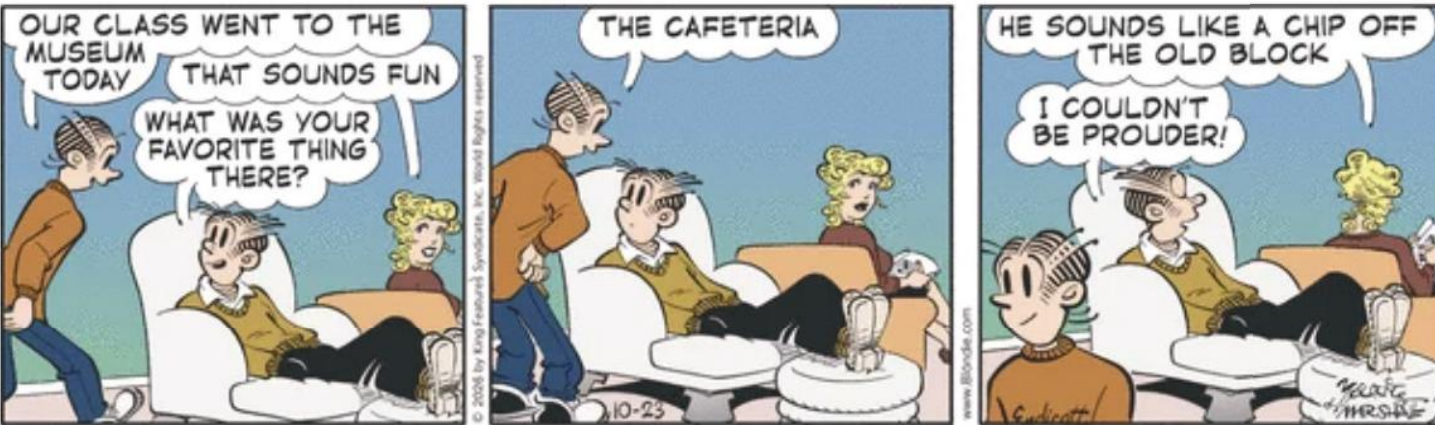
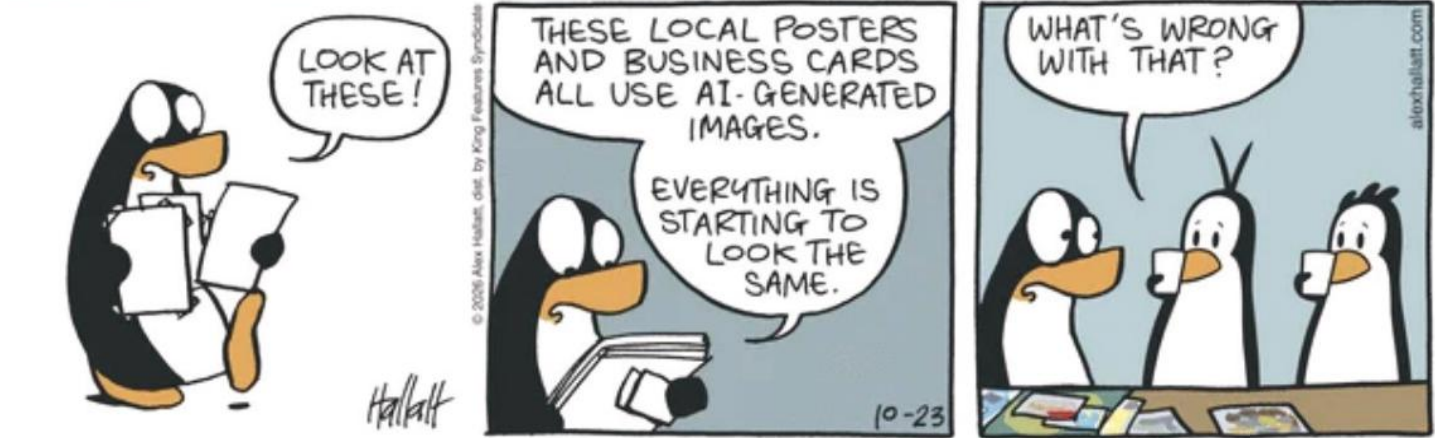
We can respect the findings of the courts while examining whether the process has been fair. We can demand accountability while insisting on timely proceedings and humane treatment. These principles are not in conflict. They are essential to a justice system worthy of public confidence.

To Michael Eugene Misick, McAllister Hanchell, Thomas Chalmers Misick and their families, I say this: your dignity matters, and your legal rights must be respected. You remain entitled to every protection and lawful remedy available to you.

To the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, standing up for fairness is not an attack on our justice system. It is a demand that the system live up to the standards we expect of it. Public confidence cannot be maintained by asking people to stop asking questions. It must be earned through fairness, transparency and respect for the law. We must have the courage to record our history honestly, learn from our mistakes and demand better from our institutions. Accountability must never become an excuse to disregard human dignity, and public anger must never replace the rule of law.

Let history be recorded honestly. Let the law protect everyone equally. Let justice be done without unnecessary delay. And let us never allow justice to become persecution.

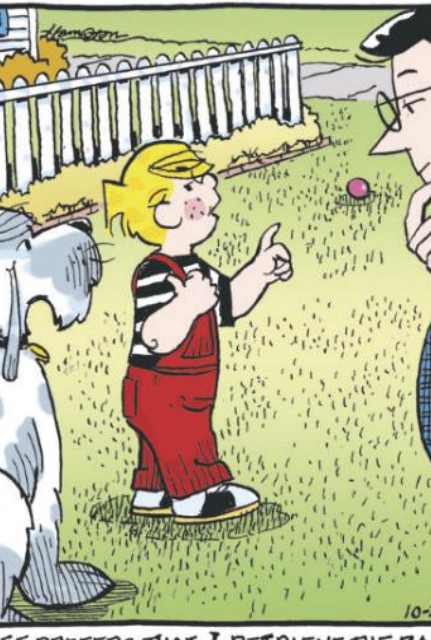
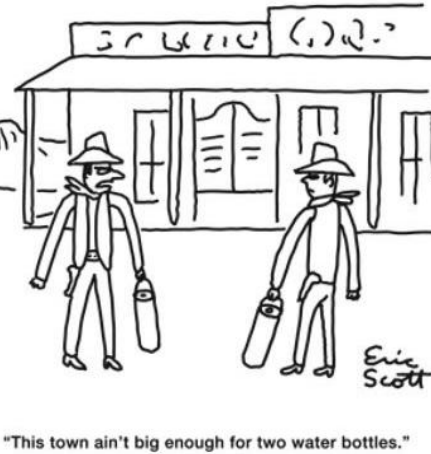
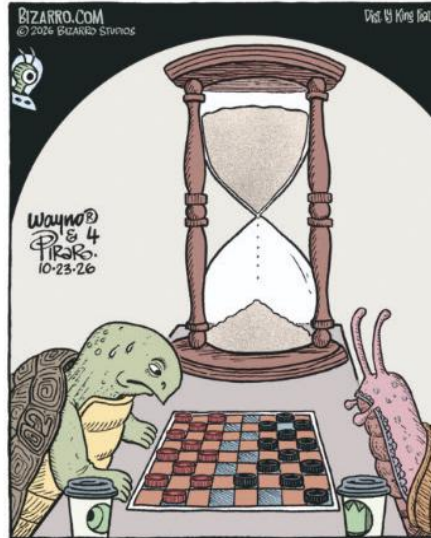




NEWSLINE COMICS

LIFE BECOMES EASIER

WHEN YOU LEARN TO ACCEPT THE APOLOGY YOU NEVER GOT.



The Brown Pelican Takes the Miss Universe Stage

NEWSLINE
Heritage



References:

Turks and Caicos Islands Government – National Symbols of the Turks and Caicos Islands

Turks and Caicos National Museum – Native and Migratory Bird Species of TCI

Bereniece Dickenson, 2025 Instagram Statement – Official remarks on the symbolism and inspiration behind the national costume.

All images courtesy of:

Bereniece Dickenson (@berenice_dm)/Miss Universe TCI (@missuniversetci_)

Miss Universe Turks & Caicos Organisation

At the Miss Universe 2025 competition in Thailand, Bereniece Dickenson paid tribute to the Turks and Caicos Islands through a national costume inspired by the Brown Pelican, the country's national bird. The design featured two sculpted pelican heads, sweeping layered wings, and gold-and-brown detailing reflecting the bird's natural plumage and the islands' coastal heritage.

Bringing the concept to life was an international creative team led by designer Annisa Banyuwangi, with creative direction by Linette D. and styling by Ismac M., under the leadership of National Director Gabriela Clesca and Vice President Genuinely Trice. Together, the team translated the natural elegance of the pelican into high-impact stage design rooted in national symbolism.

Commonly seen along the shores and cays of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Brown Pelican has long symbolised resilience, maritime life, and survival by the sea. Through artistry and visual storytelling, this familiar national emblem was transformed into a moment of cultural representation on the global stage—bridging nature, national identity, and modern design.

Jai's Celebrates Record Online Raffle Sales for In The Pink 2026

Jai's is celebrating another successful year of In The Pink, the annual volunteer-led fundraiser in support of the Turks & Caicos National Cancer Society. This year's raffle saw 300 tickets sold, raising \$30,000, alongside record online ticket sales and an incredible show of support from the local community and clients around the world. This year's raffle prize was a Franck Muller Vanguard Color Dreams timepiece valued at \$10,200. Known as the Master of Complications, Swiss watchmaker Franck Muller is celebrated for its creativity and innovative approach to haute horlogerie. Featuring twelve colourful numerals on its signature dial and a pink alligator strap chosen for the occasion, the timepiece brought a playful touch to a meaningful cause. A highlight this year was the sale of 177 tickets through IsleHelp, Jai's primary

online ticketing partner, marking the highest number of online raffle ticket sales to date. Accounting for 59% of all tickets sold, this milestone reflects the generosity of Jai's community, both locally and abroad, and the growing reach of this island initiative. "We are incredibly grateful for the generosity that surrounds In The Pink year after year. To see our clients, many of whom are thousands of miles away, come together with our local community to support this cause means so much to us. This is what makes In The Pink special. It's not simply about the raffle or the prize, but about people showing up for one another, year after year. To everyone who purchased a ticket, shared the initiative, or encouraged someone else to take part, thank you." — The Jai's Team



The cheque was presented to the National Cancer Society at Jai's last week.

