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NEWSLINE

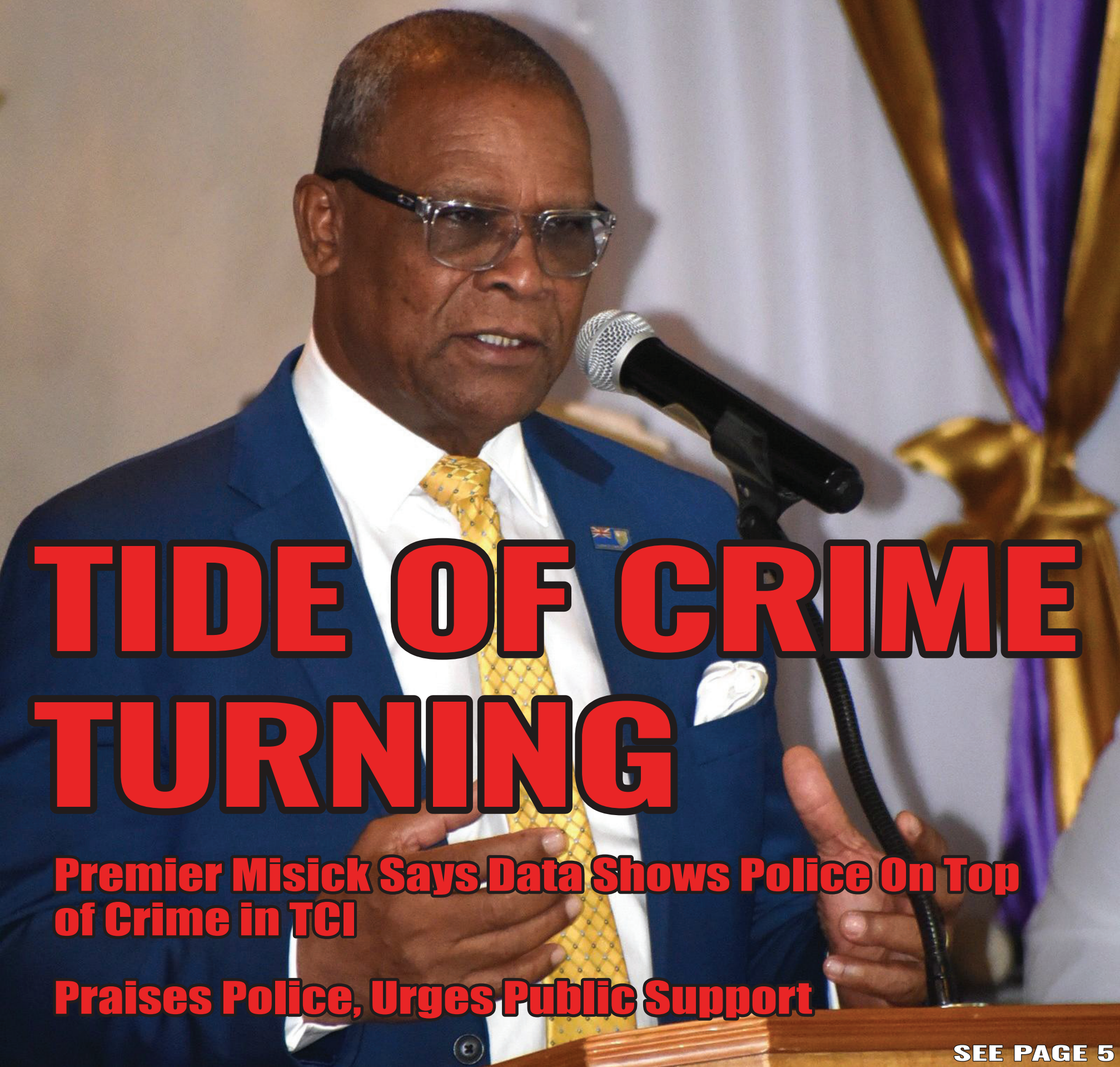
Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage



**Church, Police Must
Unite in Fight Against
Crime
PG3**



**Environmental Health
Department Issues
Vector Control
Advisory Post Erin
PG10**



TIDE OF CRIME TURNING

**Premier Misick Says Data Shows Police On Top
of Crime in TCI
Praises Police, Urges Public Support**

\$10,000.00

CASH REWARD FOR CREDIBLE INFORMATION

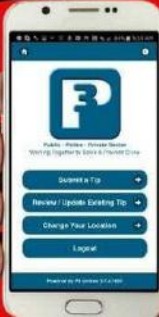


Leading to arrest and conviction of Andral Percival, who is wanted for murder and several other serious offences. He is currently being investigated by the Serious Crimes Unit.

He is known to frequent: Dock Yard, Snake Hill, La Tortue Village, and Five Cays, Providenciales.

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A wanted poster of the country’s most sought-after criminal, Andral Percival



Another wanted man, Jaheim Forbes, who police said was one of the triggermen in the mass shooting at the hookah and cigar lounge along Leeward Highway in July, was cut down by members of the police force, after engaging them in a nocturnal gunfight.

Most Wanted Fugitive Andral Percival Escapes Police Dragnet After Gun Battle

The country’s most wanted fugitive, Andral Percival, escaped capture by the narrowest of margins on Wednesday evening after a dramatic exchange of gunfire with officers of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) in Blue Hills, Providenciales. During the confrontation, which unfolded around 5:30 p.m. on August 27 in the Miracle Close area, one of Percival’s alleged associates was fatally shot. Police say they remain uncertain whether Percival himself sustained injuries before he managed to flee through a nearby shack and vanish into thick bushes.

Gunfire Erupts in Miracle Close

According to an official police news release, officers were on foot patrol in Blue Hills following intelligence about the movements of Percival and his network of associates. The patrol team began combing the area when they approached an unpainted shack. There, they encountered two men—later identified as Percival and another male described as wearing an orange shirt, orange shorts, multicolored underwear, and brown slippers. The unidentified man allegedly opened fire on the officers without warning. In response, officers returned fire, striking the gunman. At the same time, Percival discharged his own weapon toward the patrol team before darting through the shack and disappearing into nearby bushes. Despite a pursuit, he evaded capture. Police recovered a black .40 caliber pistol with a magazine at the scene. Emergency medical technicians arrived around 6:50 p.m., but the injured suspect was

pronounced dead at the scene. His identity has not yet been released, and his body was later removed for a postmortem examination.

Heightened Tensions After Recent Police Killing of Forbes

Wednesday evening’s near-capture of Percival came just a day after another wanted man, Jaheim Forbes, was fatally shot during a separate police operation in Five Cays. On August 26, at approximately 12:20 a.m., officers executed a search warrant on premises linked to Forbes, whom investigators had identified as a key member of the Five Cays–Blue Hills Organized Crime Group (OCG). Forbes was also named as a prime suspect in the quadruple murder at Hookah Lounge on the Leeward Highway on July 27. Police said Forbes retreated to a back room during the search and fired at officers. The officers returned fire, wounding him. Despite efforts to provide medical aid, he was pronounced dead at the scene. No officers were injured. In the hours following Forbes’s death, a threatening voice note began circulating on social media, purportedly recorded by Percival himself. The message targeted members of the RTCIPF, including Commissioner Fitz Bailey, and vowed retaliation for the killing.

Commissioner Bailey: “We Will Not Be Deterred”

Commissioner Bailey addressed the threats directly, assuring both the public and his officers that the force would not back down in the face of intimidation. “In recent times, there has been an escalation of threats directed at police officers due to the force’s strong and

deliberate push against organized criminals and gangs,” Bailey said. “I urge all men and women of the RTCIPF to always remain vigilant. Do not hesitate to defend yourself and your family against any threat you may encounter.” He added that the police remain resolute and unmoved by the threats. “We will not be deterred. Our focus remains clear in defending our country against the menace of organized crime groups and gang activities. Let it be understood that our efforts are not directed at law-abiding citizens. Rather, we are determined to isolate and bring to justice those who seek to instil fear and destruction in our ‘Beautiful by Nature’ Islands.” Bailey also reminded the public that harboring fugitives is a criminal offense and urged residents to provide any information that may assist in Percival’s capture.

Government Pledges Full Support

The dramatic surge in police operations has drawn strong backing from both the Governor’s Office and the Office of the Premier, who jointly pledged to provide the fullest support to law enforcement. A statement from the two offices emphasized that the government will continue to ensure the RTCIPF has all necessary resources to effectively combat organized crime.

Elusive Fugitive

Wednesday’s confrontation was not the first time police have come close to apprehending Percival. According to senior officers, he has previously managed to slip away during attempted raids. In two earlier incidents, Percival allegedly set fires that spread into housing settle-

ments across Blue Hills, causing significant property damage and chaos as he escaped.

Investigators also revealed that Percival and his associates had been using an illegal settlement at Snake Hill, known as La Torte, as a hideout. That site was cleared just weeks ago by the Informal Settlements Unit under police supervision.

A Mounting Challenge

The incidents underscore the mounting challenges facing law enforcement as they step up their campaign against entrenched gangs and organized crime groups across the Turks and Caicos Islands. While the recent operations have led to the deaths of two wanted criminals in as many days, Percival’s escape highlights the continuing danger posed by heavily armed fugitives. Residents in affected communities, particularly Blue Hills and Five Cays, have expressed both relief and concern—relief that the police are actively pursuing dangerous suspects, but concern over the risk of violent shootouts near residential areas. As the manhunt intensifies, the RTCIPF is appealing to the public for assistance in tracking Percival’s movements. Officers say anyone found aiding or abetting the fugitive will face the full force of the law. For now, the man described as the country’s most wanted criminal remains at large, his whereabouts unknown. Police have vowed that the pursuit will not end until he is located and brought before justice.



Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey (right) accepts a gift from Pastor of the Abundant Life Ministries International Coleta Williams

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) is reaching out to the church to strengthen partnerships in the ongoing fight against crime. Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey made the appeal during a special service at Abundant Life Ministries

Church, Police Must Unite in Fight Against Crime

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

International on Leeward Highway on Sunday, August 24, where he emphasized that crime prevention is not the sole responsibility of the police, but requires the full involvement of civil society, particularly the church. The service drew a large and influential audience, including Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, Premier Washington Misick and members of his Cabinet, Attorney General Rhondalee Braithwaite-Knowles, senior officers, and rank-and-file members of the RTCIPF.

The event highlighted the close connection between law enforcement, government, and faith-based institutions as they seek to address the social and spiritual challenges underlying crime in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Commissioner Bailey acknowledged the sacrifices made by police officers on the front lines, pointing out that their work is often thankless and emotionally taxing. “Policing can be a very ungrateful job,” he said. “Sometimes if you do, or if you don’t, it’s the same thing. But policing is not just a job, it’s a vocation, it’s a calling, one that requires commitment, dedication, and sacrifice.”

He praised officers for responding to crime scenes, dealing with victims’ pain, and coping with the trauma of violent incidents, all while continuing to serve the public. “You have seen some of the most gruesome crime scenes and then you must go home to your family. Sometimes it is very difficult to withdraw yourself from what you saw on the ground, and that can take a serious toll,” Bailey said. “Yet in spite of those challenges, you always answer the call to serve and protect this nation.”

But Bailey stressed that the fight against crime cannot succeed through law enforcement alone. He called on churches to reclaim their role as moral anchors and active partners in shaping safer communities. Drawing from scripture, he reminded the congregation of Christ’s call for the church to be “the light of the world” and “the salt of the earth,” insisting that churches must be visible and engaged in community life.

“The church is really an activist. Je-

sus himself was a radical,” Bailey declared. “Sometimes the church must get radical in its efforts, and likewise, sometimes the police must take harsh decisions that may make the public uncomfortable but are necessary in the interest of the nation.”

The Commissioner urged pastors and congregants not to remain confined within church walls, but to actively engage young people in neighborhoods, intervene when they see wrongdoing, and provide spiritual mentorship that can redirect lives away from crime. “The church must get out of the salt shaker and into the world,” he said.

Bailey also emphasized the importance of trust and identity for both the police and the church. “A key component of ensuring that we validate our identity is trustworthiness. The society must trust us as a police force, and likewise, the society must trust and believe in the church,” he noted.

The Commissioner outlined what he described as a dual battle, one spiritual and the other physical, requiring collaboration between the police and the church. “There is what you call a two-factor approach: you have the God factor and you have the human factor,” he explained. “The God factor is the church’s responsibility, because you are in connection with God. As police officers, we must engage the criminals directly. When the church prays, that spiritual wickedness is confronted, while we take on the human factor on the ground.” Bailey urged congregations across the Turks and Caicos Islands to pray for the police, engage in community activism, and be courageous in mentoring young men and women at risk of falling into crime. “Sometimes all it takes is sitting down with a young man and saying, ‘what you are doing is wrong,’” he said. “That can make a difference.”

The Commissioner concluded by reaffirming his belief that true community safety rests on the combined strength of both law enforcement and the church. “Together we can ensure that our citizens can go about their lives without fear of crime and crime itself. With the God factor and the human factor working hand in hand, this nation will prevail.”

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Members of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force are being minister to, by Bishop Coleta Williams of the Abundant Life Ministries International, while Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey (right) shares in the occasion.

Bishop Williams Backs Police Curfews, Calls on RTCIPF to 'Lock it Down'

Pastor for Abundant Life Ministries International (ALMI), Bishop Coleta Williams, has thrown his full support behind the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force's (RTCIPF) decision to enforce curfews in communities identified as crime hot spots.

Addressing Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey directly, the fiery preacher urged him to remain firm in the face of criticism and to "lock it all the way down."

