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Turks and Caicos Sees Strong Forward Bookings Despite Q3 Visitor Dip

The Turks and Caicos Islands recorded a slight downturn in visitor arrivals during the third quarter of 2025, but the outlook for the upcoming winter season remains highly encouraging, with airlines reporting strong advance bookings.

According to Experience Turks and Caicos, stayover arrivals fell by three percent between July and September compared to the same period in 2024. The decline has been attributed to ongoing geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty in key tourism source markets.

The year began on a positive trajectory, with first-quarter arrivals up three percent over 2024, driven by strong winter travel demand. However, reduced airlift from the United Kingdom and the United States — including Virgin Atlantic's service suspension and seasonal schedule adjustments by JetBlue — contributed to a modest slowdown beginning in the second quarter and continuing into Q3.

The cruise sector also experienced a 10 percent dip in arrivals compared to the same period last year, reflecting fewer ship calls at Grand Turk as cruise lines adjusted itineraries and redeployed vessels. Despite the Q3 decline, the sector's year-to-date performance remains solid, with Q1 2025 arrivals up 53 percent over the previous quarter.

"As we approach the winter season, we are cautiously optimistic," said Mr. Paul Pennicook, Interim CEO Consultant at Experience Turks and Caicos. "There will be marginal increases in air capacity from some of our U.S. carriers this winter and a 24 percent increase in air seats from Air Canada. Experience Turks and Caicos has been working closely with our airline partners to strengthen connectivity and promote the destination so that Turks and Caicos remains top of mind for travellers seeking luxury and authenticity."

A joint marketing campaign with British Airways has already produced strong results, with forward bookings up 21 percent compared to 2024 and early demand building into 2026. Similarly, Air Canada Vacations has reported robust booking momentum following the renewal of its partnership with Experience Turks and Caicos earlier this year.

In November, Experience Turks and Caicos and six partner hotels will continue destination training sessions with JetBlue Vacations call centres in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Orlando, Florida. The initiative aims to strengthen engagement with a key partner and further boost travel demand ahead of the peak season.

Mr. Paul Pennicook, Interim CEO Consultant, Experience Turks and Caicos

Commissioner Urges Students to Awaken Their Sleeping Giants

Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey visited the Clement Howell High School yesterday, where he delivered a powerful and inspiring address to male students, encouraging them to recognize their potential and strive to become the best versions of themselves.

The top cop reminded the young men that "the choices you make today determine who you become tomorrow."

Stressing the importance of self-respect, discipline, and faith, Commissioner Bailey pointed out, "the circumstances you were born into do not define who you are. Self-respect is key; respect yourself as an individual, respect others, and most importantly, respect God."

Drawing from his personal journey, Commissioner Bailey shared that he was the first in his family to attend high school. He encouraged the students to focus on education and personal growth, describing reading as the foundation of true manhood.

"Knowledge is power. If you want to be a real man, you need to read," he stated. "Remember your potential; if others can do it, so can you. Some of you are sleeping giants waiting to be awakened."

The students were also urged to remain resilient in the face of adversity. "There will be challenges, and people may try to impede your development, but rise above negativity. Sometimes, strength means walking away. Awaken the latent talent within you and move forward. Some of you are sleeping lions; it's time to awaken that instinct and rediscover your true potential," Commissioner Bailey said.

In closing, the Commissioner issued a heartfelt challenge: "Each morning, look in the mirror and remind yourself that you were created by God and are capable of great exploits. You are a possibility with potential. Step forward with confidence; this is your country, your islands. Be the best version of yourself."

Following his address, Commissioner Bailey facilitated questions, allowing the young men to share their thoughts, seek advice, and engage in open dialogue on issues affecting them.

Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey fist-bump a Clement Howell Student after his charge to them.

Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey addresses male students at the Clement Howell High School

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Minister Jolly Says Hoteliers Overreacting to TIDES Fees

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly has dismissed concerns raised by some members of the hospitality industry over the accumulative cost of the Turks and Caicos Islands Destination Experience Standards (TIDES) Training and Examination Fees, insisting that the issue is being "blown out of proportion."

In a recent TIDES (Together, Individuals, Delivering, Excellent, Service) tourism stakeholders meeting held at the DECR Office in the Bight, Providenciales, some hoteliers, especially those with greater room capacities, expressed concerns that the total sum for the training and certification exercise could blow a hole in their budget. One of the hoteliers pointed out that the exercise could cost the hotel close to $25,000.

The TIDES Fee is $25 per person, and its certification is good for two years.

Speaking with media representatives at the Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association's (TCHTA) Job Fair held Tuesday, October 22, at the Gustavus Lightbourne Sports Complex in Providenciales, Minister Jolly said that while he appreciates the significant contribution of hoteliers to the local economy, they are not exempt from contributing their fair share toward national development.

"I think a lot of the hotel owners and hotels have done an excellent job of promoting Turks and Caicos over the years, especially after we reshaped the Tourist Board and the burden kind of fell on them. But that doesn't exempt them from the responsibility of paying into Turks and Caicos," Jolly stated.

He pointed out that the tourism sector exerts a tremendous strain on national infrastructure and social systems, and therefore, it is only fair that major industry players help shoulder that burden.

"The tourism industry is a huge burden on the infrastructure, the social and economic foundation of our country. Tourism is not an easy business. For you to make money, your country has to take a licking, from the cars up and down the road, from the amount of people on your beach," he said.

"So, hoteliers coming to me and saying that TIDES is expensive and costs them a lot of money, I'm not shedding a tear. The reality is, a lot of their employees aren't Turks and Caicos Islanders. They make a lot of money. They pay HRT (Hotel Room Tax), which they charge to the guests. It's not coming directly out of their bottom line. To be honest, I feel like they can do more financially. They can pay more."

Minister Jolly further explained that while the government bears the responsibility for roads, waste management, healthcare, and education, all of which are impacted by the tourism industry, many businesses benefit without directly contributing to those costs.

"When the garbage leaves their property, they have no concern where it goes. But it's our responsibility now to recycle, compost, or dispose of it properly," he said. "At the same time, we have to provide healthcare and education for everyone. So I am of the belief that we need more from them."

Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly

The Minister also emphasized that the TIDES program should be viewed not merely as a financial obligation, but as an opportunity to strengthen national pride and promote local businesses.

"TIDES needs to be an opportunity to market local businesses. When you work in the front line of a resort, you are the first impression a guest gets, the first trust a visitor forms," Jolly said. "You need to tell them about North Caicos, South Caicos, Salt Cay, the local restaurants, and the local businesses. You have a responsibility to promote the real Turks and Caicos, not just the resort property."

Minister Jolly also underscored that while he remains open to dialogue with the hotel sector, he stands firm on the principle that those who profit most from the country's natural and infrastructural assets should contribute proportionately.

The TIDES Training, which is to teach direct industry and allied workers about everything Turks and Caicos, is primarily geared to foster one message among the players in the sector.

The DTR has expressed that there are simple aspects about the Turks and Caicos Islands that most tourism workers do not know, and therefore, when guests query about certain aspects in Turks and Caicos they do not know what to say.

Providenciales Man Convicted of Sexual Assault

A 62-year-old man from Providenciales has been convicted of sexual assault following a case investigated by the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF).

According to police, James Stanley Godet was found guilty on October 20, 2025, in connection with an incident that occurred in North Caicos on November 30, 2023.

Godet was fined $2,500, payable within 30 days, and ordered to pay $500 in compensation to the victim within 14 days. The court warned that failure to comply would result in eight weeks' imprisonment at H.M. Prison in Grand Turk.

The conviction resulted from an investigation led by officers from the Safeguarding and Public Protection Unit (SPPU), following a report filed by a 51-year-old female victim.

In a statement, the RT&CIPF reaffirmed its commitment to thoroughly investigating all reports of sexual offences and ensuring victims receive the necessary support and access to justice.

Police are urging anyone who has experienced abuse to seek help immediately by filing a report at the nearest station or contacting the Safeguarding and Public Protection Unit at 232-6696, the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) at 338-4013 or MASH@gov.tc, or the Department of Social Development at 338-4008. In emergencies, individuals should call 911.

Joran Harvey (left – standing), joins (seated from left) Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor; Minister of Public Service and Utility; former Minister of Education Hon. Karen Malcolm; and former Premier Hon. Sharlene Cartwright Robinson, along with participants of the JPIC Initiative.

30 Percent of TCI High School Students at Risk of Prison

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

A startling new finding has revealed that nearly one in three high school students in the Turks and Caicos Islands are at risk of entering the criminal justice system, according to Director of the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision, Jaron Harvey.

Speaking to members of the media on Tuesday, October 21, at the launch of the Juvenile Prevention and Intervention Council (JPIC) Workshop held at Brayron Hall on the grounds of the British West Indies Collegiate in Providenciales, Harvey said the statistic emerged from a comprehensive national survey conducted among almost 1,400 public high school students.

"What we found was that 30 percent of our high school population, based upon evidence, are at risk of entering the criminal justice system," Harvey revealed. "That's between 300 and 400 students. Our prison was only built to hold up to 150 people, so if even a portion of that group ends up in the system, we will be overwhelmed."

The JPIC Workshop is part of the government's new national at-risk youth program, which aims to identify and support students showing early signs of vulnerability to criminal involvement. The initiative, developed since 2023, takes what Harvey described as a "wraparound approach", bringing together government departments, schools, law enforcement, social services, and community organizations to intervene before at-risk youth turn to crime.

This week's session in Providenciales is the first of two two-day workshops, another will take place in Grand Turk. Representatives from the Police Force, Departments of Social Development, Education, Youth Affairs, Gender Affairs, Behavioral Health, and church and civic organizations are participating.

"We're training the people who will be on the front line," Harvey explained. "Once students are identified, they'll be referred to a central hub at our office. We'll conduct screenings, assessments, and prepare reports for the Case Management Board (CMB), which will meet bi-weekly in both Providenciales and Grand Turk."

Rising Youth Crime

Harvey noted that the need for the initiative has become more urgent as authorities have seen an increase in serious crimes involving juveniles, including murder, armed robbery, and burglary.

"The majority of our clientele are 25 and under," he said. "The prison population mirrors that trend, it's dominated by young people. If we don't intervene now, the current crime rate will pale in comparison to what's coming."

Long-Term Prevention and Measurable Goals

The initiative, Harvey emphasized, is not a short-term project but a sustained national service aimed at reducing youth involvement in crime.

"We don't even want to call it a program," he said. "A program sounds like it has a start and an end. This is a continuous service designed to help, not stigmatize, young people and their families."

Data collection will be key to tracking success. Harvey said the goal is to reduce juvenile entry into the criminal justice system by 30 percent in the first year, rising to 50–60 percent within three years, as all agencies work together.

Harvey shared success stories that demonstrate how targeted intervention can change lives. He recalled one young person who, after years of reoffending from age 14 to 19, was placed on probation in 2020 and received sustained support for drug treatment, employment, and counseling.

"That individual got two promotions within four months," Harvey said. "By 2024, they were off the police radar entirely. It shows the power of support and mindset change."

According to Harvey, over a three-year period, the department has achieved an 86 percent success rate, with only 14 percent of clients reoffending or breaching probation.

The department's research also revealed a strong link between education and crime prevention.

"Almost 70 percent of our prison population do not have a high school diploma," Harvey noted. "Education serves as a protective factor. If you have a good education, you are less likely to commit a crime. That's why we're partnering with the schools to provide support and intervention."

He stressed that tackling youth crime requires collective responsibility across all sectors.

"For too long, we've been working in silos," he said. "This council is about breaking down those silos. It's not a 'my problem' or a 'social development problem.' It's our problem collectively. Only by working together can we prevent our young people from becoming part of the justice system."

The national launch of the Juvenile Prevention and Intervention Council is expected to take place later this year, marking a major step forward in the Turks and Caicos Islands' coordinated effort to safeguard its youth and stem the rising tide of juvenile crime.

Caribbean Sea: Zone of peace and prosperity

Lapping against the shores of several sovereign countries and dependent territories, the Caribbean Sea is our patrimony. Many of us learnt how to swim or were even baptised in its serene and azure waters.

It sustains us economically through fisheries, shipping, tourism, and many other ways. This is why news of United States military strikes on alleged drug-smuggling boats in our stretch has sparked deep emotions — indignation, fear, and disbelief.

In this SRC Trading Thoughts, I argue that the Caribbean Sea must remain a zone of peace for our shared prosperity and not a theatre of war.

Since September 2, 2025 the US Southern Command has carried out four strikes on alleged drug-smuggling boats in the southern Caribbean Sea near Venezuela. At least 21 people have been reportedly killed. Washington justifies the strikes as part of its fight against 'narco-terrorism', targeting a Venezuelan gang known as Tren de Aragua, which it had designated a foreign terrorist organisation in February 2025. Washington also pointed to the need to stem the flow of illegal narcotics to the US from Venezuela, which it sees as a narco-State and the current Administration as illegitimate.