Beyond the raffle, this year's In The Pink shopping rooms were another wonderful success, bringing together generously donated items from businesses and individuals throughout the community. The shopping experience remains a much-loved part of the annual event and another reflection of the island's collective generosity. Jai's extends its heartfelt thanks to the In The Pink committee and the many

volunteers whose dedication makes this fundraiser possible, as well as the local businesses, brand partners, clients, and shoppers who continue to support the cause. Having supported In The Pink since its inception through raffles, auctions, donations, and brand collaborations, Jai's is proud to continue standing alongside the community in support of the Turks & Caicos National Cancer Society.

PELICAN ENERGY TCI APPOINTS LOCAL TRAILBLAZER HON. LILLIAN SWANN-MISICK TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pelican Energy TCI is pleased to announce the appointment of Hon. Lillian Swann-Misick OBE to its Board of Directors. This milestone underscores the Company's commitment to local representation, meaningful engagement, and the long-term development of the Turks and Caicos Islands' energy sector. A native of Grand Turk, Hon. Swann-Misick brings decades of leadership, public service, and governance experience to the Board. Her expertise spans education, business, public administration, and national leadership, with service in several senior positions across key public institutions. Her career began in education in 1970, where she served faithfully for over 20 years as a classroom teacher, principal, and Senior Education Officer within the Ministry of Education. After leaving the Ministry, she established her own business while continuing to teach and mentor aspiring entrepreneurs. Throughout her career, Hon. Swann-Misick has held leadership roles across several national institutions, including Deputy Chairman of the Tourist Board, Deputy Chairman and Chairman of the National Insurance Board, Chairman of the Turks and Caicos Investment Agency, Member and acting Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Chairman of the Higher Education Advisory Board, and Chairman of the National Health Insurance Board. In 2009, Hon. Swann-Misick was ap-

pointed Chair of the Consultative Forum, the country's legislative body at the time, where she facilitated a legislative agenda focused on restoring good governance and supporting sustainable economic development following the suspension of the country's constitution. With the restoration of local governance in 2012, she became a Governor's Appointed Member of Parliament. Her earnest commitment to public service continues today, and she currently serves as President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Cancer Foundation. Her appointment to the Pelican Energy TCI Board of Directors comes at a pivotal time as the Turks and Caicos Islands continues to be affected by global fuel price pressures, rising energy demand driven by robust economic growth, and navigates several regulatory developments aimed at transforming the electricity sector, strengthening energy security through renewable energy, and improving overall system resilience and energy affordability for customers. Since coming under the ownership of Vision Ridge Partners, a global sustainable real assets investor, in September 2025, Pelican Energy TCI continues to advance plans to modernize the energy system, integrate significantly more renewable energy, maintain service reliability, and accelerate the transition to a more sustainable energy future. Devon Cox, President of Pelican Energy

TCI, who also serves on the Company's Board, stated: "The appointment of Hon. Lillian Swann-Misick to our Board is a significant milestone in our governance, and underscores our commitment to ensuring strong local perspectives are reflected at the highest levels of decision-making. Her longstanding public service and diverse leadership experience provide deep insight into the needs, aspirations, and concerns of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Her appointment strengthens the Company's long-standing connection to the communities we serve and highlights the importance of bringing together local knowledge, community interests, and global expertise as we invest in a reliable, affordable, and resilient energy system, built on more renewables. We look forward to the valuable perspective she will bring to the Board as we work to deliver longterm value for our customers and help shape the future of the energy sector in the Turks and Caicos Islands." Commenting on her appointment, Hon. Lillian Swann-Misick stated: "The impact of geopolitical conflict in the Middle East on energy costs in the Turks and Caicos Islands has demonstrated that we are neither isolated from nor immune to global events. Disruptions in the global oil supply have had a ripple effect on both the supplier and consumers of electricity here. The challenge is to create a balance that

benefits both. I am pleased to have been afforded the opportunity to be part of a team committed to investing in renewable energy and ensuring that electricity is not only reliable and resilient, but also affordable for our customers and stakeholders." Pelican Energy TCI Ltd is an electricity company serving energy consumers throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands. With a strong focus on providing safe and reliable electricity service, Pelican Energy TCI is working to build a more sustainable and resilient energy future for TCI. To learn more, visit www.pelicanenergytci.com.



Hon. Lillian Swann-Misick

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

Firm Foundation Ministries International, Grand Turk

This week on NEWSLINE TCI we feature the Grand Turk branch of Firm Foundation Ministries International located at Waterloo. The ministry has a number of activities each week for individuals to take part in. On Sunday is High Praise Service beginning at 10a.m. Every second and fourth Sunday at 6p.m., is Sunday Prayer. On Wednesday starting at 5a.m. is Morning Glory Prayer on Zoom (ID & PASCODE 820-417-4668). On Wednesday at 7:30p.m. IS Bible Study on Zoom (ID & PASCODE 820-417-4668). On Saturday at 12p.m. is the Alpha & Omega Youth Ministry Children’s Club.

For more information about Firm Foundation Ministries, Grand Turk, call 1-649-332-6240.



Life line Church Directory

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

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

The Turks and Caicos Islands Community College launched its foundation at its Annual General Meeting, held at the Salvation Army’s Brighter Futures Centre in Providenciales on Thursday. The foundation was established to assist the college to extend its offering to students across the Turks and Caicos Islands. The following are photo highlights of the event.





Road to 1976 series; Golden Anniversary Profile...

HON. DANIEL WILLIAMS: From Bottle Creek to the Beginning of Ministerial Government

By Joan Astwood-Sutton

When Bottle Creek elected Daniel Williams on 29 September 1976, they chose an Independent representative. Within a day, his decision would help determine who could form the country's first Ministerial Government.

The People's Democratic Movement had won five of the eleven elected seats. The Progressive National Organisation held four, while two Independents won. Neither party had secured a majority.

On 30 September, Williams joined the PDM, providing the sixth supporter needed. The other successful Independent, Charles William "Liam" Maguire of South Caicos South, also agreed to support the incoming administration.

Williams's choice helped open the way for JAGS McCartney to lead the first government under the new ministerial system. But his contribution extended beyond that decisive moment. He became a Parliamentary Secretary, participated in constitutional discussions in London, and brought the needs of farming communities before a United Nations Visiting Mission.

His story connects the trust of one community with the responsibilities of a country entering a new political era.

A Working Life Before Politics

Williams was born in Bottle Creek. Like many Turks and Caicos Islanders of his generation, he travelled overseas to find employment.

A published biographical account records that he spent approximately seventeen years working for the Inagua Salt Company in The Bahamas, eventually becoming its Chief Heavy Equipment Operator.

Those years place him within a wider national experience. Islanders left home because opportunities were limited, earning their living elsewhere while maintaining connections with their families and communities. Some returned with skills and experience acquired over many years.

Williams returned to North Caicos and entered local public service. The same account dates his election to the district board to 1973, three years before he was elected to the Legislative Council.

His route into national politics began with practical work and local responsibility. Bottle Creek knew him, before his parliamentary support became important to the whole country.

The People Behind His Decision

Williams entered the 1976 election without backing of either principal party. His mandate came from the people who chose him as their Independent representative.

The divided national result placed a new responsibility upon him. The country needed a government, and the successful Independents had to decide how to exercise their influence.

At a tribute held in his honour in 2015,

Williams was remembered as having returned to his constituents before deciding to join the PDM. The account described a representative who involved the people and listened to them before making his choice.

That recollection gives the formation of the first government a human dimension. Behind the parliamentary discussions stood communities whose votes had made those discussions possible.

The political outcome is confirmed in contemporary reporting. The Cayman Compass of 5 October 1976 recorded that Williams had joined the PDM on the Thursday following the election, giving it the support needed to form a majority.

The same report stated that Maguire had agreed to vote with the PDM in accordance with his constituency's wishes, initially intending to remain an Independent. These decisions belong within the foundation story of Ministerial Government. The PDM supplied the largest elected group, but cooperation after the election enabled it to govern.

Serving Close to Home

Williams became a Parliamentary Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office. His position was explicitly recorded in United Nations reports of the period.

He therefore did more than help establish the administration's majority. He took on an official role within the administration. A later tribute recalled that he declined an offered ministry because he wanted to remain close to his people in North Caicos. That recollection reflects the attachment his community had for him, for which he was remembered.

On his home island, affectionately known as Mr. Dan or Uncle Dan. Those familiar names preserve a relationship beyond formal office.

Later biographical reporting credits him with contributions to improvements at the Bottle Creek airstrip, including a concrete terminal building, a warehouse and partial paving. It also associates him with advocacy for student training and North Caicos' first District Commissioner.

These remain reported contributions rather than fully documented accounts of individual projects. They nevertheless identify the practical needs with which his name became associated: transport, skills, and access to government services.

Taking Part in the Constitutional Journey

Williams's responsibilities also carried him to London.

On 26 and 27 November 1979, he participated in constitutional talks as a member of the Turks and Caicos government delegation. The United Nations report records his attendance as Parliamentary Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office.

The delegation presented draft proposals aimed principally at transferring greater authority from the Governor to elected members of the Executive Council.

Ministerial Government had introduced new responsibilities, but substantial constitutional powers remained outside elected control. The discussions concerned how the system might advance and how much authority local leaders should exercise.

Three years after helping establish the first administration, Williams was part of its effort to address the limitations within which it operated.

His participation shows that his service extended beyond constituency affairs. The representative elected by Bottle Creek was involved in discussions about the political future of the territory as a whole.

Speaking for Farming Communities

A valuable record of Williams's work appears in the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission of 1980.

The report identifies him as Parliamentary Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office and records his account of maize, vegetables and fruit grown in the Caicos Islands. He also described successful experiments on demonstration farms and in school gardens.

