

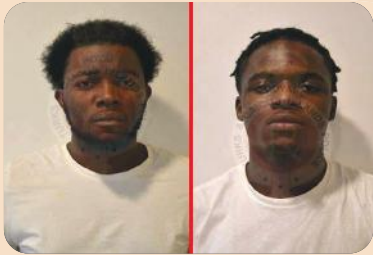
APRIL TOPS  
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PG32



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Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

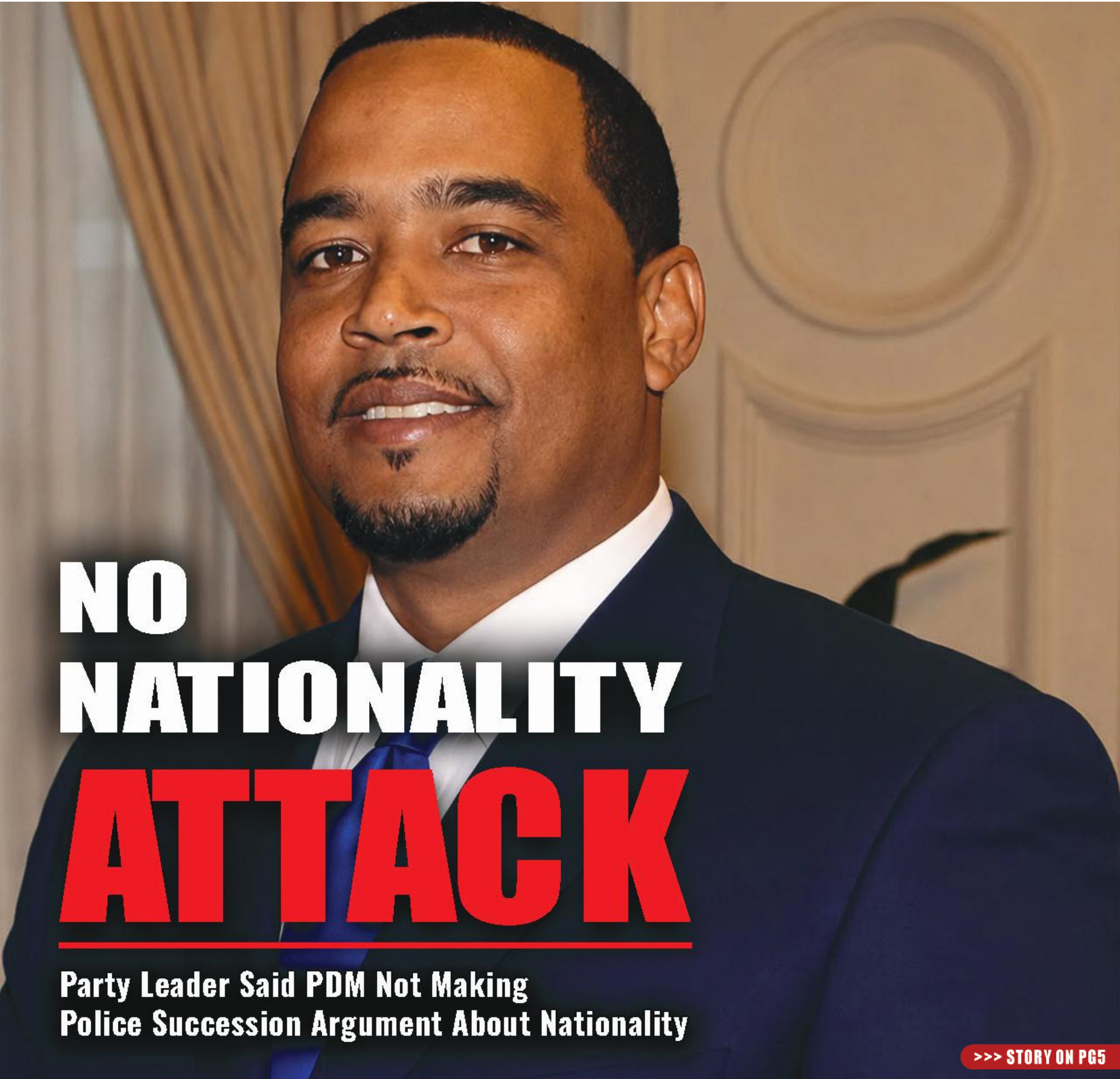
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Five Cays Duo to Be  
Sentenced in  
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Intensified El Niño Causes  
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Waters, Threatens  
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NO  
NATIONALITY  
ATTACK

Party Leader Said PDM Not Making  
Police Succession Argument About Nationality

>>> STORY ON PG5



## VACANCY – ENTERPRISE SALES EXECUTIVE

### Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Responsible for managing the end to end billing cycle and dealing with under agreed contractual SLA's any queries the account may have.
- Accountable for managing the handset allocation fund as well as effectively communicating with the customer through the agreed lines of communication.
- Conduct regular account reviews, quarterly at a minimum or monthly if the size of the account dictates such.
- Document all customer meetings in Sales Force ensuring that actions, owners and timelines are noted and tracked.
- Responsible for maintaining a strong relationship with the areas that drive demand into Sales and Service Directorate, and for ensuring an up to date roadmap of demand is maintained to allow planning and alignment of priorities and resources in Sales and Service channels.
- Required to influence the shape and scope of programs to ensure they create outcomes which are aligned with the Sales & Service goals and strategy.
- Employ strong relationship management skills as well as robust project/program planning, governance, tools and techniques to ensure all risks, issues and dependencies are managed and impacted stakeholders are always appropriately engaged through clear engagement and communication strategies.
- Liaise with wider delivery teams beyond Sales and Service, ensuring they are aware of and focused on the strategic goals of the directorate and that the wider teams in Sales and Service are engaged through effective communications and timely engagement of Sales & Service subject matter experts.
- This job description is not designed to cover or contain a comprehensive listing of activities, duties or responsibilities that are required of the employee for this job. Duties, responsibilities and activities may change at any time with or without notice.

### Academic qualifications and experience required for job:

- Minimum 2-3 years B2B or B2C direct sales & field based or telephone cold calling experience.
- Ideally, a first degree in Management / Marketing / Sales or equivalent qualifications.
- A masters would be an asset
- A Diploma in Management Studies or equivalent or management training incorporating the management of Human Resources and the concepts of Managerial Accounting and Budgetary Analysis.
- Knowledge of functions & operations of the Telecommunications industry.
- Knowledge of the mobile, wireless, fixed voice & data products & service offerings.
- Working knowledge of CRM & contact management systems, e.g. Salesforce.com

**DEADLINE:** Positions open to all qualified Turks and Caicos nationals. Interested applicants can forward their resumes [hrtci@digicelgroup.com](mailto:hrtci@digicelgroup.com) The closing date for applications is July 10<sup>th</sup> . Salary ranges from 54,000 – 60,000



# TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



### PUBLIC NOTICE

# CONTROL YOUR ANIMALS

**Roaming livestock is illegal. You can be fined.**



**\$2000**  
MAX FINE



**AND / OR**  
PER OFFENCE



**12 MNTHS**  
IMPRISONMENT

### YOUR DUTIES AS AN ANIMAL OWNER



#### SECURE YOUR ANIMALS

All livestock must be properly fenced or restrained at all times. Goats, sheep, pigs, cattle and other animals must NOT roam freely.

*Control of Animals Ordinance, Cap. 8.12, s. 7(1)(c)*



#### REGISTER & LICENCE YOUR ESTABLISHMENT

All animal farming operations must be registered and licensed with the Department of Agriculture. Operating without a licence is a criminal offence.

*Animal Health Ordinance 38/2012, s. 46(1)*



#### REPORT DISEASED ANIMALS

Any animal suspected of illness must be reported immediately and kept secured. Permitting a sick animal to roam is a serious offence.

*Animal Health Ordinance 38/2012, s. 29(1)*

### CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE



#### YOUR ANIMAL WILL BE IMPOUNDED

Stray animals will be seized and taken to the pound immediately. You must pay all fees before reclaiming your animal.

*Cap. 8.12, s. 5(1) & L.N. 44/1993*



#### UNCLAIMED ANIMALS MAY BE SOLD

If your animal is not claimed and fees paid within 14 days, the Poundkeeper may sell or dispose of the animal. No further notice will be given.

*Cap. 8.12, s. 6(1)-(2)*



#### YOU MAY BE CRIMINALLY PROSECUTED

Repeat offenders and those operating without a licence face criminal prosecution before a court.

Fines up to

**\$10,000**

apply for diseased animal offences.

### COMPENSATION PAYABLE TO LANDOWNERS WHEN ANIMALS STRAY ONTO PRIVATE PROPERTY

**1<sup>ST</sup>**

**1<sup>ST</sup> OCCASION**  
**\$100**

PER ANIMAL-PER STRAYING EVENT

**2<sup>ND</sup>+**

**2<sup>ND</sup> & SUBSEQUENT OCCASIONS**  
**\$200**

PER ANIMAL-PER STRAYING EVENT



**ACTUAL DAMAGE CAUSED**  
**ASSESSED**  
BY ONSITE POUND KEEPER

*Payable by the animal owner to the landowner · Public & Environmental Health (Pound Fees & Forms) Regulations, Legal Notice 44/1993, s. 3*



### COMPLY NOW – AVOID PROSECUTION!

Animal owners are urged to immediately secure their animals, obtain proper identification where required, and register commercial establishments with the Department of Agriculture. Enforcement officers are actively patrolling all islands of the Turks and Caicos. Animals found roaming will be impounded and, if unclaimed within 14 days, may be sold or disposed of without further notice.



#### OFFICE HOURS

Mon – Thu: 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Friday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Closed weekends & public holidays



#### EMAIL / TELEPHONE

agriculture@gov.tc  
+1 (649) 243-6290



#### ADDRESS

Holy Gospel School, Spindrift Way  
Turtle Cove, Providenciales  
Turks & Caicos Islands

# Five Cays Duo to Be Sentenced in September for ‘Archie’s’ Murder

Two Five Cays men will be sentenced on September 21, 2026, after being found guilty of the 2024 murder of Evason Walkin, popularly known as “Archie.” Jevano Arthur and Archley Forbes, both of Residence Yard, Five Cays, Providenciales, were convicted following a three-week trial in the Supreme Court in Grand Turk. The guilty verdicts were returned on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, according to the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF). Police said Walkin was killed on October 10, 2024, in the vicinity of Club Med Yard, Five Cays, Providenciales. The convictions come against the backdrop of a sharp increase in violent crime between 2022 and 2025, when the Turks and Caicos Islands recorded dozens of homicides. In response, the RT&CIPF intensified its crime-fighting efforts through intelligence-led policing, targeted operations, and strengthened investigations aimed at dismantling violent criminal networks and bringing offenders before the courts. Those efforts have resulted in numerous suspects being apprehended, charged, and, in several cases, convicted.