For decades, Caribbean and Latin American countries have cooperated with the US on counter-narcotics under the banner of the latter's 'War on drugs'. The Caribbean region sits along a major trans-shipment route for narcotics moving from South America to satisfy markets in the north. Weapons flowing south from the US in turn help fuel our own gang violence and homicide rates in the Caribbean.

The US's recent military strikes cannot be divorced from the wider deterioration in US-Venezuela relations, which soured under the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez Frias, and worsened under his successor Nicolás Maduro Moros. Successive US administrations have imposed sanctions against Venezuela. Moreover, in 2020 the Manhattan US attorney announced charges against President Maduro and other high-ranking Venezuelan officials for narcoterrorism, inter alia, and offered an award for information leading to his arrest and/or conviction. In August 2025 the bounty was increased to US$50 million.

Against this backdrop, the deployment of some 4,000 US troops and other military assets in the Caribbean Sea near the Venezuelan coast has reignited speculation that the US intends to pursue regime change in Venezuela — an argument Caracas has also advanced. In response, the Maduro Government has declared a state of emergency, and is strengthening its military assets. Colombia's President Gustavo Petro has also condemned the US actions, noting that Colombian nationals may have been among the decedents in the last attack.

At Venezuela's request, the UN Security Council met in emergency session on October 10, though any meaningful outcome remains unlikely due to the US's veto power. Washington argues that it is at war with drug cartels and, therefore, is acting in self-defense under the UN Charter. Yet such claims are deeply questionable.

A month after the first strike, no credible evidence has been presented by the US Administration that the targeted vessels were indeed drug boats, nor have the identities or nationalities of the deceased been disclosed. Human Rights Watch and other observers have condemned these strikes as extrajudicial killings and violations of international law. Indeed, there are legitimate fears that the deceased could have been innocent migrants or fisherfolk.

These unilateral actions also recall a darker era of US interventionism in its so-called backyard, philosophically undergirded by the Monroe Doctrine, and exemplified by the US's 1983 invasion of Grenada, the infamous Ship Rider agreements incident in the 1990s, and the ongoing embargo against Cuba. For many Caribbean people, not only do these memories remain raw but the recent strikes mark a dangerous escalation of militarisation in our usually peaceful waters, with possible economic and social implications.

SHARED WATERS, SHARED STAKES

The Caribbean Sea, though less than one per cent of the world's ocean area, accounts for as much as 27 per cent of the global ocean economy, and around 18 per cent of regional gross domestic product (GDP), according to an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) report. Every day its waters carry fishing boats, cruise ships, tankers, and cargo vessels, serving as arteries that sustain regional life.

Despite our small land masses, Caribbean nations command exclusive economic zones (EEZs) several times their size. This has led to a growing recognition that we are not merely small island developing states, but "large ocean economies".

Many Caribbean countries are seeking to develop their blue economy through, for example, maritime transport, sustainable fisheries, renewable energy, and deep sea mining. But investment and growth depend on stability. Escalating military tension between the US and Venezuela threatens this. Moreover, Trinidadian fishermen working the narrow waters between Trinidad and Venezuela have expressed fear for their livelihoods and safety.

Therefore, increased militarisation or outright conflict or war could impact fisheries, deter investment and tourism, imperiling the very industries upon which our future prosperity depends.

A ZONE OF PEACE NOT WAR

Since the Cold War, the Caribbean has taken pride in being a Zone of Peace. This principle is based on a shared commitment to avoiding military conflict, conserving regional sovereignty and stability, and rejecting foreign military intervention. At the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, several Caribbean and Latin American leaders reaffirmed this stance in their speeches.

However, troubling cracks are emerging in what should be a unified Caribbean Community (Caricom) front on this issue. Citing the bloodshed which drug-trafficking has wrought on her own country, Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar publicly supported the US actions in the region after the first strike. Media reports also suggest that the US has approached Grenada to host radar equipment and associated personnel at Grenada's main airport.

Caricom must sustain open diplomatic engagement with the US on this issue, recognising that the region has allies in the Caribbean Diaspora, civil society, and business community in both the region and internationally who do not want to see an escalation of this conflict. Over 60 civil society organisations in the US authored a letter dated October 8 to members of the US Congress expressing concern over the legality and morality of these strikes, while several senior Democrats have asked for evidence justifying the strikes.

In a press release, the UN itself has called for restraint, with Assistant Secretary-General Miroslav Jenča emphasising that all efforts to combat transnational organised crime must be conducted in accordance with international law.

We all share a stake in ensuring that the Caribbean Sea, the waters which sustain our livelihoods and economies, do not become a conflict zone. The Caribbean must speak with one voice to defend the sanctity of our shared patrimony. Preserving peace and prosperity in these waters is not just a diplomatic goal. It is a moral, social and economic necessity.

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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

New Turnkey Housing Development

We are looking for ***highly skilled*** and ***qualified*** developers to submit a proposal for the construction of a **brand new community** for Turks and Caicos Islanders on up to four parcels of land in the North West and North Central areas of Providenciales.

This exciting new community will consist of approximately 200 units featuring two and three bedroom single-family homes across 40 acres of land.

Interested parties can review the full official request for proposal by visiting our government website at **www.gov.tc/publicservice/government-tenders** to learn the full scope of details on the project.

Tender Reference Number: TR 25/03
Contract Number: TCIG 07/2025
Parcel Numbers: 60000/247, 277, 278 & 279
Acres: 40
Units: approx. 200
Location: North West and North Central, Providenciales

APPLICATION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M.

CLASP INITIATIVE

We are excited to launch this RFP under the Crown Land Access Support Programme (CLASP). This is a key project in redefining land management in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

This housing development is a joint effort presented by the Crown Land Unit and the Housing Department as part of the CLASP Initiative. For the latest news, be sure to follow the Crown Land Unit and the Ministry of Physical Planning and Infrastructure on Facebook and Instagram.

"IT WILL KILL US"

Sapodilla Bay Beach Vendors in Fear of Losing Their Livelihoods

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Jerome Rigby at his shop at Sapodilla Bay Beach near Chalk Sound

Vendors operating along the popular Sapodilla Bay Beach in Chalk Sound say they are living in fear that their livelihoods will soon be destroyed if they are forced to move from the area, a move they claim would "kill" their small businesses and rob Turks and Caicos Islanders of one of the few spaces where local entrepreneurship thrives along the beach.

Jerome Rigby, 39, has been a vendor at Sapodilla Bay for nearly a decade. He says a group of local business operators has worked hard to transform the quiet cove into a popular stop for tourists seeking authentic island experiences, but now feel targeted by efforts from members of a nearby homeowners' association who want them gone.

"We have a team of four or five of us out there...entrepreneurs, vendors... and we've got concerns that need to be addressed," Rigby said. "We've been getting messages and letters from the homeowners' association. They're pushing to have us removed from the beach. For too long they've been heard, but now it's time for our side of the story."

"They're saying we disturb their guests"

According to Rigby, the vendors have been accused of causing disturbances, soliciting, and other misconduct, allegations he calls unfair and outdated.

"They're saying we're disturbing their guests, that we're dealing drugs on the beach," he said. "Yes, years ago there were some issues with people (who were dealing drugs) who are no longer here, but everyone operating now is licensed and legitimate. We're doing things properly."

For more than eight years, Rigby and other vendors have been offering food, drinks, water sports, and beach chair rentals to tourists and locals alike. The small but vibrant cluster of businesses, including Konky Konky, Tropical Waves, TCI Bar, and Cozy Waters, has become a hallmark of the Sapodilla Bay experience.

"We've made this a destination," Rigby said proudly. "People come to Turks and Caicos, and they want to see Grace Bay, sure, but they also want something authentic, local, laid-back. This beach offers that. We've had people come back two, three times a year just to see us again."

Pushed "across the street"

Rigby lamented that the latest push from the homeowners' association has resulted in legal action and court proceedings aimed at classifying the beachfront as a non-vending zone. The government reportedly lost a recent case to the homeowners' association, leaving the future of the vendors uncertain.

"They want to move us across the street, but if they do that, it's over. Nobody's going to cross the road to buy a drink or rent a chair," Rigby warned referencing vendors who in close proximity a Grace Bay property, who were removed from their original spot, which cause their businesses to plummet.

"They moved them, then closed the gate, and that was the end of their business. That will kill us," he warned. He also raised safety concerns, warning that moving vendors to the opposite side of the road could endanger both workers and visitors.

"You're putting people's lives at risk," Rigby argued. "You have people buying drinks, crossing the street with cars coming...that's dangerous. And where's the empowerment for Turks and Caicos Islanders in that?"

Licensed, Local, and Law-Abiding

The Sapodilla Bay vendors insist that they are legitimate small business owners, all licensed, regulated, and paying government fees.

"Everyone here has their business license, liquor license, park license, everything is up to date," Rigby said. "We're all providing for our families. We're young entrepreneurs, most of us in our 30s. The government talks about empowering Turks and Caicos Islanders. Well, this is what empowerment looks like."

Rigby said the vendors are not against regulation or enforcement but want fairness and inclusion in the conversation.

"If they say there's a problem, regulate it," he said. "We're not against having officers or constituency officers on site to keep things in order. But don't just shut us down. Don't destroy our livelihoods."

Tourists "Love the Authenticity"

He added that the vendors receive overwhelmingly positive feedback from visitors who enjoy the beach's local atmosphere.

"We get 95 percent positive feedback," Rigby said. "People come here for the local culture, the authentic experience. That's what they love, that's what keeps them coming back. We've actually put this beach on the map through our service and reviews online."

"The Beach Belongs to the People"

The vendors argue that Sapodilla Bay, like all beaches in the Turks and Caicos Islands, is public property, and that private homeowners should not have the power to displace them.

"The beach doesn't belong to the homeowners, it's government land, it's for the people," Rigby said. "We're asking the government to stand with us, to help us stay where we are, and to recognize this area as a proper vending zone."

Vendor Jerome Rigby points to a pile of rubble that a neighboring homeowner dumped near the beach at Sapodilla Bay Beach.

Tourism Minister Calls for Closer Partnership Between TVET and TCHTA

By Vivian Tyson Newsline Editor-In-Chief

Minister of Tourism, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, has called for a closer working relationship between the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) program and the Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA) to ensure that more Turks and Caicos Islanders are equipped with the skills needed to fill key roles in the hospitality industry.

The Minister made the appeal while commending the TCHTA for hosting a two-day Hospitality Job Fair at the Gustavus Lightbourne Sports Complex on Tuesday, October 21, and Wednesday, October 22, which drew hundreds of jobseekers and featured 26 participating organizations from across the tourism sector.

Hon. Jolly said that while the job fair was a major step in connecting residents with employment opportunities, the long-term goal must be to build a pipeline of trained local talent through stronger coordination between industry and education.

"Every year we have a graduating class from TVET and the Community College," Minister Jolly said. "These are our future employees and entrepreneurs. If resorts and tourism employers establish a relationship with these institutions, they can help shape the training programs to meet their real needs, so when graduates finish, they can move directly into well-paying jobs."

The Minister emphasized the importance of aligning technical training with the demands of the hospitality sector, especially in fields such as maintenance, air conditioning, plumbing, and electrical work.

"Every time I walk onto a resort property and see maintenance or technical jobs filled by people from outside Turks and Caicos, I wonder why our young men and women aren't in those positions," he said. "If hotels work closely with TVET and make clear what kinds of skills and certifications they require, we'll create a steady pipeline of trained Turks and Caicos Islanders, and eventually, we won't need to apply for work permits for these positions."

Jolly commended the TCHTA for organizing the fair and praised the Labour Department and TVET teams for participating, saying that collaboration between the private sector and government agencies was crucial for national development.

"I want to commend the TCHTA for gathering all these properties together and correlating all the vacancies in one place," the Minister said. "But beyond this event, it's important that we follow through. The Labour Department's role here is vital, to register jobseekers, track outcomes, and ensure people are not just applying for jobs but being hired into positions that pay fairly."

The TCI Community College's Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET), was on prominent display at the two-day TCHTA Job Fair at the Gustarvus Lightbourne Sports Complex.

Responding to skepticism surrounding the event in light of recent announcements by some resorts about foreign recruitment, Jolly said the government is committed to accountability and results.

"It's okay for people to be skeptical," he admitted. "But what matters now is action. I'm here because I want people to know that the Minister of Tourism cares — and will be checking back to ensure this isn't just a show. We're going to hold everyone accountable, including ourselves."

The Minister said the overwhelming turnout, with more than 400 people attending by midday on the first day, reflected not only unemployment concerns but also the desire among residents for better opportunities and upward mobility.

"Many people here are already employed, but they're looking for something better," he said. "That tells me our people want growth. The jobs are available, now we must make sure the right people end up in the right roles."