Williams explained what restricted agricultural development: insufficient funds for seeds, fertilisers and machinery, poor transportation between islands, and inadequate market facilities in the capital.

These concerns reached into the everyday lives of farming families. Growing a crop was only part of earning a livelihood. Farmers needed resources to work their land, transport their produce, and reach customers.

His contribution placed those difficulties before an international mission examining the territory's circumstances. It connected the experience of local communities with the wider question of how the country could develop.

The report records Williams's account of agricultural activity and the obstacles facing farmers. It does not attribute the farming programmes themselves to him. His documented contribution was to explain their promise and the practical barriers holding them back.

That is valuable evidence of his public work. It allows him to be remembered through concerns he actually raised, rather than through general praise added years afterwards.

The Electorate Decides Again

Williams returned to the voters at the general election of 4 November 1980, this time standing for Bottle Creek as a PDM candidate.

The election results reproduced in the UN report record his defeat by Stafford Misick of the PNP. Misick received 254 votes, Williams 70, and Independent Albert Kerr three.

The outcome ended Williams's elected service in that parliamentary term. His importance in 1976 did not guarantee another mandate four years later.



Hon. Daniel Williams

The figures establish who won. They do not explain every voter's reason, and his defeat should not be used to invent motives or assume that his earlier decision to join the PDM caused it.

An honest account includes both the contribution and the electoral loss. The people retained their right to choose another representative. That choice did not erase the work he had already undertaken.

Recognition and Remembrance

In July 2015, Williams was honoured at a Legacy Dinner on North Caicos. His wife, family, friends, and political colleagues gathered to recognise his service, and he responded with memories of his own.

The occasion allowed him to hear the appreciation and participate in the telling of his story. Further recognition followed in 2018, when he received the Patriotic Award and the Cayos Medal.

Williams died on 2 June 2022, aged ninety. Fifty years after Ministerial Government began, his contribution deserves a lasting place in the national record. His life took him from employment abroad to district service, from an Independent electoral victory to government responsibility, and from North Caicos to constitutional discussions in London.

The UN report also preserves his account of the practical difficulties facing agricultural development. Beyond the political decision for which he is best remembered, he also worked to address the practical needs of the people.

Bottle Creek gave Daniel Williams its trust. He carried that trust into the difficult beginnings of Ministerial Government.

Remembering him means preserving both the choice that helped form the administration and the service he gave after it began.

This Golden Anniversary Profile is dedicated to the memory of Hon. Daniel Williams, his family and the people of Bottle Creek, North Caicos.

Turks and Caicos Islands Passes Landmark Health Services Authority Legislation

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Turks and Caicos Islands has taken a significant step towards transforming its public healthcare system following the passage of the Health Services Authority Bill 2026 through the House of Parliament on Friday, October 23. Piloted through Parliament by Minister of Health and Human Services, Hon. Kyle Knowles, the legislation establishes the framework for a new Health Services Authority (HSA), designed to strengthen the management, coordination and delivery of public healthcare services across the Islands.

The legislation represents a shift towards a more integrated healthcare system, with greater emphasis on patient care, operational efficiency, financial sustainability and public accountability. At its centre is the establishment of a statutory authority responsible for overseeing a broad range of healthcare services currently delivered through different public healthcare arrangements.

A More Coordinated Healthcare System

Under the legislation, the Authority will have responsibility for managing and overseeing primary and secondary healthcare, emergency medical services, oral health, behavioural health, rehabilitation, elderly care, laboratory and pathology services, and pharmaceutical procurement. The objective is to create stronger connections between healthcare facilities and services, allowing patients to move more effectively between prevention, diagnosis, treatment and recovery. The Authority will also be empowered to collaborate with qualified healthcare providers and establish arrangements that support improved service delivery.

For residents, particularly those living outside Providenciales and Grand Turk, better coordina-

tion could help address longstanding challenges associated with accessing healthcare across multiple islands.

Stronger Leadership and Accountability

A central feature of the legislation is the introduction of a governance structure intended to provide professional oversight and clearer accountability. The Authority will be governed by a 12-member Board comprising individuals with expertise in healthcare, finance, management, technology and other relevant disciplines. A Chief Executive Officer will oversee daily operations, while a Medical Director will provide clinical leadership and help maintain professional standards. Importantly, the legislation separates national healthcare policy from individual clinical decisions. While the Minister responsible for health will retain responsibility for policy direction, the law restricts ministerial involvement in individual patient treatment decisions, professional clinical judgment and routine operational management. The Authority will also be subject to financial oversight, auditing, performance reporting and public accountability requirements. These measures are intended to provide greater transparency in how healthcare resources are managed and how services perform.

Protecting Healthcare Workers

The transition to the new Authority will involve significant changes for healthcare employees. The legislation provides arrangements for transferring eligible public healthcare workers while protecting existing employment conditions, accrued benefits and relevant pension entitlements. Public officers will have an opportunity to decline transfer, while the transfer of hospital employees

will require their consent. Employees transferring to the Authority are to receive terms and conditions no less favourable than those previously applicable. These safeguards are intended to maintain workforce stability and protect continuity of care during the restructuring process. The Authority will also have greater flexibility to recruit specialists and engage qualified healthcare professionals as service demands evolve.

Financial Sustainability and Better Patient Access

Financial accountability forms another important pillar of the legislation. The Authority will operate through annual service agreements outlining healthcare priorities, funding arrangements and performance expectations. Quarterly and annual reporting requirements will support parliamentary scrutiny, while a reserve fund intended to cover three months of operating expenses will help strengthen financial resilience. The legislation also places emphasis on improving clinical standards, quality assurance and international accreditation. Telehealth and telemedicine are identified as tools for expanding access to consultations, diagnosis and treatment, particularly for communities separated by geography. Another provision allows the Authority, with ministerial approval, to reduce, waive or refund healthcare fees, taking patients' financial circumstances into consideration.

Implementation Will Be the Next Test

Although parliamentary passage marks a major milestone, establishing a fully operational Health Services Authority will require careful implementation. The legislation provides for the transfer of health-

care facilities, equipment, contracts and other resources, alongside measures intended to prevent disruption to essential services. The next phase will involve establishing governance arrangements, managing workforce transitions, developing operational systems and ensuring adequate financial resources. Ultimately, the legislation's significance will be measured by improvements experienced by patients, including access to treatment, service reliability, clinical quality and responsiveness. For Minister Knowles and the Government, the passage of the Health Services Authority Bill represents a key legislative achievement in the effort to restructure public healthcare. For residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands, however, the expectation will be more practical: a healthcare system that delivers accessible, dependable and high-quality care.



Minister of Health and Human Services
Hon. Kyle Knowles



THE STRAND
TURKS & CAICOS

◆ Director of Recreation & Activities

Job Specification:

- Collaborate with staff and clinicians to understand the ways in which activities can promote healing and belonging for our guest
- Conduct needs assessments to ascertain physical, cognitive, and emotional abilities.
- Determine individual interests and expectations regarding leisure time.
- Determine and overseeing the use of available finances.
- Develop an activities programme that is both sufficiently diverse and sensitive to our occupants' requirements.
- Purchase or leasing supplies for all activities.
- Source, training, and monitoring the work of Activities Assistants.
- Advertise events well in advance of their scheduled times.
- Supervise and participate in events alongside staff and occupants.
- Compile reports that outline successes, constraints, and the way forward.
- Demonstrable experience as an Activities Director for a similar group.
- Computer literate, with sound knowledge of budgeting tools.
- Excellent programme, event planning, and supervision skills.
- Upbeat, communicative, and empathic disposition.
- Committed to fostering well-being and fun.
- Willingness to avail yourself for occasional weekend work.
- Appropriate training and/or certification is highly advantageous.

Job Requirements:

- Must have experience managing Recreation Activities
- Must have 3+ years as a Recreation Manager + demonstrate management certifications
- Must have a good experience in managing diverse teams.
- Must be able to work outdoors: stand for long hours and work efficiently under pressure

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

◆ Housekeeping Supervisor

Job Specification:

- Assist the Assistant Housekeeping Manager in overseeing daily housekeeping operations, ensuring the highest standards of cleanliness, presentation, and guest service throughout the property.
- Manage department budget and resources
- Manage inventory supplies and equipment
- Maintain high standards of cleanliness, hygiene, and sanitation within the facility
- Ensure all housekeeping employees follow the appropriate protocols
- Delegate housekeeping tasks to employees as needed
- Provide feedback to employees to improve performance
- Provide feedback to management on employee performance
- Supervise and oversee the performance of housekeeping employees
- Provide feedback to management on employee performance
- Oversee daily operation of the housekeeping department

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 2+ years experience as a Supervisor
- Certificates and advancement qualifications
- Must be able to work in a restaurant environment, stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.

Salary expectation - \$35,000 - \$40,000 per annum

APPLY NOW!
Send your resume to: careers@thestrandtci.com

Interested applicants should also send a copy of your resume to the Labour Department located Downtown, Airport Road, Providenciales

◆ Assistant Housekeeping Manager

Job Specification:

- Assist the Housekeeping Manager in overseeing daily housekeeping operations, ensuring the highest standards of cleanliness, presentation, and guest service throughout the property.
- Supervise and coordinate housekeeping staff in the cleaning, servicing, and preparation of guest rooms, suites, and public areas.
- Conduct room inspections and oversee deep cleaning of carpets, upholstery, floors, mirrors, glass, brass fixtures, chandeliers, and other furnishings.
- Monitor linen, laundry, housekeeping supplies, and inventory to ensure adequate stock and efficient departmental operations.
- Identify and report maintenance issues, damaged furnishings, and faulty fixtures to the appropriate departments.
- Oversee the cleanliness and presentation of outdoor areas, terraces, pathways, outdoor furniture, and designated recreational facilities.
- Assist with staff scheduling, daily task assignments, training, mentoring, and performance monitoring to maintain consistent service standards.
- Respond to guest requests and housekeeping concerns promptly, coordinating with other departments to ensure guest satisfaction.
- Ensure compliance with departmental procedures, health and safety requirements, and luxury hospitality standards.
- Assist with administrative duties, quality control, deep-cleaning schedules, and seasonal preparations to ensure the department is fully prepared for peak and festive operating periods.