Evason ‘Archie’ Walkin

ed. The enhanced policing strategy has also contributed to a dramatic reduction in violent crime this year. Since the beginning of 2026, the Turks and Caicos Islands has recorded just one homicide, marking a significant turnaround



Archley Forbes

from the previous four years and reflecting what police say is the impact of sustained enforcement and intelligence-driven policing. Acting Commissioner of Police Rodney Adams welcomed the verdict, describing it as an important step toward justice for the victim and his family. “These convictions send a clear message that those responsible for taking a life will be relentlessly pursued and brought to justice. While no verdict can erase the pain suffered by the victim’s family, we hope this outcome provides



Jevano Arthur

a measure of justice. “I commend our investigators, prosecutors, witnesses, and all who contributed to this successful prosecution. The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force remains unwavering in its commitment to bringing violent offenders before the courts and keeping our communities safe.” The RT&CIPF said it remains committed to investigating serious crimes, supporting victims and their families, and ensuring offenders are held accountable through the criminal justice system.

## Government Steps Up Consumer Protection Enforcement

The Government is stepping up efforts to strengthen consumer protection with a nationwide compliance drive aimed at ensuring retail businesses comply with the Consumer Protection Ordinance. The Department of Trade, Industry and Fair Competition has announced that inspections of retail establishments across the Turks and Caicos Islands will form part of the initiative. Businesses in Providenciales have been advised that inspections will be conducted from July 13–17, 2026. The Department said the exercise supports its mandate to promote and enforce the Consumer Protection Ordinance, which provides important safeguards for consumers in the supply of goods and services throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands. Inspectors will focus particularly on Parts IV and V of the Ordinance, which set out the duties of providers to con-

sumers. These provisions establish the standards businesses and service providers must meet to ensure fair treatment of consumers and the delivery of quality goods and services. According to the Department, the compliance drive aims to:

- Ensure businesses understand and comply with their obligations under the Consumer Protection Ordinance.
- Increase awareness of practices that may constitute misleading or deceptive conduct, false representations, or other unfair business practices.
- Educate businesses on the consumer complaints process and the enforcement mechanisms available when violations occur.
- Inform providers of the penalties and fines that may apply in cases of non-compliance.
- Promote and strengthen consumer protection and consumer affairs



Premier and Minister of Finance Hon. Washington Misick

throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Department is encouraging all businesses to familiarize themselves with the requirements of the Consumer Protection Ordinance and to take the nec-

essary steps to ensure full compliance before inspections begin. The Consumer Protection Ordinance and related legislation are available on the Government’s Consumer Affairs website.

# NO NATIONALITY ATTACK

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The People's Democratic Movement (PDM) has firmly rejected suggestions that its recent criticism of police leadership and promotions in the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force is based on nationality, insisting that its position has always been about fairness, transparency and ensuring qualified Turks and Caicos Islanders have a genuine pathway to leadership.

In a lengthy statement, PDM Leader Hon. Douglas Parnell said the party has been mischaracterized in recent public debate and stressed that it has never attacked anyone because of where they were born. Instead, he said the party's concerns have consistently centered on the office of Commissioner of Police, the promotions process within the Force, succession planning and the long-term development of local officers.

"The PDM did not make this matter about nationality," Parnell said, adding that the party has focused on what it believes is a continuing failure to develop, mentor and promote qualified Turks and Caicos Islanders into senior leadership positions.

According to Parnell, the issue goes beyond any individual appointment and instead raises broader questions about accountability and public confidence in one of the country's most important institutions.

He argued that the Police Force should operate under a transparent promotions system where opportunities are based on merit rather than perceived personal preference. The PDM, he said, believes that qualified local officers deserve a fair chance to rise through the ranks and should be prepared to eventually assume the highest leadership positions within the organization.

Parnell also pointed to the unprecedented legal action filed by seven local police officers challenging aspects of the promotions process. He described the court case as evidence that concerns about fairness are not limited to politicians but are shared by officers within the Force itself.

He questioned why the Governor declined the PDM's request for an independent review of the promotions process while allowing further appointments and hiring decisions to continue despite the ongoing litigation.

"You cannot say a matter is too sensitive to review because it is before the courts, and then allow the same leadership structure to continue making further decisions," the statement argued.

The PDM said its proposals are straightforward. The party is calling for greater transparency in promotions, a clearly defined succession plan and measurable efforts to prepare Turks and Caicos Islanders for senior command positions within the Police Force. Parnell said these measures would strengthen rather than weaken public institutions by increasing confidence in the fairness of the system and ensuring local officers have realistic opportunities for advancement.

The opposition leader also questioned the effectiveness of the long-standing practice of appointing foreign Commissioners of Police. While acknowledging that overseas expertise can bring value and contribute positively to policing, he argued that such appointments should ultimately result in stronger local leadership rather than creating continued dependence on external recruitment.

Parnell noted that foreign leadership has overseen the Police Force for the past 15 years and questioned whether sufficient progress has been made in preparing Turks and Caicos Islanders to eventually lead the institution themselves. He challenged police officials to publicly identify at least three local officers currently being developed to become future Commissioners of Police.

He further argued that while Commissioner Fitz Bailey has achieved positive results in reducing crime, those gains should be accompanied by deliberate efforts to transfer knowledge and leadership skills to local officers to ensure long-term sustainability.

Beyond policing, Parnell defended the PDM's call for the recall of the Governor, saying the party's position



PARNELL... "The PDM did not make this matter about nationality."

tion is based on what it considers a broader pattern of governance concerns rather than any single issue.

He cited several matters that have contributed to the party's stance, including the Governor's refusal to authorize an independent review of police promotions, support for constitutional changes expanding the size of the Executive without corresponding measures to strengthen the Parliamentary Opposition, and the approval of a stimulus package shortly before the 2025 General Election.

The PDM leader also questioned the absence of public clarification regarding the Governor's tenure, noting that her appointment reached what he described as the normal end of its expected term without any official announcement explaining whether an extension had been granted or when a successor would be appointed.

According to Parnell, these issues collectively raise concerns about impartiality, transparency and public confidence in the country's governance.

Despite the wider political de-

bate, Parnell maintained that the central issue remains the need to invest in the country's own people.

He said the PDM supports bringing in outside expertise when necessary but believes that expertise should be used to train, mentor and prepare Turks and Caicos Islanders to assume leadership roles rather than limiting their opportunities for advancement.

"The future of policing in this country must include a serious, measurable and public commitment to developing Turks and Caicos Islanders for leadership at every level of the Force," he said. Parnell concluded by reaffirming the PDM's commitment to advocating for transparent appointments, stronger institutions, greater accountability and a fair pathway to leadership for qualified Turks and Caicos Islanders across the public service.

He said the party would continue pressing for reforms that place merit, fairness and local development at the center of public institutions while rejecting claims that its position is motivated by nationality rather than governance.

# TCI Doesn't Need a \$500 Handout — It Needs Real Governance

*An Op-Ed By Paladin*

For more than four decades, the Turks and Caicos Islands has lived under a governance culture defined not by corruption or malice, but by something far more subtle and far more damaging: absence. An absence of continuity. An absence of long term planning. An absence of institutional memory. An absence of execution. We have become a country that produces reports, commissions consultants, drafts strategies, announces initiatives, and allocates budgets—yet rarely completes the cycle from idea to implementation. Agriculture is the most visible example of this chronic pattern, but it is far from the only one.

This is not a partisan problem. It is a structural one. Successive governments, regardless of political colour, have inherited the same institutional weaknesses and have responded in the same way: with announcements instead of systems, with gestures instead of governance, and with short term fixes instead of long term solutions. The result is a nation that has grown economically, but whose institutions have not grown with it. And now, in 2026, we see the same pattern repeating itself with the latest headline: a one time \$500 “stimulus” payment.

Let us be clear from the outset. A one time \$500 payment is not a stimulus package. It is not economic policy. It is not development. It is a temporary relief measure dressed up in the language of economic strategy. And in a high cost, import dependent economy like ours, it is gone almost as quickly as it arrives. The government may call it a stimulus, but the people deserve to understand what a real stimulus looks like—and why this is not it.

## **The Governance Problem, Explained for the Man on the Street**

To understand why the \$500 payment is not a stimulus, we must first understand the governance environment that produced it. Turks and Caicos has never developed the institutional machinery required to carry long term national development from concept to completion. Our political cycles are short, and our political culture rewards visibility over delivery. A groundbreaking ceremony gets more attention than a completed project. A press release gets more traction than a functioning program. And a one time cash payment generates more immediate goodwill than the slow, disciplined work of building systems.

Our ministries are fragmented, often with overlapping mandates and unclear lines of responsibility. This creates duplication, confusion, and competition rather than coordination. The civil service, while hardworking, is built for administration, not development. It is structured to process forms, issue permits, and maintain order—not to manage multi year projects, over-

see technical sectors, or drive national transformation. Even when Cabinet approves a major initiative, the machinery required to deliver it simply does not exist.

This is why projects die when ministers change. This is why every administration “starts over.” This is why we have a national planning environment where documents are produced, shelved, and forgotten. And this is why the country keeps spinning in place, unable to move from paper to policy, from policy to program, and from program to production.

## **Agriculture: The Perfect Case Study of Governance Failure**

If anyone doubts that governance—not money, not land, not ideas—is the root of our national development challenges, they need only look at agriculture. Over the last twenty five years, Turks and Caicos has produced agricultural master plans, food security assessments, climate resilience reports, investment prospectuses, Cabinet papers, budget allocations, pilot projects, and community farming initiatives. We have had consultants, committees, and conversations. We have had announcements, launches, and ribbon cuttings. And yet, despite all of this, the country still imports between 90 and 95 percent of its food. The domestic agricultural sector remains a handful of part time farmers producing less than \$100,000 annually. The problem is not ideas. The problem is not money. The problem is not land. The problem is governance—the inability to execute.