Bishop Williams made the call on Sunday, August 24, during a spirited worship service hosted at ALMI, where members of the RTCIPF rank and file joined in prayer and praise. The special service also drew the attendance of national leaders, including Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, Premier Hon. Washington Misick and members of his Cabinet, along with Attorney General Hon. Rhondalee Braithwaite-Knowles.

The Bishop praised Commissioner Bailey for his leadership, noting that law enforcement needed public encouragement as well as

spiritual support in their battle against violent crime.

"Commissioner, lock it down. Lock five keys down. Lock Blue Hills down. Lock the Bight down. Lock down Snake Hill and Kew Town. Lock down everything that you have to lock down," Williams declared from the pulpit, drawing a loud response from his congregation.

"When the police ain't doing nothing, we make noise. When they're doing something, we make noise again. Sometimes I wonder what we want them to do."

Williams likened the Commissioner's work to Jesus cleansing the temple, saying there are moments when firm action and even unpopular decisions are necessary to restore order. He encouraged the force not to be distracted by detractors who question the imposition of curfews in certain neighborhoods.

The ALMI leader also highlighted his church's role in supporting crime prevention. He revealed that the congregation recently held a 24-hour prayer vigil and

fasting session for the safety of the Turks and Caicos Islands, dedicating their efforts specifically to covering the police in prayer. "We prayed for you, we fasted for you, and we asked God to give you the strategy for this season," Bishop Williams said.

As part of Sunday's service, Bishop Williams presented Commissioner Bailey with a financial donation to assist the police force in its crime-fighting initiatives. While acknowledging that the contribution may not be large enough to meet all needs, he emphasized that it represented a genuine partnership between the church and the police.

The event also served as a platform for Bishop Williams to encourage greater trust and collaboration between the RTCIPF and the public. He reminded residents that the effectiveness of crime-fighting measures depends on community participation.

"You are the eyes and ears of the police force in your communities," he told congregants. "If you see something, say something. This is

how we can protect our families and our future."

The government and law enforcement authorities have stepped up operations in recent weeks, rolling out curfews in specific areas of Providenciales plagued by gang activity and gun violence. While the measures have sparked debate among residents, with some welcoming the increased security and others criticizing restrictions on movement, the police leadership has maintained that such interventions are necessary to break the cycle of crime.

Bishop Williams' endorsement adds a strong voice from the religious community to the ongoing national conversation on crime. His message was clear: in a time of rising insecurity, the police need both the freedom to act decisively and the backing of the wider society.

"Commissioner, we stand with you," Williams concluded. "And we will continue to pray that the God of heaven gives you the wisdom, the courage, and the strength to do what must be done."



Members of the TCI Government are seen seating in the front pew at the Abundant Life Ministries International Church on Sunday, August 24, 2025. From left – Attorney General Rhondalee Braithwaite-Knowles; Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor; Minister of Public Service and Utilities Hon. Otis Morris; Premier and Minister of Finance Hon. Washington Misick; and Her Excellency the Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam.

Tide of Crime Turning: Premier Misick Praises Police, Urges Public Support

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Premier Hon. Charles Washington Misick has declared that the tide of crime in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) is turning, as he reaffirmed his government's support for law enforcement and urged greater community partnership in the fight against crime.

Speaking at a special service hosted by Abundant Life Ministries International on Sunday, August 24, Premier Misick joined Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, Police Commissioner Fitz Bailey, and senior members of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) in worship and thanksgiving. The service was dedicated to officers of the force, their families, and the wider community who continue to confront the challenges of crime.

In his address, the Premier acknowledged the difficult but vital role that police officers play in keeping the nation safe.

"Your service is more than a career, it is a calling," he told the congregation. "Each day, you step forward to protect, to serve, and to uphold the peace and safety of our

communities. Policing is not easy. It demands courage in the face of danger, discipline in the midst of challenge, and compassion for those you serve. Yet, through all the trials, you remain steadfast." He extended appreciation not only to officers but also to their families, whose sacrifices, he said, often go unseen.

"You share in the burdens and the triumphs of service, and we thank you for the strength and support that you give," Misick said. Citing scripture, he reminded the gathering that true service is rooted in humility and love.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God," he quoted, noting that the promise should continue to guide officers in their duty.

The Premier used the occasion to reiterate his administration's commitment to supporting the RTCIPF with the tools, resources, and policies needed to combat crime effectively.

"I want you to know, Commissioner, in the rank and file of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, you have the full support of the TCI Government," he said.

"We will continue to stretch ourselves to ensure that we provide you with all the tools and all the support that you require to keep our country safe."

Premier Misick commended Commissioner Bailey and his officers, describing their efforts as "fantastic," and pointed to improving crime statistics as evidence of progress.

"I feel like the tide is turning," he remarked. "The meetings that we have on a weekly basis, we know what the statistics are. We have a fair idea of how things are trending, and it will only get better from here."

He urged the wider community to play an active role in building safer islands, calling for partnerships between civic organizations, faith-based groups, and law enforcement.

"I want to appeal to everyone—every other organization, churches, civic organizations, and all in the community—to also pledge the same partnership in supporting the police and fighting crime," Misick said. "Because without safety, we are all in peril."

The Premier also praised Abundant

Life Ministries International and its leader, Bishop Coleta Williams, for their open partnership with the police. He called on other religious institutions and community bodies to follow their example.

The event brought together government leaders, law enforcement, and the faith community in a show of solidarity, reinforcing the message that the fight against crime requires both professional policing and the moral and spiritual backing of the people.

As the service closed, the Premier left the officers and their families with words of encouragement: "May the Lord watch over each of you and the Commissioner all the way down to the most recent recruit. May He grant you wisdom in your decisions and keep you safe as you carry out your noble work." With crime prevention continuing to top the national agenda, Premier Misick's remarks reflected cautious optimism that collaborative efforts between government, police, and community are beginning to bear fruit.

"May God bless you," he concluded, "and may you have success in everything you do."

Is Dr Shallow too thin-skinned?

There is a lot of insularity in West Indies cricket. That, at least, is what many believe. “Jamaicans have to be twice as good as players from other territories to make the team,” we often hear, or such and such a player was only picked because he is a friend of the captain or coach. It is an article of faith that selectors always prefer players from their own territory. The administrators, pundits, umpires, and fans are all biased actors who favour their countrymen over all others. This kind of talk occurs in bars, on the street, on social media, at cricket games — everywhere cricket is discussed. But I never expected to hear it from the president of Cricket West Indies (CWI). Dr Kishore Shallow, CWI president, uttered the following words on the Mason and Guest cricket talk show on Voice of Barbados (VOB) radio, “Daren continues to get unfair criticism because he is from a small island. Some people run from that fact, but I won’t. Insularity is something that still exists in our system that I believe we need to get rid of. Some of our former greats mentioned that in some of the texts that they have put out over the years. So we can’t run from that.” With some justification, Shallow felt that calls for Sammy’s separation from

the team after just one series was unfair. Where he enters troublesome territory is when he says Sammy “is being unfairly treated because he is St Lucian”. Firstly, how does he know that? I doubt anyone would admit that their opposition to the former West Indies captain was based on his home country. And why would the CWI president make such a controversial assertion — one he cannot prove — based on pure speculation. Calls for Sammy’s head is most likely due to the high level of disappointment felt by the Caribbean cricket community. The call for comeuppance after such a catastrophe should be expected. Naturally, fingers would point in the direction of the coach, captain, and others in charge. For the CWI president to have chosen to react like this to something that was totally expected is a little disappointing. His claim is also untrue. Shallow is from St Vincent and the Grenadines, which is even smaller than St Lucia. And yet all the territories that make up West Indies cricket got together and selected him as leader. That is not to say there is no insularity in WI cricket. I’m sure there are individuals involved in the game who exhibit preferences that are not always based

on merit. But I am suggesting that there is no evidence that those currently opposed to Sammy continuing in his post are making their calls based on where he’s from. I doubt even Sammy himself thinks that. He has had to endure harsh criticism before. When he ascended to the captaincy of the West Indies team in 2010, there were pundits and fans who felt he was ill-suited for the job. The popular sentiment was that he did not make the team on merit and, therefore, had no right being captain. He was not a good enough bowler or batter to have a place in the side and so his inclusion prevented the team from being a properly balanced unit. But he was made captain during a period of turmoil in West Indies cricket when other, more suitable candidates, had issues with the authorities, with some refusing central contracts. I had my qualms about Sammy getting the job. Still, he was conscientious and reliable, and I understood the situation that led to his appointment. He was a good man forced into the wrong line of work. The questions surrounding his elevation were somewhat justified, but the acrimony directed at him was unfair and often unkind. The West Indies did have some success under his leadership, achieving Twenty20 (T20) World Cup victories — 2012 and 2016. Many thought, however, that these successes were despite his presence and not because of it. Not unlike his rise to the captaincy, he came to the job as head coach for all formats amid some controversy. People argued that Jamaica’s Andre Coley was doing an admirable job, as indicated by the two historic wins the team achieved in Australia and Pakistan. Stalwarts like Jeffrey Dujon and Carl Hooper felt replacing him was a mistake. And maybe it was. Blame for the West Indies poor batting performance does not lie with Sammy, however; it is more complicated than that. What is clear is that there is a dearth of batting talent in the Caribbean — it has been so for a long time. That is the issue Dr Shallow should be grappling with and trying to remedy. Criticism comes with the coaching job. It comes with the president’s job as well. Jumping to the defence of the coach in this matter is unnecessary and might signify a thin skin, a quality quite unhelpful in such a public and high-profile office. The problem with their 27 all-out debacle against Australia is that nobody who follows cricket could realistically claim to have been taken by surprise. Dr Shallow — and indeed the whole Caribbean — need to accept that cricket in the region is in a bad place. The legends, who he called upon to step in to help, can probably provide some inspiration to the current players. But West Indies cricket needs concrete plans from the very lowest level upwards if they hope to significantly im-



Dr Kishore Shallow, CWI president

prove the product. That should be the focus of the regional authorities. They need not expend any effort providing spurious responses to fans and pundits. Criticism comes with the territory. **Garfield Robinson is a Jamaican living in the US who writes on cricket for a few Indian and English publications. Send comments to the Jamaica Observer or garfield.v.robinson@gmail.com.**

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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department



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 11 AM on September 5th 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

Kew Residents Urged to Stay Clear of Dumpsite Following Fire

The Environmental Health Department (EHD) is advising residents of Kew, North Caicos, to avoid the community dumpsite until further notice after a fire broke out at the location on Monday evening. According to reports, officers were alerted around 6:30 p.m. on 25th August and responded swiftly to assess the situation. The EHD confirmed that relevant agencies have been notified and that monitoring and containment efforts are ongoing. Officials emphasized that public health

and safety remain the top concern. Residents living near the site are urged to keep windows and doors shut to minimize smoke exposure while crews continue to work on controlling the blaze. “The cooperation of the community is greatly appreciated as we work to bring the situation under control,” the department noted in a statement. Further updates will be provided as new information becomes available. For inquiries, residents may contact the Environmental Health Department at 649-338-2143 or 649-338-2142.



Food Safety Advisory – After Hurricane Erin

As the Turks and Caicos Islands continue to recover from the passage of Hurricane Erin, the Environmental Health Department is strongly advising residents to take extra precautions when handling food and water. Officials warn that storm damage, flooding, and widespread power outages may have compromised household food supplies, raising the risk of foodborne illness during this vulnerable recovery period.

Risk of Contamination

When power is interrupted or floodwaters enter homes, the safety of stored food quickly comes into question. Perishable items such as meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, and dairy products can spoil within hours if not kept at safe temperatures. Likewise, food that comes into contact with floodwater is easily contaminated with harmful bacteria, chemicals, or sewage.

“Residents must be extremely careful with the food they consume after a storm,” the Department emphasized. “Eating spoiled or contaminated food can cause serious illness. When in doubt, throw it out.”

Key Steps to Follow After the Storm

The Department has outlined several important measures for residents: Discard perishable food including meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, dairy items, soft cheeses, leftovers, and deli products if they have been kept above 40°F (4°C) for more than two hours. Throw away food that has come into

contact with floodwater, unless it is in a waterproof container. Items in plastic, paper, cardboard, or cloth packaging should always be discarded if exposed to floodwater.

Inspect frozen food carefully. Items that still contain ice crystals or remain at or below 40°F (4°C) may be safely refrozen or cooked. Anything thawed and held at unsafe temperatures should be discarded.

Examine canned goods. Discard any cans that are swollen, leaking, rusted, or badly dented. These conditions may indicate bacterial contamination.

Sanitize kitchen items. Metal pans, ceramic dishes, and utensils exposed to floodwater should be washed in hot soapy water and then disinfected with a bleach solution (1 tablespoon unscented bleach per gallon of water) or boiled for 15 minutes before reuse.

Never taste food to test safety. The Department warns that spoiled food can look and smell normal but still contain dangerous bacteria.

Safe Food Handling Practices

In addition to post-storm precautions, the Environmental Health Department is reminding residents of everyday food safety practices that are especially critical during hurricane season:

Clean: Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water before and after handling food. Clean fruits, vegetables, utensils, cutting boards, and countertops with hot soapy water.

Separate: Always keep raw meat, poultry, and seafood separate from ready-to-eat foods to prevent cross-contamination.

Cook: Use a food thermometer to ensure food reaches safe internal temperatures—poultry 165°F, ground meats 160°F, fish 145°F, and whole cuts of beef, pork, or lamb 145°F with a three-minute rest time.

Chill: Refrigerate perishable foods promptly. Keep refrigerators at 40°F (4°C) or lower and freezers at 0°F (-18°C).