Jolly also pointed to several new developments, including Moon Palace, which will bring hundreds of new hospitality jobs. He urged developers to prioritize partnerships with local training institutions from the beginning.

"Our tourism product continues to expand, but our focus must remain on ensuring Turks and Caicos Islanders are first in line," he said. "That means proper coordination among the Labour Department, Community College, Immigration, and the private sector. If one link in the chain is broken, our people will feel failed."

The Minister concluded by reiterating his belief that tourism must deliver direct benefits to the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"If our tourism industry doesn't benefit our local people, then what's the point?" he said. "This job fair is proof that collaboration works, but it must lead to real, lasting opportunities. We're going to make sure something meaningful comes out of this."

The TCHTA Job Fair was the first event of its kind in nearly a decade and is part of ongoing efforts to connect Turks and Caicos Islanders with meaningful careers in the nation's largest economic sector.

Cape Bar Leaders Meet TCI Bar President in South Africa

The President of the TCI Bar Association, Mr. Mark A. Fulford, paid a courtesy visit to the Cape Bar (Society of Advocates of the Western Cape) at its Secretariat in Cape Town, where he was received by Chairperson Janet McCurdie SC and Vice-Chair Brenton Joseph.

This engagement formed part of Fulford's Africa outreach programme aimed at forging closer professional, academic, and regulatory ties between Bars of the Caribbean and Africa. Discussions centred on Bar governance, advocacy training, ethics in the digital age, and the modernization of professional regulation.

Chairperson McCurdie and Vice-Chair Joseph provided an overview of the Cape Bar's role within South Africa's legal framework, including its coordination with the General Council of the Bar and the Legal Practice Council and its leadership in advocacy training, professional discipline, access to justice, and transformation.

Fulford shared updates on the Turks and Caicos Islands Bar's reform agenda, including the drafting of a modernized Legal Profession Act, recently implemented Practice Directions on Artificial Intelligence, and initiatives to strengthen professional standards and ethical accountability within a small-state context.

Both institutions exchanged perspectives on emerging ethical challenges in the era of AI and social media, emphasizing the importance of upholding professional integrity and responsible digital engagement within the legal profession. They also explored opportunities for future collaboration in advocacy training, pupillage design, and continuing legal education across Africa and the Caribbean.

"The Cape Bar represents some of the best traditions of independence, excellence, and public service," said President Fulford. "This dialogue reaffirmed that small jurisdictions like the Turks and Caicos Islands can both learn from and contribute to the global conversation on modernization, ethics, and the responsible use of technology in the law. The rule of law is strongest when knowledge and standards are shared."

Chairperson McCurdie welcomed the engagement, noting the shared responsibility of Bars across the Commonwealth to uphold professional integrity and access to justice amid rapid social and technological change.

The visit forms part of the TCI Bar President's broader Africa–Caribbean cooperation initiative, connecting small-state Bars with leading jurisdictions on the African continent. Through these exchanges, Fulford seeks to build enduring partnerships that enhance professional training and the global voice of small jurisdictions within the common-law family.

Both Bar leaders agreed to continue exploring joint professional-development and research collaborations in 2026, particularly in areas of advocacy training, ethics, and technology governance.

The Cape Town engagement follows recent high-level meetings by Fulford with the Law Society of Kenya, the Zanzibar Law Society, and legal leaders in Johannesburg and Nairobi, as part of his mission to bridge the legal communities of Africa and the Caribbean through shared reform, scholarship, and mutual respect.

The Cape Bar is one of South Africa's oldest and most respected societies of advocates. Its members practise as independent counsel before the High Court and other courts and tribunals.

R to L: Vice-Chair Brenton Joseph, Chairperson Janet McCurdie SC and President Mark A. Fulford at the Cape Bar Secretariat, Cape Town, 21 October 2025.

Promotion Examinations Successfully Conclude

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF) is pleased to announce the successful completion of the promotion examinations to the ranks of Sergeant and Inspector.

This year, over 100 officers participated in the examinations, which were administered and supervised by officials from the University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. The UWI team comprised Professor Corin Bailey, Ms. Kim Sealey, and Mrs. Melanie Callender-Forde.

The examinations were conducted at the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College in Providenciales and the H.J. Robinson High School in Grand Turk. Officers from across the Force sat for both the Sergeant and Inspector-level examinations.

Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey met with the UWI officials on October 16, and was briefed on the overall administration of the process. He commended the smooth execution of the examinations and reaffirmed his confidence in the transparent and accountable process undertaken.

Commissioner Bailey also expressed his gratitude to the UWI for their partnership and professionalism in administering the examinations, noting that their involvement reinforces the integrity and credibility of the promotion process.

Commissioner Bailey stated, “I am aware that change will have its resistance, however, if we are to achieve progress, we must embrace change. I have every confidence in the fairness and integrity of the process, and I look forward to the results as we continue to strengthen the leadership within the Force.

The Executive extends best wishes to all officers who participated and remains committed to ensuring merit-based advancement and professional development across all ranks.”

The next phase of the promotional process — the interview stage — will be announced once the examination scripts have been marked and finalized.

TCICC Achieves Historic 32% Enrolment Growth

Dr. Candice Williams, President and CEO of the TCICC

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

In what is said has been a testament of transformation, trust, and national pride, the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC) has seen a meteoric and historic 32% increase in student enrolment compared to the 2024 academic year, marking the largest enrolment growth in the institution's three-decade history.

This milestone, according to the institution, underscores its ongoing transformation under visionary leadership and reflects renewed national confidence in the College as the premier provider of accessible, world class tertiary education.

The TCICC pointed out that from 2022 to 2025, its student population expanded from 350 to 619, representing an impressive 76.9% overall increase within just four years. This remarkable growth highlights TCICC's evolution into a modern, student-centred institution dedicated to academic excellence, innovation, and national development. Enrolment gains were observed across multiple programmes, the college noted in a news release.

"A key milestone this semester is the transition of the Nursing Programme to the Providenciales Campus, a strategic move designed to enhance access to training in one of the nation's most critical fields," the TCICC said in the release. "This initiative underscores TCICC's enduring commitment to equity, accessibility, and opportunity for all Turks and Caicos Islanders.

Dr. Candice Williams, President and CEO, expressed immense pride and gratitude for the College's continued progress.

"This record-breaking increase in enrolment stands as a powerful affirmation of TCICC's transformation and the unwavering belief of our people in the value of higher education and training at home. It reflects the strength of our renewed vision, the impact of our dynamic marketing efforts, and, most importantly, the confidence and pride of a nation that continues to choose TCICC as the driving force of national development," Malcolm said.

She pointed out that the TCICC Board of Governors continues to play a vital role in guiding the institution's strategic direction and growth.

For her part, Mrs. Sheba Wilson, Chairman of the Board, stated: "The Board of Governors commends the leadership and staff of TCICC for their continued dedication to expanding access to quality tertiary education.

"These growing numbers speak volumes about the College's relevance and its steadfast commitment to producing skilled, competent, and visionary graduates who will contribute meaningfully to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"The Board remains deeply committed to supporting the College's leadership as they pursue the strategic goals and objectives that will further strengthen TCICC's role in national development."

The TCICC pointed out that the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture has been instrumental in supporting TCICC's mission through the national #IAMTCICC campaign, which promotes pride and participation in local higher education.

Hon Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, congratulated the TCICC community, stating:

"This achievement reflects the success of our collective efforts to make higher education more inclusive and impactful for all Turks and Caicos Islanders. TCICC continues to play a pivotal role in advancing the national agenda for education and human capital development, and the Ministry remains proud to support its ongoing growth."

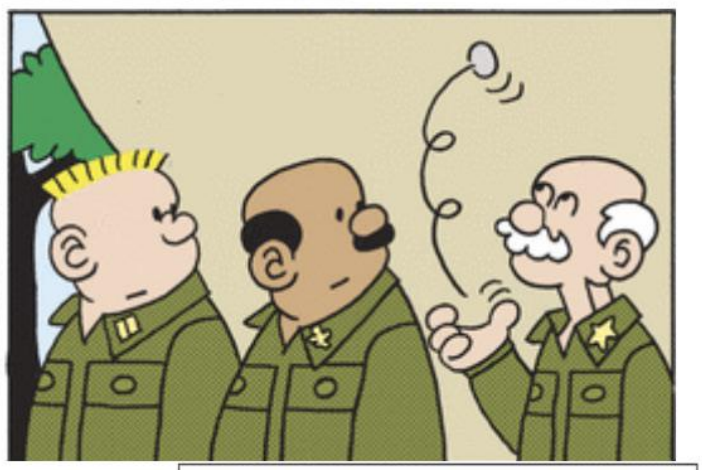
As TCICC continues to expand its programmes and reach, prospective students are encouraged to take the next step in their academic journey. Spring 2026 enrolment is now open and will close on 1 December 2025.

Sheba Wilson, Chairman of the TCICC Board

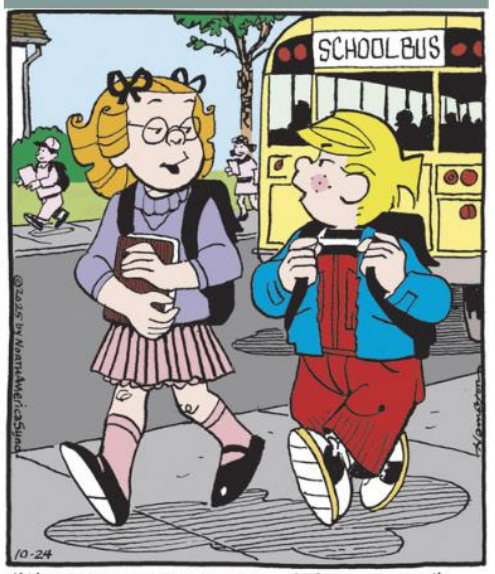
The College offers Pre-College, Associate, and Bachelor's Degree programmes across seven faculties, alongside Professional Short Courses and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) opportunities at campuses in Grand Turk, Providenciales, and South Caicos.

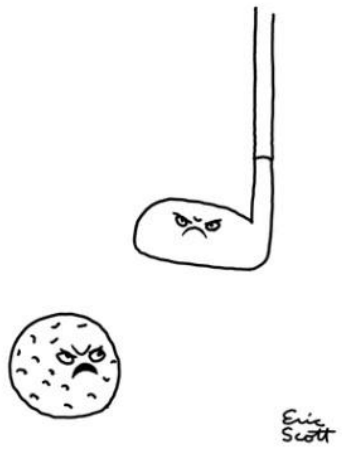
For more information on programmes and admissions, visit www.tcicc.edu.tc or contact:

- **Providenciales West Campus: 441-3210**
- **Grand Turk Campus: 339-3900 Ext. 2027**
- **Providenciales East Campus: 339-3900 Ext. 2018**



NEWSLINE TCI COMICS

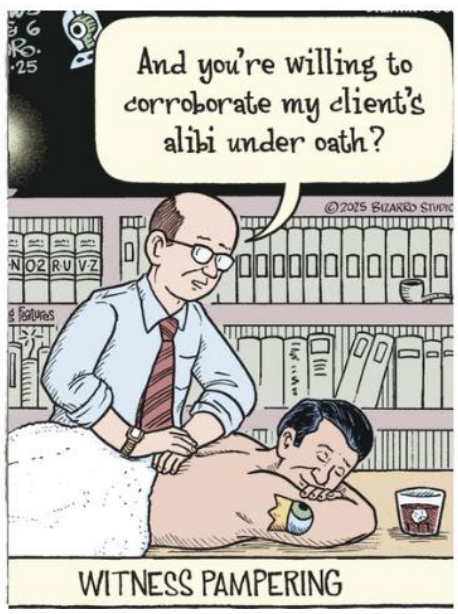




"Let's face it. This relationship is not up to par."

"I pack light."

"There's no magic act. People see a man holding a rabbit and assume I'm a magician. Today, I'll make this stereotype disappear."



The Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana (Cyclura carinata) is one of the most distinctive and ecologically significant animals found in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Endemic to this region, it exists nowhere else in the world, making it an important part of the islands' natural heritage and a symbol of local biodiversity.

Appearance and Habitat

The rock iguana is a medium-sized reptile, usually gray or brown with a pale underside. Adult males can reach over 20 inches in length, including the tail. While generally shy and non-aggressive, these iguanas are an important keystone species in the local ecosystem.

They primarily inhabit dry, rocky coastal areas, small cays, and scrubland. Most of the remaining wild population lives on small, uninhabited islands such as Little Water Cay (Iguana Island), Pine Cay, and Water Cay. These isolated locations have allowed them to survive without the threats found on more developed islands.

National Significance

The rock iguana is more than a rare reptile—it is a living symbol of the unique wildlife that sets the Turks and Caicos Islands apart. Its survival depends on continued public awareness and responsible environmental stewardship.

As development continues across the islands, preserving native species like the Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana ensures that future generations can continue to learn from and appreciate the natural beauty that defines the TCI.