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 2+ years experience in related field
- Certificates and advancement qualifications
- Prior experience in housekeeping or related field preferred
- Knowledge of cleaning chemicals, proper storage, and disposal methods

Salary expectation - \$41,000 - \$42,000 per annum



A wide variety of foods were on display



Students had a variety of food stalls to choose from



Graceway Communities were also on hand to provide fruits for the children



RBC Bank employees were involved in a food drive support the initiative

Food for Thought holds Food Fair and Food Drive to observe World Food Day

World Food Day is celebrated every year on 16 October to promote worldwide awareness and action for those suffering from hunger, to support global food security, and to advocate for sustainable agrifood systems. This year on World Food Day, Food for Thought held a Food Fair at one of its Food Bank schools, Clement Howell High School. Over 500 students and teachers were treated to delicious food and drink samples, and given important nutritional in-

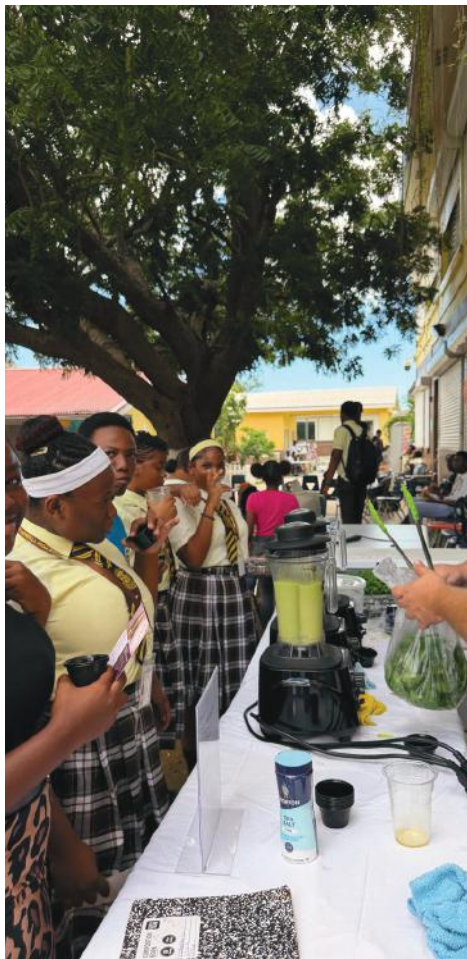
formation, provided by generous local businesses and wonderful volunteers. Special thanks go to Mr Shaw, KYN, Tribe, The Patty Place, Graceway Communities, The Daily, Hemingways, Beans & Leaves, Island Sprouts, Rock House, Island Raw, SJ Curry Club, Eat More Market, Wine Cellar/TC Crystal, Health Advocacy Unit, Nieve & Sarah, and the whole team of volunteers, including Miss International Adesha Gustave and Sharlene Richards.

Food for Thought also ran a World Food Day Food Drive, collecting donations of non-perishable breakfast items to supplement the food it provides to its Food Bank Schools (the government schools in Providenciales and Grand Turk). We are grateful for the fantastic community spirit of RBC, British West Indies Collegiate, International School Turks & Caicos, Provo Primary School, Scotiabank, HAB, Rotary Club, kind members of the community, and the Miss International

team. When children are properly nourished, they are better able to learn, focus and reach their full potential. In a world with so much wealth, there is no excuse for food insecurity. We call on those who have the means, to play your part to ensure that no child goes hungry. Please visit foodforthoughttci.com for more information about the charity's work and details about donating, or contact us at info@foodforthoughttci.com or 242-FEED.



Adesha Gustave, Miss International Turks and Caicos 2026 was involved in the project



Children were also treated to some of the best smoothies on island



Maya Saunders, Senior Program Officer in the Health Promotion and Advocacy Unit within the Ministry of Health and Human Services was also part of the food fair.



Students listen attentively as a representative of Food for Thought address the event



SJ Curry Club was part of the food fair



A chef is busy serving while students wait in line to be served

Breast cancer matters: Why early detection cannot wait

Breast cancer is not a death sentence, but a delayed diagnosis can make the journey to treatment more difficult. Understanding personal risk, recognising changes in the breasts and seeking appropriate screening are among the important steps women and men can take to protect their health.

"Breast cancer is not a death sentence. Early detection, timely diagnosis and appropriate treatment can make a significant difference in a patient's journey," said Dr Derria Cornwall-Bernard, consultant radiologist and head of the Women's Imaging Center at the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI). Cornwall-Bernard believes the message behind 'Breast Cancer Matters' must extend beyond the annual observance in October. It requires understanding of who is at risk, how the disease is detected, and why screening should not be postponed.

The need is particularly pressing in the Caribbean, where breast cancer remains a major public health concern.

In Trinidad and Tobago, breast cancer was the leading cancer among women during the period 2015 to 2020. Figures supplied for this feature indicate an incidence rate of 75 cases per 100,000 women and approximately 654 new cases annually. In Jamaica, breast cancer accounts for approximately 33.1 per cent of all cancers diagnosed, according to the figures provided.

The reported mortality burden is also concerning, with a death rate of 35 per 100,000 in Trinidad and Tobago compared with 66 per 100,000 in Jamaica. These figures underscore the importance of public education, access to breast imaging, and timely follow-up when abnormalities are detected.

Although breast cancer risk generally increases with age, younger women can also develop the disease. Figures provided for this feature indicate that approximately 36 per cent of breast cancer patients in Trinidad and Tobago and 33 per cent in Jamaica are under 50 years old.

These figures challenge the assumption that breast cancer is a concern only for older women. "Breast cancer is not restricted to older women. We are seeing a significant proportion of women diagnosed before the age of 50, so women must understand their risk and have conversations with their healthcare providers about the appropriate time to begin screening," Cornwall-Bernard said.

The mean age of diagnosis in Jamaica is reported to be approximately 56 years. However, the number of younger women affected highlights the need for greater awareness of symptoms and risk factors, as well as appropriate assessment when concerns arise.

Genetics is another important consideration. Changes in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes can significantly increase the risk of breast and ovarian cancers. A strong



family history of either disease may therefore warrant formal risk assessment and, where appropriate, genetic counselling.

Breast cancer does not have one single cause. Risk develops through a combination of biological, genetic, hormonal and lifestyle-related factors.

Some risk factors cannot be changed. These include increasing age, inherited genetic mutations, a personal history of certain abnormal breast biopsies, and a family history of breast or ovarian cancer. Dense breast tissue is also associated with increased risk, and can make abnormalities more difficult to identify on mammograms.

Reproductive and hormonal factors may also influence risk. These include menstruation beginning at an early age, menopause occurring later in life, never having a full-term pregnancy or having a first pregnancy after age 30. Not breastfeeding and using certain forms of menopausal hormone therapy may also affect risk.

"Some risk factors are beyond our control. We cannot change our age, our family history or the genes we inherit. What we can do is understand those risks, communicate them to our healthcare providers, and make informed decisions about screening and follow-up," Cornwall-Bernard says.

Other factors are potentially modifiable. Alcohol consumption, smoking, excess body weight, particularly after menopause, and physical inactivity have been associated with increased breast cancer risk.

Maintaining a healthy weight, exercising regularly, avoiding tobacco and limiting alcohol can contribute to overall health and may help reduce risk. However, healthy habits cannot guarantee that a person will not develop breast cancer. Women who exercise, eat well and have no family history can still be diagnosed. Understanding risk should encourage

appropriate screening, not create a false sense of security or unnecessary fear.

Screening is intended to identify possible disease in people who do not have symptoms. In breast cancer care, mammography is a key screening tool because it uses low-dose X-rays to produce images of breast tissue and can detect abnormalities before they become noticeable.

A mammogram is generally a quick procedure. The breast is positioned and gently compressed between plates while images are taken. The images are then interpreted by a trained professional, such as a radiologist, who looks for suspicious changes that may require additional assessment.

"Mammography is an important tool in breast cancer screening. The examination is relatively quick, and the images allow us to look for abnormalities that may not yet be felt by the patient," Cornwall-Bernard said.

She emphasises that screening and diagnosis are not the same. An abnormal screening result does not automatically mean that a person has cancer. Further imaging, ultrasound or a biopsy may be needed to determine what the abnormality represents.

Screening recommendations vary according to age, personal risk and the guidelines adopted in a particular healthcare setting. Women should discuss their individual circumstances with a healthcare provider, particularly if they have a strong family history, a known genetic mutation or previous abnormal breast findings.

It is equally important not to wait for a scheduled mammogram if a change develops. A new lump, thickening, changes in breast shape or size, nipple inversion, unusual nipple discharge or skin changes should be assessed promptly. A normal screening mammogram does not mean that a new symptom can be ignored.

"Women should not wait until they feel

a lump before becoming concerned about breast health. Screening is intended to identify abnormalities before symptoms develop, while any new or unusual change should be brought to the attention of a healthcare professional," she said.

Breast cancer control involves more than one stage of care. Primary prevention focuses on reducing risk where possible and promoting health education. Secondary prevention involves screening and early detection. Tertiary care focuses on treating established disease, managing complications, rehabilitation and supporting quality of life.

Each stage matters. Screening is valuable only when people can access appropriate follow-up and treatment after an abnormal result. Timely referrals, diagnostic imaging, pathology services and coordinated cancer care are essential parts of the process.

Breast cancer also affects men, although it is much less common in men than in women. The information supplied for this feature estimates that one in every 1,000 men will develop breast cancer during his lifetime, compared with one in eight women. The lifetime-risk figures should be verified against a reliable source before publication.

Men should seek medical attention if they notice a breast lump, nipple changes or other unusual symptoms. Breast cancer should not be dismissed simply because the person affected is male.

A breast cancer diagnosis can be frightening, but it does not mean that treatment is futile. Outcomes depend on several factors, including the type of cancer, its stage, tumour biology, and the treatment available. Detecting cancer at an earlier stage can improve the likelihood of successful treatment.