Protecting Community Health

By following these guidelines, families

can reduce the risk of foodborne illness and protect their health during recovery. Safe food handling is not only important immediately after Hurricane Erin, but also throughout the remainder of the hurricane season.

The Environmental Health Department continues to monitor conditions across the Islands and remains available to provide guidance and support.

For further information or assistance, residents may contact the Environmental Health Department at 649-338-2143 or 649-338-2144, or by email at ehd@gov.tc





Mr. Courtney Robinson, Strategic Development Manager, Experience Turks and Caicos with Mrs. Jasmine Thomas, Executive Director of the National Trust and Ms. Claudia Munnings, Chair of the National Trust



Training Day

Turks and Caicos Islands Join Global Leaders in Fiji to Champion Regenerative Tourism

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands (August 26th, 2025)- The Turks and Caicos Islands joined global sustainability leaders, policymakers, and tourism experts at the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) Training and Conference 2025, held from August 2nd to 9th at the Sheraton Fiji Golf & Beach Resort, Denarau Island, Fiji.

The landmark gathering focused on advancing regenerative and resilient tourism models, particularly for small island states which face unique challenges such as climate change, ecosystem fragility, and economic dependence on tourism.

The GSTC2025 programme unfolded in three distinct phases: in-depth training sessions on the GSTC Criteria and best practices in cultural heritage preservation, destination stewardship, and environmental protection; a conference featuring keynotes, panels, and workshops with international experts, industry leaders, and representatives from Small Island Developing States (SIDS); and cultural celebrations that showcased Fiji's rich heritage through music, dance, crafts, and cuisine—highlighting the inextricable link between culture, stewardship, and tourism.

Representing the Turks and Caicos Islands were Mr. Courtney Robinson, Strategic Development Manager, Experience Turks and Caicos alongside Mrs. Jasmine Thomas, Executive Director of the Turks and Caicos National Trust, and Ms. Claudia Munnings, Chair of the National Trust Board.

The delegation actively contributed to global knowledge-sharing sessions,

presenting the country's progress in ecotourism, biodiversity conservation, heritage site management, and community engagement. The TCI team also gained insights from other island nations on strategies for climate adaptation, policy alignment, and safeguarding cultural identity.

Mr. Paul Pennicook, Interim CEO Consultant of Experience Turks and Caicos, said The Turks and Caicos Islands' presence at the GSTC 2025 Conference is an important step in affirming our commitment to sustainability and resilience.

"As a small island destination, we are uniquely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and environmental pressures. Participating in this global dialogue allows us not only to share our progress in biodiversity conservation, heritage preservation, and community engagement, but also to learn from other nations facing similar challenges. This exchange of knowledge ensures that Turks and Caicos continues to grow as a world-class destination while safeguarding the natural and cultural treasures that define who we are," he said.

Reflecting on the experience, Mr. Robinson, said: "The GSTC2025 conference was a powerful reminder that sustainability is not a choice but a necessity for islands like the Turks and Caicos. We learnt that collective stewardship, cultural authenticity, and strong partnerships are not only critical to protecting what we have but also to positioning the TCI as a global leader in sustainable tourism. The lessons shared by our fel-



Mr. Courtney Robinson, Strategic Development Manager, Experience Turks and Caicos is photographed with female FIJI Natives

low island nations will be invaluable as we continue to shape a tourism sector that benefits both our people and our environment."

Key takeaways from the conference, included the importance of collaboration among government which is key to sustainability, how partnerships across sectors amplify impact and help integrate environmental, cultural, and economic priorities; and how vital authentic cultural experiences are for tourism differentiation and community pride.

The insights from GSTC2025 underline several strategic directions for the islands, including reviewing and strengthening national tourism and environmental policies in line with GSTC standards, leveraging partnerships and funding to advance sustainable initiatives, embedding community voices in decision-making processes, and incor-

porating climate adaptation measures into tourism infrastructure and practices.

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Environmental Health Department Issues Mosquito Control Advisory After Hurricane Erin

The Environmental Health Department (EHD) is warning residents that the greatest immediate health threat following the passage of Hurricane Erin is the increased risk of mosquito breeding brought on by widespread flooding and heavy rainfall. Standing water left behind by the storm creates ideal conditions for mosquitoes to multiply, raising the danger of mosquito-borne illnesses such as dengue fever and malaria. With the all-clear now given, the EHD is urging residents to take swift and simple actions to reduce mosquito breeding sites around their homes and communities. Officials stress that vigilance in this period is critical to preventing outbreaks.

Eliminating Breeding Grounds

Residents are being asked to check their surroundings for any containers that may hold water, such as flowerpots, discarded tires, buckets, and clogged gutters, and to empty them immediately. Puddles and other areas of standing water should be drained where possible. The Department also advises that water storage containers such as tanks and barrels should be kept tightly sealed to prevent mosquitoes from accessing them. At the same time, residents should ensure storm debris is cleared, vegetation trimmed, and refuse properly disposed of, with garbage can lids fitting securely. Personal protection is equally important. The EHD recommends the use of EPA-approved mosquito repellents, particularly during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active. Repairing or installing door

and window screens can also provide an important line of defense inside the home.

“Protecting our community’s health requires everyone’s participation,” an EHD spokesperson said. “If we eliminate breeding grounds now, we can significantly reduce the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses in the aftermath of Hurricane Erin.”

Food Safety Concerns

In addition to mosquito control, the Department is also highlighting urgent food safety precautions in the wake of power outages and floodwaters. According to the EHD, refrigerators and freezers can only keep food safe for limited periods once the electricity goes out. A full freezer will preserve food for up to 48 hours, while a half-full freezer maintains safe temperatures for 24 hours. Refrigerated foods, however, remain safe for only about four hours without power.

Residents are being strongly reminded to discard any food that has been in contact with floodwaters, including items packaged in paper, cardboard, cloth, and certain plastic containers. Foods stored in screw-cap bottles, twist-top containers, snap lids, and flip tops must also be thrown away if exposed to contaminated water, as these containers cannot be adequately disinfected.

The Department urges residents not to take risks with questionable food, stressing: “When in doubt, throw it out.”

Community Responsibility

The Environmental Health Department emphasized that both mos-



quito control and food safety are community-wide responsibilities. By addressing these issues quickly and carefully, residents can help prevent disease outbreaks and protect the well-being of families and neighbor-

hoods. For further information and guidance, residents are encouraged to contact the Environmental Health Department at 649-338-2143 or 649-338-2144, or email ehd@gov.tc

S&R Boat Solutions

located at 10 Caribbean Place,
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Caribbean Development Bank Awards Over USD400,000 in Growth Grants to Caribbean Women-Led Businesses

Twenty (20) Women-owned and led Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (WMSMEs) from seven (7) Caribbean Development Bank (CDB, the Bank) Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) have been awarded grants totaling an estimated USD420,000.

The Bank’s SheTrades Caribbean Regional Hub’s Grow and Go Grant Facility, is facilitating the funding that will help the entrepreneurs scale operations and access new markets. Beyond financial support, the Facility’s resources will also address operational and technical gaps in each business.

The SheTrades Hub, a collaboration between the International Trade Centre (ITC) and CDB, is a transformative programme designed to accelerate the

growth, export readiness, and global competitiveness of women-led businesses across the Caribbean.

Following a highly competitive selection process that attracted 106 applications, the grant awardees distinguished themselves through their strong business viability, innovative approaches, and promising growth potential.

“In a fast-changing global trade environment, access to finance remains one of the biggest hurdles for women entrepreneurs,” said Lisa Harding, Division Chief, Private Sector Division, CDB. “The SheTrades Caribbean Grow and Go awards are more than grants—they are keys, unlocking export opportunities and giving women-led businesses the tools, confidence, and platform to thrive

on the world stage.”

The grant recipients showcased the full breadth and vibrancy of Caribbean entrepreneurship, representing Barbados, Belize, the Cayman Islands, Dominica, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Their businesses span a diverse range of sectors, from agriculture, agro-processing and manufacturing to health and wellness, creative industries, Information Communication Technology (ICT) and tourism, all contributing to regional innovation, resilience, and economic transformation. Using the ITC SME Diagnostic Assessment Methodology, each awardee will receive a tailored development plan to help scale operations, enter new markets, and boost visibility within regional and global value

chains.

“These grants are both a celebration of achievement and a strategic investment in the entrepreneurial capacity of Caribbean women,” said Kayanne Anderson, Regional Coordinator, SheTrades Caribbean.

“The businesses selected reflect the creativity, resilience, and innovation that drive our region forward.”

In the coming weeks, awardees will participate in a storytelling campaign and mentoring initiatives to inspire other women entrepreneurs. After this pilot phase, CDB will assess the programme’s impact to guide future initiatives aimed at strengthening the global competitiveness of women-led businesses in the region.

Ministry of Health Addresses False Allegations Against Aged Care and Rehabilitation Department

The Ministry of Health and Human Services has issued a firm response to recent claims circulating on social media about the operations of the Aged Care and Rehabilitation Department. The Ministry has confirmed that the allegations are false and without merit.

In a statement today, the Ministry reassured families, residents, and the wider community that the well-being of elderly citizens remains its top priority. Officials emphasized that the Department continues to uphold the highest standards of safety, dignity, and compassionate care.

The facility, formerly known as the Wellness Centre, has long worked alongside health authorities, social services, and relatives of residents

to ensure a safe and supportive environment.

The Ministry also cautioned the public against spreading unverified information online, noting that such actions not only damage the reputation of the Department but also cause unnecessary worry for residents and their loved ones.

Community members with genuine concerns are encouraged to contact the Ministry directly for accurate and factual information about the Department's operations.

"The Ministry of Health and Human Services remains steadfast in its commitment to serve the elderly population of Grand Turk with integrity, compassion, and professionalism," the statement concluded.



Minister of Health and Human Service Hon. Kyle Knowles

ODPP Launches Collaborative Secondment Program

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) has announced the successful completion of a pilot secondment program. The initiative, which ran from June 2 to August 31, 2025, is designed to provide junior attorneys with hands-on experience in criminal advocacy while supporting the DPP's office during periods of high demand.

The inaugural secondment saw Dominique Rolle, a junior attorney with the law firm Stanbrook Prudhoe, serve as a Public Prosecutor for a three-month term. During this time, Mr. Rolle – a Turks and Caicos Islander of North Caicos descent – gained valuable courtroom experience as lead attorney in trial matters, while the DPP's office benefited from additional support during staff transitions and summer vacancies.

Amidst the recent uptick in crime and a concerted effort by stakeholders to strengthen the Islands' security and criminal justice systems, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Phillip Bennetts KC, who was appointed in April 2024, noted:

This program works as a gateway to criminal advocacy at the same time as supporting the ODPP. I am grateful to all for their support in making this work; the Turks and Caicos Bar Association, Stanbrook and Prudhoe and of

course Dominique Rolle. Dom was outstanding as a first in this scheme. Private/Public collaboration is important, and this has demonstrated how such collaboration can benefit all. Both the ODPP and attorneys gain from the experience. I truly hope in the future this scheme will give opportunities to Turks and Caicos Island attorneys to build a criminal practice which will add to the robustness of the Criminal Justice system.

The program underscores the local bar's commitment to fostering professional growth among local attorneys while strengthening collaboration between private practice and public service. Following the success of the trial run, consideration is being given by the DPP's office to expand the initiative and provide further opportunities for junior lawyers across the jurisdiction. Mark Fulford, President of the Turks and Caicos Bar Association, added:

"The criminal bar is currently served by a small number of attorneys, prosecution and defence, who work tirelessly to ensure justice prevails in the TCI. The Turks and Caicos Islands Bar Association commends the DPP's efforts to provide professional development opportunities to Turks and Caicos Islander attorneys, and encourages private firms and junior attorneys to participate to expand their criminal practice



From left – Mark Fulford, President of the Turks and Caicos Bar Association; Attorney Dominique Rolle; and Director of Public Prosecution Phillip Bennetts KC.

capabilities and best serve the community."

Timothy Prudhoe of Stanbrook Prudhoe, commented "The partners of SP are pleased that this opportunity arose both for Dom and the Office of the DPP. Truly a win-win for all involved. We hope many others will follow in Dom's footsteps".