Ecological Role

As herbivores, rock iguanas feed on leaves, flowers, and fruits, playing a critical role in seed dispersal and vegetation balance. Their presence helps shape the local plant communities and contributes to the overall health of the coastal ecosystem.

Conservation Status

The Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana is currently listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Major threats include habitat loss, development, and the introduction of invasive species such as cats, dogs, and rats, which prey on iguanas and their eggs.

Conservation efforts led by the Turks and Caicos National Trust, the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), and international partners have focused on habitat protection, predator control, public education, and research. Little Water Cay is now a designated nature reserve and eco-tourism destination where visitors can observe the iguanas in their natural environment with minimal disturbance.

References:

Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), Turks and Caicos Islands Government
Plants of the Eastern Caribbean (Botanic Gardens Conservation International / Kew Gardens Project)
The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species
"Wild Plants of the Turks and Caicos Islands" by Sara and Mark Putnam
TCI National Symbols – Turks and Caicos Islands Government Information Service (GIS)
Caribbean Biodiversity Information Network (CBIN)

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH, SPORTS & CULTURE

NATIONAL YOUTH AWARDS 2025

Youth with Purpose: Building a Sustainable TCI

Celebrate Excellence. Nominate Today!

Ages 12–35 | Individuals & Youth Groups

Recognizing leaders, achievers & changemakers

Scan the QR Code to Nominate

To nominate yourself or someone, access the form by clicking the QR code or the use the link below

Nominations close: November 10th, 2025

Nominate a deserving young person today!

Contact info: youthdepartment@gov.tc

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

All Saints Mission Church

This week on Newsline Featured Church, we turn the spotlight on All Saints Mission Church, located along the Leeward Highway in Providenciales. The minister for that body of Christ is Pastor James Prospere. All Saints Church, which has one of the largest memberships of the any such body in the Turks and Caicos Islands, conducts two services on Sunday – the Sunday Morning Service and the Sunday Night Service. On Wednesday Night is Prayer Meeting and on Friday its their Youth Service.

Life line Church Directory

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

Firm Foundation Ministries International
Lee Street, South Caicos.
Telephone: 649-348-3581

Christ is the Answer Ministry,
George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales
Tel: 241-8030

One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales.
Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com.

Touch of Love Ministries International Center
Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales
Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731

Abundant Life Ministries International
P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales
Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755

Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk,
Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289

Bethany Baptist Church,
Blue Hills, Providenciales
Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118

Church of God of Prophesy,
Lower Bight, Providenciales
Tel: 941-8854

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

Calvary Baptist Church,
South Caicos. Tel:946-3212

Harvest Bible Chapel TCI,
Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales.
Tel: 1649 333-2009
Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com.
https://www.harvesttci.tc.

Firm Foundation Ministries International
19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240

Church of God of Prophesy,
Providenciales Tel:941-3438

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

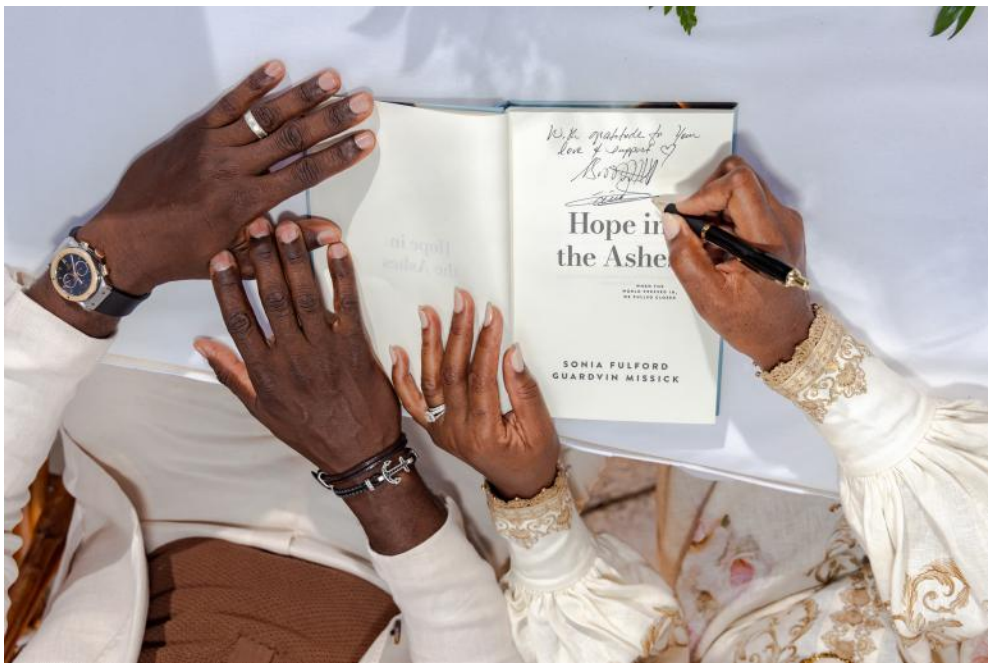
United Pentecostal Church,
Brown's Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852

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

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

HIGHIGHTS OF THE SONIA, GARVEY MISSICK 'HOPE IN THE ASHES' MEMOIR LAUNCH

On the evening of October 19th, 2025, surrounded by family, friends, and supporters, Sonia and Garvey Missick, celebrated the official launch and book signing of their deeply personal memoir, 'Hope in the Ashes: When the World Pressed In, We Pulled Closer'. The date also marked their sixth wedding anniversary, a symbolic milestone of restoration, courage, and divine redemption. The event was attended a wide cross-section of the TCI society, including government functionaries, the private sector and civil society. The following are photo highlights of the event.


Hope in
the Ashes
SONIA FULFORD
GUARDVIN MISSICK

YOUR BODY CRAVES ROUTINE MORE THAN YOU THINK

How a daily rhythm helps regulate hormones, sleep, and mood

By Monica Uttamchandani
Holistic Health Coach - Turks and Caicos

In a world that celebrates flexibility and spontaneity, routine might seem boring. But for your body, especially your nervous system and hormones, consistency is soothing. Our bodies thrive on rhythm: waking, eating, moving, and resting at regular times. When we eat meals at random times, stay up late scrolling, or skip movement altogether, we confuse our body's internal clock (the circadian rhythm). This can throw off digestion, mood, energy, and even fertility. Here's how routine supports your health:

- Regulates cortisol and stress levels
- Supports stable blood sugar and appetite hormones
- Enhances sleep quality and melatonin production
- Improves digestion and reduces bloating
- Boosts immunity by reducing inflammation

Start with these foundational anchors:

- Wake up and sleep around the same time each day
- Eat your meals within consistent windows
- Move your body at a similar time (even if just a 10-min walk)
- Limit screen time before bed

It's not about being perfect. It's about being consistent enough for your body to feel safe and supported.

Consistency Is a Form of Care

When we offer our body a predictable rhythm, it feels held — and that's when healing becomes possible.

Want to build rituals that feel nourishing, not rigid? I share doable ideas and body-loving habits that support balance, not burnout.

Connect with me on @balancedbymonica on Instagram for grounded wellness inspiration.

Monica Uttamchandani is a certified Holistic Health Coach based in the Turks and Caicos Islands, supporting men and women in creating grounded, nourishing lives, one breath at a time. She also consults in person at The Elephant Rooms in Salt Mills, Providenciales.

HEALTH REGULATION AUTHORITY LAUNCHES PUBLIC AWARENESS SURVEY TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Health Regulation Authority (HRA) is pleased to announce the launch of a comprehensive public awareness survey designed to gauge community familiarity with the organisation and its role in ensuring safe, trusted, high-quality healthcare across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Starting October 20, 2025, and running for 30 days, the "How Well Do You Know Us?" survey invites all residents to share their knowledge and perspectives about the HRA. This important initiative aims to identify opportunities to improve the Authority's accessibility and strengthen its connection with the communities it serves.

"Understanding how well the public knows about the HRA and our mission is essential to fulfilling our commitment to excellence, quality, and safety," said CEO, Romaine Missick-Smith. "This survey provides residents with a direct opportunity to help us improve our outreach and ensure we are meeting the community's needs effectively."

The survey is conveniently accessible through multiple channels:

- HRA website: www.hra.tc
- Social media pages: Instagram: @tcihealthregulationauthority, Facebook: @Turks and Caicos Health Regulation Authority
- Community flyers: Distributed throughout public spaces
- QR code: Featured on promotional materials for instant mobile access

Participation takes only a few minutes and requires no personal identifying information. The feedback collected will directly inform the HRA's strategic communications and community engagement initiatives, helping to ensure that vital health regulation information reaches all residents.

"Your input is vital in ensuring that we are accessible to the public," the Authority emphasised. "Every response helps us better serve the Turks and Caicos Islands community."

The Health Regulation Authority encourages all residents to take advantage of this opportunity to make their voices heard and contribute to strengthening healthcare oversight within our beautiful Turks and Caicos Islands.

FREE DENTAL CARE, GREAT SHAPE, 1000 SMILES

The Ministry of Health and Human services wishes to inform the general public that Great Shape Inc., Beaches Resort, and Sandals Foundation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Human Services, will be offering free dental services to the general public, especially the underserved of the Turks and Caicos Islands, inclusive of all age-groups, from October 20th to October 31st , 2025.

The clinics will be held at the Church of God of Prophecy, five Cays, Providenciales, as well as in the Church of God of Prophecy in Blue Hills Providenciales.

Free dental services will be offered daily Mondays to Fridays the from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.

Services include cleanings, fillings, extractions, root canals, sealants and more.

All attending clients seeking treatment(s) are asked to present a form of identification. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The service will be offered on a first come first serve basis, walk-ins welcome.

Further information can be obtained from:

Providenciales Dental Clinic 1(649) 338-5133

Grand Turk Dental Clinic 1(649) 338-3483

North Caicos Dental Clinic 1(649) 338-3050 / 946- 7397

South Caicos Dental Clinic 1(649) 946-3711

We thank you, as we work together in improving the Oral Health of the residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Made in TCI 2025 Vendors Ready to Take Over with Culture and Creativity

The highly anticipated Made in TCI 2025 is preparing to take off, and this year's campaign has everyone talking.

In a creative twist, the Department of Trade, Industry, and Fair Competition staged a striking campaign shoot inside the Providenciales International Airport immigration area. The concept? Vendors lined up like travellers awaiting their stamp of approval, a powerful nod to this year's theme: "Stamped by Culture, Driven by Purpose."

The visual captures the heart of Made in TCI, a celebration of homegrown talent, local entrepreneurship, and national pride. Each vendor represents a passport of creativity, authenticity, and bold business spirit. From beauty and crafts to food and fashion, the lineup includes some of the most exciting names in TCI's small business scene.

The event takes place November 15, 2025 at Grace Bay Market. Attendees can look forward to live entertainment, cultural showcases, product launches, and over 50 vendors ready to leave their mark.

This is more than a trade show, it's a cultural movement.

Want to see the full campaign come to life? Follow @MadeInTCI on Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok to meet the vendors, watch behind-the-scenes clips, and get hyped for the main event.

- Contributed

Invest Turks and Caicos Announces the Return of the MSME Awards

Invest Turks and Caicos has announced the return of The MSMEs, set to take place on Friday, November 21st, 2025, at the Beaches Resort Villages & Spa Main Stage.

The prestigious black-tie event, held under the theme "A Celebration of Excellence," will honour outstanding entrepreneurs whose innovation, perseverance, and impact have shaped the Turks and Caicos Islands' small business landscape.

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Programme, a flagship initiative of Invest TCI, was established to foster entrepreneurship and empower local business owners through access to grants, business support, and capacity-building opportunities. The awards ceremony, held biennially, recognizes the exceptional achievements of MSME grant recipients who exemplify the spirit of enterprise and excellence across the islands.

"This year's MSME Awards is a celebration of vision, grit, and impact," said Alexa Cooper, VP of SME Development. "Every entrepreneur we honour represents a story of vision, resilience, and impact that proves excellence is not a moment, but a mindset that continues to shape the future of business in Turks and Caicos."

The evening will also spotlight the participants of the Incubator and Accelerator Programmes, acknowledging their progress and commitment to innovation, growth, and sustainability. With an anticipated ten award categories, the ceremony will bring together business leaders, government representatives, and members of the private sector in a night of recognition, reflection, and inspiration.

Angela Musgrove, CEO of Invest Turks and Caicos, expressed her pride in the program's continued evolution, stating "As the MSME programme matures, we see recipients moving beyond foundational business models into strategic growth, creating partnerships and pathways that strengthen their reach and resilience," said Musgrove. "As we celebrate excellence, we reaffirm our commitment to building a resilient, diversified economy. Our aim is to ensure that local enterprises are not just part of the economy- they lead it."

Guests can look forward to an evening of elegance, featuring a red-carpet reception, dinner, and the official awards ceremony.