Every few years, a new report is commissioned. A new consultant is hired. A new initiative is announced. But the institutional machinery to carry it forward simply does not exist. So the cycle resets. Agriculture is not failing because the soil is poor or because the people lack interest. It is failing because the system designed to support it does not function. And this same pattern is now visible in the government’s approach to economic relief.

## **The \$500 Payment: A Handout, Not a Stimulus**

The government has labeled the one time \$500 payment a “stimulus package.” But for the man on the street, let us break this down plainly. A stimulus package is not a one time payment. A stimulus package is not a week of groceries. A stimulus package is not a political announcement. A stimulus package is a coordinated set of economic measures designed to boost the economy over time, create jobs, increase spending power, and stimulate long term growth.

Real stimulus packages are multi year, multi program, and multi sector. They include infrastructure spending, tax adjustments, business support, wage interventions, and targeted investments. They are large enough to shift economic activity and sustained enough to create lasting impact. The New Deal in the

United States was a stimulus package. The 2008 global financial crisis response was a stimulus package. The COVID 19 economic recovery programs—spanning years, sectors, and billions—were stimulus packages.

A one time \$500 payment is none of these things. Economists call it “consumption smoothing”—a temporary patch to help households get through a difficult moment. It does not create jobs. It does not reduce the cost of living. It does not build infrastructure. It does not improve wages. It does not strengthen food security. It does not grow the economy. And in a country like Turks and Caicos, where almost everything is imported, that \$500 leaves the country within days. It flows from the Treasury to the grocery store to an overseas supplier. Nothing is built. Nothing is improved. Nothing changes.

## **Why Governments Choose Handouts Over Solutions**

There is a reason governments around the world, especially those with limited institutional capacity, turn to cash transfers. A handout is easy. A handout is fast. A handout is visible. A handout creates a headline. A handout generates immediate goodwill. And yes, a handout can distract the public from deeper issues.

But a handout does not fix the system. It does not address the structural weaknesses that make life expensive, wages stagnant, and opportunities limited. It does not build the institutions required to deliver long term national development. It does not strengthen the civil service, improve planning, or create continuity across administrations. It does not solve the governance problem.

The people of Turks and Caicos are not asking for charity from their own government. They are asking for competence. They are asking for continuity. They are asking for development. They are asking for a hand up—not a hand out.

## **What a Real “Hand Up” Looks Like**

A real hand up means building systems that permanently reduce the cost of living and expand opportunity. It means implementing a living wage policy that reflects the reality of a \$3,000 a month economy. It means establishing a functioning mass transit system that reduces transportation costs and expands access to jobs. It means building actual affordable housing units—not drawings, not promises, not press releases. It means investing in domestic food production so that the country is not held hostage by global supply chains and imported inflation. It means creating a national skills training and certification system that allows people to earn more, do more, and build more. These are the things that matter now and ten years from now. These are the things that build a nation. These are the things that create dignity, not depen-

dency.

## **The Opportunity Cost: What \$6.5 Million Could Have Built**

The most painful part of the \$500 payment is not the payment itself. It is the opportunity cost. Six and a half million dollars could have built a pilot mass transit system. It could have funded a starter affordable housing community. It could have launched a national greenhouse program. It could have created a living wage transition fund. It could have established a vocational training and certification center. It could have built something—anything—that would last longer than a week.

Instead, the money will be gone in days, with nothing to show for it. This is not about politics. This is about governance.

## **The Real Issue: Governance, Not Money**

Turks and Caicos does not have a money problem. The government is running surpluses. What we have is a capacity problem. We have no long term planning. We have no project execution machinery. We have no continuity across administrations. We have no national development framework that survives elections. So we default to the easiest, lowest capacity option: handouts. Reports lead to announcements. Announcements lead to handouts. Handouts lead to no structural change. And the cycle continues.

## **The People Want Better Governance—Not Better Handouts**

The people of Turks and Caicos are not unambitious. They are not helpless. They are not looking for charity. They are looking for a government that plans beyond the next headline, builds systems that last, invests in national capacity, strengthens institutions, creates opportunity, reduces dependency, and treats citizens as partners—not beneficiaries.

A handout lasts a week. Good governance lasts a generation. And right now, the country needs governance—not gimmicks.

**NEWSLINE TCI**  
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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

# PDM National General Council Unanimously Ratifies Mark A. Fulford as Secretary General

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The People's Democratic Movement has confirmed the appointment of Mark A. Fulford as Secretary General of the Party, following his unanimous ratification by the Party's National General Council on Friday July 3rd 2026.

Mr. Fulford was sought after by PDM Leader Hon. Doug Parnell, who invited him to serve in the role based on his principles, professional experience, organisational capacity, and commitment to national service. Hon. Parnell subsequently presented Mr. Fulford to the National Executive Committee, which accepted the recommendation and advanced the appointment to the National General Council for ratification.

The National General Council unanimously ratified Mr. Fulford's appointment, marking an important organisational step for the PDM as the Party continues to strengthen its internal systems, branch coordination, com-

munications, records, and national readiness.

Hon. Parnell said he made the offer to Mr. Fulford because he believed Mr. Fulford could assist the Party at a critical time in its organisational development.

"I invited Mark to serve in this role because of what he stands for and because of his proven ability to help with organisation at a very high level," Hon. Parnell said. "The PDM must be disciplined, structured, responsive and ready. Mark brings intellect, professionalism, energy and organisational strength, and I believed he could make a meaningful contribution to the Party's machinery, our country and to the work ahead."

Hon. Parnell said the appointment also reflects the PDM's commitment to bringing capable people into positions of service.

"Leadership is not only about speaking to the country; it is also about building the team and structure necessary to serve the country," Hon. Parnell said.



Mark Fulford

"I was pleased to present Mark to the National Executive Committee, and I am grateful that the National General Council has unanimously ratified his appointment. This is a positive step for the PDM."

Mr. Fulford thanked Hon. Parnell for extending the offer to serve, and thanked the National Executive Committee and National General Council for the confidence placed in him.

"I thank our Leader, Hon. Doug Parnell, for extending the offer to serve, and for placing his confidence in me," Mr. Fulford said. "I also thank the National Executive Committee for accepting the recommendation and the National General Council for unanimously ratifying my appointment. I do not take this responsibility lightly."

Mr. Fulford said he accepts the role with humility and a clear commitment to service.

"This is not a title for display; it is a responsibility to serve," he said. "The Secretary General is part of the engine room. My role is to help strengthen the machinery of the PDM, support the Leader, work closely with the National Chairman, engage our branches and constituency councils, improve communication, follow up on decisions, and help ensure that the Party functions with discipline, structure and purpose."

Mr. Fulford said the work ahead must be grounded in unity, organisation, confidentiality and service.

"If we are to serve the country well, we must first organise the Party well," he said. "Our branches and constituency councils are the heartbeat of the Party. My office will work with them. We must strengthen the Party from the ground up — island by island, branch by branch, constituency by constituency and member by member."

He added that the PDM must continue building an internal culture of action and follow-through.

"We must move from conversation to coordination, from meetings to action, and from promises to follow-through," Mr. Fulford said. "I have rolled up my sleeves and I will work, I will listen, and I will serve. I will handle the affairs of this office with discretion, maturity and care."

The PDM said the appointment is part of its continued focus on strengthening the Party's internal organisation, improving national coordination, supporting branch development, and ensuring that the Party remains connected, responsive and ready to serve the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Party reaffirmed its commitment to its founding principles of freedom, equality and justice for all.

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Minister E. Jay Saunders (left) addresses the Regional Artificial Intelligence (AI) Workshop at the Anguilla House of Assembly in Anguilla

Hon. E. Jay Saunders, Minister for Innovation, Technology and Energy, successfully participated in a landmark Regional Artificial Intelligence (AI) Workshop held at the Anguilla House of Assembly in Anguilla, from 21–24 June 2026. According to the Ministry of Innovation, Technology and Energy, Saunders’s engagement in this high-level forum reaffirms the Turks and Caicos Islands commitment to advancing technological innovation and strengthening regional collaboration in the rapidly evolving field of AI. The workshop convened parliamentarians, digital governance leaders, and technology experts from across the Caribbean, with participation from CPA UK, UNESCO, ParlAmericas, the Government and National Assembly of Anguilla, regional delegations, and private-sector innovators including Evoluut.ai. Discussions centred on regional readiness for AI, ethical

governance, and digital transformation. Minister Saunders served as a featured speaker in the 1st session “Application of AI in Parliament,” where he outlined how AI can enhance accessibility, casework, public engagement, and legislative efficiency. He emphasized the importance of building future-ready, resilient institutions in the Turks and Caicos Islands to ensure AI adoption supports national development, public trust, and effective oversight. Anguilla, home to the global .ai domain, provided a fitting backdrop for in-depth dialogue on the rapid rise of AI and its implications for legislation, cybersecurity, data governance, misinformation, and public accountability. Delegates engaged in expert presentations, peer-learning exchanges, and practical case studies, including a review of Evoluut.ai work supporting parliamentary functions such as

# MINISTER SAUNDERS LEADS TCI’S DIGITAL FUTURE AT HIGH-LEVEL AI WORKSHOP IN ANGUILLA



Minister of E. Jay Saunder (right) and Lord Andrew Sharpe OBE, Member of the House of Lords, share a light moment, at the Regional Artificial Intelligence (AI) Workshop at the Anguilla House of Assembly in Anguilla

transcription and digital engagement. The workshop strengthened regional understanding of AI opportunities and risks, expanded professional networks, and supported the development of national frameworks for responsible AI governance. Minister Saunders’ participation underscored the Turks and Caicos Islands dedication to innovation and ethical technology adoption. Minister Saunders added, “AI is re-

shaping every aspect of society. As leaders, we must ensure our governance frameworks evolve just as quickly, ethically, responsibly, and with people at the centre. My participation and attendance at the workshop ensure that the Turks and Caicos Islands has a seat at the table when decisions are being made about AI in the Caribbean, especially its use in Parliaments. I would like to thank Speaker Carter and Minister Vanterpool for hosting a very productive and timely workshop.”