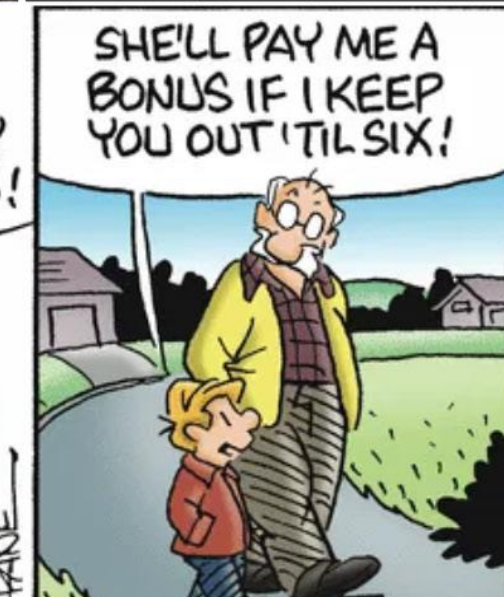
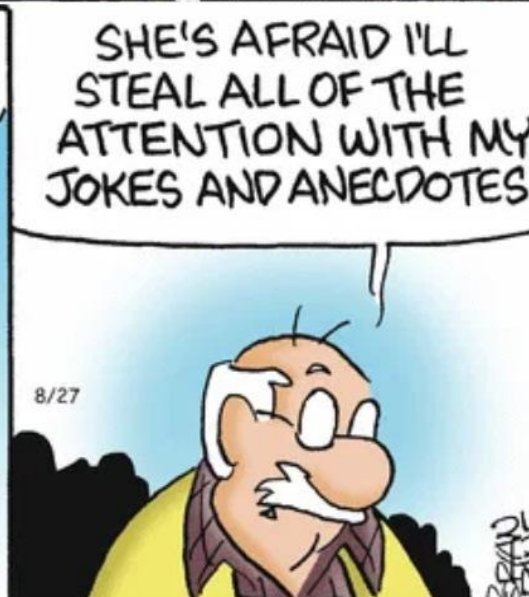
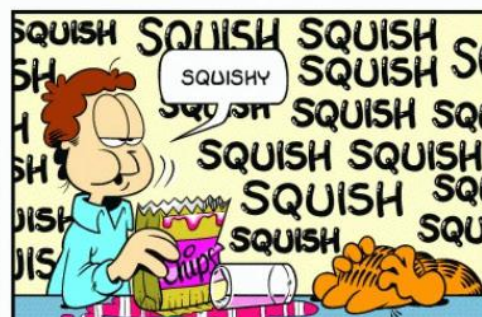
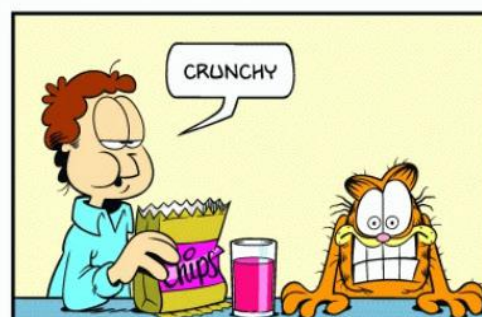
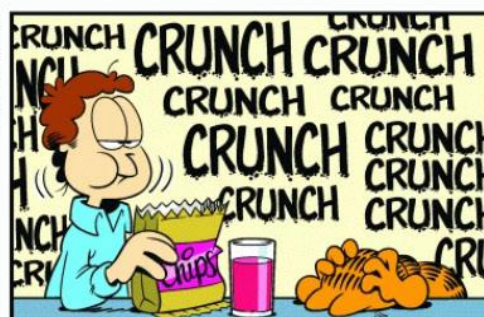
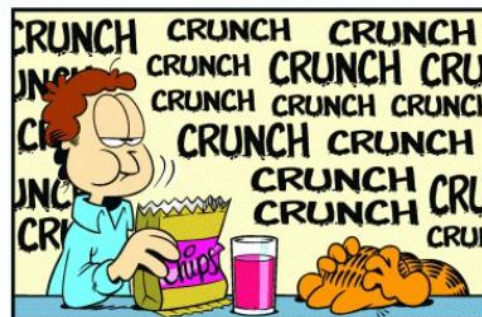
Reflecting on his experience, Mr. Rolle

said:

"The benefit of the secondment opportunity for TCI junior attorneys is the depth of experience one gains as lead attorney – both at trial and in general practice. It's a steep learning curve, but the Office is equipped to train and support in getting up to speed quickly to provide an enriching professional and civil service experience."



“Table for two near the band.”





Rock iguana

NEWSLINE
Heritage

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)



Liberty Caribbean connecting CARIFESTA XV

Liberty Caribbean, the operators of Flow, Liberty Business and BTC, has reinforced its commitment to the Caribbean’s cultural and creative industries by providing over \$125,000 in connectivity support to CARIFESTA XV, the region’s premier celebration of arts, culture, and identity. Flow is the official telecoms provider of the CARIFESTA XV hosted in Barbados from August 22 to 31 under the banner “Caribbean Roots. Global Excellence.” CARIFESTA XV will showcase the richness of Caribbean creativity through an extraordinary ten-day programme of music, visual and literary arts, culinary experiences, dance, theatre, fashion, film, and cultural dialogue. Flow is delivering robust connectivity across key festival sites, including the Culture Village & Grand

Market at Waterford, St Michael; the Student Jamboree at The Ellerslie School and The Lester Vaughan Secondary School; four ‘Super Concerts’ at the Richard Stoute Amphitheatre and the National Botanical Gardens; and the Performing Arts Centre at Newton, Christ Church. Flow will also power the live broadcasts of both the Opening Ceremony at Queen’s Park and the Closing Ceremony at the National Botanical Gardens, while Flow TV will broadcast select live events and provide festival information and promotions, ensuring that audiences both at home and across the region can stay connected to the celebration. Marilyn Sealy, Senior Director and Head of Communications, Liberty Caribbean, underscored the importance of CARIFESTA to the region’s cultural identity.

“CARIFESTA is a living expression of our shared Caribbean heritage, creativity, and resilience. At Liberty Caribbean, we believe culture is a unifying force that transcends borders, strengthening the bonds that connect our people across islands and communities. By supporting CARIFESTA XV, we are investing in the storytellers, performers, and visionaries who define who we are and inspire where we are going,” she said. Liberty Caribbean’s investment aligns with the company’s mission to foster connection, innovation, and community growth. Flow and Liberty Business will also have a strong presence at the Grand Market, en-

gaging with delegates, providing connectivity support, and offering exclusive promotions for attendees. CARIFESTA XV has drawn more than 3,000 delegates from over 30 countries, joining with Barbados’ 730-strong local delegation to celebrate the Caribbean’s unique heritage while embracing global excellence. “As the leading telecommunications provider across more than 20 Caribbean markets, Liberty Caribbean is proud to help amplify the voices of our region. CARIFESTA XV is a just a showcase of talent and a bold statement to the world of the Caribbean’s creative power and potential,” added Sealy.



Life Line

Church of Christ,
Blue Hills

This week on Newsline Featured Church, we highlight the Church of Christ, located in Blue Hills, Providenciales. The Church of Christ offers several opportunities for weekly worship. On Sunday at 9a.m. is Devine Worship. At 6:30p.m. is evening service. On Wednesday starting at 6:30pm is Bible Study and prayer meeting. The church is founded on Romans 16:16 – “Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.” Its bedrock is also built on 2Corinthians 9:1-15. The Church of Christ is pastored by Jack Phanor and Patrick Forbes.



Life line Church Directory

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

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

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF), Accompanied by Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam, Premier Hon. Washington Misick and members of his cabinet, the Attorney General Hon. Rhondalee Braitwaite-Knowles spent the day on Sunday, August 24, worshipping at the Abundant Life Ministries International (ALMI) Church along Leeward Highway in Providenciales. Both the Governor and Premier, who were invited to lectern, praised the men and women of the force and also pledged their support. Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey, who also spoke at the event, called on the community to support the force.





BLOOD SUGAR BALANCE: WHY IT MATTERS EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE DIABETES

By Monica Uttamchandani
Holistic Health Coach - Turks and Caicos

Most people think blood sugar only matters if you have diabetes. But here's the truth: your blood sugar affects your entire body, every single day- whether you've been diagnosed with a condition or not. Balanced blood sugar is foundational for:

- Sustained energy
- Clear focus and stable mood
- Fewer cravings
- Better sleep
- Hormonal balance
- Reduced inflammation

And the good news is, you don't need to be perfect or obsess over numbers to support your body. You simply need to understand how food, stress, and rhythm affect your internal chemistry and make gentle shifts that work with your life.

Why Blood Sugar Swings Are More Common Than You Think

Every time you eat a meal or snack, your blood sugar rises. That's a normal part of digestion. But what matters is how high it goes and how quickly it crashes.

If your meal is high in refined carbs or sugar without enough protein, fibre, or fat, your blood sugar may spike too fast. In response, your body releases a surge of insulin - your blood sugar-lowering hormone.

This overcorrection can cause your blood sugar to dip too low shortly after, leaving you:

- Tired
- Irritable
- Craving something sweet or carby
- Anxious or jittery
- Struggling to concentrate

And so the cycle begins. You reach for another coffee, a sweet snack, or a quick pick-me-up and your body keeps swinging between highs and lows, with your mood and ener-



gy along for the ride. Over time, these swings can impact your hormones, your metabolism, your sleep, and even your ability to lose weight. Simple Shifts That Support Blood Sugar Balance You don't need to cut carbs completely, you just need to be smarter about how

and when you eat them. Here's what actually works:
1- Prioritise a protein-rich breakfast
Skipping breakfast or starting the day with just coffee and toast sets you up for a crash. Try eggs, Greek yogurt with chia and berries, tofu scramble, or a protein smoothie

with nut butter and greens.
2- Pair carbs with protein and fat
Instead of eating fruit or crackers on their own, pair them with nuts, seeds, or hummus. This slows the release of glucose into your bloodstream and keeps you full longer.
3- Eat every 3-4 hours
Long gaps between meals can trigger dips in blood sugar and lead to overeating later. A regular rhythm of meals and snacks helps your body feel safe, nourished, and supported.
4- Add movement after meals
A 10-minute walk after eating can help reduce blood sugar spikes and improve insulin sensitivity- especially in the afternoon or evening.
5- Use balancing ingredients
Add a splash of apple cider vinegar before meals, sprinkle cinnamon on oatmeal or smoothies, or include bitter greens like arugula. These small additions can support blood sugar regulation.

Balanced Blood Sugar = A More Balanced You

When your blood sugar is steady, you feel more grounded physically and emotionally. You have fewer cravings. You sleep better. You respond to stress more calmly. And you can trust your hunger cues instead of being at their mercy.

This isn't about restriction, it's about building meals that support you. And when that becomes your rhythm, balance feels natural.

For more holistic tools, daily wellness rituals, and support in building a healthier relationship with your body, follow @balancedbymonica on Instagram.

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.

DTR Accommodation License Update

The Department of Tourism Regulations wishes to inform all accommodation license holders of important updates to the accommodation licensing process, effective from the 2026 licensing period starting 1 September 2025.

What's changing?

New License Number Format
Starting 1 September 2025, all new

and renewal accommodation licenses will include an island code prefix. This means each license number will clearly identify the island where the accommodation is located.

Example:

- For Providenciales: PLS-00001
 - For Grand Turk: GDT-00001
- This change will make it easier to

identify and manage licenses based on their location and improve efficiency in inspections and application follow-ups.

Why are these changes being made?

To improve traceability and clarity for license holders and inspectors.
To support faster application processing and record-keeping.
To present a more streamlined,

professional certificate format.

What do you need to do?
No immediate action is required from current license holders. You will receive the updated format when you renew your license or receive a new license on or after September 1, 2025.

For any questions, please contact us at tourismregulations@gov.tc or call 6493385934.

Beaches Salutes 2025 Graduates across the Turks and Caicos Islands

As students from primary and secondary institutions close an important chapter of their educational journey, the Caribbean's premier all-inclusive family resort proudly joined in the celebrations and reaffirmed its belief that investment in youth development is essential for community and national growth.

"Graduation is a milestone that deserves to be recognized and honoured," said James McAnally, managing director of Beaches Turks & Caicos. "Our students have worked hard, and now it's time for them to celebrate just as hard. We are proud to support them and share in their success."

Beaches Turks & Caicos made several meaningful contributions - both tangible and intangible - to make graduation season even more memorable for students and their families. Among the highlights was the resort's engagement in local ceremonies and its tradition of offering immersive experiences that reward academic excellence.

Public Relations Manager Orville Morgan served as chair of the Grade 6 graduation ceremony at Community Christian Academy in Providenciales. Dressed in full academic regalia, Morgan delivered a heartfelt message to the graduates and other stakeholders. "It takes a village to raise a child,"

Morgan said. "Parents, teachers and the wider community each play a role in shaping the next generation. With the right mindset, our students can overcome any obstacle and achieve great things."

His message resonated well with attendees, including Principal Krystal Vincent, who described the address as both inspiring and motivating for staff and students alike.

In other engagements, two outstanding students - Herifer Fermin from Enid Capron Primary School and Pechè Ariza, valedictorian of Marjorie Basden High School - expressed gratitude for the resort's ongoing support. Both were awarded day passes to

experience Beaches Turks & Caicos' five-star service.

"Beaches has been part of our journey," Ariza shared. "Years ago, they donated school supplies to every student at my school. Now, I get to celebrate my graduation with my family at the resort. This is a full-circle moment."

Through initiatives led by both the resort and the Sandals Foundation, Beaches Turks & Caicos continues to play an active role in educational upliftment across Providenciales, Grand Turk, South Caicos and North and Middle Caicos and live out its mission to deliver world-class service both on and off the resort.

YANEA THOMAS APPOINTED AS POLICY ANALYST

The Office of the Deputy Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands is delighted to announce the appointment of Ms. Yanea Thomas as the new Policy Analyst in the Strategic Policy and Planning Department.

Ms. Thomas holds dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Economics and Sociology from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, where she graduated in May 2022. During her studies, she focused on Development Economics, completing a thesis that analysed maternal and child healthcare utilisation in Ghana. In addition, her sociology thesis titled "With Trust in God We Stand: The Role of the Christian Church in the Turks and Caicos Islands".

Currently, Ms. Thomas is advancing her education by pursuing a Master of Business Administration with a specialisation in Business Analytics at Florida State University in Tallahassee, where she expects to graduate in December 2026.

From July 2022 to July 2025, Ms. Thomas gained valuable experience working at a leading human capital management software company in the United States. During her tenure, she was instrumental in the Operations and Marketing departments, where she participated in the development of strategic client engagement programs that aimed to enhance customer satisfaction and loyalty. Her insight and in-

novative approach helped to create impactful initiatives that benefited both the organisation and its clients.