Francois Bourne

Llana Ewing

Marc Rawlins

Rev Frednor Toussaint

GOVERNOR APPOINTS NEW MEMBERS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Her Excellency the Governor, Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, today announced the appointment of Mr. Marc Rawlins as the new Chair of the Human Rights Commission, and the appointment of Dr. François Bourne, Ms. Llana Ewing and Rev. Frednor Toussaint as members of the Commission, marking an important step in strengthening the protection and promotion of human rights across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The appointments are made by the Governor, acting after consultation with the Hon. Premier and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, in accordance with Section 101(1) of the Constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands and Section 3(2) of the Human Rights Commission Ordinance.

New Chair of the Human Rights Commission

• Mr. Marc Rawlins, who currently serves as Deputy Chair of the Human Rights Commission, brings over 10 years of experience in law, corporate governance and regulatory compliance.

He has previously served as Legal Adviser and Secretary to the Board of Commissioners of the Financial Services Commission and is a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist and Chartered Director. His appointment as Chair provides both continuity of leadership and a strong legal foundation for the Commission's work New Members of the Human Rights Commission

• Dr. François Bourne is a General Physician with extensive experience in community health and national service. He has served as a member of both the National Health Insurance Board and the National Insurance Board and continues to make significant contributions to primary care in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

• Ms. Llana Ewing brings a strong background in operations, human resources and organisational development within the hospitality and service sectors, having served as Director of Quality Assurance and Training at Grace Bay Resorts and currently as Director of Rooms at Point Grace Resort.

• Rev. Frednor Toussaint, Superintendent of the South Turks and Caicos Islands Circuit of the Methodist Church, has over 25 years of ministry and community service, working to strengthen faith-based engagement and social inclusion across the Islands.

Her Excellency the Governor welcomed the appointments, stating:

"I congratulate Mr Marc Rawlins on his appointment as Chair of the Human Rights Commission. Having served with distinction as Deputy Chair, he brings not only a depth of experience, but a steadfast commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights across our Islands.

I am confident that under his leadership, the Commission will continue to plays a vital role in ensuring that the rights and freedoms of all who call the Turks and Caicos Islands home are respected and protected.

I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to outgoing Chair Ms Roxanne Wake-Forbes for her leadership and unwavering dedication as Chair of the Human Rights Commission. Under her stewardship, the Commission has deepened its impact and strengthened the foundations of human rights protections across our Islands.

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to Ms Melanie Smith, whose term also concludes. Her contributions have enriched the Commission's work and helped shape policies that make a real difference in people's lives."

"Together, these individuals exemplify the values we hold dear - commitment, courage and compassion in service to the Turks and Caicos Islands."

Mr. Marc Rawlins, the incoming Chair of the Human Rights Commission, expressed his appreciation on behalf of the new members:

"It is an honour to be entrusted with this responsibility to serve the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Human rights form the cornerstone of any democratic society, and we are committed to ensuring that the Commission continues to promote and protect these rights with transparency and fairness. We look forward to engaging with communities across the Islands to raise awareness and strengthen confidence in the human rights framework"

TCIAA Hosts 2025 Annual General Meeting Under the Theme "Gateway to Tomorrow"

Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Arlington Musgrove

Premier Hon. Washington Misick

Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam

The Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority (TCIAA) successfully hosted its 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) at The Shore Club Resort under the theme "Gateway to Tomorrow." The event, which was open to the public and streamed live via Facebook and Radio Turks and Caicos, reflected on the Authority's progress during the 2024–2025 fiscal year and set the stage for an exciting new chapter ahead.

Hon. Arlington Musgrove, Minister for Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development; Premier Hon. Charles W. Misick; and Governor H.E. Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam delivered remarks during the event. H.E. Anya Williams, Deputy Governor, along with other Members of Parliament, key stakeholders, and representatives from the private sector were also in attendance.

Chief Executive Officer Mr. Selvyn Hawkins presented the Annual Performance and State of the Authority Report, followed by an engaging panel discussion exploring this year's theme, "Gateway to Tomorrow."

The 2025 AGM spotlighted major redevelopment and modernization projects across TCIAA's national airport network — including significant upgrades at the Howard Hamilton International Airport, Clifford Gardiner Airport, Norman B. Saunders International Airport, and J.A.G.S. McCartney International Airport. These projects are supported by critical infrastructure improvements designed to enhance safety, efficiency, and connectivity across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

This year's meeting also marked the beginning of TCIAA's official countdown to its 20th Anniversary, celebrating two decades of growth, innovation, and dedicated service to the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"Gateway to Tomorrow is more than a theme — it represents our ongoing commitment to building a stronger, smarter, and more sustainable future for aviation in the Turks and Caicos Islands," said Mr. Hawkins.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority extends its appreciation to all public and private sector partners who attended and supported this year's Annual General Meeting.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority Ordinance ("TCIAA") was established in 2005 under The Airports Authority Ordinance (Ord.11 of 2005) for constructing, controlling, and managing airports, and providing and maintaining runways, taxiways, and terminals for the efficient operation of airports in the Turks and Caicos Islands. It is further responsible for providing Border Control facilities (i.e. Customs and Immigration Services) and for Health and Security Checks. Since its establishment, the TCIAA has been instrumental in the development and improvement of the Turks and Caicos Islands' six (6) public airports:

(1) The Howard Hamilton International Airport/ Providenciales International Airport (MBPV)

(2) The JAGS McCartney International Airport / Grand Turk International Airport (MBGT)

(3) The Norman B Saunders Sr International Airport / South Caicos Airport (MBSC)

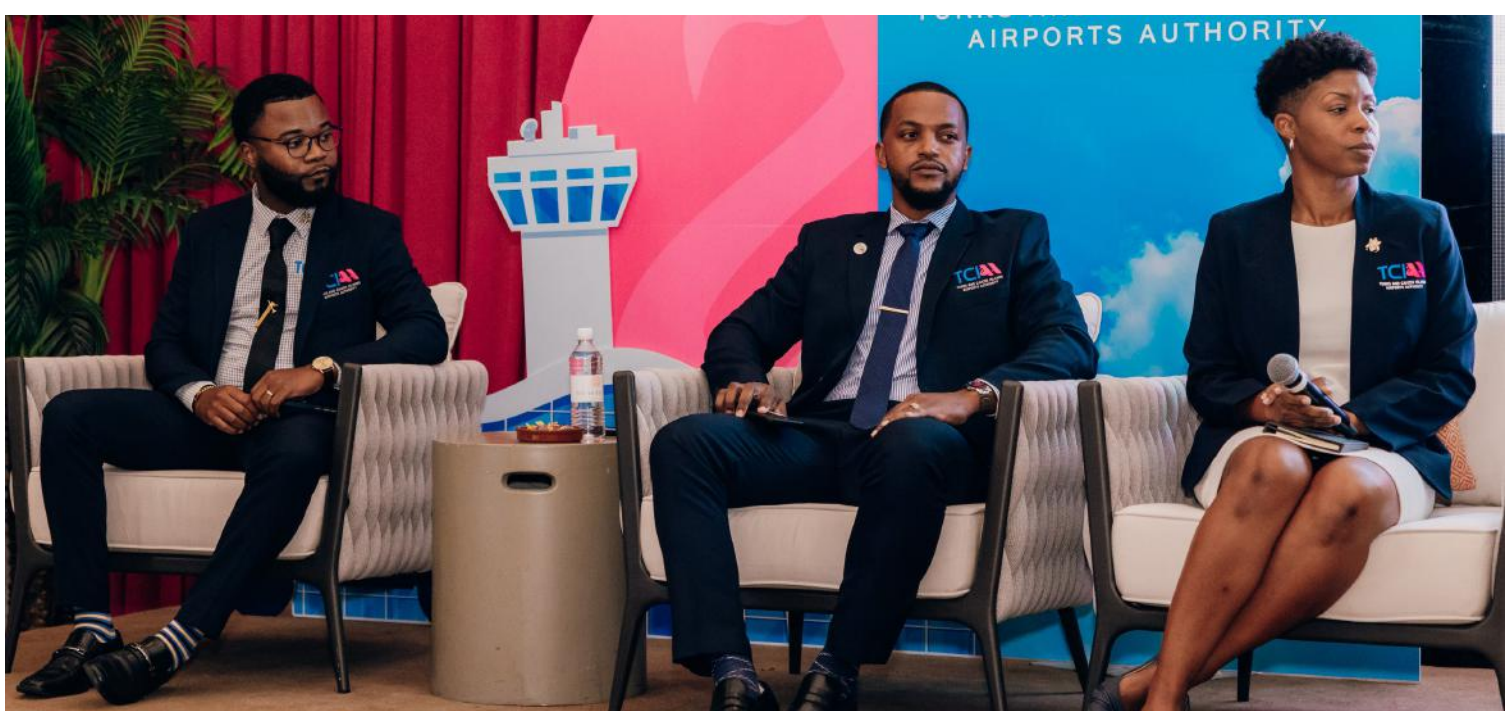
(4) The Clifford Gardiner International Airport/ North Caicos Airport (MBNC)

(5) The Eric Arthur Airport/ Middle Caicos Airport (MBMC)

(6) The Henry Leon Wilson Airport / Salt Cay Airport (MBSY)

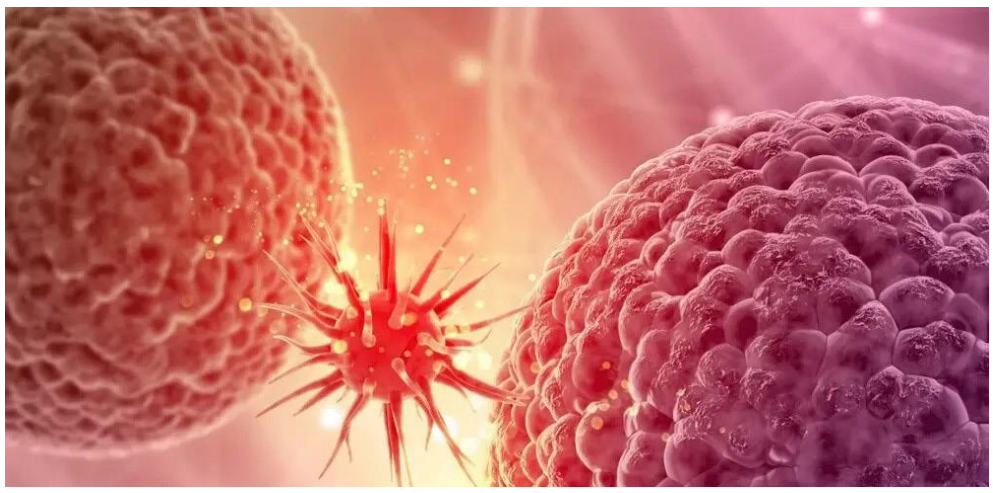
The TCIAA continues to operate as a focal point on the national agenda for economic and social development. The TCIAA Board consists of eight (8) members with a broad spectrum of experience in airport management, aviation, security, development, investment, law, and other industries, as well as public policy and government.

The goal of the TCIAA is to provide world-class airport operations through high-standard safety, security, quality, efficiencies, and customer service, recognizing its importance to the overall economic development and strategic growth of the Turks and Caicos Islands.



There was also a panel Discussion

Breast cancer prevention



MAINTAINING A healthy weight, staying physically active, limiting alcohol, not smoking, and being mindful of hormone replacement therapy can help prevent breast cancer. Regular screenings like mammograms are also crucial for early detection, and you can discuss your personal risk factors with a doctor, especially if you have a strong family history.

Dr Orlando Thomas, medical doctor and functional medicine practitioner at Thomas Medical and Shockwave Centre in Old Harbour, St Catherine, Jamaica said even if you have a family history of breast cancer, you can reduce your risk naturally.

"Breast cancer affects millions of women worldwide, and is one of the prevalent types of cancers among women that impacts families and communities. It occurs when cells in the breast grow uncontrollably, forming a tumour. These cells then invade nearby tissues and have the ability to spread to nearby organs," Dr Thomas said.

We have the power, he said, to prevent breast cancer by adopting a proactive approach to reduce the risk. Functional medicine, he said, emphasises nutrition, exercise, and mental well-being in maintaining good health.

"A wholistic approach that includes lifestyle changes that promote a healthy body and mind, stress management, regular physical activity and a balanced diet are crucial. Prevention is also about making empowered choices that also support mental health. Regular screening, self-examinations and a healthy diet make a world of a difference," Dr Thomas said.

PRACTICAL TIPS TO FIGHT BREAST CANCER

• Diet: Food is medicine, and certain foods help prevent breast cancer. Eat colourful foods and vegetables, berries, and leafy and cruciferous vegetables. These contain antioxidants that protect our bodies from damage. Simple dietary shifts can help our bodies thrive and defend against diseases.