## Liberty Caribbean Zero-Rates Calls to Venezuela

*-emergency connectivity initiative ensures customers can reach loved ones without cost*

In response to the recent earthquakes affecting Venezuela, Liberty Caribbean has announced that all mobile voice calls to the country will be zero-rated for both prepaid and post-paid customers. The initiative takes effect immediately will remain in place through July 6, providing customers with the opportunity to stay connected with loved ones in Venezuela during this difficult

period. “When communities are affected by natural disasters, the first instinct for many people is to reach the ones they love. In moments like these, a simple phone call can bring reassurance, hope and comfort. We want our customers to know that, during this difficult time, staying connected to family and friends in Venezuela should be one less thing to worry about,” said

Britta Reinhardt, Chief Commercial Officer, Liberty Caribbean. Liberty Caribbean are the operators of Flow, Liberty Business and BTC. “As a Caribbean company, we know the uncertainty and anxiety that follows events like these. Our thoughts are with everyone affected by the earthquakes, and particularly with our colleagues, customers and the Venezuelan community across our region



Britta Reinhardt, Chief Commercial Officer, Liberty Caribbean

who are anxiously checking on loved ones. This is a moment when connection matters most,” added Reinhardt. The zero-rated calling initiative is available to eligible prepaid and post-paid mobile customers across Liberty Caribbean’s operating markets, including Flow and BTC, for calls placed to Venezuela during the designated support period.

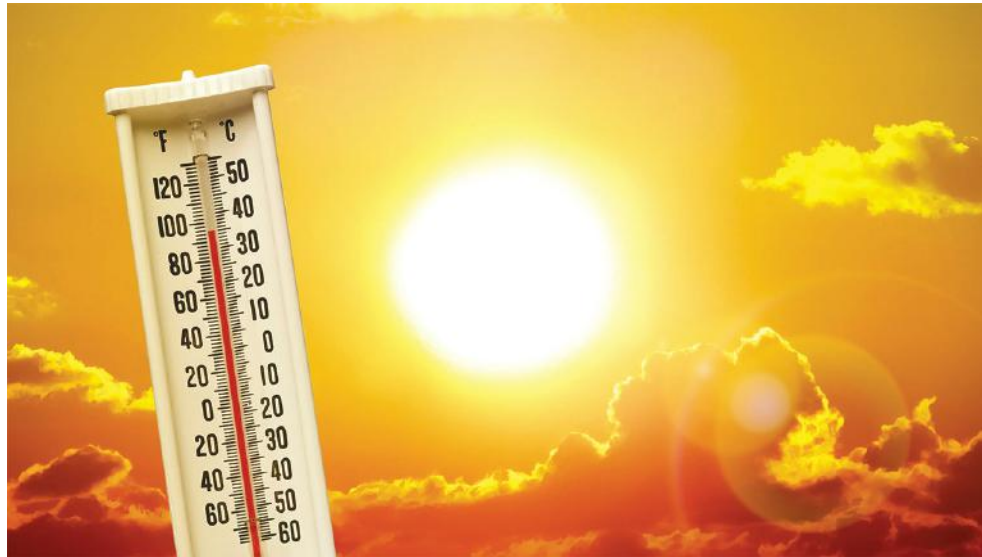
# El Niño intensifies as warmer Caribbean waters heighten risks of heatwaves, drought and flooding — CariCOF

The Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) is warning that strengthening El Niño conditions, combined with steadily warming Caribbean Sea temperatures, are expected to bring more intense heat, prolonged drought in some areas, and an elevated risk of flooding from heavy rainfall during the remainder of the 2026 wet season.

El Niño is a naturally occurring climate pattern marked by unusually warm sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean. The phenomenon disrupts global weather patterns, often triggering extreme conditions such as heatwaves, droughts and episodes of heavy rainfall.

In its latest Caribbean Climate Outlook, released on Thursday, the Barbados-based climate agency said the developing conditions are likely to produce increasingly intense humid heat through the peak of the heat season in September, with recurrent heatwaves expected, particularly across the northern Caribbean.

CariCOF also forecast uneven Atlantic hurricane activity through August, followed by a likely slowdown during



the traditional peak of the season in September.

The agency said drought conditions affecting parts of the Lesser Antilles are expected to improve more slowly than normal through September. At the same time, rainfall frequency across much of the Caribbean is projected to increase at a slower pace than is typical for this time of year.

Despite the slower recovery in rainfall, CariCOF cautioned that periods

of excessive rainfall remain likely and could result in a high to extremely high risk of flooding, flash floods and other cascading hazards.

The outlook also noted that frequent intrusions of Saharan dust are expected to suppress tropical cyclone development while worsening humid heat and reducing air quality across the region.

Through September, the risk of flooding, flash floods and related impacts

from heavy rainfall is forecast to remain high to extremely high across most Caribbean territories, with the exception of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao.

CariCOF further warned that the replenishment of rivers and reservoirs is expected to be slower than usual in Belize and the Antilles. Fewer wet days through August are also likely to delay the recovery of soil moisture, minimize rain-related interruptions to outdoor activities and only gradually reduce wildfire risk.

As of June 1, severe or worse short-term drought had developed in southwest Tobago and western Barbados. Long-term drought conditions were also affecting eastern Cuba, Grenada, eastern Guadeloupe, southwest Jamaica, Martinique, southwest Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and southeast Suriname.

The climate agency added that agricultural drought is already developing in Saint Lucia and could emerge or persist in Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao, eastern Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, the Leeward Islands, Martinique and Tobago.

## The Challenges of Working with Difficult Clients: Lessons Learned

*An OpEd by Donavon Eugene*

Working with difficult clients is one of the most demanding aspects of human services, particularly in probation, juvenile justice, social work, counselling, and rehabilitation.

Many clients present with complex needs, including trauma, substance abuse, mental health concerns, family dysfunction, negative peer influences, and repeated involvement with the justice system. These factors often contribute to resistance, distrust, poor compliance, and recurring setbacks.

Although these challenges can test even experienced practitioners, they also provide valuable opportunities for growth. Above all, they demonstrate that effective practice requires patience, empathy, adaptability, and perseverance.

One of the most important lessons from working with difficult clients is that trust is the foundation of effective intervention. Many difficult clients have experienced rejection, broken relationships, or inconsistent support, making them reluctant to engage with professionals. Building rapport

requires consistency, active listening, respect, and a non-judgmental approach. When clients feel heard and understood, they are far more likely to participate meaningfully in the helping process.

Another key lesson is that resistance is often a natural part of the change process. Many clients deny responsibility, minimize the consequences of their behaviour, or participate only because they have been mandated to do so. These experiences teach practitioners to balance accountability with encouragement, helping clients recognize the benefits of positive choices while allowing them to take ownership of their decisions.

Working with confrontational or aggressive clients reinforces the importance of remaining calm and professional. Responding emotionally or engaging in power struggles often escalates conflict, whereas maintaining clear boundaries and applying effective de-escalation techniques helps preserve both safety and the working relationship.

Experience also demonstrates that meaningful progress is rarely achieved

by one professional alone. Clients often require support from probation officers, social workers, schools, mental health professionals, law enforcement, families, and community organizations. Collaboration promotes consistency, strengthens support networks, and enables more comprehensive responses to complex needs.

Another important lesson is that progress is rarely linear. Relapses, missed appointments, poor decisions, and repeated offending can be discouraging, but they do not necessarily indicate failure. Instead, they provide opportunities to reassess interventions, reinforce learning, and adjust support strategies. Recognizing and building on small improvements encourages realistic expectations and sustained progress.

Working with difficult clients also underscores the importance of practitioner resilience. Supporting individuals with complex needs can be emotionally demanding, particularly when progress is slow. Maintaining professional boundaries, seeking supervision, engaging in ongoing professional development, and practicing

self-care help prevent burnout and enable practitioners to remain effective over the long term.

Perhaps the greatest lesson is that lasting change cannot be forced. Professionals can provide guidance, resources, encouragement, and accountability, but clients must ultimately choose to change. Success is therefore measured not only by immediate behavioural improvements but also by building trust, fostering resilience, and creating opportunities for future growth.

In conclusion, working with difficult clients presents significant challenges, but those challenges are also among the profession's greatest teachers. They reinforce the importance of trust, collaboration, resilience, professionalism, and realistic expectations. Most importantly, they remind practitioners that while change may be gradual, every positive interaction has the potential to influence a client's journey toward rehabilitation and long-term success.

**Mr. Donavon Eugene is a Juvenile Officer with the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision.**

# FSC VIRTUAL ASSETS WORKSHOP STRENGTHENS TCI READINESS

The Financial Services Commission (FSC) hosted a week long **Virtual Assets Regulatory Implementation Workshop** from 22–25 June 2026, opening at the Commission’s Providenciales offices on Venetian Road and concluding at Blue Haven Marina, Providenciales.

The event brought together 40–50 in-person and online participants from government, law enforcement, financial services, and the private sector to advance regulatory preparedness for virtual asset activities in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI). The programme opened with welcome remarks from the Attorney General and Chair of the Anti-Money Laundering Commission (AMLC), the **Hon. Rhondalee Braithwaite Knowles**, and **Kenisha Bacchus**, Managing Director (Ag), Financial Services Commission, and included presentations by **Gessie Herilien**, Deputy Director, Supervision, Digital Assets/Fintech; and Lead Consultant **Loretta Joseph**, Lo Jo Consulting.

Workshop highlights and objectives

- Practical training on core blockchain concepts, DeFi, Web3, cybersecurity, and the Travel Rule using real-world case studies.
- Practical training on core blockchain concepts, DeFi, Web3, cybersecurity, and the Travel Rule using real world case studies.
- Targeted sessions for prospective virtual asset service providers, corporate service providers, financial institutions, and designated non financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs), guiding attendees through the proposed Virtual Assets Business Bill 2026 and its operational and compliance implications.
- A strong emphasis on AML/CFT safeguards, robust customer due diligence, verification of ultimate beneficial ownership (UBO), risk based compliance, governance, consumer protection, and supervisory cooperation.
- Participation from key agencies including the Financial Intelligence Agency, Attorney General’s Chambers, Gaming Commission, Border Force Services, Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police (Investigations & Financial Crime Units), Invest Turks & Caicos, and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

**Significance of the proposed Virtual Assets Business Bill 2026**  
The workshop supports implementation planning for the proposed



From left - Gessie Herilien, Loretta Joseph and Kenisha Bacchus



Attorney General  
Hon. Rhondalee Braithwaite Knowles



Section of the Audience

**Virtual Assets Business Bill 2026** by building institutional, technical, and supervisory capacity across public agencies and private-sector stakeholders. Sessions reinforced the Bill’s

objectives to establish clear licensing requirements, governance and consumer protections, and robust AML/CFT measures aligned with international standards, strengthening the

jurisdiction’s integrity while enabling responsible innovation and investment in digital finance.