Earlier in her career, during the summer of 2021, Ms. Thomas interned with the Strategic Policy and Planning Department (SPPD) as part of the government's summer internship initiative. In this role, she was tasked with reviewing business cases and development proposals, which allowed her to gain direct experience in policy evaluation and public administration.

On her new role, Ms. Thomas stated, "I am thrilled to join the Public Service as a Policy Analyst, where I can contribute to thoughtful, evidence-based policy that serves our communities. I'm inspired by the words of Gwendolyn Brooks: 'We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond.' These words reflect the spirit of collaboration and shared responsibility that I hope to bring into this role. I'm deeply grateful to everyone who supported me throughout this journey and look forward to working alongside others committed to creating a positive and lasting impact in our country."

Deputy Governor and Head of the Public Service H.E. Anya Williams congratulated Ms. Thomas on her appointment, stating, "We are thrilled to welcome Ms. Yanea Thomas to the Turks and Caicos Islands Public Service in her new

role as Policy Analyst within the Strategic Policy and Planning Department (SPPD).

Ms. Thomas brings a strong passion for evidence-based policymaking, which aligns seamlessly with the SPPD's mission. Her fresh perspective, analytical skills and enthusiasm are sure to be instrumental in advancing the department's strategic objectives.

We are confident that her background and expertise will make a meaningful impact, contributing to enhanced strategic planning and policy development across the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Congratulations once again, Ms. Thomas and welcome to the Public Service! We wish you a rewarding and impactful career ahead."



Yanea Thomas



MoHHS Team-Broward Health

TCI Health Team Wraps Up Florida, Cayman Visits to Boost Sector Reform and Overseas Care

A high-level delegation from the Ministry of Health and Human Services (MOHHS) has successfully concluded strategic working visits to Florida and the Cayman Islands from August 5–13, 2025. The mission aimed to strengthen the Treatment Abroad Programme, explore innovative health system models, and advance the Turks and Caicos Islands’ health sector reform agenda through strategic regional partnerships.

Delegation Members:

- Hon. Kyle Knowles – Minister of Health and Human Services
 - Mrs. Desiree Lewis – Permanent Secretary, Health and Human Services
 - Mr. Lynrod Brooks – Director, Health Policy and Planning
 - Ms. Florinda Talbot – Contract Performance Manager
 - Mrs. Romaine Missick-Smith – CEO, Health Regulations Authority
 - Ms. Jasmine Malcolm – Executive Administrator, MOHHS
- Minister of Health and Human Services, Hon. Kyle Knowles, highlighted the significance of these engagements:

“These visits were not ceremonial; they were strategic, focused, and impactful. In Florida, we reinforced partnerships with leading healthcare providers to ensure TCI patients referred overseas receive the highest standards of clinical care and patient support. In the Cayman Islands, our mission was two-fold: to study the operations of the Cayman Islands Health Services Authority as a model to guide the establishment of our own Health Services Authority, and to strengthen ties with Cayman-based treatment partners, where many of our patients are referred under the Treatment Abroad Programme. Both visits underscored that small island states share many health challenges, and that collaboration, innovation, and adapting best practices to our local context are essential to achieving better health out-

comes for our people.”

Florida – Strengthening the Treatment Abroad Programme

During the period August 5–9, the delegation visited Broward Medical Center, University of Miami Health System, Cleveland Clinic, Nicklaus Children’s Hospital, and the International Reinsurance Managers Network. They also toured REVA Air Ambulance Services to review medical evacuation operations and patient transfer management. Discussions centered on patient care pathways, specialized services in ophthalmology, cardiology, oncology, and pediatrics, family-centered care models, advanced telemedicine for pre- and post-treatment consultations, and reinsurance strategies for high-cost overseas cases. Key outcomes include agreements to expand telehealth consultations, develop a standardized referral package to reduce delays, explore reinsurance arrangements to safeguard public health budgets, and establish specialized pedi-

atric transfer protocols.

Cayman Islands – Health Sector Reform and Treatment Abroad Partnerships

From August 10–13, the delegation engaged with senior executives at Health City Cayman Islands, including Dr. Binoy Chattuparambil (Clinical Director), Shomari Scott (Chief Business Development Officer), Rebecca Brooks (Head of Marketing and Sales), and Ingrid Harris (Sales and Marketing). The team toured two hospital facilities and held in-depth discussions with Lizzette Yearwood, Chief Executive Officer along with leadership staff of the Cayman Islands Health Services Authority

The focus was two-fold:

Health Sector Reform – Examining governance, financial management, and operational structures of the Cayman Islands HSA model to inform TCI’s development of its own Health Services Authority.

Treatment Abroad Strengthening – Reviewing current referral arrangements

with Cayman healthcare partners to enhance patient care coordination and improve treatment pathways for TCI patients referred to Cayman.

The delegation also met with Honourable Katherine Ebanks-Wilks, Minister for Health, Environment, Sustainability, and Honourable G. Wayne Panton, Parliamentary Secretary for Health. The team concluded with a meeting with Acting Premier Hon. Gary B. Ruddy and Cabinet members, reaffirming the shared commitment to improving healthcare access and outcomes through regional collaboration.

Next Steps

The Ministry will incorporate lessons learned from these visits into ongoing health reform planning, ensuring that the proposed Health Services Authority is tailored to TCI’s needs while reflecting regional best practices. Efforts will continue to ensure that the Treatment Abroad Programme delivers efficient, sustainable, and patient-centered care.



MoHHS Team with CEO and senior official Cayman HSA



TCI Top Models in Times Square



Courtney Robinson with TCI Top Models in New York

TCI TOP MODELS TAKE NEW YORK BY STORM

Three of the Turks and Caicos Islands' brightest rising stars have taken a major leap toward international modelling success following a transformative and career-shaping journey to New York City, the beating heart of the global fashion industry.

Shakem Charles, TCI Top Model 2025; Brittney Bien-Amie, TCI Top Model Muse 2025; and Hubert Prospere, Cycle 6 First Runner-Up, recently travelled to the fashion capital with a clear goal: to meet with leading fashion and commercial agencies and secure international representation that could launch their careers onto the global stage.

Curated and led by Courtney Robinson, Executive Producer and Founder of the TCI Top Model Contest, the visit was more than a talent showcase—it was a strategic career development initiative aimed at placing TCI models on par with the world's top talent.

"This trip marked an essential next step in elevating our models from local promise to international prospects," said Robinson. "Our meetings confirmed what we already knew—TCI talent is world-class. The response from agencies has been overwhelmingly positive, and our models represented both themselves and the Turks and Caicos Islands with pride, poise, and professionalism."

Over several days, the trio participated in a rigorous schedule of agency interviews with top-tier fashion and commercial representation, runway walk assessments, digital photoshoots, and self-taped auditions. Each model left a strong impression on industry executives, setting the stage for potential signings with agencies that have global networks spanning US states: New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, along with international cities: London, Milan and Paris.

In between meetings, the models explored New York's most iconic neighbourhoods and cultural landmarks, absorbing the city's dynamic energy and

artistic spirit. Highlights included the cobblestone streets of SoHo, the edgy vibrance of the Lower East Side, the architectural grandeur of Hudson Yards and the bright lights of Times Square. At The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), they explored the exhibitions Face Value: Celebrity Press Photography, The Many Lives of the Nakagin Capsule Tower, and Oasis in the City. At The Metropolitan Museum of Art, they experienced Superfine: Tailoring Black Style, Lorna Simpson: Source Notes, and Arts of Africa and Oceania. These cultural encounters provided creative fuel and deepened the models' understanding of global aesthetics, visual storytelling, and self-expression.

Reflecting on his experience, Shakem Charles shared, "Walking into those agencies in New York felt like stepping into a vision I've carried quietly for years—something I wasn't sure would happen so soon. It wasn't just a series of interviews—it was a pivotal moment that sharpened my focus and deepened my resolve. Each meeting confirmed that this is where I'm meant to be. I'm no longer watching from the sidelines—I'm ready to take my place on the world stage."

Brittney Bien-Amie, who captivated agencies with her commanding presence, said, "New York was surreal—like watching pieces of my own dream come to life. I've always held this vision in my heart, but to actually be seen, heard, and embraced by some of the biggest names in the industry—it was overwhelming in the best way. I wasn't just showing them my portfolio—I was showing them my journey. And I walked out knowing, not hoping, that I belong. This is just the beginning of something bigger than I ever imagined."

Hubert Prospere, known for his sharp editorial edge, added, "This trip wasn't just about meeting agencies—it was about proving to myself and the world that I belong at the highest levels of this

industry. Every meeting, every look, every conversation confirmed that my talent and professionalism stand shoulder to shoulder with the best. The agencies were genuinely impressed, not only by my portfolio but also by the passion and discipline I showed. This is not the finish line—it's the launching pad for a path that will take us well beyond what we envisioned. The possibilities ahead are limitless."

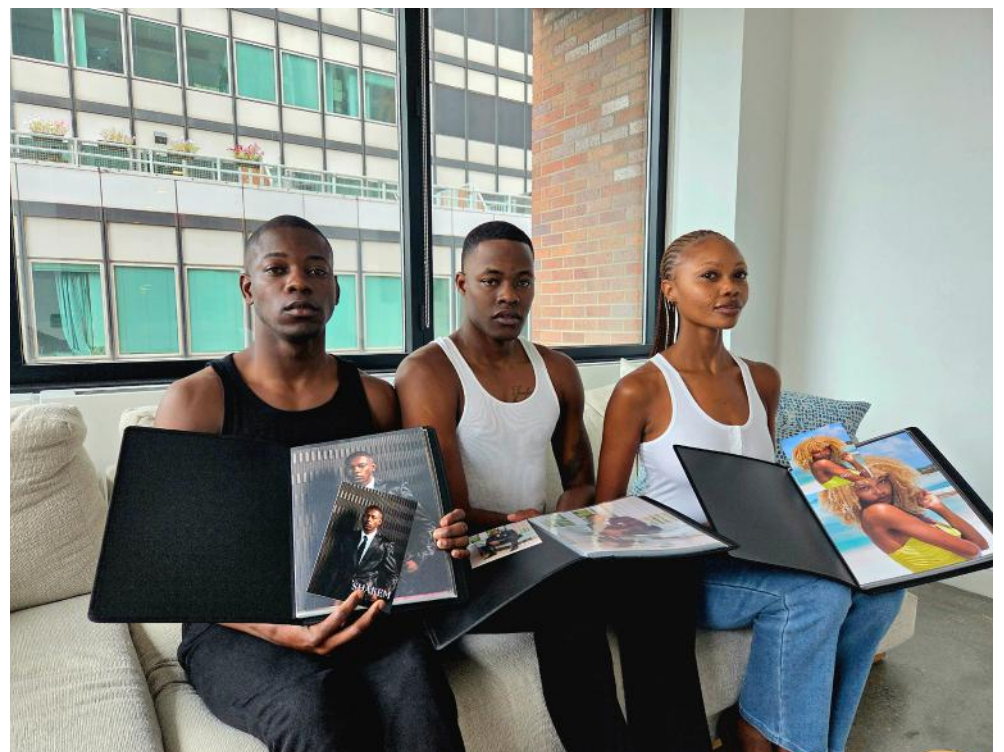
What especially stood out to the agencies was the calibre of the models' portfolios, built in collaboration with leading TCI Top Model's creative forces—particularly renowned local photographer Renau Destine, who has been a mainstay of the creative team since 2012. His work has helped shape the visual identity of the competition and prepared the models for the international spotlight, ensuring their materials matched the

standard of top global talent.

With meetings concluded and follow-ups underway, the models are now awaiting final decisions regarding agency representation, development deals, and placement in international markets. Many of the agencies have affiliate offices across major fashion hubs, opening doors to careers that span continents.

"This moment isn't just about modeling," Robinson emphasised. "It's about representation, visibility, and proving that world-class talent can come from anywhere—even a small island nation. This is a win not just for the models, but for the Turks and Caicos Islands as a whole."

As they return home to await the next chapter, one thing is clear: they didn't just visit New York—they made their mark.



TCI Top Models with portfolios

How to lose Belly Fat and keep it off

People often desire to lose weight quickly, even overnight, due to various factors including the desire for a quick fix, unrealistic expectations, or the influence of fad diets and social media trends.

While some overnight weight loss is possible due to water loss, it is crucial to understand that significant, healthy weight loss requires sustainable lifestyle changes rather than quick fixes.

According to Moses Chybar, Wellness Coach, quick fixes, that he calls the microwave approach, can assist person in losing weight, but only in the short term, if longterm lifestyle changes are not implemented.

"There are many types of tablets, and even liposuction that people have been using to lose weight. However, after trying these methods, if they continue the same lifestyle prior to using these weight loss methods, the weight is going to come right back. Unless we change the lifestyle, we are going to be back at the same place," Chybar said. He says that exercise is not enough, as nutrition plays a bigger role. "You cannot out run a bad diet. It is recommended that you apply the 80/20 diet, that is a flexible approach where you aim to eat nutritious food 80 per cent of the time, and allow for occasional treats or indulgences for the remaining 20 per cent. This approach emphasises balance and sustainability, allowing for enjoyment of favourite foods while still prioritising overall health," Chybar said. He recommends getting a health check at



least once per year to rule out any medical conditions, that may be causing you to gain weight. "Check your vital health markers, and get clearance before starting the changes you would like to do. It is important to stay safe and informed. If you

see your belly is getting bigger, or you are not smoking, eating up a storm, then you definitely need to check with your doctor," Chybar said.

WHOLISTIC APPROACH

He says that a multifaceted approach may

also be utilised to lose weight by combining diet, exercise and accountability, while implementing a wholistic approach. "None of us is perfect, but being in great shape helps us to enjoy life better. In our attempt to get healthier and fitter, addressing just one area, will limit your success. Everyone will have different goals, but start small in all areas, then increase intensity gradually," he said.