Juicing is also a great way to flood your body with concentrated nutrients that can fight cancer-causing radicals with rich antioxidant foods. You can start your day with a vibrant green juice using organic produce to minimise pesticide exposure.

• Exercise: Physical activity regulates hormones, boost the immune system and reduce inflammation. Aim for at least 30 minutes of exercise for almost all the days of the week. You can include walking, jogging, swimming and cycling. Do not make it a routine. You can turn it into a social activity, for example, joining a team or class. Start small, and gradually increase your activity. Gradual exercise can lower your breast cancer risk by up to 20 per cent. Exercise also improves your mental health, including stress and anxiety. You can include your family and friends to make it a more supportive experience. You can also monitor your progress by using fitness apps to set goals and track how you are doing. Make exercise a regular and enjoyable part of your life.

• Mindfulness: Incorporate mindful practices in your routine to improve your stress levels. Explore nature and make your workout adventurous. Small changes every day can be helpful. While diet and exercise are crucial, taking care of your mental and emotional well-being is equally important. Your mental state can significantly impact your physical health, especially preventing diseases like breast cancer.

Chronic stress weakens our immune system and hormones, like cortisol, produced during stress can suppress the immune system. Meditation helps manage stress, reduce anxiety and produce inner peace. Regular practice trains our mind to remain calm and focused, even for a few minutes daily. Meditation can lower your risk of stress and improve overall well-being.

You can make these changes a regular part of your health routine; and in the process you can encourage your loved ones to do the same.

Source: Centre for Disease Control and Prevention

Genesis PII TCI Ltd As Chargee pursuant to its charge and the registered land ordinance hereby gives notice that it will cause to be sold the property listed below by public auction, to be held at the Office of Stanbrook Prudhoe , address: 3rd Floor Graceway House,Graceway plaza Providenciales Turks and Caicos Island at 10 AM on November 21st 2025

Location	Unit 1033 - 38 Marlin Street Providenciales, TCI
Description	The subject property located in phase one of the One on Marlin development which comprises a total of 35 self-contained apartments situated in 10 detached villas.
Title	60717-107K11
Proprietor	Tamika Thompson

A reserved price will be fixed on the parcel and a deposit of 10% is due immediately upon accepted bid. Conditions of Sale available upon request or at the Auction.Terms And conditions of sale by public Auction are available by request form

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‘Hope in the Ashes: When the World Pressed In, We Pulled Closer’

Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor is flanked by authors Sonia and Garvey at the launch of their book Hope in Ashes.

In a culture that often teaches people to hide their pain, “keep family business private,” and carry their suffering to the grave, Sonia and Garvey Missick have done something extraordinary; something that has shaken silence and sparked healing across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

On the evening of October 19th, 2025, surrounded by family, friends, and supporters, the couple celebrated the official launch and book signing of their deeply personal memoir, Hope in the Ashes: When the World Pressed In, We Pulled Closer. The date also marked their sixth wedding anniversary, a symbolic milestone of restoration, courage, and divine redemption.

The evening, filled with emotion, grace, and gratitude, was more than a book launch, it was a movement. It was a moment that dared to normalize truth-telling, emotional healing, and authentic connection in a society where vulnerability is often mocked, and image is prized above wholeness.

From the moment it was released, Hope in the Ashes stirred conversation across the nation, not just because of its honesty, but because it touches the universal human experience of pain, forgiveness, and rebirth.

“This book isn’t just for people healing from infidelity,” Sonia emphasized during her remarks. “It’s for anyone navigating pain or trauma, whether it’s loss, disappointment, childhood wounds, or betrayal of any kind. Pain wears many faces, but healing begins the same way: with truth.”

Answering the Question: Why?

The biggest question asked after the book’s release was simple: “Why?” Why would she write this book? Why would two public figures expose their most painful chapter? Sonia’s answer was clear and deeply grounded in conviction:

“Because silence keeps too many people bound in shame. The book was not written by me; the book was written by my husband and me. We realized that what we were facing wasn’t unique. Marriages are under attack everywhere; especially in small communities like ours, and too many people are suffering quietly and afraid of judgment. Before we even began sharing publicly, people were already reaching out for help. That showed us there’s a real need for this kind of truth. We felt called to give back what was given to us, the gift of healing, truth, and transparency.”

Our journey toward that truth began at a couples’ retreat in the U.S., where over twenty couples, many struggling with infidelity but also with grief, addiction, abandonment, and other deep wounds, shared their stories openly. That transparency became a turning point for us.

The retreat gave us what most marriage groups, churches, and even Christian leaders don’t often give: transparency and permission to tell the truth on these topics,” Sonia said. “It was there that we learned healing cannot grow in silence. You can’t build on secrets. You can’t build on lies. Healing begins when truth is spoken aloud, even when it hurts.”

Since the book’s debut, countless individuals and couples across the islands and the diaspora have reached out, sharing their own stories, seeking guidance, or simply expressing relief that someone had finally said out loud what so many were living in silence. That’s a gift that is rare in our society. That is the WHY!

Garvey’s address during the launch resonated powerfully with men; husbands, fathers, and brothers who saw themselves in his words. His message was one of accountability, humility, and hope.

“To the men,” Garvey said, “truth is your starting point. Counseling is not weakness; it’s wisdom. Accountability is not control; it’s protection. Good men make bad choices, but that doesn’t make you a bad man. Change doesn’t happen overnight; it happens through surrender, consistency, and doing the work.”

He continued, “For years, I lived in deception; functioning on the outside but fractured on the inside. Lies don’t protect; they poison slowly. Real healing started when I stopped hiding, told the whole truth, and faced myself. If God could change me, He can change you too. There is hope in the ashes.”

Both Sonia and Garvey hope their story will help break a generational cycle of silence, one where people envy “perfect-looking” relationships and ridicule authenticity.

“We must start changing our culture, one person, one family, one conversation at a time,” Sonia said. “Too many people envy healthy relationships because they’ve never experienced one. Instead of celebrating love that’s been redeemed, they ridicule it, and that’s a symptom of unhealed pain. We want to be part of changing that narrative.”

The launch event was described by many as unforgettable; blending emotion, honesty, and deep faith. It featured live performances, heartfelt readings, and reflections that moved guests to tears. Surrounded by their children, family, and friends, the Missicks gave thanks to everyone who stood by them through judgment, gossip, and grace.

“Our mess became our ministry,” Sonia said in closing. “If even one person finds hope in these pages, every whisper, every criticism, every tear, will have been worth it. We didn’t write this book for attention. We wrote it for transformation.”

About the Authors:

Sonia Fulford-Missick is President of the Turks & Caicos Islands Football Association, a long-standing FIFA Council Member, and an advocate for leadership, wellness, and women’s empowerment across the Caribbean.

Guardvin “Garvey” Missick is a construction professional with over 25 years of experience and owner of Missick’s Contracting Ltd. Together, they use their story to help individuals and couples rebuild after pain; blending faith, therapy, and truth to inspire restoration.

Book Details:

- Hope in the Ashes: When the World Pressed In, We Pulled Closer
- Paperback ISBN: 979-8-89283-291-5
- Hardcover ISBN: 979-8-89283-292-2
- Available now on Amazon and through select local agents. Please call Monae on 333-2290 for on-island purchase.

Garvey Missick could not contain his emotions at one stage of the event during the book launch.

Alicia Keys' musical 'Hell's Kitchen' hits the road

Maya Drake appears during a performance of the North American Tour of 'Hell's Kitchen', a musical from Alicia Keys.

Alicia Keys' semi-autobiographical, coming-of-age Broadway musical is all grown up and leaving the nest. And, like any happy parent, Keys may visit it every once in a while. A new Hell's Kitchen cast has assembled in Cleveland for a national tour that will take them to the south, midwest and west on a 28-city parade through 2026.

"It feels so good to know that it's going to go across the country and this cast, let me tell you, is out of control. They're so good," Keys said.

"Obviously, everybody can't get to New York City. Everybody can't go to Broadway."

Those who catch the musical on the road might also get an extra treat. Keys said she's liable to show up on some stops as a fairy godmother as it crosses the nation.

"I love, as an artiste, bringing my energy to other artistes. That's really a fulfilling feeling. So, I'll be fairy god-mothering. You never know where you'll see me."

Hell's Kitchen is about a 17-year-old New York piano prodigy fuelled by Keys songs like Fallin', No One, Girl on Fire, If I Ain't Got You, as well as several new songs, including Kaleidoscope.

It centres on a young woman named Ali, who like Keys, is the daughter of a white mother and a black father and is growing up in a subsidised housing development just outside Times Square in the once-rough neighbourhood called Hell's Kitchen. She learns to hone her music skills, falls in love and reconciles with her sometimes overbearing mom.

Keys hopes audiences will come for her music, the story and the diverse cast: "It's really exciting to be able to go somewhere and see yourself on the stage or to see your experience played out."

The Ali on tour is 18-year-old Maya Drake, a recent high school graduate from San Jose, California, who endured a long, rigorous audition process. She was a fan of Keys before the musical popped up on her radar.

"The fact that I get to be in a show with somebody else's music and, of all the people, it gets to be her, I got so lucky with that," said Drake. "Just to have that connection is so special, and it makes the show feel 10 times more enjoyable."

As part of her audition process, Drake went to New York to watch the musical on Broadway, starring Jade Milan as Ali. "It's a lot seeing it for the first time and she never leaves the stage," said Drake, who remembers thinking: "To be a part of something that big would just be crazy."

After the tour cast was announced, the actors were invited onstage at the Shubert Theatre to cheers after a performance, and Drake got to meet and speak to veterans like Jessica Vosk and Kecia Lewis, who won a Tony Award in the show.

"That was a really special moment," she said. "Sharing advice and getting insight from the people that are currently doing the show helped us understand what you're about to get into and some things that can help."

The tour coincides with the publication of Hell's Kitchen: Behind the Dream, a photo-heavy book that charts the show's 13-year evolution , from crafting the show with book writer Kristoffer Diaz and director Michael Greif to how it would end up with costumes, casting, choreography and staging.

Life on the road

After Cleveland, the tour goes to Pittsburgh, Chicago, Detroit, New Orleans, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Denver, Oklahoma City, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Las Vegas, San Diego and other cities.

Drake is, naturally, looking forward to the show going to California, especially the stop in San Francisco, the closest stop for friends and family from San Jose. She's also excited to be on the road.

"I really have not travelled a bunch of my life, which is kind of ironic because I'm about to do a lot of travelling," says Drake, who trained at the Children's Musical Theater San Jose. "I'm definitely excited to go everywhere."

Keys, who watched the show win two Tony Awards and the 2025 Grammy for best musical theatre album, thinks the musical about her old New York neighbourhood can thrive away from the Big Apple.

"This is a story inspired by my experiences growing up in New York City, for sure. And, yes, it is a New York story, 1,000 per cent. The thing is, though, the story truly is timeless," she said. "It's such an emotional, honest, raw, authentic story that it doesn't matter if it's in Cleveland, or if it's in Detroit, or if it's in Manhattan or Atlanta."

Garnett Silk's children 'blessed to have a father they could emulate'

Members of entertainment fraternity accept national honour at King's

More than 30 years after his death, reggae singer Garnett Silk was posthumously honoured by the Jamaican Government with the Order of Distinction in the Rank of Officer for his outstanding contribution to reggae music.

On Monday, October 20, National Heroes Day in Jamaica, his spouse Novlyn 'Lovey' Banton and their four children were all present at King's House in Kingston, for the official Ceremony of Investiture.

There were miles of smiles all around, except for one brief moment when, surprised by a question from the Governor General as she received the medal, Lovey's tears fell.

"I wasn't expecting the GG to ask me anything ... I just couldn't hold back the tears," explained Lovey. She managed to compose herself, even though a well-wisher came up to her and said, "I cannot forget that Saturday morning," referring to the morning when the world heard about the singer's tragic passing.

In that moment, Lovey gathered the children and Garnett's manager, Bridgett Anderson together for photo memories. The family told The Gleaner that they "felt honoured," especially because on Sunday night, Garnett was one of the music legends honoured by Sizzla at his Rise to the Occasion concert, celebrating Kalonji's 30 years in the music business.

That award was collected by Arrayma, the first daughter for the couple. She responded to the fact that the two successive days were all about her father.

Family and friends of the late Garnett Silk celebrate his posthumous OD. From left: Delroy Collins; Kemilee McLymont; Arrayma Smith (daughter); Fabian Smith (son); Novlyn Banton (spouse); Garnet Smith (son); Wayzero Smith (daughter) and former manager Bridgett Anderson.

"Well, you know what ... ever since I was a child, it's always been about Daddy. And I mean that in the most humble way. Whenever I think about him, I feel three things. I feel proud, I feel extremely emotional, and I feel blessed. Because not many people have good parents to emulate. And I had a Dad who practised what he preached and who was loved by people ... even 30 years after dying, he's still receiving awards," Arrayma told The Gleaner.