Hon. Braithwaite Knowles said: “As Attorney General and Chair of the AMLC, it is a privilege to join you as we commence this important week of engagement on the development of a Virtual Assets Regulatory Framework for the Turks and Caicos Islands. This underlines the need for robust legal foundations and coordinated, whole-of-government action.”

“TCI’s proactive engagement across government and industry positions us to harness the economic opportunities of digital assets while protecting consumers and safeguarding financial stability”, stated Mrs Bacchus, adding: “This workshop has been instrumental in translating legislative intent into practical supervisory and compliance action, ensuring stakeholders are prepared to meet regulatory obligations and international expectations.”

Mrs Herilien noted that training programme delivered practical, hands-on learning, giving participants direct access to blockchain analytics tools to explore features and apply concepts through live simulation exercises. She went on to add that: “The TCI is progressing the proposed Virtual Assets Business Bill, 2026, through wide stakeholder engagement and alignment with international standards. Emphasis remains on education, inter-agency collaboration and technical capacity building, which are critical to addressing emerging risks. Together, we are building a resilient, future-ready regulatory framework that supports responsible innovation and protects financial integrity,”

In an invited comment, the Lead Consultant for Lo Jo Consulting stated that: “The Virtual Asset Business Bill 2026 represents a significant and progressive step for the Turks and Caicos Islands in establishing a credible, transparent and internationally aligned legal and regulatory framework for virtual asset activities.”

The Financial Services Commission and partner agencies will continue stakeholder engagement, training and implementation planning as the Virtual Asset Business Bill, 2026 is refined and readied for rollout. Ongoing collaboration between the public and private sectors will support proportionate regulation, risk-based supervision and the responsible growth of the virtual assets sector in TCI.

# At-Risk Students: A Call for Transformation

*An Op-Ed Dr. Alces Dor*

For far too long, the terminology of “at-risk students” has quietly infiltrated our educational system, shaping not just policies, but the very futures of countless children. By labeling students in this dehumanizing way, we are not merely identifying obstacles; we are sentencing bright, capable young minds to a narrative of limitation and despair. These children are not inherently doomed; instead, it is the label that chains them to a cycle of perceived failure. The Implications of the Label When we call students “at-risk,” we reduce them to mere statistics, defined by their challenges—low academic performance, high absenteeism, or difficult home environments. This narrow perspective overlooks their inherent strengths and potential. What if we forgo the detrimental

tal label and, instead, address the systemic issues that create these “risks”? Imagine a world where we focus on nurturing potential rather than labeling limitations. We have the power to dismantle the barriers that restrict these students, but that requires a fundamental shift in language and perception. **The Psychological Burden of Being Labeled** Just as we would never call our children names that undermine their identity, we must reconsider the impact of terms like “at-risk.” Such labels unleash a cascade of expectations that can suffocate hope and resilience, often leading them to fulfill a destiny that doesn’t reflect their true capabilities. Research shows that this negative branding fosters a mindset of deficiency, stigmatizes individuals, and creates a self-fulfilling prophecy of failure. By focusing solely on perceived weaknesses, we ignore the

unique strengths these students possess—strengths that, if recognized, could inspire and uplift not only themselves but also their peers. **A Global Movement for Change** This harmful terminology is not isolated to our local context; it resonates in classrooms across the globe, from the smallest schools to the most prestigious universities. Fortunately, a growing movement is gaining momentum, advocating for empowering language that honors potential. Recent legislative changes, such as California Governor Gavin Newsom’s bill replacing “at-risk youth” with “at-promise youth,” are powerful examples of this shift. Educational institutions are rallying behind this initiative, heralding a new era that celebrates strengths and capabilities instead of predetermined failures. **A Vision for the Future** Imagine the possibilities if we

choose to view students not for the obstacles they face but for the boundless potential they hold. We can cultivate environments that prioritize growth, hope, and opportunity, transforming the educational landscape for the better. **In conclusion** In light of this, a consensus can be sought through competitions throughout the academic institutions. In the meantime, I propose a new term: “At-sublimation students.” This term reflects the hidden potential within each child and encourages an environment conducive to their transformation. Let’s advocate for language that uplifts rather than diminishes, that inspires rather than confines. Together, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to flourish, free from the confines of damaging labels. Let us create a future filled with promise and possibility.

# The Rebalancing of Political Power in the Turks and Caicos Islands

*An OpEd by Ed Forbes*

Democracy is not measured solely by the size of a government’s majority or the pace of economic growth. It is measured by the strength of its institutions, the accountability of its leaders, and the confidence of its people that every voice has the opportunity to be heard. At the heart of every thriving democracy is one essential principle: political balance. Few would disagree that the opposition in the Turks and Caicos Islands required a period of renewal. Hon. Edwin Astwood, as Leader of the Opposition and, for much of the parliamentary term, the lone opposition voice in the House of Assembly, served during a particularly challenging political period. Regardless of political views, his willingness to carry out the responsibilities of opposition under difficult circumstances deserves recognition. Over the past decade, the Turks and Caicos Islands have experienced remarkable transformation. Tourism has expanded, investment has increased, and the economy has achieved significant growth. These accomplishments should be acknowledged. However, economic progress alone does not define a successful democracy. Prosperity must be accompanied by trans-

parency, accountability, and effective governance. A strong opposition does not weaken a government, it strengthens the country. The role of an opposition is not simply to disagree, but to question, scrutinize, and offer alternative perspectives. Healthy democracies depend on the open exchange of ideas and the willingness to challenge decisions in the public interest. When governments know their actions will be carefully examined, it encourages better policies, greater transparency, and stronger leadership. Most everyday Turks Islanders are not consumed by the daily nuisances of political debate. They are focused on their families, their businesses, their jobs, and their hopes for the future. However, they understand when economic pressures affect their household budgets, when opportunities become harder to access, or when decisions made by those in authority impact their quality of life. These are the issues that matter most. A balanced political system ensures that policies are not shaped by a single voice or a single interest group. A strong opposition creates space for dialogue, negotiation, and accountability. It helps ensure that the bene-

fits of our economic success are not limited to a select few, but create meaningful opportunities for all hard-working Turks Islanders to participate, succeed, and prosper. The choice before us is not simply about politics. It is about the kind of society we want to build. We can allow wealth and opportunity to become increasingly concentrated, or we can continue building a country where determination, hard work, and ambition are rewarded and where every citizen has the chance to reach their full potential. If we choose fairness and opportunity, we choose something greater than economic success alone. We choose dignity, unity, and hope. In doing so, we strengthen not only our own people but also our position as a model of democratic stability and opportunity in the Caribbean and beyond. Our constitutional framework also reminds us of the importance of strong elected institutions. While the Governor and Deputy Governor serve important constitutional roles within the relationship between the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United Kingdom, it is my personal observation that in practice, their responsibilities are shaped by both the interests of the United Kingdom and the realities

of working alongside the elected government of the day. True democratic and accountability ultimately rests with our elected representatives. This is why a capable and effective opposition remains so important. Democracy requires more than elections. It requires integrity, courage, and citizens willing to hold leaders accountable. We must speak truth to power, regardless of political affiliation, and ensure that ambition never outweighs principle or that special interests never take priority over the national good. The challenges facing these islands are too important for division alone, especially with our limited voting power. Government and opposition must be willing to engage in respectful dialogue, listen to different perspectives, and find common ground where the future of the country is concerned. Political competition is healthy. Political conflict without purpose is not. The future of the Turks and Caicos Islands depends on strong institutions, responsible leadership, and a commitment to putting country above party. That is the balance our democracy deserves, and that is the future our people expect.

JUGHEAD! WATCH OUT FOR THE...

...BUOY!

BREAK OUT THE CAKE! IT'S...

SOME GUY WHO INVENTED SOMETHING'S BIRTHDAY!

HEY, SALLY, THIS IS PEPPERMINT PATTY...LET ME TALK TO CHUCK...

I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS...SOMEBODY SAID HE GOT SICK AT THE BALL GAME, BUT HE NEVER CAME HOME...

ANYWAY, I'M TOO BUSY TO TALK RIGHT NOW...

I'M MOVING MY THINGS INTO HIS ROOM...

MERLIN, WHAT WOULD THIS BOILING BREW TURN ME INTO?

A FATTER YOU!

I'LL GIVE YOU A MILLION DOLLARS FOR A POUND OF SPINCOAL!

YA MUS' BE NERTS!

TWO MILLION!

NO!

CURSES, SIR! MY MONEY IS GOOD! YOU HAVE TO SELL IT TO ME!

I SEZ I CAN'T!

IT'S FIVE CENTS A POUND AND I AIN'T GOT CHANGES FER NO MILLING BUCKS!!

AAAAHHH! ALIENS FROM OUTSIDE SPACE!

IT'S MY NEW REPLICA ALIEN MOTHERSHIP, COMPLETE WITH WORKING TRACTOR BEAM.

WOW! WHERE'D YOU GET THAT?

I BUILT IT MYSELF.

I THINK YOUR BROTHER'S AN ALIUM FROM OUTSIDE SPACE!

I COULDA TOLD YOU THAT.

# NEWSLINE COMICS

RUBBING ALCOHOL is for outside boobos,

DRINKING ALCOHOL IS FOR INSIDE BOOBOOS.

"Luke, I am your flatulenter."

Heh heh. Funny.

CHUCKLING HYENA

### YOUR FIRST KID

IS HE TIRED? HUNGRY? IS IT SOMETHING HE ATE? IS HE OVER-STIMULATED? UNDER-STIMULATED?

AHHHH!

### YOUR SECOND KID

OH, GREAT! THIS ONE'S A NUTJOB, TOO.

AHHHH!