Chybar said you should also create the right environment for your weight loss journey. He recommends removing unhealthy foods, and stocking healthier options on your shelves. Once the unhealthy foods are there, he said you will breach the commitment that you have made to yourself to make the changes to your lifestyle," he said. Elevated cortisol levels, often associated with chronic stress, he said can contribute to weight gain, particularly around the abdomen. This is because cortisol can increase appetite, promote the storage of fat in the abdominal area, and potentially slow down metabolism.

Consistency he said is key as daily actions will increase progress over time. "Consistency is crucial for successful and sustainable weight loss. It involves making gradual, manageable changes and sticking to them over time, rather than trying drastic measures that are difficult to maintain. Building healthy habits, tracking progress, and finding enjoyable ways to exercise are all key components of staying consistent," Chybar said.

Robotic Cardiac Surgery delivers better outcomes for patients

ROBOT-ASSISTED CARDIAC surgery is heart surgery done through very small incisions in the chest. The surgeons use tiny instruments and robot-controlled tools to do heart surgery in a way that is much less invasive than open-heart surgery. This surgery is often called robotic cardiac surgery.

Robot-assisted surgeries have been used for many different heart-related procedures. These include valve surgery, coronary artery bypass, cardiac tissue ablation, heart defect repair, and tumour removal.

The main benefit of robot-assisted cardiac surgery is that it is less invasive compared with open-heart surgery. Smaller incisions can mean that you can spend less time in the hospital, heal faster, and return to activities more quickly.

Dr Makoto Hashimoto, director of robotic cardiac surgery at Baptist Health Miami Cardiac and Vascular Institute, said robotic surgery allows them to treat serious heart conditions with minimal trauma to the body.

"Instead of the large incisions and chest opening required in traditional heart surgery, we use robotic technology to perform complex procedures through small, precise incisions between the ribs," Dr Hashimoto said.

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"The surgeon's hand movements are seamlessly translated into precise, real-time movement of instruments. We have a degree of motion that is better than the human hand, a magnified field of vision, and the ability to use many instruments simultaneously," he added.



The difference, he said, is remarkable. "Patients often go home within days and are back to normal activities within one or two weeks. It is still heart surgery, but the experience is completely different," Dr Hashimoto said.

One of the main benefits of robot-assisted cardiac surgery is that it has fewer risks than open-heart surgery. The surgeon does not have to cut through the breastbone to open your chest. This removes many of the complications of open-heart surgery.

Robot-assisted cardiac surgery still requires anaesthesia. As with any kind of surgery, there are always risks, including heart attack, stroke, bleeding, problems linked to using anaesthesia, arrhythmias, including a need for a permanent pacemaker, infection

and death.

Robotic surgery is particularly effective for conditions like mitral valve disease and coronary artery disease that previously required opening the chest and spreading the ribs.

"Because robotic heart surgery is performed through several tiny incisions, patients experience shorter hospital stays, lower risk of infection, reduced blood loss during surgery, less pain and need for pain medications, more minor and less visible scars, and a faster return to regular activities," Dr Hashimoto said.

"Our typical postoperative stay has been reduced to just two days for most patients, with a mean return-to-work of two weeks and 45 per cent of patients returning to

work after just one week," he added.

While robotic technology, he said, handles the instruments, a highly trained heart surgeon always leads the surgery. "The robot enhances human skill; it does not replace it. The technology gives us unprecedented precision and control, but human expertise and decision-making remain at the centre of every procedure," Dr Hashimoto said.

As technology improves, even more cardiac procedures will be able to safely be performed robotically, he said. "In the future, we will be looking at telesurgery, where the patient and the surgeon are not even in the same facility. This will be a game-changer for those in rural areas or in countries that do not have the ability to provide cardiac surgery. We are entering an era of innovation that combines the best of precision medicine and patient comfort," he added.

Baptist Health South Florida is an academic and clinical affiliate of Florida International University. A not-for-profit organisation supported by philanthropy and committed to its charitable mission of medical excellence. Dr Hashimoto said heart surgery has advanced significantly in recent years, and what was once associated with large incisions, long hospital stays, and weeks of recovery now offers a safer, faster path to healing.

"At Baptist Health Miami Cardiac and Vascular Institute, we are able to provide world-class cardiac care with minimal trauma to the body, and patients are often amazed at how quickly they can return to their normal lives. The future of heart surgery is here, and it is more patient-friendly than ever before," he said.

Lil Nas X charged with attacking police officers as he walked naked on Los Angeles street

Lil Nas X was charged Monday with four felonies after police say he charged at them when they confronted him for walking naked down a Los Angeles street last week. Prosecutors charged the musician, whose legal name is Montero Lamar Hill, with three counts of battery with injury on a police officer and one felony count of resisting an executive officer, the District Attorney's Office said. He was initially booked on suspicion of misdemeanor obstructing an officer on Friday.

He is set to be arraigned later Monday. His representatives have not responded to requests for comment. Police said officers found the 26-year-old walking naked on Ventura Boulevard, a major thoroughfare in the Studio City neighbourhood, shortly before 6 a.m. Friday. They say he charged at the officers when confronted and was arrested. Police, suspecting a possible overdose, took him to a hospital where he spent several hours before being taken to jail, where he has remained since.



Lil Nas X

The charges were first reported by TMZ.

The rapper and singer from Atlanta is best known for his huge hit from 2018, *Old Town Road*, which merged country and hip-hop. It spent a record 19 weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot

100.

Known for his genre-bending, innovating sounds and style, his first full studio album, 2021's *Montero*, went to No. 2 on the Billboard album chart and was nominated for a Grammy for album of the year.

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce are engaged

Superstar singer Taylor Swift and American football player Travis Kelce are engaged, they announced Tuesday.

In a five-photo joint post on Instagram, the couple revealed their engagement, the fairytale culmination of a courtship that for two years has thrilled and fascinated millions around the world, but especially Swifties, the pop star's enormous and ardent fan base.

"Your English teacher and your gym teacher are getting married," the caption read, accompanied by an emoji of a dynamite stick.

Kelce was a famous football player when they met — a star tight end for the Kansas City Chiefs and a Super Bowl champion — but Swift's unique level of fame catapulted him into a different orbit entirely. Their relationship was documented in countless shots of Swift celebrating at Chiefs games and fan videos of Kelce



Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift kiss after the Chiefs defeated the San Francisco 49ers in the NFL Super Bowl 58 football game on February 11, 2024, in Las Vegas.

dancing along at Swift's Eras concert tour as it traveled the globe.

There were those who speculated, with no evidence, that the relation-

ship was not genuine but a cynical ploy for more fame, while some even theorised it was a plot to influence the US elections. In the end, those voices were quieted by a happy couple who simply looked in love — now with an engagement ring rivalling the size of Kelce's three Super Bowl rings.

It's unclear when and where the two, both 35, got engaged. Representatives for Swift and Kelce did not immediately respond to The Associated Press' request for comment on that detail, though Swift publicist Tree Paine confirmed the engagement ring was an old mine brilliant-cut diamond from Kindred Lubeck. Scarcely over an hour later, Kelce was stretching for practice in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Chiefs do not anticipate making Kelce available until next week in Brazil, where they open the season against the Chargers in Sao Paulo.

‘KPop Demon Hunters’ gives Netflix its first box-office win

Netflix appears to have its first No. 1 box-office title in the streaming company’s 18-year history, thanks to the sensation of KPop Demon Hunters.

Rival studios on Sunday estimated KPop Demon Hunters led all films over the weekend with \$16-18 million in ticket sales. Distribution executives from three studios shared their estimates for the Netflix phenomenon on condition of anonymity, because the streaming company has a policy of not reporting ticket sales.

Following a dominating few weeks as one of the most popular Netflix releases ever, the streamer put the film into 1,750 theatres for sing-along screenings Saturday and Sunday. Studios are able to accurately estimate ticket sales for all releases on Sunday morning, with some estimates as high as \$20 million. It amounted to a victory lap for the film, arguably the biggest hit of Hollywood’s summer, and an ironic success for Netflix, whose emphasis on streaming, not theatrical release, upended the movie industry. Another sore spot for Hollywood: The film was developed and produced by Sony Pictures, which sold it to Netflix.

AMC, the largest theatre chain in North America, declined to show the movie, but that didn’t stop Netflix from claiming the box-office title its more traditional competitors typically own.

David A. Gross, who runs the movie consulting firm FranchiseRe, called it “a completely unique two-day musical event”. The theatrical release, though limited, is out of the ordinary



for the streaming giant, which has long stressed a commitment to subscriber releases. The movie debuted on the platform in late June and is currently Netflix’s most-watched animated original film.

The film centres on Huntr/x, a KPop superstar trio who double as demon hunters. The members, Rumi (Arden Cho), Mira (May Hong) and Zooey (Ji-young Yoo), must protect their fans and face their biggest enemy yet: a rival boy band made up of demons in disguise.

Zach Cregger’s horror hit, Weapons, maintained strength in the box office during its third weekend, bringing in \$15.6 million domestically. The buzzy horror movie has proved its staying power, raking in over \$100 million globally since its release.

Disney’s Freakier Friday, landed behind the horror movie once again, earning \$9.2 million in North American theatres.

The Fantastic Four: First Steps earned \$5.9 million domestically during its fifth

weekend. The movie enjoyed a strong \$118 million debut but has experienced a steady decline.

Newcomer Honey Don’t! opened in 1,317 North American theatres with a weekend gross estimate of \$3 million, in line with expectations. and made it to the top 10. The dark comedy stars Margaret Qualley as Honey O’Donahue, a small-town private investigator who investigates a slew of strange deaths tied to a church in Bakersfield, California.

Ukraine condemns Woody Allen for speaking at a Russian film festival

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry on Monday condemned Woody Allen for speaking virtually at a Russian film festival over the weekend, calling his participation in the event “a disgrace and an insult” to the victims of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

According to Russian media, Allen spoke Sunday at the Moscow International Film Week via video conference. The appearance put him at odds with the Hollywood establishment, which has embraced the Ukraine cause during Russia’s 3 1/2-year war, with prominent actors signing on to the United24 crowdfunding initiative and Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy making virtual appearances at past Golden Globes and Grammys ceremonies.

Footage aired by Russian state TV showed the filmmaker addressing a tightly packed movie theatre from a massive screen, with pro-Kremlin film director Fyodor Bondarchuk moderat-

ing the session. Russian media reports quoted Allen as saying that he has always liked Russian cinema, recounting his past trips to Russia and the Soviet Union, and talking about what he would do if he were to receive a proposal to direct a movie in the country.

Ukraine’s Foreign Ministry in an online statement on Monday said that it “strongly condemns” Allen’s participation in the festival, which “brings together supporters and mouthpieces of Putin.” The ministry called it “a disgrace and an insult to the victims among Ukrainian actors and filmmakers who have been killed or wounded by Russian war criminals,” adding that Allen “is deliberately turning a blind eye to the atrocities that Russia has been committing in Ukraine.”

In a statement to The Associated Press on Monday, Allen criticised Putin and denounced the invasion but called for cultural exchange to continue.

“When it comes to the conflict in Ukraine, I believe strongly that Vladimir Putin is totally in the wrong. The war he has caused is appalling,” Allen said. “But, whatever politicians have done, I don’t feel cutting off artistic conversations is ever a good way to help.”

The website of the festival, which runs through Wednesday, billed Allen as one of its headliners, along with Serbian film director Emir Kusturica and American actor Mark Dacascos. Moscow International Film Week is a relatively new festival, first held in the Russian capital in August 2024.

Allen has long had an affinity for Russian literature and history. His 1975 comedy, Love and Death, spoofs the fiction of Tolstoy and other 19th century Russian novelists. The title of his 1989 release, Crimes and Misdemeanors, echoes Dostoevsky’s Crime and Punishment and also broods over the themes of wrongdoing, justice and guilt.





L-R Seated- Captain Clayton Delaney (LJM Maritime Academy Instructor), Dr. Delores Stapleton Haris (Vice President of Academic, Vocational and Student Affairs), Mrs. Sheba Wilson (Chairman of the TCICC Board of Governors), Honourable Rachel Taylor (Minister of Education), Ms. Samantha Charles (Maritime Affairs Coordinator - Department of Maritime Affairs), Mr. Edgar Howell (Deputy Permanent Secretary), Mr. Kevin Baxter (TVET Dean) and Mr. Kermit Turnquest (LJM Maritime Academy Instructor).

59 Certified Get STCW Certification

In a significant step toward strengthening maritime safety and professional standards in the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Department of Maritime Affairs (Ministry of Tourism), in partnership with the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC) TVET Department and the LJM Maritime Academy – Nassau, Bahamas, successfully delivered the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) 59 mariners.

Of this number, 49 participants received their first certification, while ten (10) completed re-certification, ensuring that the TCI continues to expand its pool of trained and globally recognised maritime professionals. The Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, Honourable Rachel Taylor, commended the initiative while congratulating the participants, noting: The Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, Honourable Rachel Taylor, commended the initiative while congratulating the participants, noting:

“Today we celebrate not only the certification of fifty-nine men and women, but also the strengthening of our nation’s human capital. This milestone affirms that our investment in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is yielding results, creating real opportunities for our people in high-demand global industries. STCW certification ensures that Turks and Caicos Islanders are not only employable, but also competitive on the world stage, equipped with skills that meet the highest international maritime standards.