She recalled accepting awards on behalf of her father from an early age, even though she never quite understood.

"But that's because of the impact. And the reason why there is even an impact is because everything came from the soul. Everything was genuine and he was doing God's work. So when we talk about Daddy, I get very emotional because I know ... I know ... and we are happy for this recognition," she said, speaking for her entire family.

Arrayma, who was three when Garnett passed, describes her memories of the I'm Growing singer as "blotches" and it was her brothers who helped to secure the memory by sharing information with her and by teaching her about Garnett Silk.

"My brothers are brilliant musicians, and I shy away from it, but they teach me about it, they nurture and they just let me know who Garnet Silk ... Garnet Smith ... really was and is, in the spirit. And I'm just always very proud and very humble. To be honest, I've been so quiet about it because I'm the crybaby of my workplace or my home, but he deserves this because he changed the entire trajectory of music in the 90s, brought love, spirit and true feeling and passion to it. And you cannot deny that."

In closing, Arrayma added, "And I'm a proud daughter."

Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director, CARPHA (left) stands with other distinguished panellists following the From Fragmentation to Coherence- Partnering for Pandemic Resilience Panel Discussion, at the World Health Summit, Berlin, Germany.

Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director, CARPHA presents during the Fragmentation to Coherence-High Level Panel Discussion-Partnering for Pandemic Resilience at the World Health Summit.

CARPHA brings Caribbean context at the Renowned World Health Summit

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) - the Caribbean's sole regional public health agency and the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) lead for health - joined world leaders, international agencies and global health representatives at the World Health Summit (WHS) 2025 in Berlin, Germany from October 12-14, 2025.

The WHS 2025, under the theme, "Taking Responsibility for Health in a Fragmenting World", brought together over 4,000 on-site participants from 144 countries and more than 40,000 online attendees, featuring 400+ speakers with an equal gender balance.

CARPHA's Executive Director, Dr Lisa Indar, the only Caribbean-designated speaker at the WHS, provided the unique, regional public health perspective of the Caribbean's Small Island Developing States (SIDS), characterised by its small size, highly interconnected, porous borders, fragile health systems, tourism dependency and high vulnerability to nature disasters and climate change impacts; necessitating Caribbean tailored heath interventions to effectively prevent the rapid spread of diseases across the region and across international borders.

She highlighted, that given the Caribbean's context, an outbreak in one island can easily become an outbreak in the region and possibly impact on regional and global health security; and that CARPHA's advancements in novel early warning and response surveillance systems, laboratory systems, workforce development and partnerships for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR) funded through the Pandemic Fund grant, provided effective Caribbean tailored solutions.

Dr Indar also brought the Caribbean perspectives regarding mental health, climate change and health, the emerging threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the ageing population, speaking at the following sessions:

- Global Health Lab Session on "What is Next for Global Health Emergencies? How to Sustain a Strong Global Health Emergency Architecture?"
- High-level Panel Discussion on "From Fragmentation to Coherence: Partnering for Pandemic Resilience: Country Leadership at the Core of the Pandemic Fund's Vision for a Safer World" and
- Global Health Lab Session on "Turning Commitment to Action for Mental Health – Implementing the outcome of the United Nations (UN) High-Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Mental Health."

Dr Indar also engaged in several side meetings with international partners, including a panel discussion on "From Forecasts to the Frontlines: Embedding Climate Services in Health Systems" and an event entitled "Who Pays to Keep the World Safe? – A Call to Empower Countries through Collaborative Surveillance."

The World Health Sumit provided a unique platform for CARPHA global health partners across sectors and regions to strengthen partnerships, share experiences and identify actionable solutions to some of the most critical public health facing societies today.

Belize signs 'safe third country' agreement as part of Trump's immigration crackdown

The small Central American nation of Belize has signed a "safe third country" agreement with the United States, the two sides said on Monday, as the Trump administration seeks to ramp up deportations and dissuade migration north.

What the agreement entails wasn't immediately clear, but it comes as US President Donald Trump has increasingly pressured countries in Latin America and Africa to help him carry out his immigration agenda.

The deal appears to be similar to one with Paraguay announced by the US State Department in August that included a "safe third country" agreement in which asylum seekers currently in the US could pursue protections in the South American nation.

In Trump's first term, the US signed several such agreements that would instead have asylum seekers request protections in other nations, like Guatemala, before proceeding north.

The policy was criticized as a roundabout way to make it harder for migrants to seek asylum in the US and was later rolled back by the Biden administration.

Earlier this year, Panama and Costa Rica also accepted US flights of hundreds of deportees from Asian countries – without calling the deals "safe third country" agreements – and thrusting the migrants into a sort of international limbo.

The US has also signed agreements, such as deportation agreements, with war-torn South Sudan, Eswatini and Rwanda.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio

The Belize government said in a statement on Monday that it "retains an absolute veto over transfers, with restrictions on nationalities, a cap on transferees, and comprehensive security screenings."

The government of the largely rural nation wedged between Mexico and Guatemala reiterated its "commitment to international law and humanitarian principles while ensuring strong national safeguards."

No one deemed to be a public safety threat would be allowed to enter the country, it said.

On Monday, the State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs thanked Belize in a post on X, calling the agreement "an important milestone in ending illegal immigration, shutting down abuse of our nation's asylum system, and reinforcing our shared commitment to tackling challenges in our hemisphere together."

The decision prompted fierce criticism from politicians in Belize, who railed against the agreement, calling it a "decision of profound national consequence" announced with little government transparency. The agreement must be ratified by Belize's Senate to take effect.

"This agreement, by its very nature, could reshape Belize's immigration and asylum systems, impose new financial burdens on taxpayers, and raise serious questions about national sovereignty and security," Tracy Taegar Panton, an opposition leader in Belize's parliament, wrote on social media.

She noted fierce criticisms of human rights violations resulting from similar policies carried out by both the US and Europe.

"Belize is a compassionate and law-abiding nation. We believe in humanitarian principles. But compassion must never be confused with compliance at any cost. Belize cannot and must not be used as a dumping ground for individuals other countries refuse to accept," she wrote.

Four Guyanese nationals feared dead after fishing boat sinks in Suriname

Rescue teams in Suriname are continuing the search for four Guyanese nationals, now feared dead, after a fishing boat sank in the Saramacca River near Lareco on Saturday evening.

The Saramacca River is regarded as a key waterway for the Maroon communities who live along its banks and who use it for transportation and trade.

The police said that they had received a report early Monday morning that the crew were floating on ice cubes. They said that the caller had indicated that people in the area had used their boats to search for the four people, without success.

The National Army Marine Corps, and the Groningen police were also deployed in the search.

The wife of the boat owner reported that her husband and three crew members were missing. She did not provide the names of the crew members.

According to her, her husband departed from the mooring at Huweijkszorg on Friday evening, October 17, in a recently purchased and renovated fishing boat, heading for Paramaribo, for a mandatory seaworthiness inspection by the Maritime Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LVV).

She said that on Saturday morning, her husband, identified only as RL, called her to say the boat was taking on water and they were floating on ice. The call was abruptly cut off.

Later that evening, he called again and asked her to quickly write down the coordinates because "he wouldn't make it."

According to authorities, the location she gave turned out to be more than 100 kilometres offshore, in the direction of the Atlantic Ocean.

The police public relations department said that the search is continuing.

Brazil greenlights oil drilling in sensitive Amazon region

Brazil's Petrobras said Monday it has permission to drill for oil near the mouth of the Amazon River, casting a shadow over the country's green ambitions as it prepares to host UN climate talks.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has come under fire from conservationists who argue his oil expansion plans clash with his image as a global leader on climate change.

Brazil will host COP30 climate talks in the Amazon city of Belem next month.

Petrobras said drilling in the Foz de Amazonas region will begin immediately and will last for five months, after its five-year battle to get permission to explore the area.

"Petrobras met all the requirements established by (environmental watchdog) Ibama, fully complying with the environmental licensing process," the oil giant said in a statement sent to AFP.

"We hope to obtain excellent results from this research and prove the existence of oil in the Brazilian portion of this new global energy frontier," said Magda Chambriard, president of Petrobras.

The company will drill an exploratory well at an offshore site that lies 500 kilometres (310 miles) from the mouth of the Amazon River at a depth of more than 2,800 meters (9,200 feet).

The drilling of Block 59 — which is 160 kilometres from the coastline — has been a passion project for Lula, who insists oil revenues will help fund Brazil's climate transition.

Environmentalists have raised alarm about drilling for oil off the coast of the world's largest tropical rainforest, a biodiverse area that is home to several Indigenous communities.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva

Brazil's Climate Observatory NGO said civil society organizations would go to court to fight the decision, based on "illegalities and technical flaws" in the licensing process.

"The approval sabotages the COP and goes against the role of climate leader claimed by President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on the international stage," said the Climate Observatory.

"The decision is disastrous from an environmental, climate, and sociobiodiversity perspective."

Foz de Amazonas is part of a promising new offshore oil frontier, with nearby Guyana emerging as a major oil producer in less than a decade following large offshore discoveries.

Ibama denied Petrobras an exploration license in 2023, citing inadequate plans to protect wildlife in case of an oil spill.

As Petrobras appealed, pressure rose from Lula who said earlier this year that Ibama was a government agency acting as if it was "against the government."

In February, an opinion signed by 29 Ibama technical staff and seen by AFP said the recommendation remained to "deny the environmental license," highlighting the risk of "massive biodiversity loss in a highly sensitive marine ecosystem."

However, in May, Ibama president Rodrigo Agostinho overruled the opinion and allowed Petrobras to go ahead with an oil spill accident response drill that was considered the last step before the license is granted.

In September, Ibama approved the pre-operational environmental assessment, despite Petrobras failing to demonstrate it can "reliably protect fauna in the event of an oil spill."

Ibama said a new fauna simulation would take place "after the license is issued."

Ibama's technical staff noted in February that drilling conditions were very challenging in the Foz de Amazonas basin, prone to intense storms and strong ocean currents.

Dodging Trump's tariffs, Brazil's Embraer lands record orders

Brazilian aircraft manufacturer Embraer on Tuesday reported a record order backlog in the third quarter of US$31.3 billion after dodging the worst of US tariffs.

The world's third-largest aircraft manufacturer hailed an "unprecedented high" in orders led by the commercial aviation sector with a backlog of 490 aircraft.

US President Donald Trump in August imposed a further 40 per cent tariff on Brazilian goods, but exempted aircraft.

This was crucial for Embraer as the United States represents 45 per cent of its commercial aircraft market and 70 per cent of its executive aircraft market.

The company was still affected by the baseline 10 per cent tariff applied to all imports in April and has called for a swift return to "zero tariff rules for all aviation and aerospace industry".

Brazil was slapped with higher rates over what Trump termed a "witch-hunt" against his ally, far-right former President Jair Bolsonaro.

Bolsonaro was sentenced to 27 years in prison for plotting to overthrow President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva after his 2022 election loss.

Bolsonaro's trial and the resulting tariffs and sanctions on Brazil strained diplomatic ties between the two countries.

However, in recent weeks there has been a thaw in tensions, with a 30-minute phone call between Lula and Trump and a meeting between the countries' top diplomats in Washington.

Brazil's presidency has said it is possible that the two leaders could meet this weekend at the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the Malaysian capital.

A European diplomat told AFP on condition of anonymity earlier this month that lobbying by Embraer and other major Brazilian companies had helped unlock the dialogue.

Embraer said it had delivered 62 aircraft in the third quarter, including 41 business jets, 20 commercial aircraft, and one military aircraft.

The order backlog represented a 38 per cent increase from the third quarter of 2024.

2025 INTER-PRIMARY FOOTBALL KICKS OFF NOV.1

See Story on Page 32

Jamaica among co-hosts for 2031 Women's World Cup bid

United States football officials on Monday confirmed that Mexico, Costa Rica and Jamaica have joined its bid for the 2031 Women's World Cup.

The United States had already been announced by FIFA President Gianni Infantino as the sole bid for the expanded 48-team tournament.

At a formal launch for the bid in New York, US officials said Concacaf members Mexico, Costa Rica and Jamaica will also stage games in the tournament. It confirms a Jamaica Observer report earlier this month that the island will possibly host matches at the global showpiece.

"We're incredibly proud to be leading this bid for the 2031 Women's World Cup alongside our Concacaf partners in Mexico, Costa Rica, and Jamaica," US Soccer President Cindy Parlow Cone said in a statement.

"Together, we have an extraordinary opportunity to host the biggest and most impactful Women's World Cup in history."

The joint bid will be submitted to FIFA next month, with the global football governing body set to give its formal approval at its congress in Vancouver in April 2026.

Infantino announced in April that the US was the lone bid for the 2031 tournament with "potentially some other Concacaf members", while the 2035 tournament would take place in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The tournament's expansion from 32 to 48 teams was also announced earlier by Infantino.