Cornwall-Bernard stresses that breast cancer awareness must be translated into action.

"Knowing your risk, participating in appropriate screening, and seeking medical attention when something changes are important steps in taking responsibility for your breast health. Awareness must lead to action," she said.

The message behind 'Breast Cancer Matters' is one of awareness, action and access. Knowing one's risk, discussing screening with a qualified healthcare provider, and seeking prompt assessment of unusual changes are practical steps that can make a difference.

Across Jamaica, the conversation should continue throughout the year. Breast cancer awareness is not simply about recognising a pink ribbon; it is about understanding the disease, taking symptoms seriously, and ensuring that people have the information and healthcare services needed to act.

Breast cancer matters because early detection matters, access to care matters, and every opportunity to improve outcomes matters.

Saunders, Bastian To Headline Abundant Life AI Leadership Conference

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Abundant Life Ministries International Church is preparing to host its 2026 Back to the Bible Authentic Leadership Conference, bringing together prominent religious leaders and government officials for a timely discussion on artificial intelligence and its impact on humanity, leadership and the church.

The conference, scheduled for Saturday, October 31, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., will take place at Abundant Life Ministries International under the theme, “AI and the Future of Human Intelligence: Threat, Tool or Transformation.” The event is expected to explore one of the most pressing issues facing modern society: the rapid advancement of artificial intel-



Sebastian Bastian, Bahamas Minister of Innovation

ligence and the opportunities, challenges and ethical questions it presents for individuals, institutions and faith-based organisations.

The conference will be held under the patronage of the Turks



Islands' Minister of Innovation, Technology and Energy, Hon. E. Jay Saunders

and Caicos Islands' Minister of Innovation, Technology and Energy, Hon. E. Jay Saunders, highlighting the growing importance of conversations surrounding emerging technologies and their implications for society.

Among the featured speakers is Hon. Sebastian Bastian, Bahamas Minister of Innovation and National Development, who is scheduled to address the topic “AI and Small Business.” His presentation is expected to focus on the potential role of artificial intelligence in entrepreneurship, business development and economic advancement.

Also scheduled to speak is internationally recognised religious leader Bishop Neil C. Ellis, founder of Mount Tabor and Global United Fellowship. Bishop Ellis will examine the question “AI – Friend or Foe,” offering a faith-based perspective on the benefits and possible dangers associated with the expanding influence of artificial intelligence.

Bishop Samuel Williams, Assistant Pastor of Faith Tabernacle, will address “AI and the Church,” exploring how technological developments could influence religious institutions, ministry operations and the future of Christian leadership.

The conference will be hosted by Bishop Dr. Coleta A. Williams III and Elect Lady, Elder Chiquita Williams, of Abundant Life Ministries International.

With artificial intelligence increasingly influencing education, business, communication and decision-making, the conference



Bishop Neil C. Ellis, founder of Mount Tabor and Global United Fellowship

seeks to create an opportunity for meaningful dialogue on how leaders can embrace innovation while remaining grounded in biblical principles and ethical responsibility.

The gathering also reflects the increasing recognition among faith-based organisations that technological advancement presents both opportunities and challenges requiring informed leadership, spiritual discernment and responsible decision-making.

By bringing together voices from government, business and the Christian community, the event aims to encourage participants to consider whether artificial intelligence should be viewed primarily as a threat to human capabilities, a tool for progress or a transformative force reshaping society.

Members of the public, church leaders, entrepreneurs and individuals interested in the future of technology and faith are invited to seek further information about the conference.

For registration and additional information, interested persons may contact 649-331-5619 or 649-345-7285.

The Back to the Bible 2026 Authentic Leadership Conference is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 31, at Abundant Life Ministries International.

PROJECTS DIRECTOR

This position is currently held by Work Permit Holder.

Qualified applicants are invited to apply for the position of Projects Director with an established property development company. Projects will be new builds, additions, and renovations within an operating resort. A work Permit Holder holds this position.

REQUIREMENTS:

The position requires over 25 years of relevant experience in luxury resort development and infrastructure work. Experience in liaison and scheduling resort Brands is essential. Extensive knowledge of specialized construction materials and high-end finishes is required. The ability to assess BOQ, liaise with architects, engineers, and designers at a senior level is required, in addition to an in-depth knowledge of construction drawings and technical specifications. The candidate must have a proven track record demonstrating the ability to work under pressure to tight deadlines and in limited circumstances, and excellent communication skills are vital. Experience in directing multiple projects simultaneously is required. Must have strong managerial skills, with the ability to supervise a team of employees.

TECHNICAL SKILLS:

Must be proficient in Microsoft Project, Procore, PlanSwift software, and also be proficient with AIA and FIDIC suite of contracts and Autocad.

REMUNERATION:

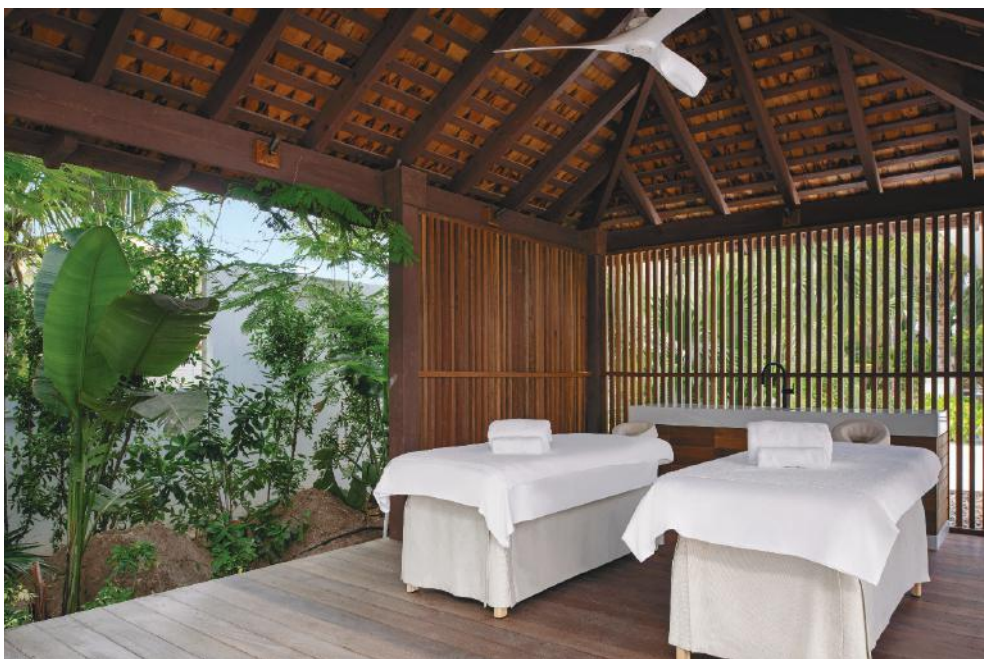
Remuneration from **\$150K** commensurate with experience.

APPLICATION DETAILS:

Closing date for applications is
October 26, 2025

Applications must be submitted to:
Marsha Blanche, Misick & Stanbrook,
Leeward Highway, Providenciales
By e-mail marsha@misickstanbrook.tc,
or fax (649) 946 4734 ref Caicos Resorts,
with a copy to the Labor Board.

Only candidates selected for interview will be contacted.



Island House Outdoor Spa



Island House Villa

Island House launches in-villa wellness in Turks & Caicos with British wellness brand ILA

The Spa by Island House gives back to the TCI, whilst bringing massages, facials and body rituals to private villas across Providenciales. Discover luxurious treatments that pair ILA's plant and mineral-based formulations with local island ingredients.

Island House LVM, the luxury villa rental and management company behind more than 19 staffed beachfront and seafront villas in Turks & Caicos, has launched The Spa by Island House. The new service brings a range of spa experiences into the villa, with tailored treatments set up on the terrace, by the pool or in a guest suite.

The Spa by Island House is the first in-villa service in the islands to partner with ILA, the British wellness brand founded by healthcare professional and aromatherapist Denise Leicester. ILA's products are made from sustainably sourced botanicals, Himalayan minerals and rare plant extracts. They are used in spas around the world and draw on long-established Tibetan, Amazonian and Ayurvedic healing traditions.

The menu ranges from massages and facials to scrubs and full-body rituals. Signature treatments combine ILA oils, poultices and energy-balancing techniques with ingredients from the islands: local coconut, soothing aloe and mineral-rich sea salt. Beginning with a personal consultation,



ILA body scrub

treatments are shaped around how every individual guest wants to feel, whether that's recovering from a long flight, unwinding after a day in the sun or preparing

for a celebration.

The Spa by Island House is fully portable and discreet. Experienced therapists arrive with everything needed to transform

a villa into a private treatment room. It is open to Island House guests, anyone staying in a private villa on Providenciales, and island residents. Every treatment also gives back to the islands: for every \$10 spent, \$0.25 is donated to United Way TCI, which supports community programmes across Turks & Caicos, and the TC Reef Fund, which works to protect the islands' coral reefs.

Grant Noble, Principal and Founder of Island House LVM, said: "Our guests choose a private villa because they want to do things their own way, at their own pace. Wellness should work the same way. With The Spa, you don't leave the villa to find calm; it comes to you. ILA shares our belief in pure ingredients and real care, and pairing their rituals with the coconut, aloe and sea salt of these islands gives our guests something they can't get anywhere else. Our approach is simple: care for you, care for the islands. A portion of every treatment goes to United Way TCI and the TC Reef Fund, so the wellbeing we created reaches beyond our guests."

The Spa by Island House follows the company's promise of "Island Living, Your Way", with its own tagline: "Island Renewal, Your Way." It adds to Island House's existing guest services, which include butler and concierge on every stay, private chefs, childcare and island excursions.



The Quarter 2 Public Service Orientation Programme for the Providenciales Cohort

55 NEW PUBLIC OFFICERS COMPLETE TCIG QUARTER 2 ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

The Turks and Caicos Islands Government (TCIG) continues to demonstrate its commitment to strengthening institutional capacity, promoting good governance and building a high-performing Public Service, as 55 newly appointed public officers successfully completed the Quarter 2 Public Service Orientation Programme.