I am particularly proud that this training was delivered here at home, reducing barriers to access and affirming our commitment to expanding local capacity in alignment with the Blue Economy. To our graduates, I charge you to use this certification as a launchpad whether in tourism, fisheries, environmental management, or private enterprise and to represent the Turks and Caicos Islands with professionalism, discipline, and excellence.”

This training represents the Government’s continued commitment to aligning with global maritime conventions and advancing

the Turks and Caicos Islands’ Blue Economy through the development of skilled local capacity.

Participants represented a wide cross-section of both public and private entities, including the Turks and Caicos Ports Authority, Department of Maritime and Shipping, Marine Police Branch, Amanyara Resort, Beaches Resort, Southbank, Department of Environmental and Coastal Resources, Department of Fisheries and Marine Resource Management, and several private charter companies.

Honourable Zhavargo Jolly, Minister of Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Heritage and the Environment, echoed Minister Taylor’s sentiments, adding: “This milestone speaks to the direction we are taking as a country.

By equipping our people with internationally recognised STCW certification, we are strengthening maritime safety standards, while more importantly opening doors for Turks and Caicos Islanders to take their place in the global maritime economy.

Whether starting their own marine based businesses or serving on private yachts within our own ports, this training ensures our people are prepared, competitive, and respected at the highest levels.

I want to commend the Department of Maritime and Shipping, the TCICC team, and our partners at the LJM Maritime Academy for making this opportunity possible here at home. Most importantly, I congratulate the 59 mariners who have completed this training. You are pioneers of the new blue economy we are building, and your success sends a powerful signal: Turks and Caicos Islanders are ready to lead, not only locally but internationally.”

Through this specialised programme, participants gained critical instruction in the following core areas of STCW Basic Training:

- Personal Survival Techniques (PST) – STCW Code A-VI/1-1
- Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (FPFF) – STCW Code A-VI/1-2
- Elementary First Aid (EFA) – STCW Code A-VI/1-3
- Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities (PSSR) – STCW Code A-VI/1-4

Proficiency in Security Awareness

Established by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the STCW Convention sets global benchmarks for the training and certification of seafarers. It ensures that all personnel working on ships are equipped with the knowledge and skills required to operate safely, respond effectively to emergencies, and carry out their duties in accordance with international maritime standards.

In this context, the initiative aligns directly with the Turks and Caicos Islands’ national maritime development strategy, supporting the growth of a robust and compliant maritime industry, expanding employment opportunities for local seafarers, and enhancing the country’s reputation as a responsible, safety-conscious jurisdiction.

The training was conducted at the TCICC Campus from Tuesday, 19 August to Saturday, 23 August 2025, under the leadership of the LJM Maritime Academy, Nassau, Bahamas, with instruction provided by Captain Clayton Delaney and Mr. Kermit Turnquest (Chief Petty Officer, Royal Bahamas Defense Force).

Chairman of the Board of Governors of TCICC, Mrs. Sheba Wilson, commended the team for the successful execution of the course, stating, “The inaugural STCW training exemplifies TCICC’s unwavering commitment to aligning education with the needs of our nation. By certifying 59 participants, we are not only strengthening workforce readiness but also empowering our people to uphold the standard of excellence that continues to define the Turks and Caicos Islands as a premier tourism destination.”

In remarks delivered on her behalf, Dr. Candice Williams, President of TCICC, highlighted the broader significance of this milestone:

“You join a growing network of skilled professionals ready to elevate maritime standards, drive responsible operations, and lead with integrity on every horizon, shore and sea. This certification opens doors to diverse, high-impact roles and sets a powerful example for others to follow.

The TCICC President also issued a charge

to participants, “As you celebrate this milestone, seize every chance to deepen your skills, pursue additional credentials, and contribute to a thriving and sustainable blue economy. The Turks and Caicos Islands Community College is committed to supporting your journey every mile along your blue-economy journey.”

The Department of Maritime and Shipping and the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC) expressed satisfaction with the training’s outcome, proudly noting a 100% pass rate among participants. This achievement reinforces confidence that the newly certified mariners will continue to represent the Turks and Caicos Islands with distinction, professionalism, and the highest maritime standards. The STCW certification initiative signals a new era for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in the Islands, creating pathways for young people and professionals to gain globally recognised skills without leaving the country.



Field Training



Jamaica’s Electoral Office Emphasises Voter Readiness Ahead of September 3 Poll

As the September 3 General Election approaches, the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) is urging all registered voters to familiarise themselves with the voting process to ensure a smooth and efficient experience at the more than 7,000 polling stations islandwide. The opposition People’s National Party (PNP) will be seeking to unseat the ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP). Director of Elections, Glasspole Brown, told JIS News that “upon arrival at the designated polling station, an assigned presiding officer will verify the elector’s

identity and check for ink on their fingers to ensure they have not already voted”. While eligible voters without a voter identification (ID) card may still cast their ballot, they will be required to complete a form and take an oath affirming their identity as a registered elector. “Once verified, voters will receive a ballot and proceed to a private booth to mark their preferred candidate. The presiding officer will then provide instructions on how to fold the ballot to protect the secrecy of the vote. After depositing the ballot into the ballot box, voters will be asked

to dip a finger in ink to indicate that they have voted,” Brown stated. He emphasised that the voting process is designed to be transparent, secure, and accessible to all eligible voters, and encouraged Jamaicans to exercise their democratic right responsibly. The director reminded voters that, in addition to complying with all instructions from presiding officers, they should “refrain from campaigning or discussing their vote and avoid using mobile phones within the polling station”. Voters are also encouraged to wear neu-

tral clothing and avoid garments displaying slogans or images of candidates. To maintain order and ensure smooth flow of the process, voters will be asked to leave the polling station promptly after casting their ballot. “As soon as you complete the process of voting, we urge electors to leave the compound and return home or to work,” Brown said. On September 3, more than 7,250 polling stations will be open from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, allowing registered voters across Jamaica to cast their ballots.

UK to help dozens of Gazans study at British universities

Britain’s interior ministry has agreed to adapt immigration arrangements to help several dozen students from Gaza take up fully funded United Kingdom university places next month, the government confirmed Tuesday. It is understood the students will be permitted to undergo biometric checks in a third country before travelling on to the UK to take up their places. However, the Israeli government would still need to agree to each student leaving Gaza, as diplomatic relations worsen with London. Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced last month that the UK will recognise a Palestinian state if Israel does not take a series of steps, including agreeing to a truce in its war with the militant group

Hamas. Of the approximately 40 students set to be eligible for support heading to the UK, nine are due to pursue scholarships under the Chevening scheme, according to the BBC. A predominantly UK government-funded initiative, it enables “outstanding emerging leaders from all over the world” to pursue a one-year master’s degree in the UK, according to the foreign ministry. Interior minister Yvette Cooper has also approved plans to help around 30 others who have won fully funded scholarships through other private schemes to reach the UK, the BBC reported. An interior ministry source told British media the arrangements are “complex



Mahmoud (in glasses) is one of the nine students with scholarships under the Chevening scheme (Photo: BBC News)

and challenging” but Cooper “wants no stone unturned” so the prospective Gaza students can take up their places in the coming weeks.



Minister of Tourism, Edmund Bartlett (3rd right) shares lens time at the 4th Annual American Society of Travel Advisors (ASTA) Caribbean Showcase, at Sandals South Coast, on Sunday, August 24, 2025, as he is flanked by (from left) President and CEO of ASTA, Zane Kerby; and fellow regional ministers of tourism — Deputy Prime Minister of St Lucia, Dr Ernest Hilaire; Carlos James of St Vincent & the Grenadines; Adrian Thomas from Grenada; Secretary-General and CEO of the Caribbean Tourism Organization, Dona Regis-Prosser; as well as Minister of Tourism for Barbados, GP Ian Gooding-Edghill and Executive VP of Sales & Industry Relations, Unique Vacations, Gary Sadler.

Jamaica's Minister of Tourism, Edmund Bartlett, is calling for urgent action to safeguard the Caribbean's most critical industry, warning that the region's heavy reliance on tourism leaves it highly vulnerable to external shocks. Speaking at the 4th Annual American Society of Travel Advisors (ASTA) Caribbean Showcase on Sunday (Aug. 24) at Sandals South Coast, Bartlett highlight-

ed both the successes and threats facing regional tourism.

"The Caribbean is the most tourism-dependent region in the world, with the sector contributing about 22 per cent of GDP and supporting 2.75 million jobs," Bartlett told hundreds of travel advisors. "This makes us especially susceptible to global disruptions, from climate change to geopolitical in-

Bartlett Urges Region to Confront Tourism Challenges Amid Strong Rebound

stability."

Despite these challenges, Bartlett noted the region has staged a remarkable recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters. In 2024, international tourist arrivals rose by 6.1 per cent compared to 2023, reaching 34.2 million visitors — almost seven per cent above pre-pandemic levels in 2019. By contrast, arrivals had plunged 65 per cent at the height of the pandemic in 2020.

"Despite the setbacks, the Caribbean achieved the fastest recovery of any region worldwide," he said.

Still, Bartlett cautioned that the region must urgently embrace sustainable tourism practices. He cited rising sea levels, more frequent and powerful hurricanes, coral reef degradation, high travel costs, and limited intra-regional air connectivity as persistent threats.

"The lesson from COVID-19 is clear:

we compete at our peril, but we 'co-ope'te'—cooperate and compete—for our glory. Together we can enhance connectivity, raise quality standards, and create seamless multi-island travel experiences that will drive growth and cultural exchange," he stressed.

Bartlett also praised the presence of several regional tourism ministers at the ASTA event, including Dr. Ernest Hilaire of St Lucia, Ian Gooding-Edghill of Barbados, Carlos James of St Vincent & the Grenadines, and Adrian Thomas of Grenada. Their participation, he said, reflected a growing spirit of regional collaboration, moving from competition to what he termed "co-competition."

The ASTA Caribbean Showcase also featured ASTA President and CEO Zane Kerby, CBS News Travel Editor Peter Greenberg, and top executives from Unique Vacations and the Caribbean Tourism Organization.

US nationals deported from Trinidad and Tobago

The United States (US) on Tuesday said that two American citizens have been deported from Trinidad and Tobago to face federal charges of drug trafficking and failure to appear in court.

The US Embassy in Trinidad said that Tevin Williams and Zakiya Williams were deported last weekend and were accompanied by special agents from the US Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) and US Marshals Service (USMS) Task Force, together with officers from the Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU) of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) to the United States.

"The close law enforcement relationship and cooperation between the United States and Trinidad and Tobago resulted in the simultaneous return of two fugitives, a first in recent memory," the embassy said.

It said that the two individuals were charged for their alleged crimes in California and New York in September 2023. After being granted pre-trial release in 2023, they reportedly fled the country and travelled to Trinidad and Tobago, resulting in federal charges and the warrants being adopted by the USMS.

The embassy said US law enforcement authorities located the fugitives in March 2025 after information surfaced



Special agents from the U.S. Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) and the TTPS Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU), together with a U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) Task Force Officer (TFO), escort Tevin and Zakiya Williams at the Piarco airport for their return to the United States to face drug trafficking and conspiracy charges. (Photo: CMC)

that they may have been hiding in Trinidad and Tobago.

"The effort to find the fugitives culminated in the days before the deportation flight with their arrest by TOCU and the Drug Enforcement Administration's Vented Unit (VU) in the La Romaine area of Trinidad on August 19, 2025. On Au-

gust 21, 2025, the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Homeland Security issued a deportation order for both fugitives," the embassy said.

US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Charlie Franta said the close partnership between the law enforcement services and the results those relationships con-

sistently produce, provides a shining example of what the two countries can accomplish together.

"Locating, arresting and conducting a return of two US fugitives simultaneously is a feat unheard of in the region. I'm very proud of our two nations' professionals in law enforcement as they continue every day to strive to make our countries, and the world, a safer place for our citizens," Franta said.

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YOHAN BLAKE TO SPONSOR 2 TCI ATHLETES

See Story on Page 32

Is Max Dowman England’s answer to Lamine Yamal?

Max Dowman closed his eyes and looked up to the sky. Then he leaned over, swiped the grass with his hands, and trotted onto the field.

At the tender age of 15 years and 235 days, Dowman was officially a Premier League player — coming on to represent Arsenal as a second-half substitute in the 5-0 win over Leeds on Saturday.

His 64th-minute entrance might have generated the biggest cheer of the evening at Emirates Stadium. That’s because, in Dowman, Arsenal fans know they have a seriously good prospect on their hands. So does his manager.

“There is a kid here that has zero hesitation and is so convinced that, at 15, he can go and deliver, which I have never witnessed in my life,” Mikel Arteta said after the Leeds game about Dowman, who might just be England’s answer to young Spain and Barcelona superstar Lamine Yamal.

“For us, he brings joy, he brings emotion and something else that makes our jobs so great.”

Here’s a few things to know about Dowman:

Born in Chelmsford — a city in the county of Essex, which is northeast of London — Dowman joined Arsenal at the age of 5 in May 2015. He made his debut for Arsenal’s under-18s at age 13 and became the youngest scorer in the UEFA Youth League at age 14, when he was playing for the under-19s.

Dowman was still 14 when he was asked by Arteta to train with Arsenal’s senior team in December last year, and he starred on the club’s pre-season tour of Asia in matches against AC Milan and Newcastle.

He is a left-footed attacking midfielder



Arsenal’s Max Dowman (centre) is closed down by the Leeds defence during the English Premier League match against Leeds United at Emirates Stadium in London, England, on Saturday, August 23.

who plays on the right and likes to drift inside. Just ask Leeds — with one of his dribbles cutting in from the right, he won a stoppage-time penalty that was converted by Viktor Gyokeres to complete the 5-0 thrashing.