Concacaf President and FIFA vice-president Victor Montagliani also welcomed the joint bid in a statement.

"Our Confederation's commitment to women's football has never been stronger, and hosting the FIFA Women's World Cup 2031 will build on this momentum, inspiring future generations of players and fans across North America, Central America, and the Caribbean," Montagliani said.

The United States and Mexico had initially planned to bid for the 2027 Women's World Cup but withdrew their candidacy weeks ahead of a 2024 FIFA vote in Bangkok in order to concentrate on a successful bid for 2031.

The 2027 tournament was eventually awarded to Brazil.

North America has hosted the tournament on three previous occasions, with the USA solo hosts in 1999 and 2003, and Canada staging the event in 2015.

Hosting the 2031 tournament will complete a busy cycle of major sporting events in North America.

FIFA staged its inaugural Club World Cup in the region earlier this year, while the United States, Canada and Mexico will host next year's men's World Cup.

Los Angeles is also hosting the 2028 Olympics.

US Soccer chief Parlow Cone said the bid came with interest in women's football at an all-time high in the United States.

"Women's soccer is thriving," she said at a briefing in New York. "We have two division one professional leagues in the United States, stadiums sell out and broadcasters are paying record rights fees.

"Sponsors see women's soccer as one of the best investments in sports. People everywhere are waking up to what soccer can be, not just here in the US, but across CONCACAF and around the world."

Parlow Cone joked that as the lone bidders for the 2031 tournament she "liked our chances" of success.

"When we are officially selected, we'll work with FIFA to deliver the biggest, most impactful women's sporting event in history," she added.

"We chose to do it together with our Concacaf partners because this moment is bigger than any one country."

Jamaica Football Federation Michael Ricketts said the Caribbean nation's hosting of games would "have a huge impact on the psyche of every single Jamaican."

"It is no ordinary feat for a small country like ours to host World Cup matches," Ricketts said. "This is huge for Jamaica and for every person who proudly calls themselves Jamaican."

Akeal Hosein

Hosein, Simmonds replace injured pair for remaining Bangladesh ODIs

Akeal Hosein and Ramon Simmonds have been named as replacements for the West Indies in the ongoing One-Day International series against Bangladesh.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) announced on Monday that Hosein and Simmonds will replace pacers Jediah Blades and Shamar Joseph for the remaining two matches.

The 23-year-old Blades, a left-arm medium pacer, has been ruled out of the upcoming matches, and the tour of New Zealand that follows, with a stress fracture to the lower back. He will return home to undergo rehabilitation.

Joseph, who missed the preceding tour of India, reported some discomfort in his shoulder during the first training session ahead of the opening ODI against Bangladesh on Saturday.

Following a subsequent scan he has been recommended for consultation with a specialist in England to start the rehabilitation process.

The 24-year-old Simmonds made his debut for the senior side in the recently concluded T20I series against Nepal where he took four wickets in two matches.

The West Indies trail the three-match ODI series 0-1 after losing the opening match by 74 runs on Saturday.

The second ODI was scheduled to begin early on Tuesday.

The final match is set to be played on Thursday.

WATERLOO CHALLENGE CUP 2025 SIZZLES

Cheers, teamwork, and friendly rivalry set the scene on Saturday, October 11, as staff from Waterloo Investment Holdings Limited (WIHL) gathered for a spirited Sports Day at the Turks & Caicos Rugby Club.

Employees representing Alexandra Resort (the Alexandra Warriors), Blue Haven Resort (the Blue Haven Gladiators), and Ambergris Cay (the Ambergris Whales) joined the Waterloo Minions—a combined team from the International School, British Caribbean Bank, Imperial Laundry, Ultimate Resort Vacations, and the WHML Corporate Office—for an afternoon of fun and friendly competition at this year's Waterloo Challenge Cup.

From sprints and relays to playful events like the three-legged race, water balloon toss, and tug-o-war, the field buzzed with excitement as colleagues and families cheered one another on. A live DJ, BBQ cookout, raffles, and prizes added to the celebration.

"Events like the Waterloo Challenge are about much more than competition," said Stewart Howard, Chief Executive Officer at WIHL. "They celebrate our shared spirit, encourage wellness, and bring together our extended family from across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

It was a pleasure to see so many smiles and great camaraderie throughout the day."

The event concluded with presentations and prizes recognizing both athletic achievement and enthusiastic participation. Final team standings were:

1st – Waterloo Minions
2nd – Ambergris Cay Whales
3rd – Alexandra Warriors
4th – Blue Haven Gladiators

As the sun set, families celebrated another successful gathering that reflected WIHL's values of teamwork, unity, and community.

After this year's success, the Waterloo Challenge Cup is set to become an annual highlight — a day of teamwork, laughter, and healthy competition. The countdown begins. Who will win the trophy next year?

Waterloo
Minions

Beaches Provo Premier League 2025–2026 Set for Exciting Kick-off on November 1

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) has unveiled the full fixture list for the Beaches Provo Premier League 2025–2026 season, which is set to begin on Saturday, November 1, 2025.

The new campaign promises to deliver months of competitive action, local pride, and emerging football talent from across Providenciales and beyond.

This year's tournament features eight top-tier clubs: SWA Sharks FC, Cheshire Hall FC, Flamingo FC, Teachers YS, Provo United SC, Academy Eagles FC, Teachers FC, and Beaches FC. These teams will contest the Apertura Round, the opening phase of the league, which will run from November 2025 through January 2026.

The season opens with a double-header on Saturday, November 1, as Provo United SC take on Academy Eagles FC at 7:00 p.m., followed by SWA Sharks FC squaring off against Teachers FC at 9:00 p.m. at the TCIFA National Academy field. Both encounters are expected to set the tone for what should be an exciting and unpredictable season.

Over the course of three months, a total of 28 matches will be played, with teams competing for top position in the Apertura standings before the Clausura Round begins in 2026. Every matchday brings a mix of experience and youthful energy, with many clubs blending veteran leadership with promising young players eager to make their mark on the national stage.

Among the early fixtures, fans can look forward to the November 8 matchup between Cheshire Hall FC and SWA Sharks FC, a battle that often delivers high intensity and drama.

On Wednesday, November 12, Flamingo FC will host Beaches FC under the lights — another crowd-pleasing encounter between two sides known for their attacking flair.

As November continues, Beaches FC will face Academy Eagles FC on November 15, followed by a clash between Teachers FC and Provo United SC on November 29 — both key matches that could influence early standings.

After the holiday break, the league resumes in the new year on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, with Teachers YS meeting Cheshire Hall FC, signaling the return of competitive football to the TCIFA pitch. Other standout fixtures in January include Beaches FC versus SWA Sharks FC on the 24th and Flamingo FC versus Teachers FC on the same day, both expected to draw large weekend crowds.

The Apertura campaign wraps up on Saturday, January 31, 2026, with two thrilling encounters: SWA Sharks FC taking on Provo United SC in a clash of title hopefuls at 6:30 p.m., followed by Academy Eagles FC against Teachers YS in the nightcap at 8:30 p.m.

With Beaches Resorts returning as the title sponsor, the league continues to grow in professionalism and exposure, strengthening local football development and providing opportunities for players, coaches, and referees alike. The 2025–2026 edition is expected to be one of the most competitive yet, as each club looks to make an early statement in pursuit of league glory.

Fans are encouraged to come out and support their favorite teams, celebrate the spirit of the game, and witness the continued rise of football in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

BEACHES PROVO PREMIER LEAGUE 2025-2026

Team name	Bonus/penalty points
SWA Sharks FC	
Cheshire Hall FC	
Flamingo FC	
Teachers YS	
Provo United SC	
Academy Eagles FC	
Teachers FC	
Beaches FC	

APERTURA ROUND

Match #	Date	Time	Home	Away	Score (H)		Score (A)
1	Saturday November 1 2025	7:00pm	Provo United SC	Academy Eagles FC		:	
2	Saturday November 1 2025	9:00pm	SWA Sharks FC	Teachers FC		:	
3	Wednesday November 5 2025	7:00pm	Teachers YS	Teachers FC		:	
4	Saturday November 8 2025	6:30pm	Cheshire Hall FC	SWA Sharks FC		:	
5	Saturday November 8 2025	8:30pm	Flamingo FC	Teachers YS		:	
6	Wednesday November 12	7:00pm	Flamingo FC	Beaches FC		:	
7	Saturday November 15 2025	6:30pm	Cheshire Hall FC	Provo United SC		:	
8	Saturday November 15 2025	8:30pm	Beaches FC	Academy Eagles FC		:	
9	Wednesday November 19	7:00pm	Teachers FC	Beaches FC		:	
10	Saturday November 22 2025	6:30pm	Academy Eagles FC	Cheshire Hall FC		:	
11	Saturday November 22 2025	8:30pm	Teachers YS	SWA Sharks FC		:	
12	Wednesday November 26	7:00pm	Provo United SC	Flamingo FC		:	
13	Saturday November 29 2025	6:30pm	Teachers FC	Provo United SC		:	
14	Saturday November 29 2025	8:30pm	Academy Eagles FC	SWA Sharks FC		:	
15	Wednesday December 3 2025	7:00pm	Cheshire Hall FC	Flamingo FC		:	
16	Saturday December 6 2025	6:30pm	Beaches FC	Teachers YS		:	
17	Saturday December 6 2025	8:30pm	SWA Sharks FC	Flamingo FC		:	
18	Wednesday January 7 2026	7:00pm	Teachers YS	Cheshire Hall FC		:	
19	Saturday January 10 2026	6:30pm	Provo United SC	Beaches FC		:	
20	Saturday January 10 2026	8:30pm	Academy Eagles FC	Teachers FC		:	
21	Wednesday January 14 2026	7:00pm	Flamingo FC	Academy Eagles FC		:	
22	Saturday January 17 2026	6:30pm	Teachers YS	Provo United SC		:	
23	Saturday January 17 2026	8:30pm	Cheshire Hall FC	Teachers FC		:	
24	Wednesday January 21 2026	7:00pm	Beaches FC	Cheshire Hall FC		:	
25	Saturday January 24 2026	6:30pm	Beaches FC	SWA Sharks FC		:	
26	Saturday January 24 2026	8:30pm	Teachers FC	Flamingo FC		:	
27	Saturday January 31 2026	6:30pm	SWA Sharks FC	Provo United SC		:	
28	Saturday January 31 2026	8:30pm	Academy Eagles FC	Teachers YS		:	

Excitement Builds for 2025 Inter-Primary School Co-Ed Football Competition

The stage is set for one of the most anticipated youth sporting events of the year, the 2025 Inter-Primary School Co-Ed Football Competition, which kicks off on Saturday, November 1, 2025, at the TCIFA Academy Field in Providenciales.

The tournament, organized under the theme of teamwork and sportsmanship, will see top primary schools from across the Turks and Caicos Islands battle for football supremacy over four match days. Schools have been drawn into three groups (A, B, and C), featuring both Providenciales and Outer Islands institutions.

Participating Schools

Among the competing schools are well-known names such as Enid Capron Primary (ECPS), Thelma Lightbourne Primary (TLPS), MILLS Institute, Community Christian Academy (CCA), Oseta Jolly Primary (OJPS), Providenciales Primary (PPS), and International School of the Turks and Caicos (ISTC).

Outer Islands will be represented by One Glanton Primary (OGPS), Adelaide Oemler Primary (AOPS), and Eliza Simons Primary (ESPS).

Opening Ceremony and First Round

The opening ceremony and team parade will kick off at 10:00 a.m. on November 1 at the TCIFA Academy Field, followed by a series of matches beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Highlights of the first day include MILLS Institute vs. ACA, TLPS vs. ACA, and ECPS vs. OJPS, as the young athletes begin their quest for the title.

Group Stage and Match Venues

Matches will continue on November 8 and November 15, with games played at both the TCIFA Academy Field and the Grand Turk Parade Ground, allowing fans across the islands to witness the action.

Group D fixtures will see ESPS and OGPS face off in Grand Turk, adding an exciting Outer Islands rivalry to the mix.

Each game will consist of 15-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime break, and teams will play 9-a-side, including at least two female players on the field at all times.

Final Playoffs

The final playoffs are scheduled for Saturday, November 22, 2025, also at the TCIFA Academy Field.

The day will feature semi-finals, a third-place match, and the championship final, where the 2025 Inter-Primary School Co-Ed Football Champion will be crowned.

Tournament Rules and Format

- 9 vs. 9 format (2 females on the field at all times)
- Unlimited substitutions allowed
- Field size: 60M x 45M
- Ball size: 4
- Uniforms provided and must be used for two years

Promoting Youth Development Through Sport

Organizers say the tournament aims to encourage teamwork, gender inclusion, and sportsmanship among young students, while strengthening school pride and community involvement.

As the countdown begins, excitement is building across the islands, with players, teachers, and parents eagerly preparing for what promises to be a thrilling showcase of young football talent.