*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)



CHHS students and teachers being welcomed by GM, Deryk Meany



RGHS students share a photo moment in TBV

# Beaches Turks & Caicos Hosts High School Tourism Clubs from Providenciales, North Caicos

Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort recently welcomed students from Clement Howell High School in Providenciales and Raymond Gardiner High School in North Caicos for an immersive educational tour designed to expose young learners to the dynamic world of hospitality and tourism. The visit formed part of the resort's ongoing commitment to youth development and community engagement, providing students with insight into the operations of the Caribbean's leading hospitality brand. During the tour, students were introduced to various departments across the resort, gaining a deeper understanding of the wide range of career opportunities available within the industry. General Manager Deryk Meany addressed the visiting students, encouraging them to think creatively about their future career paths and to remain open to exploring non-traditional roles within the hospitality sector. "The hospitality industry is constantly evolving, and there is space for innovation, creativity and leadership at every level," Meany shared. "At Beaches Turks and Caicos, we are proud to provide opportunities for young people to jumpstart their careers, while also developing the skills needed to grow into future leaders." The local youth engaged with team members across multiple disciplines, including guest services, food and beverage, entertainment and operations. Kwanza Morley, Tourism Club leader at Raymond Gardiner High School, expressed appreciation for the experience, noting its value in reinforcing students' academic learning. "This visit allowed our students to see



CHHS students and teachers share a moment at the SF monument on the beach

firsthand how what they learn in the classroom translates into the operation," Morley said. "We are grateful to Beaches Turks and Caicos for their hospitality and for creating such a meaningful and engaging experience." Educators accompanying the students also highlighted the importance of continued collaboration between schools and industry leaders. Raphael Delpeche of Clement Howell High School commended the resort for its ongoing support of youth development initiatives. "We are very pleased with the level of exposure our students received," Delpeche stated. "This relationship continues to create valuable opportunities for our students to better understand the industry and en-

vision their future within it." For many students, the tour provided inspiration and a renewed sense of possibility. Tamani Gardiner, a fourth form student from Raymond Gardiner High School, remarked on the professionalism and efficiency observed throughout the resort. "I was really impressed by how smoothly everything operates," Gardiner said. "The level of professionalism from the staff shows what it takes to succeed in this industry." Similarly, Clement Howell High School student Tanika Lightbourne shared her enthusiasm for continued involvement with the resort through its internship programme. "I'm looking forward to returning to Beaches Turks and Caicos for another year

of internship," Lightbourne said. "This experience has helped me grow and I'm excited to keep learning and developing as a young professional." Through initiatives like these, the resort continues to play a vital role in empowering youth across the Turks and Caicos Islands and preparing them for meaningful careers in one of the country's most important industries.



CHHS Students ride the train on the resort

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

# All Saints Mission Church

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



## Life line Church Directory

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

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

The Miss Teen International Turks and Caicos Pageant was held at the Salvation's Army's Brighter Futures Centre in Providenciales on Friday, July 3. Miss Salt Cay, Carissa Brown, emerged the winner of the contest from a field of entries. On her way to winning the crown, Carissa won the sectional prizes of Miss Intellectual, Best Talent, People's Choice Awards, Best Swim Wear, Beauty with a Purpose, Lady of Resorts, and Miss Personality. Ludemia Pierre was named first runner-up. She also copped the sectional prizes of Miss Congeniality, and Best Smile. Beljina Noel, who placed third, also won the sectional prizes Best Costume, Best Swimwear, Miss Photogenic, Best Evening Wear, and Best Catwalk.







# SOUTH BANK RESORT CELEBRATES OUTSTANDING STAFF IN 2ND QUARTER AWARDS CEREMONY

South Bank Resort, located in Long Bay, Providenciales, staged its Employee, Supervisor and Leader of the Quarter on Thursday. The event was held to celebrate and honor those who excelled over the second calendar quarter. Cleveland Rose of Food and Beverage, and Sophia Paul also of the Food and Beverage Department were joint Front of the House Winners. Lucsair Ettienne and Ferno Deceide both of the Kitchen were joint Back of the House winners. Yafeicy Malcom of the Finance Department was named Leader of the Quarter. The following are photo highlights of the event.





Mrs. Desire Lewis, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Agriculture, Sports and Human Services.



Crivanne Adams Deputy Chief Environmental Officer

The Environmental Health Department, under the Ministry of Health and Human Services, successfully hosted a five-day Port Health Training Workshop from July 6-10, 2026, aimed at strengthening public health preparedness and response at ports of entry throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands. The training was facilitated by Mr. Lionel Michael of JKALM Environmental Health, a senior Environmental Health professional with over 40 years of experience in public health administration, environmental regulation and international health governance. Mr. Michael brought extensive knowledge and experience to the training, providing participants with practical guidance and insight into key areas of port health. The workshop brought together representatives from the Environmental Health

Department, Border Force, Department of Agriculture, Ports Authority, Airports Authority, Maritime Department and the Health Emergency Management Unit, reflecting the multi-agency approach required to effectively protect public health at the country's ports of entry. Throughout the five-day workshop, participants engaged in presentations, discussions and practical sessions covering areas such as the International Health Regulations (2005), aircraft and vessel clearance procedures, food and water safety, vector control and emergency preparedness. The training also provided an opportunity for agencies to share experiences, strengthen collaboration and better understand their respective roles in protecting public health at ports of entry. The Honorable Kyle Knowles, Minister of Health and Human Services, highlighted the importance of preparedness and col-

# Environmental Health Department Hosts Port Health Training to Strengthen Public Health Preparedness at Ports of Entry

laboration in protecting the country from public health threats. "In recent years, the world has witnessed how quickly diseases can cross borders. Whether it is COVID-19, Ebola, Hantavirus or other emerging infectious diseases, one lesson has become abundantly clear: preparedness is our strongest defense. Protecting our borders is not the responsibility of one agency alone; it requires collaboration, communication and a shared commitment to safeguarding public health," said Honorable Knowles. The Environmental Health Department extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Lionel Michael for facilitating the training and sharing his knowledge and expertise, as well as to all participating agencies and representatives for their active participation and commitment throughout the week. This initiative represents another important step in strengthening national port



Lionel Michael of JKALM Environmental Health

health capacity and supports the Ministry of Health and Human Services' continued commitment to protecting the health and well-being of residents and visitors to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

# Janae Rolle Inspire's Youth at the 4th Annual Teen Girls Summit 2026

As part of the bank's commitment to community engagement and youth empowerment, Janae Rolle, Private Banker of CIBC Caribbean joined a panel of influential women from across the Turks and Caicos at the 4th Annual Teen Girls Community Awareness Summit, sharing insights and words of encouragement to teenage girls. The Summit has experienced steady growth as a platform for leadership, personal development and confidence building for teenage girls. Held at the Ritz Carlton Ballroom, Grace Bay, Providenciales, this year's event was made possible through the support of dedicated partners, including CIBC Caribbean, maintaining itself as a leading sponsor for a fourth year. Each panelist offered valuable perspectives and expertise from their respective fields. Rolle states "My presentation encouraged young women to recognize their value, embrace their unique identity, and understand that true empowerment begins from within. I emphasized the importance of knowing who you are as an individual, building confidence in your abilities, and remaining true to your values regardless of outside influences." Rolle also shared essential financial insights to help the attendees prepare for a successful future. Her advice included the importance of building a consistent saving habit to prepare for future opportunities



Janae Rolle

and unexpected challenges. Investing in skills, education and personal growth to make money work for you. Lastly, make thoughtful financial decisions through spending wisely and responsible money management. Through her message, Rolle emphasized the importance of putting God first, noting that it leads to wisdom, strength, purpose and direction as they navigate challenges and pursue their goals. Lastly, she highlighted the value in developing an attitude of gratitude, noting that "when we are



Photo of some of the participants at the Girls Summit



Organizer of the event Dr. Cutella Talbot (left) hosts a panel discussion with some of the country's young leaders

grateful, we cultivate resilience, humility and a greater sense of purpose." The overall message encouraged the young women to become confident, faith-filled leaders who understand their worth, make

wise decisions, and pursue their dreams with courage and determination. By being empowered, leading with purpose, and staying grounded in their values, they can create a future without limits.

# Turks and Caicos Islands Nominated for Best Caribbean Destination in 2026 Travvy Awards

The Turks and Caicos Islands has been nominated for Best Destination in the Caribbean in the 2026 Travvy Awards, one of the travel industry's most respected awards programmes. The Turks and Caicos Islands is also represented in the Resorts category, with Salterra nominated for Best New Hotel/Resort in the Caribbean and Beaches Turks and Caicos nominated for Best Renovated Resort in Mexico and the Caribbean. Produced by TravelPulse and AGENTatHOME, the Travvy Awards recognise the travel industry's top suppliers, including destinations, hotels, cruise lines, airlines, tour operators and tourism experiences. Winners are determined by votes cast by travel advisors. Minister of Tourism, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, welcomed the continued recognition for the Turks and Caicos Islands. "Recognition like this isn't achieved through marketing alone. It is earned



The world-famous Grace Bay Beach

through the experiences our visitors have every single day. These nomina-

tions are a testament to the strength of our tourism product and the ded-

ication of our tourism stakeholders, hospitality professionals, and everyone who helps make the Turks and Caicos Islands one of the world's most sought-after destinations," said Hon. Jolly. "We are especially proud to see Salterra and Beaches Turks and Caicos also recognised for their commitment to excellence, which further reflects the quality and reputation of our destination as a whole. I encourage our travel advisor partners, residents, visitors, and friends of the Turks and Caicos Islands to cast their vote and help us secure this prestigious recognition." Voting is open until September 4th, 2026. To cast your vote, visit the official Travvy Awards voting page: <https://www.travvyawards.com/>. Winners will be announced live at the Travvy Awards on November 5th, 2026 in Fort Lauderdale, USA.