Is he the youngest Premier League player?

Not quite.

Dowman comes in at No. 2 on the all-time list, only behind fellow Arsenal player Ethan Nwaneri, who was 15 years and 181 days when he entered as a substitute against Brentford in September 2022. Nwaneri also is a left-footed attacking

midfielder.

Only three players have participated in the Premier League under the age of 16. The other was Jeremy Monga, who played for Leicester last season at 15 years and 271 days. Monga had to wear a shirt with no sponsor because Leicester’s jersey was sponsored by an online cryptocurrency gaming platform.

DOWMAN’S INTERNATIONAL STATUS

He played for England’s under-16 team last year and, soon enough, was selected for the under-17s at the European Championship for that age grade that took place in Albania in May, becoming

the competition’s youngest scorer when netting against the Czech Republic.

Dowman started all three of England’s group games but the team didn’t advance.

THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WAIT

Dowman will turn 16 on December 31 and only then will he be allowed to play in the Champions League. In that case, it will be in time for the knockout stage starting in February, should Arteta choose to call him up.

UEFA regulations state: “Players aged 16 may be registered on List B if they have been registered with the participating club for the previous two years without interruption.” Dowman qualifies in that regard.

The youngest player to have featured in the Champions League is Youssoufa Moukoko, a striker who played for Borussia Dortmund in a group-stage game against Zenit St Petersburg in December 2020 just 18 days after his 16th birthday. Yamal was 16 years and 68 days old when he made his Champions League debut at home to Antwerp in September 2023.

ARSENAL’S PLAYERS

It’s not just Arteta who has been bigging up Dowman.

“I think everyone can see the potential he has,” Arsenal defender Jurrien Timber said after the Leeds game. “Playing against grown men. He is a joy to watch, for the crowd, too, he is a joy to watch.”

In March, Arsenal midfielder Declan Rice described Dowman as “unreal” but insisted: “You can be the best 15-year-old in the country, but it doesn’t necessarily mean you are going to be at 18. So, you need to be hungry, keep working and keep pushing.”

- AP



Manchester United’s English defender #05 Harry Maguire reacts following the English Premier League football match between Fulham and Manchester United at Craven Cottage in London on August 24, 2025. The match ended in a draw at 1-1.

Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim believes his side needs to show more maturity after blowing the lead to draw 1-1 at Fulham on Sunday and remain without a win this season.

The Red Devils were made to pay for

not making more of a dominant first 45 minutes, during which Bruno Fernandes blazed a penalty over the bar.

Amorim, though, was more concerned by what he saw after United took the lead thanks to Rodrigo Muniz’s own goal

Winless Man Utd need to ‘grow up’, says Amorim

on the hour mark.

Fulham hit back to level through Emile Smith Rowe 17 minutes from time and ended the game on top.

“I think we scored the goal and then we forgot about how we play,” said Amorim, who has won just seven of his 29 Premier League games in charge.

“We want to win so badly, and that is a good feeling, that we scored a goal and everyone on the pitch was thinking, ‘Let’s hold onto the advantage and try to win the game’. For me that is the moment that we have to enjoy more and push the opponent.

“We have to grow up a lot as a team. For me the most important thing is that during the week they were working really hard, today we worked really hard, and we are going to improve. The moment that changed the game was our goal.”

United captain Fernandes is normally a clinical penalty taker, and Amorim said his Portuguese compatriot let the 38th-minute miss affect him for the rest

of the game.

“You have to put that in the past during the game,” added Amorim.

“He is our leader, and he has so much responsibility. I felt that he missed the penalty, and he was thinking about it during the game. We need to move forward and to play the game.”

Fulham were left furious at two major decisions that went in United’s favour.

The visitors’ penalty came after a VAR intervention when Calvin Bassey and Mason Mount were grappling from a corner.

Yet, when Bassey appeared to be pushed by Leny Yoro in the move that led to United’s goal, the video assistant officials did not get involved.

“I cannot understand. I would like to explain everything to you from the first whistle until the last, but it is not my job,” said Fulham boss Marco Silva.

“I don’t want to go in this direction. Everybody in the world saw what happened this afternoon at Craven Cottage.”

Brathwaite omitted from West Indies central contracts

In a significant move that signals a potential changing of the guard, long-serving opener and former Test captain Kraigg Brathwaite is set to be dropped from Cricket West Indies' central contract list for the 2025-2026 season.

The 32-year-old stalwart, a mainstay at the top of the order for over a decade, is not expected to be among the players offered an international retainer, according to The Nation news.

Instead, the Barbadian batsman has been offered a domestic contract by the Barbados Pride franchise following the recent regional draft.

The decision comes on the heels of a difficult period for Brathwaite. Despite a monumental achievement last month where he earned his 100th Test cap against Australia in Grenada, becoming only the tenth West Indian to do so, his form has waned.

His lean run culminated in him being dropped for the third Test at Sabina Park, a match that infamously saw the West Indies bowled out for a record-low 27 runs en route to a 3-0 series whitewash. This omission ended a remarkable streak of 90 consecu-

tive Test appearances, dating back to 2014.

Brathwaite's likely exclusion from the central contracts list raises pressing questions about his international future. It follows his official resignation as Test captain in March, just weeks after masterminding a historic, series-levelling victory over Pakistan in their own backyard, the Windies' first Test win there in 30 years.

His successor, Roston Chase, officially took the reins ahead of the Australia series after a selection process that included psychometric testing.

The team's subsequent performance, however, has been poor, leaving them rooted to the bottom of the ICC World Test Championship table as they face a daunting schedule of away series in India and New Zealand.

Cricket West Indies has yet to officially announce its list of centrally or regionally contracted players. Brathwaite has not made a public statement regarding the contract decision, leaving his next move uncertain as the focus shifts to a new generation of West Indian cricketers.

- CMC



Kraigg Brathwaite is set to be dropped from Cricket West Indies' central contract list for the 2025-2026 season.

Jamaicans close Junior Pan Am Games with 15 medals

JAMAICA ended the track and field schedule at the Junior Pan American Games in Asuncion, Paraguay, on a high, with five medals on Friday. The highlight was a championships record 61.79m in the men's discus throw from Racquiel Broderick.

The Jamaican delegation won an overall 15 medals, with track and field athletes accounting for 12 of those.

Sabrina Lyn claimed silver in the women's 100m breaststroke, while Colin McKenzie took the bronze medal in the men's 100m breaststroke. Tyler Tracey won bronze in men's wrestling (74kg freestyle).

Jamaica got off to a slow start in the track and field competition, failing to win a medal after the first two days but won five medals on Wednesday's third day, two more Thursday, and five on Friday.

They won four gold, four silver and four bronze medals to finish fifth on the track and field table.

Cuba led the way with 13 medals (eight gold, three silver and two bronze), followed by Canada with 15 medals (seven gold, seven silver and one bronze), Colombia with 14 medals (seven gold, four silver and three bronze) and Mexico with 19 (four gold, five silver and 10 bronze).

Jamaica's gold medals came in the men's 400m, 400m hurdles, women's 4x100m relay and the men's discus



Discus thrower Samantha Hall smiles after receiving Jamaica's first medal in track and field at the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile.

throw. The silver medals were won in both 4x400m relays, the men's 4x100m relay and the men's discus, while the bronze medals came in the men's and women's 400m hurdles, women's 400m and the men's triple jump.

Jasauna Dennis won the first gold medal when he ran a championships record 45.56 seconds to win the men's 400m, breaking the 45.59 seconds set in 2021. Trinidad and Toba-

go's Jaden Marchan timed a personal best 45.80 for second and Brazil's Vinicius Galeno was third with 45.83.

Tyreece Hyman ran a second personal best at the championships after he won the men's 400m hurdles in a smart 48.90. He had run 49.03 in the semis.

Brazil's Matheus DaSilva, who had beaten Hyman in the semis, setting the championships record 48.23 seconds, took the silver medal with

49.28. Bronze medal winner Romario Stewart lowered his personal best to 50.11, bettering the 50.79 he had run at the national championships in June.

The Jamaica women's 4x100m team of Sabrina Dockery, Marissa Palmer, Serena Cole and Alana Reid, running from lane seven, clocked a Junior Pan American Games record 43.51, lowering the previous championships best of 43.59 set in 2021.

Trinidad and Tobago were second with 43.89 and Colombia third in 44.01.

Jamaica's fourth gold came on the final day of track and field when Broderick, who had an outstanding outing with five of his six throws being all over 60.00m, broke the championships record of 61.08m in the second round. His teammate Christopher Young was second with 59.34m and Brazil's Mateus Torres third with 58.73m.

The men's 4x100m as well as both 4x400m relay teams won silver medals, while Chavez Penn rallied in the men's triple jump to win the bronze with a personal best 16.44m (2.0m/s).

Daynea Colstock, who ran a lifetime-best 58.78 in the women's 400m hurdles, and Shanakaye Anderson, in the women's 400m, also won bronze medals.



ROAD DOGS RUNNING CLUB SUPPORTS NEXT GENERATION TCI ATHLETES

A special community run hosted by the Road Dogs Running Club today saw over 40 runners turn out to support the future of athletics in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The event featured guest appearances by TCI's past star athletes and high school students who are part of the new Next Generation Turks and Caicos Athletics club.



The run brought together

Turks Islanders and the expat community, all united in their support for youth development. A significant portion of the attendees were high school runners participating in the program led by TCI's first Olympian, Delano Williams, along with national coach Courtney Missick and distance record holder Ken Reyes. Their mission is to elevate athletics in the country and provide young athletes with opportunities to compete at a high level.

To support this cause, the Road Dogs Running Club made a monetary donation to the new club, helping to cover the first month's expenses for some of the runners. This is a crucial step in building the type of athletic clubs needed to produce global-standard athletes. We urge the community to continue supporting these young track and field athletes all year round. Your contributions are vital for the development of our future champions.



Former World Champion Yohan Blake to Sponsors Two TCI Athletes

Track and field in the Turks and Caicos Islands has received a major boost from one of the biggest names in sprinting. Former 100m World Champion Yohan Blake, has stepped forward to sponsor two young TCI athletes for an entire year.

The sponsorship, valued at \$150 per athlete per month, will cover training fees and provide consistent support for the athletes through the Next Gen Athletics Club, a new track and field program launched in June 2025 in Providenciales.

The initiative was confirmed by Delano Williams, the TCI-born sprint champion who himself made history competing for Great Britain at the Olympics, and who is now back home helping to build the next generation of athletes. Williams, who works with the TCI Sports Commission, serves as a mentor and guest coach with Next Gen Athletics.

"Yohan loves Turks and Caicos and wanted to give back," Williams explained. "He's paying for two athletes for the whole year because he believes in the talent here and wants to help build the sport. For me and Courtney Missick, it's a huge motivation to see someone of his stature investing in our kids."

A Club with Big Ambitions

Next Gen Athletics was founded earlier this year by Courtney Missick, with Ken Reyes joining him as coach. Williams, through his experience and international connections, has been working alongside them as a mentor. Training sessions are based at the National Stadium in Providenciales, with the program targeting athletes between the ages of 8 and 20.

The club already has about 12 registered athletes, ranging in age from 7 to 15, and expects to attract more as the new school year begins. But unlike some programs that focus on quantity, Williams said Next Gen is committed to a quality-first approach.

"We're not just taking in everybody for the sake of numbers," he noted. "We do assessments to make sure each child is ready and can benefit from the program. The goal is to prepare athletes properly for competition and ensure they are learning the fundamentals the right way."

Missick and Williams are both certified Level One coaches under the new international system, which qualifies them to work with athletes aged 8 to 16. They are preparing to upgrade to Level Two certification later this year, which will extend their coaching credentials to athletes up to age 20.

International Exposure

One of the key aims of Next Gen Athletics, according to Williams, is to give Turks and Caicos athletes access to more competitive opportunities beyond the limited track meets available locally. Williams revealed that the club

is already in discussions with hotels and airlines to create partnerships that would allow athletes to travel regularly to Jamaica, The Bahamas, and other Caribbean nations for weekend competitions.

"Right now, the Sports Commission puts on two track meets a year, but that's not enough if we want to develop athletes to a regional and world standard," Williams said. "By securing travel partnerships, we can expose our athletes to higher levels of competition on a consistent basis."

A Champion's Influence

Blake's decision to get involved was a natural extension of his close friendship with both Williams and Missick. The three men trained together in Jamaica

at different stages of their careers, and conversations about giving back to TCI began long before Next Gen was officially launched.

Blake, who has visited Turks and Caicos before and spoken warmly about the islands, was enthusiastic about the opportunity to help. As a matter of fact, it is at the TCI National Stadium that he set the current CARIFTA Track and Field 100m record. By sponsoring two athletes, he has provided not just financial relief but also a massive source of inspiration for the young runners.

"Imagine being a teenager in TCI and knowing that a World Champion like Yohan Blake is personally paying for your training," Williams said with a smile. "That's the kind of motivation that can

change a young person's life."

The long-term vision for Next Gen Athletics is ambitious. The club wants to produce medal contenders at the CARIFTA Games, the premier junior athletics championship in the region, and gradually build athletes capable of competing on the world stage.

Williams emphasized that the club also has a broader mission beyond medals and records.

"This is about more than just winning races," he said. "It's about giving our youth a positive focus, keeping them disciplined, and showing them that there are opportunities if they work hard. We want to play our part in shaping the next generation, not just of athletes, but of responsible young people."



Former world 100m champion Yohan Blake (centre) is flanked by Courtney Missick (left) and Delano Williams