Facilitated by the Learning and Development Directorate within the Office of the Deputy Governor, the programme forms an integral part of the Government's ongoing efforts to ensure that newly recruited officers are equipped with the knowledge, skills, values and professional standards necessary to effectively discharge their responsibilities and deliver quality public services.

The Quarter 2 programme was delivered across two cohorts:

- Grand Turk: 19 officers participated on September 21–22, 2026.
- Providenciales: 36 officers participated on September 28–29, 2026.

The comprehensive orientation programme provided participants with an understanding of the legislative, regulatory and institutional frameworks governing the Turks and Caicos Islands Public Service.

Key areas of focus included the Constitution, the Public Finance Management Act, the Public Service Act, the Code of Conduct for Public Life, the Public Service Handbook, the Learning and Development Policy, public procurement procedures and other essential government policies and operational requirements.

Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of ethical leadership, accountability, integrity, transparency, the management of conflicts of interest and the responsibility of every public officer to uphold public trust.

Through interactive presentations, practical case studies, group discussions and team building exercises, participants were encouraged to apply these principles to



The Quarter 2 Public Service Orientation Programme for the Grand Turk Cohort

their daily responsibilities while developing meaningful professional relationships with colleagues across ministries and departments.

The programme also reinforced the importance of continuous learning, collaboration and personal accountability in supporting the Government's broader public service transformation agenda.

Commenting on the successful completion of the programme, Mrs. Tamica Prosper, said, "Our goal at the Learning and Development Directorate is to empower public servants with the knowledge, tools and confidence required to excel in their respective roles. Orientation is the first step in that process. It ensures that each new officer begins their career with a clear understanding of their role, the standards expected of them, and the support available to them."

We are pleased to welcome 55 new officers who now share in our responsibility to serve the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands with professionalism, integrity and accountability. Their continued development will depend not only on the knowledge gained through this programme, but on the guidance and example of colleagues and managers across every ministry and department." Her Excellency Anya Williams, Deputy Governor and Head of the Public Service, congratulated the participants and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to investing in its people as a cornerstone of public service excellence, "Building a high-performing Public Service begins with investing in our people and ensuring that every officer understands not only the responsibilities of their role, but also the important duty of public service."

"As public officers, we have been entrusted with the responsibility of serving the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands. That responsibility demands professionalism, accountability, integrity and an unwavering commitment to delivering services that are efficient, responsive and people centred."

"Our Public Service Orientation Programme plays a vital role in establishing these expectations from the outset, ensuring that every new officer is equipped with a strong understanding of the legislative and policy frameworks that govern our work, as well as the values and standards that must guide our conduct. As we continue implementing our Public Service Roadmap 2025–2030, learning and development remain central to our vision of building a modern, capable and results-driven Public Service."

"To our 55 new public officers, I extend my warmest congratulations and welcome you to the Turks and Caicos Islands Public Service. I encourage you to approach your responsibilities with pride, embrace every opportunity to learn and grow, and always remember that the work you do has a direct impact on the lives of the people we serve."

"We look forward to the valuable contributions you will make as we work together to build a stronger Public Service and a better Turks and Caicos Islands."

The Public Service Orientation Programme is conducted quarterly as part of the Office of the Deputy Governor's structured onboarding and professional development framework.

With 45 officers having participated in Quarter 1 and a further 55 completing Quarter 2, a total of 100 newly appointed public officers have benefited from the programme during the first half of the 2026/27 financial year.

Preparations are now underway for the Quarter 3 cohort as the Turks and Caicos Islands Government continues its investment in developing a skilled, professional and service-oriented workforce.

CARPHA Advances Wastewater and Environmental Surveillance to Strengthen Early Warning for Public Health Threats

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. September 18, 2026. The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), together with regional and international partners, has advanced practical steps to strengthen wastewater and environmental surveillance (WES) as an additional early warning tool for emerging public health threats across the Caribbean and Central America.

“Wastewater and environmental surveillance gives our countries another important source of intelligence for identifying potential health threats and supporting earlier public health action,” noted Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director of CARPHA. “The strength of this approach lies not only in the technology, but in bringing together epidemiology, laboratory science, environmental health, sanitation chain and One Health information. Through collaboration across the Caribbean and Central America, we can share expertise, strengthen national capacities and transform environmental signals into actionable intelligence that better protects our populations.”

Dr. Indar made the comments following the Second Caribbean and Central America Regional Workshop on Wastewater and Environmental Surveillance Prioritisation, held from September 14–16, 2026, in Panama City, Panama. The workshop brought together epidemiologists, laboratory specialists, environmental health pro-

fessionals, policymakers, academics and surveillance experts from Barbados, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago.

WES involves monitoring and surveillance of wastewater and other environmental samples for pathogens or indicators of pathogens circulating within communities. The information can help public health authorities identify changes in disease activity, assess risks and take earlier, more informed action.

Dr. Horace Cox, Director of Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control at CARPHA, underscored the importance of positioning WES within an integrated surveillance system. “Wastewater and environmental surveillance is most valuable when it strengthens and complements the surveillance systems countries already have. By connecting environmental signals with epidemiological, laboratory, syndromic and other surveillance information, countries and the Region can gain a more comprehensive picture of emerging and re-emerging risks. This workshop has helped us define practical steps towards that integration while ensuring that implementation is guided by country priorities, available capacity and public health need,” Dr. Cox said.

Over the three days, participants examined the potential role of genomic surveillance, sequenc-



Group photo of the participants and facilitators at the Second Caribbean and Central America Regional Workshop on Wastewater and Environmental Surveillance Prioritisation, held from September 14–16, 2026, in Panama City, Panama

ing, metagenomics, and bioinformatics in WES, including associated laboratory data-analysis, and the interpretation of surveillance information. Country teams also identified implementation priorities, sampling approaches, surveillance-site selection and feasible next steps tailored to their national contexts.

A major focus of the workshop was the continued development and formalisation of a Regional WES Community of Practice. The network is intended to support technical cooperation, peer learning, knowledge exchange and shared problem-solving among participating countries.

The regional approach also supports the progressive integration of WES information with CARPHA’s Regional Integrated Early Warning Surveillance System (RIEWSS). The phased process will begin with agreed metadata and reporting requirements, followed by alignment with laboratory, epidemiological, environmental health and One Health data streams, with the aim of integrating WES data into RIEWSS by the second quarter of 2027.

The workshop resulted in updated country status summaries; documented priorities for pathogens, sampling and surveillance sites; further development of governance arrangements for the Regional WES Community of Practice; and practical country and regional actions for integrating WES into broader surveillance systems.

CARPHA will continue working with Member States and partners to strengthen wastewater and environmental surveillance, support sustainable country implementation and improve the use of integrated early warning information for timely public health decision-making.

The workshop was jointly delivered through collaboration among CARPHA, the Executive Secretariat of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic (SE-COMISCA) and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with support from; Panama’s Ministry of Health, the Gorgas Memorial Institute for Health Studies, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus and St. George’s University.



Medics across Africa, including these nurses pictured during a training drill in Kenya, have been on high alert since May

The Ebola case detected in Nigeria is the Bundibugyo strain behind a major DR Congo outbreak, officials said Wednesday, marking the spread of the deadly disease to points across Africa.

The case detected in a woman diplomat in Nigeria — the first there since the current outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo — raised memories of a widespread outbreak in 2014 that struck several countries in the region.

Nigeria is the fourth African country affected by the current outbreak, which this week came to span the continent, with Kenya in the east reporting nine cases since October 6.

The DRC’s Ebola epidemic has become the

deadliest in the country’s history, killing 4,381 people out of more than 9,000 confirmed cases, since mid-May, according to the health authorities.

The patient in Nigeria, Africa’s most populous country, travelled from Uganda to the capital, Abuja, on October 3, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) said. “We did three levels of tests, but all molecular. The strain was Bundibugyo,” said Olajumoke Babatunde, director of the public health laboratory service at the NCDC.

The World Health Organization (WHO) also confirmed that it was the Bundibugyo strain, for which there is still neither a vaccine nor a specific treatment.

“This person is actually a diplomat,” another

Nigeria Ebola case matches DR Congo strain

official said, adding the patient has deteriorated into “multi-organ failure”. The official did not disclose the nationality of the diplomat.

In August, Uganda was declared officially Ebola-free by the WHO after recording 20 cases — almost all people who had travelled from the DRC.

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Director General Jean Kaseya warned on Tuesday of “an extremely serious threat”, with fatality rates fast edging towards 50 per cent in the DRC.

The Africa CDC has called a high-level meeting of health ministers for next Wednesday to assess the outbreak, coordinate cross-border efforts, support affected countries and strengthen continental preparedness.

– ‘Geographically widespread’ –

“My appeal to the international community is urgent: ACT NOW,” said Africa CDC’s Kaseya. Ensure your writing is always clear, engaging, and mistake-free. Download Grammarly for free and start writing like a pro today.

“This Ebola Bundibugyo outbreak has already become the most geographically widespread Ebola outbreak in history, affecting multiple countries across three regions of Africa.”

Nigeria has identified 44 contacts that are being monitored, while intensifying efforts to find other people who may have been exposed.

The WHO said in a statement that infection prevention and control were being “ramped

up” at the private hospital where the patient sought care.

– 2014 Ebola outbreak –

Nigeria’s experience in successfully containing an Ebola outbreak in 2014 raised confidence that the country can respond effectively to new public health threats.

That epidemic killed more than 11,000 people across west Africa between late 2013 and 2016.

In 2014, the first Nigerian case, detected in Lagos, the country’s huge commercial hub, raised fears the highly contagious virus would spread rapidly.

However, a swift response by Nigerian authorities, supported by technical assistance from international organisations, helped bring the epidemic under control within 21 days, resulting in only 19 infections and seven deaths.

“It was so shocking when we got the news yesterday,” Anthony Ojogho, a 42-year-old civil servant, told AFP on the streets of Abuja on Wednesday morning.