## TELUS HEALTH BOOSTS SUPERVISORS' IFRS 17 EXPERTISE TO PROTECT POLICYHOLDERS

TELUS Health has delivered a four-module virtual training programme on International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 17 to the insurance supervision team at the Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission, strengthening the regulator's capacity to protect policyholders during the accounting transition. Delivered between 4 June and 2 July, the course gave participants a practical, functional grasp of the new insurance contracts accounting standard and its consequences for regulated entities. The programme was structured to build knowledge progressively, covering accounting, measurement, presentation, disclosure and regulatory implications of IFRS 17. Core measurement topics included best estimate liabilities, risk adjustment, discounting and the contractual service margin, essential components for understanding how insurer liabilities and profitability are reported under the new regime. In addition to the insurance supervision team, attendees included colleagues from the Anti-Money Laundering Supervision Department (AMLSD); Banking; Information Technology; Finance; Policy; Legal and Virtual Assets, ensuring a broad, cross departmental appreciation of the standard's impact across the organi-



sation. The training is intended to enhance the supervisory team's ability to review insurer financial statements, interpret changes in reported performance and financial position, and regulate effectively in the postIFRS 17 environment. "This training was invaluable. It has equipped our team with a robust, practical understanding of IFRS 17's measurement and reporting requirements, enabling us to scrutinise insurer financial statements more effectively and to interpret changes in reported performance with confidence," said Corine Bolton, Director of Insurance at The Comission. "The cross-departmental approach

helped us understand the broader effects of the standard on operations

and regulations, which enhances our ability to protect policyholders and ensure proper regulatory oversight during this important change." Kenisha Bacchus, Managing Director (Ag), added: "This comprehensive programme has given our supervisory team the practical tools and technical insight needed to navigate the transition to IFRS 17. By deepening our understanding of measurement concepts such as best estimate liabilities, risk adjustment and the contractual service margin, we are better placed to scrutinise insurer reporting, safeguard policyholder interests and maintain regulatory standards in a rapidly evolving accounting landscape."



# NEW AIRLIFT STRATEGY POSITIONING TURKS AND CAICOS FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM GROWTH

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands is strengthening its position as one of the Caribbean's premier luxury destinations through an aggressive airlift expansion strategy aimed at diversifying visitor markets, increasing accessibility and supporting sustainable tourism growth across the archipelago.

Tourism, Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Hon. Zhavargo Jolly says the government's focus on expanding international connectivity is already yielding positive results, with visitor arrivals increasing during the first quarter of the year and several new airline partnerships creating opportunities for future growth.

Speaking during an interview with NewslineTCI at his Regent Village office, Jolly said airlift remains one of the most important components of any successful tourism strategy.

According to the minister, overall visitor arrivals increased by approximately five percent during the first quarter, reflecting continued demand for the destination despite economic uncertainties affecting international travel markets.

The increase comes as the Turks and Caicos Islands continues to expand its aviation network through partnerships with major carriers and targeted marketing campaigns in key source markets.

"We're up five percent in total," Jolly said, noting that the country has outperformed expectations despite fluctuations in global travel trends.

A major focus of the government's strategy has been reducing dependence on the United States market while maintaining strong relationships with American travelers.

The United States remains the country's largest source market and continues to provide the majority of visitors arriving in the Turks and Caicos Islands. However, Jolly said government officials recognize that relying too heavily on a single market creates vulnerabilities.

Recent political uncertainty, economic concerns and internation-



Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly

al events have all influenced travel patterns, leading to declines in U.S. outbound travel throughout parts of the Caribbean.

Recognizing those risks, Experience Turks and Caicos and the Ministry of Tourism have intensified efforts to attract visitors from Canada and other international markets.

Those efforts are paying dividends.

Jolly reported that Canadian visitor numbers have increased significantly following targeted promotional campaigns and strategic partnerships with airlines serving the Canadian market.

"We saw our Canadian numbers go up significantly," he said.

The growth has been supported by expanded services from carri-

ers such as Air Canada and other Canadian airlines, as well as the introduction of new routes by Porter Airlines and Bermuda Air. In addition to Canada, the government is pursuing opportunities in Latin America, a market Jolly believes offers tremendous potential because travel patterns there complement the Turks and Caicos Islands' seasonal tourism cycle.

Unlike North American travelers who primarily visit during the winter months, many South American travelers vacation during the summer period, traditionally a slower season for the destination.

Officials believe attracting more visitors during those months would help hotels, restaurants

and tourism operators maintain stronger business levels year-round without placing additional pressure on infrastructure during peak periods.

"We're looking at South America as one of our premier priority markets because they travel in the summer, which is normally slower," Jolly explained.

Government is currently exploring direct and connecting flight options that could link the Turks and Caicos Islands to major cities including Buenos Aires, Bogotá and Medellín through regional hubs such as Barbados and the Dominican Republic.

The minister also highlighted the importance of airlift in supporting tourism development outside Providenciales.

New international services to South Caicos have already helped create opportunities for the island's growing tourism sector, while planned investments in North Caicos infrastructure are expected to support future air service expansion there as well. Jolly believes improved connectivity will become even more important as new hotel developments come online throughout the country over the next several years.

The government is simultaneously encouraging development in the family islands while limiting additional large-scale tourism projects in Providenciales, making reliable transportation links essential for future success. For the minister, however, airlift is about more than increasing visitor arrivals.

It is about attracting the right visitors, creating economic opportunities for residents and ensuring tourism growth remains sustainable.

"People want to come here," Jolly said. "We just have to make sure it's the right people and we're getting value for our money."

With discussions continuing with airlines across North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, officials believe expanded airlift will remain a cornerstone of the Turks and Caicos Islands' tourism strategy for years to come.

# Heat and health: Self-care tips as the summer temps rise

EL Niño, the Pacific weather pattern associated with rising global temperatures, has been widely discussed in the news and on social media. It occurs when sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean remain at least 0.5°C (0.9°F) above normal for several consecutive months.

Scientists have forecast a 63 per cent chance that sea surface temperatures could exceed 2°C (3.6°F) later this year, creating conditions for a very strong, or “super” El Niño.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), heat is an important environmental and occupational health hazard. As summer heat intensifies, health professionals must pay closer attention to heat-related risks.

Heat stress is a leading cause of weather-related deaths and can worsen cardiovascular disease, diabetes, mental health conditions, asthma, and other illnesses. It can also increase the risk of accidents and some infectious diseases, while heatstroke remains a medical emergency with a high fatality rate. With more people worldwide being exposed to extreme heat because of climate change, this article explores how heat affects health and how individuals can reduce their risk.

Changes in the global climate and the reality of a recent “heat dome”

Although Jamaica and the wider Caribbean are not currently experiencing what is known as a heat dome, we cannot ignore this phenomenon. I had not heard of a heat dome until recently. A heat dome is a weather phenomenon in which the atmosphere traps hot air as if covered by a lid or cap. Heat domes are influenced by factors such as sea surface temperature anomalies, including La Niña. They can develop during still, dry summer conditions when warm air builds up and high atmospheric pressure pushes it downward.

Seville says he could have run better after second place at Prefontaine Athletics, Sports

Seville says he could have run better after second place at Prefontaine July 7, 2026

Across Europe, North America, Asia, and other regions, record-breaking heatwaves have caused thousands of heat-related illnesses and hundreds of deaths, prompting public health authorities to issue urgent heat advisories.

## How heat affects your body

According to local reports, the April-June outlook from the Meteorological Service of Jamaica is expected to be less wet than usual for the second rainy period. Hotter climates can increase the risk



of dehydration, heat exhaustion, heatstroke, and worsening chronic conditions. During exercise or heat exposure, the body may store heat and raise its internal temperature. Effective cooling depends on signals between the skin, central nervous system, blood vessels, and sweat glands. Differences related to age, biological sex, illness, or injury can reduce heat loss and affect temperature control.

Temperature strongly affects biological tissues and processes. Humans normally keep deep body temperature around 36-38°C. During exercise or heat stress, it may rise to 38-40°C and still be tolerated, especially in heat-acclimatized or physically trained individuals. However, temperatures of 40-45°C can damage proteins, injure cells, and cause cell death.

Heat stress is the heat load that raises body heat storage and deep body temperature. It is influenced by metabolic heat, air temperature, radiant temperature, humidity, air movement, and clothing. Heat strain refers to the body's response to that load, such as increased body temperature or heart rate.

## Heat and medicines

According to the US Centers for Disease Control, heat can interact with medications and cause serious side effects. Clinicians, patients, and pharmacists should recognise medicines that raise heat-related illness risk, understand these interactions, and plan medication use for hot days.

People living with diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease, asthma, heart disease, and other chronic illnesses should take extra precautions during

periods of extreme heat.

Heat exposure may damage medication delivery devices or degrade medications. Inhalers, for example, can burst in hot environments, such as car trunks on hot days. EpiPens may malfunction or deliver less epinephrine when exposed to heat. Insulin, which should be refrigerated, may become less effective if left in the heat for prolonged periods.

Some medications can increase skin sensitivity to the sun. Antifungal medications such as flucytosine, griseofulvin, and voriconazole, as well as antibiotics such as metronidazole, tetracyclines, and fluoroquinolones, can increase sun sensitivity and cause a sunburn-like rash. Patients taking these medications should avoid excessive sun exposure, wear protective clothing and hats, and use broad-spectrum sunscreen that protects against UVA and UVB rays with an SPF of 30 or higher.

## Practical self-care tips from your pharmacist

Health Canada (2024) advises pharmacy professionals to help patients prepare for heat waves by recognising heat illness symptoms and supporting high-risk groups, including older adults, infants, pregnant individuals, athletes, people with chronic conditions, and those taking medicines that affect temperature regulation.

\*Staying well hydrated is essential. Prevent heat illness by drinking water regularly, even before feeling thirsty, especially if you are older, active, or taking medicines that increase urination. Limit alcohol, sugary drinks, and excess caffeine, which may worsen dehydration.

\*Outdoor Activities — Plan outdoor activities for cooler morning or late afternoon hours. Avoid direct sun from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; wear loose, lightweight clothing, SPF 30+ sunscreen, a wide-brimmed hat, and seek shade. Reduce strenuous activity and mist the skin with cool water to cool down when hot.

\*Warning signs of heat-related illness — Do not ignore persistent thirst, dizziness, headache, cramps, nausea, fatigue, rapid heartbeat, confusion, or fainting. For heat exhaustion, move to a cool place, loosen clothing, drink cool water if conscious, and rest. Seek emergency care for confusion, seizures, unconsciousness, or feeling very hot without sweating, as these may signal heatstroke.

Medication safety during hot weather Do not stop prescribed medicines because of heat unless instructed by a physician. Pharmacists can review medicines, identify heat-related risks, advise on hydration, and recommend monitoring.