But he was confident in the authorities’ ability to contain the spread of the virus, citing Nigeria’s previous experience.

“Nigerian governments have always been equal to the task. We contained Ebola, we contained coronavirus and the few cases we have now,” he said.

“If the right steps are being taken, I’m very sure that we’re going to contain to a large extent the spread of Ebola virus in Nigeria.”



Newly recruited Brazilian football player Ronaldinho waves to fans from the stage during the Ravenna FC team presentation in Marina di Ravenna on August 20, 2026. The former Ballon d'Or and World Cup winner is set to come out of retirement aged 46 to play for Ravenna in the Italian third tier.

Ronaldinho's record label puts Sean Paul in the lead

Brazilian superstar Ronaldinho, who dazzled the world in the famous number 10 shirt, is now a record label boss with Jamaican dancehall artiste Sean Paul leading his first album.

With the Brazilian set to touch down in Jamaica this December, local fans are left with one question: will he bring the football, the music, or both?

Ronaldinho launched Tu Música, a Miami-based global music brand and record label, alongside his brother and long-time manager Roberto de Assis and producers Allan Jesus and Roni Maltz Bin.

The label's early focus is Latin America, but its first release reaches much further. That release is Camisa 10, Portuguese for "the number 10 shirt". It arrived on June 9, 2026, just ahead of the FIFA World Cup, and brought together more than 40 artistes from 18 countries

and territories across dancehall, reggae-ton, Afrobeats, música mexicana, pop and urban music.

Names on the project include Pitbull, Jonas Blue, Justin Quiles, Luis R. Conriquez, Lenny Tavárez and Juan Magán. The album opens with Lead, performed by Sean Paul with Banx & Ranx, the Montreal-based duo behind several of his recent records, including work on his Grammy-nominated album Scorcha and Crick Neck for the Usain Bolt documentary I Am Bolt.

Placing a Jamaican dancehall star at the front of a football legend's debut puts Jamaica at the heart of the project.

"Ronaldinho is a legend, and I feel truly grateful, excited, and honoured to be part of this project with him," said Sean Paul.

For Ronaldinho, the collaboration is personal.

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"I have been a fan of Sean Paul for a long time. His hits were the soundtrack to so many parties, songs people will never forget, and it was a privilege to work alongside him," he said.

Ronaldinho also lends his own voice to three tracks on Camisa 10: Perfil with Luis R Conriquez, Vamos Celebrar with Pitbull and La Verde with Tony Aguirre. He described the album as "a dream come true" because "music has always been part of my life".

Ronaldinho's move into music did not begin with the label. In March 2014, while starring for Brazilian club Atlético Mineiro, he appeared in the video for Vamos Beber (Joga o Copo Pro Alto), a Brazilian funk party anthem with producer Dennis DJ and the sertanejo duo

João Lucas & Marcelo, best known for Eu Quero Tchu, Eu Quero Tcha. The video was shot poolside at his home in Lagoa Santa, outside Belo Horizonte.

At the time, he said in interviews that he planned to become a professional artiste once his playing days were over. More than a decade later, the song has passed 27 million plays on Spotify and is still a party favourite in Brazil. More collaborations followed.

They include Professor da Malandragem with Dennis DJ and Wesley Safadão, his first time as the leading star of a music video; Solteiro de Novo with Wesley Safadão; and Perdoa Amor with Grupo Revelação, which he co-wrote.

Brazil's music rights body, Ecad, lists 93 musical works and 32 recordings under his name. Camisa 10 is the result of more than 10 years of making music alongside his football career.

Shaggy drops global Boom Body Shatta remix with Shaz

Grammy Award-winning reggae and dancehall artiste Shaggy has given his hit single Boom Body an international edge with a newly released remix by three-times diamond-certified French producer and DJ Shaz, reworking the track through the high-energy sound of Shatta.

The single dropped on Friday, October 2 via Ranch Entertainment and VP Records.

Originally featuring Akon and Aidonia, Boom Body already brought together reggae, dancehall, and global influences.

On this official remix, Shaz pushes the record further into the electronic dance space, combining traditional dancehall rhythms with the fast-paced,

club-driven energy that defines the Shatta genre.

Shaz has masterfully bridged the worlds of international hip hop, trap, and Caribbean music. This collaboration seamlessly unites him with Aidonia and Shaggy, adding to an impressive cross-cultural catalogue that includes major production work for top-tier Jamaican chart-toppers like Skillibeng.

By continuously integrating with Jamaica's elite music makers, Shaz has solidified his reputation as a premier global sound engineer capable of accelerating authentic dancehall rhythms straight into European and American club circuits.

Inspired in part by the influence of Ghanaian dancehall star Shatta Wale,

the Shatta sound has developed into a growing global movement blending electronic production, dancehall, and Caribbean influences.

Artistes, including Kybba, Blaiz Fayah, and Kalash, have helped bring the sound to wider international audiences, particularly across Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean.

"Dancehall has always been a global sound, and I like hearing how producers from different parts of the world interpret it. Shaz brought a whole different energy to

Boom Body. The Shatta sound gives the record another life while keeping that dancehall foundation," Shaggy said in a statement.

The remix continues Shaggy's



long-standing tradition of taking Jamaican music into new spaces while collaborating with artistes and producers across cultures and genres, with Shaz bringing a French and European electronic perspective to the record.

H.J. ARE CHAMPIONS



HJ Robinson High players and coaching staff celebrate after receiving the championship trophy from Director of Sports, Jarrett Forbes (third from left). At right is Technical Director for the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA), Dane Ritchie.

Ronaldo banned for 30 days, fined US\$285 over Portugal dispute

Cristiano Ronaldo has been suspended for 30 days and fined 255 euros (US\$285.83) by the Portuguese Football Association following a dispute with national team coach Jorge Jesus.

According to Al Jazeera, the federation's disciplinary council announced on Monday that it had upheld the charge against the 41-year-old forward for leaving Portugal's training camp in Copenhagen ahead of their Nations League match against Denmark earlier this month.

Ronaldo reportedly left after accusing Jesus of twice breaking his word regarding his role in the team, following his omission from the starting line-up against Norway, where he was an unused substitute.

Jesus denied making any agreement with the veteran striker but left the



Nassr's Portuguese forward #07 Cristiano Ronaldo smiles during the AFC Champions League Group E football match between Saudi's al-Nassr and Iran's Persepolis at the Al-Awwal Stadium in Riyadh on November 27, 2023.

door open for his return after Portugal's 2-1 victory.

The disciplinary council found that Ronaldo had intentionally committed

an offence under Article 160(1) of the federation's disciplinary regulations. Proceedings were initiated on October 9 over an incident reported two days earlier.

However, the federation did not clarify which matches or activities would be affected by the suspension, or whether time served under a provisional ban would count towards the 30-day punishment.

Ronaldo later apologised for failing to acknowledge supporters after the Norway match and for leaving his teammates, adding that he remained available for selection after serving any sanction imposed.

Portuguese Football Federation president Pedro Proença has also indicated that the organisation wants Ronaldo to return to the national team once the matter is resolved.

Three in a row for Jamaica women at Chess Olympiad

ACROSS 11 gruelling rounds against the globe's finest minds at the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan (September 16-27), Jamaica's contingent demonstrated steel-nerved resilience, with the Women's Team securing a historic third-straight Zone 2.3.3 crown and the Open Team narrowly taking second place in the zone.

When the final digital clocks were stopped at the end of a tense round 11 finale with Cyprus, Jamaica's Women's Team were able to hold on to a draw, to finish the tournament on 11 points, locked in a tie with Barbados and Haiti.

When tie-breaks were employed, the Jamaican Women came out on top, thus securing their third consecutive Zone 2.3.3 Chess Olympiad win, following triumphant campaigns in Budapest, Hungary (2024) and Chennai, India (2022). Zone 2.3.3 spans the English, Dutch and French-speaking Caribbean.

The Women's Team included Woman FIDE Master (WFM) Adani Clarke, Woman International Master (WIM) Rachel Miller, Woman Candidate Master (WCM) Kaia Gayle, WCM Gabriella Watson and Amy Stephenson.

There was also individual success for Gayle and Watson, whose performances qualified them for the prestigious WFM title. Both rising stars will now look to elevate their international ratings to 1900 to officially cement the title.

The Open Team delivered a valiant campaign that kept Jamaica's supporters on the edge of their seats throughout the 11-round marathon.

Consisting of FIDE Master (FM) Joshua Christie, FM Shreyas Smith, FM Raheem Glaves, FM Jaden Shaw, and Candidate Master (CM) Akeem Brown, the Open squad finished on 10 points, level with a number of regional rivals including Barbados, Guyana, Suriname,



Jamaica's Absolute & Female teams to the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad, which took place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan in September

Bahamas, Haiti and St Lucia. When tiebreaks were employed, Jamaica placed second by the narrowest of margins behind Barbados, who took the top spot in Zone 2.3.3. In a dramatic round 11 showdown, Jamaica went down 1-3 to Algeria, narrowly relinquishing the top zone crown they had captured in Budapest in 2024.

Standout players for the Open Team were FM Jaden Shaw, who chalked up 6 points from 9 games and reigning National Champion FM Shreyas Smith, who finished strong on 5.5 points from nine games.

Jamaica Chess Federation President Ian Wilkinson. Jamaica Chess Federation President Ian Wilkinson. Also producing a standout performance was Jamaican National Master Ryan Blackwood, who played board 1 for the Cayman Open Team during the Olympiad. Blackwood ended on 4.5 points from 11 games, which resulted in him being awarded the CM title. Blackwood is not the first Jamaican to represent another country, as Bermuda and Bahamas Chess Olympiad Teams have also benefited from players originating in Jamaica.

TCI to Host First NACAC Gender Leadership Conference Focused on Women in Sports

The Turks and Caicos Islands will take centre stage in regional athletics leadership when it hosts the 2026 North American, Central American and Caribbean Athletic Association (NACAC) Gender Leadership Conference and Workshop on Friday, October 30, bringing together women in sport to advance leadership, mentorship and greater representation in athletics.

The conference, being held for the first time in the Turks and Caicos Islands, will take place at Beaches Resort from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. under the theme, "Levelling the Playing Field: Women Leading in Sports."

Organised through a collaboration between the Department of Gender Affairs, under the Ministry of Public Safety, and the Turks and Caicos Islands Amateur Athletic Association (TCAAA), the event will focus on strengthening the role of women in the development, administration and leadership of sport across the Caribbean and wider NACAC region.

The conference is expected to bring together established and emerging women leaders in athletics, including athletes, coaches, technical officials, sports administrators and executives. Discussions and activities will centre on building leadership capacity, promoting mentorship, expanding opportunities for women in sports governance and encouraging more women and girls to pursue leadership positions within and beyond athletics.

For the Turks and Caicos Islands, hosting the regional gathering represents an opportunity to contribute to conversations shaping the future of athletics while welcoming delegates to Providenciales for a two-day programme of sport, empowerment and recognition.

Beyond the conference itself, the programme will feature several activities on Saturday, October 31, beginning with a walk/run departing from IGA Gourmet at 5:00 a.m. The morning activity will be followed by a Youth Empower-

ment Session at Beaches Resort at 10:00 a.m., providing an opportunity to engage and inspire the next generation.

The two-day series will conclude with a gala and awards ceremony on Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m., recognising contributions and achievements connected to women's leadership in sport.

The NACAC conference comes at a time when developing leadership pathways for women remains an important part of strengthening sporting organisations and creating opportunities for wider participation. While athletes are often the most visible representatives of sport, coaches, technical officials, administrators and executives also play critical roles in shaping opportunities, setting standards and influencing the direction of athletics.

By bringing women from different areas of the sporting community together, the conference aims to encourage collaboration, share experiences and support the development of future leaders who

can contribute to athletics at the national, regional and international levels.

The involvement of the TCAAA also places athletics at the centre of the initiative, highlighting the importance of leadership development alongside competition and athlete performance.

As host nation, the Turks and Caicos Islands will welcome regional delegates to participate in the discussions and activities, positioning Providenciales as a meeting point for conversations about the future of women in sport.

With its focus on leadership, empowerment and opportunity, the 2026 NACAC Gender Leadership Conference and Workshop is set to bring together sport and gender equality in a programme designed to encourage lasting progress throughout the region.

The event will run from Friday, October 30, through Saturday, October 31, with the conference, walk/run, youth empowerment session and gala forming the main activities of the programme.

Mt Pleasant FA book consecutive Concacaf final spot after 3-1 aggregate win over Club Sando

Defending champions Mt Pleasant FA qualified for consecutive finals of the Concacaf Club Championships after winning the semi-final return leg against Club Sando of Trinidad 2-0 at Sabina Park on Thursday for a 3-1 aggregate.

Second-half goals from Warner Brown and Nickalia Fuller made amends for a first-half penalty miss by Trayvon Reid, his second in the series, as Mt Pleasant FA set up a match-up with the winner of the other semi-final where Portmore leads Violette of Haiti 3-1.

The Jamaican team held the advantage coming into the game as they away goal in the 1-1 draw in Trinidad a week earlier gave them the edge.

Reid should have given them the



lead in the 36th minute after Kyle Ming was fouled in the San-

do penalty area, but the striker, who repeated his long, slow run

up from last week, saw his shot saved by goalkeeper Teshaun Ragoo.

He however made some amends by providing the pass that led to Brown's opening goal in the 57th minute to give them the lead in the game and on aggregate.

The failure by Mt Pleasant's goalkeeper Shaquan Davis to hold on to a ball in the 60th minute, almost led to an equalising goal but Luke Philip fired over the crossbar.

Sando had another chance to score five minutes later but Davis was equal to Jaron Pascal's shot from about three yards out. Fuller, who replaced Brown in the line-up, killed off the game in time added when he fired past Ragoo from about 20 yards out.



Grant Thornton's Surf and Turf Surpasses \$1 Million Raised for Turks & Caicos Charities

Grant Thornton Turks & Caicos has announced that the 17th annual Surf and Turf charity event has surpassed a major milestone, with total funds raised since the event's inception in 2006 now exceeding \$1 million.

Held on Friday, 9 October 2026, this year's event raised \$105,000, bringing cumulative fundraising to more than seven figures over the event's twenty-year history. Proceeds from Surf and Turf support the Turks & Caicos Health and Wellness Foundation (TCHWF) which built the Edward C. Gartland Youth Centre, helping to strengthen health, wellness and youth development initiatives throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Since its founding in 2006, Surf and Turf has become one of the country's most enduring and successful charitable events, bringing together local businesses and residents in support of causes that make a lasting difference within the community.

Commenting on this year's achievement, Hon. Galmo Williams, Patron of TCHWF said:

"This year we hosted another memorable event, made even more special by the incredible milestone of raising \$1 million over the past 20 years in support of the TCHWF. "I extend my sincere appreciation to the amazing Grant Thornton team and to OPUS for their ongoing partnership. I would also like to acknowledge Nick Haywood and Anansa Jervis for their dedication and lead-



ership, and our sponsors, supporters, and volunteers for their contributions to the event's success. Special thanks go to the volunteers from the Rotaract Club of Providenciales, whose enthusiasm and hard work were invaluable.

"Reaching this extraordinary milestone would not have been possible without the collective efforts of our incredible community. Thank you to everyone who has played

a part in our journey over the past two decades. Together, we have made a lasting impact, and we look forward to continuing this important work for many years to come."

A highlight of this year's event was the running of the Dr. Euan A.D. Menzies Memorial Derby, which was won by Barely Stable, sponsored by Carlisle Supplies, in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

Grant Thornton Turks & Caicos also says it

wishes to recognise the many individuals and organisations whose commitment has helped establish Surf and Turf as a fixture of the Turks and Caicos charitable calendar. In particular, the firm acknowledges Nick and Sarah Haywood, whose vision and initiative led to the creation of the event in 2006 and whose continued support has remained integral to its success. The firm also recognises Mark Johnson and Larry Collmus for their outstanding commentary over the years, Tony Arata and OPUS for their longstanding hospitality, Terry Drummey and Hemingway's for their sponsorship and support, Hon. Galmo Williams, Althea Ewing-Williams, Anansa Jervis and the team at the TCHWF for their invaluable organisational assistance, and the many volunteers and contributors who have given their time and energy to the event throughout its history. Most importantly, the organisers said such milestone reflects the unwavering support of the Turks and Caicos business community and the hundreds of attendees, sponsors and donors who have supported Surf and Turf over the past two decades. Their generosity has enabled the event to surpass \$1 million in charitable contributions and create a lasting legacy of community impact. As Surf and Turf celebrates this landmark achievement, Grant Thornton looks forward to building on that legacy in the years ahead and continuing to support causes that strengthen the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Jephte Delerice Accepts MVP Trophy from Director of Sports Jarrett Forbes.



Clement Howell goalkeeper Love Longchamp collects the Golden Glove award from TCIFA Technical Director Dane Ritchie.

HJ Robinson Crowned Boys Inter-High School Football Champions

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

HJ Robinson High School emerged champions of the Boys Inter-High School Football Championship following a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Clement Howell High School in an intense final at the National Stadium in Providenciales on Saturday, October 17.

The championship showdown was decided by an 11th-minute strike from Jephte Delerice, whose decisive contribution secured the title for HJ Robinson and capped an impressive tournament for the talented youngster.

Delerice's early goal proved enough to separate the two teams, as HJ Robinson carried their slender advantage into halftime before holding firm throughout the second half to secure the championship.

HJ Robinson could have widened the lead when they were awarded a penalty midway through the second half, but Delerice shot was wide of the target.

However, the highly competitive encounter was overshadowed by disciplinary issues involving Clement Howell players, with two receiving red cards.

Jacob Black received a yellow card in the sixth minute, followed by Kemani Clayton in the 30th. Waldens Derisse was shown a red card in the 36th minute, while Nadio Vernal received a yellow card three minutes later.



Action from the final between H.J. Robinson High and Clement Howell High.

Alfredy Louima was also cautioned in the 50th minute before receiving a red card in stoppage time, further highlighting the disciplinary challenges that marred the contest.

Despite the defeat, Clement Howell goalkeeper Love Longchamp earned recognition for his performances throughout the competition, capturing the Golden Glove award.

HJ Robinson's championship hero, Jephte Mervens Derelice, dominated the individual honours, collecting the Golden Boot and League Most Valuable Player awards. He was also named Most Valuable Player of the final.

Meanwhile, TCIPS High School se-

cured third place following a dramatic penalty shootout victory over Elite High School in the earlier playoff encounter.

The teams were locked at 1-1 after regulation time, with Elite's Clermont Ysaac opening the scoring in the 24th minute.

An own goal by Guivens Clermont in first-half stoppage time brought TCIPS level, setting the stage for a tense finish.

Neither team managed to break the deadlock, forcing a penalty shootout, which TCIPS won 4-2.

TCIPS goalkeeper Sebastian Chambers was named Player of the Match for his contribution to the victory.

Speaking during the presentation

ceremony, Director of Sports Jarrett Forbes reaffirmed the Sports Commission's commitment to developing young athletes throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands. Forbes expressed satisfaction with the competitiveness displayed during the championship but voiced disappointment over the conduct of some players in the final.

He urged the student-athletes to appreciate the opportunities being provided and warned that talent alone would not guarantee success without discipline and responsible behaviour.

He stressed that indiscipline could seriously damage the future prospects of otherwise promising athletes.

Technical Director of the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association, Dane Ritchie, echoed those concerns, describing the behaviour witnessed during the final as disappointing and unacceptable.

Nevertheless, Ritchie expressed relief that the incident appeared isolated rather than representative of the overall competition.

He congratulated the participating schools for their efforts and contributions to the tournament.

The championship concluded with HJ Robinson celebrating a memorable triumph, while the competition also reinforced the importance of sportsmanship, discipline and character development alongside footballing excellence.