People with hypertension should monitor blood pressure, and those with diabetes should check blood glucose more often because dehydration can affect control. Store inhalers safely and avoid hot spaces where pressure can build.

Finally, as temperatures rise, heat protection is becoming part of everyday health care. Most heat-related illnesses can be prevented by staying hydrated, avoiding excessive sun, recognising warning signs, and using medicines safely. This summer, speak with your pharmacist to help keep yourself and your family safe in a changing climate.



Adisha Gustave, the 2026 Miss International Turks and Caicos accepts her gift from a representative of Royal Jewels



Adisha Gustave, the 2026 Miss International Turks and Caicos Pageant Winner shows off the synthetic cheque of \$5,000 prize

# Adesha Gustave Receives Prize Package Ahead of Miss International Competition in Japan

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Adesha Gustave, the newly crowned Miss International Turks and Caicos Islands 2026, has officially received an impressive prize package as she begins preparations to represent the Turks and Caicos Islands at the prestigious Miss International Pageant in Japan this November.

Gustave captured the national title during the Miss International Turks and Caicos Islands 2026 pageant, held on June 27, earning the opportunity to serve as the country's ambassador at one of the world's leading international beauty competitions.

The official prize presentation was held on Monday at Royal Jewels in Grace Bay, Providenciales, a signature sponsor of the Miss International Turks and Caicos Pageant. The ceremony recognized Gustave's achievement and highlighted the support of the pageant's sponsors, whose contributions will assist her as she prepares for the international competition.

According to pageant organizer Sharlene Grant-Richards, Royal Jewels presented Gustave with a Seiko watch from its collection during the ceremony. The luxury jeweler will also present her with a luggage set before she departs for Japan later this year.

In addition to the gifts from Royal Jewels, Gustave received a comprehensive prize package that included a laptop, a Coach handbag and purse set, a new crown, a spa day, a \$500 gift voucher from Flow, and a jewelry set courtesy of the Miss International Organization.

She also received a \$5,000 cash award from the Miss International Organization, along with an all-expenses-paid trip to Japan to compete in the international pageant in November.

Grant-Richards said the prize presentation reflected the commitment of the organization's sponsors to supporting young women who represent the Turks and Caicos Islands on the global stage. She noted that the remaining travel-related gifts, including the luggage set from Royal Jewels, will be presented before Gustave leaves for Japan.

The prize package is designed to help offset the costs of preparing for international competition while recognizing Gustave's accomplishment in securing the national title.

As preparations continue over the coming months, Gustave will represent not only the Miss International Turks and Caicos organization but also the Turks and Caicos Islands, carrying the hopes of the nation as she competes against delegates from around the world in Japan this November.



Sharlene Grant-Richards, the organiser of the Miss International Turks and Caicos Pageant, share a photo moment with the 2026 pageant winner, Adisha Gustave at the Royal Jewel Store at Salt Mills, Grace Bay



Fans stand outside Madison Square Garden, the venue for the wedding celebration of pop singer Taylor Swift and Pro Athlete Travis Kelce, in New York City on July 3.

Taylor Swift fans have paid \$25 for pieces of trash — including cigarette butts and an ovulation test kit — collected near the US pop queen’s wedding to NFL star Travis Kelce. A New York artist picked up the garbage last Friday from city streets around Madison Square Garden,

where the couple staged a glamorous event for hundreds of celebrity guests amid a global frenzy. All of items, sold individually, were snatched up by Wednesday within 24 hours of sales starting: water bottle caps, ring pop candy, police caution tape, straws, utensils — as well as a single left AirPods.

# Taylor Swift fans pay \$25 for garbage from outside wedding

“It’s getting a lot of Swifties who just want a tangential piece of the wedding,” said Justin Gignac, who is selling the trash on his website New York City Garbage. Each item — described online as a “sculpture” — is sealed inside a tiny plastic cube to avoid leaking or smells. Gignac told AFP he has made \$1,250 from selling 50 items so far, and he may put more on the market. “I try to commemorate cultural moments in New York City, and this seemed to be a big one, so just capturing a little time capsule from that moment in time,” he said. Gignac, who sells other city trash

on his website, said he tied some of the items into knots to “hammer home the wedding theme.” He pointed out the garbage was from outside the barriers that surrounded Madison Square Garden for Swift’s wedding, not from inside the venue. The lavish ceremony last week was closely watched by Swift’s fans, who have followed the 14-time Grammy winner’s love life largely through songs based on her relationships. Some followers descended on New York in hopes of catching a glimpse of their idol, with the star-studded event that some commentators dubbed a “royal wedding.”



Shenseea

Three Jamaican recording artistes have to date topped Billboard’s Latin Airplay chart. Sean Paul has done it twice, as a featured act on Enrique Iglesias’ 2017 hit Subeme La Radio and again in 2023 alongside Feid on Nina Bonita. In 2015, Sunset by Farruko featuring Shaggy and Nicky Jam, spent one week at #1. That song was produced by Jamaican producer Rvssian. Now, Shenseea has joined that elite list, as her collaboration Echo (FIFA World Cup 2026) with reggaeton artiste Daddy Yankee leaps from #6 to land at #1 on the chart. Released in April via Def Jam Recordings, Echo was produced by Puerto Rican producer Tainy alongside Massari and Jota Rosa. The song slips from #27 to #29 on Billboard’s

Rhythmic Airplay chart. Of note, Rvssian’s latest production to hit the Billboard chart (he also shares credit on the track) Pongo steps up from #44 to #41 on the Latin Airplay chart. The song which features Rauw Alejandro and Wizkid moves from #12 to #9 on Latin Rhythm Airplay and from #22 to #18 on Latin Rhythm Songs. Jamaican producer Kheilstone continues to enjoy success with American rhythm and blues singer Kevin Ross’s single Spin, which inches up from #6 to #5 on Billboard’s Adult R&B Airplay chart. However, on R&B/Hip Hop Airplay chart, it moves up to #27. Jamaican (Bam Bam), the reconstructed house/Afrobeats/dance reincarnation of Sister Nancy’s Bam Bam, produced by HU-

# Shenseea, Sean Paul, Shaggy only J’can acts to top Billboard Latin Airplay

GEL and SOLTO, falls from #15 to #19 on Billboard Hot Dance/Electronic Songs chart. It fares better over on Warm Global Dance Radio, backtracking from #11 to #15. Over on Billboard Global 200 chart, Jamaican (Bam Bam) falls from #80 to #82, while stepping up from #37 to #34 on Global 200 Excluding US. Bob Marley and the Wailers continue to lead the Billboard Reggae Albums chart as Legend clocks 338 non-consecutive weeks on top. Meanwhile, Shaggy’s hits collection Best of Shaggy: The Boombastic Collection remains at #2, and Sean Paul’s chart-topping The Trinity rebounds at #3. World on Fire by Stick Figure stays firm at #4, with Greatest Hits by UB40 re-entering at #5. Sean Paul’s Grammy-winning Dutty Rock is #6, Wisdom and Set in Stone by Stick Figure at #7 and #8, while Exodus by Bob Marley and the Wailers dips to #9. Damian “Jr Gong” Marley’s Welcome to Jamrock rebounds at #10. Shine by Elaine Shepherd takes over the #1 spot on the Rebel Vibe Top Ten Canadian Reggae chart. Ten Foot Wall by Tasha T moves up to #2,

with Rise Up by Belinda Brady and Set Me Free by Memberz Syndicate holding down positions #3 and #4. Worldwide (Dubfare) by Lord Fury and Dub Chronicles climbs to #5. Student of a Broken Heart by multi-JUNO Reggae award winner Exco Levi climbs to #1 on the Reggae North Canadian Top 20 Reggae and Dancehall chart. Reggae Music Nice by Legato inches up to #2. Cucumba, last week’s #1, slides down to #3, while Slow Down by Jah Mila remains at #4. Rise Up by Belinda Brady is steady at #5 and Stronger by Sone G debuts at #20. Butterflies by Buju Banton is still the #1 song on both the South Florida and New York Reggae charts. The Voice of the Caribbean shared its latest Florida Reggae and Dancehall Top 20 Radio Singles chart, with Slip N Slide by Masicka spending a 7th week at #1. Ting Loud by Protoje and Masicka is #2, while God and Time by Vybz Kartel steps up from #5 to #3. Hold Him Gyal by Elephant Man is firm at #4, while Butterflies by Buju Banton falls to #5. New this week is Babylon So Evil by Capleton along with Damian and Stephen Marley.



Dr. Courtney Roninson

## TCI FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION STRENGTHENS COMMUNICATIONS AND RESPONSIBLE AI PRACTICE FOLLOWING IABC WORLD CONFERENCE

**Dr Courtney Robinson**, Communications Advisor for the Turks and Caicos Islands **Financial Services Commission** (TCI FSC), represented the Commission at the **2026 IABC World Conference** in Toronto, Canada (14–16 June 2026). The global gathering of communications professionals explored strategic communication, innovation, ethics, and trust amid rapid technological change. Dr Robinson took part in panels and workshops on the practical application of artificial intelligence in communications, data informed storytelling, crisis response, and audi-

ence centered engagement. Sessions emphasised the need to balance technological efficiency with human judgment, ethical governance, and authenticity, principles that align with the Commission's commitment to transparent, responsible regulation. "Attending the IABC World Conference reinforced the conviction that emerging technologies must strengthen public trust, not supplant it. The experience yielded practical tools and frameworks to enhance stakeholder engagement, sharpen crisis communications, and ensure AI adoption at the TCI FSC is ethical, ac-

countable, and audience centered," said the Communications Advisor. Dr Robinson also participated in peer dialogues on responsible AI adoption and digital ethics for regulated sectors such as financial services. The insights gained will inform efforts to enhance the Commission's communication strategies, support evidence based decision making and elevate the role of communicators as strategic advisers to senior leadership. **Kenisha Bacchus**, Managing Director (Ag) of the TCI FSC, praised the professional development opportunity. "Dr Robinson's participation at this global convening strengthens our

capacity to navigate the intersection of regulation, technology and public confidence," said Bacchus. "Our priority remains safeguarding the jurisdiction's reputation while embracing innovation that enhances transparency and consumer protection." The TCI FSC continues to prioritise effective communication and ethical technology adoption as central to its regulatory mandate. Dr Robinson's attendance at the IABC World Conference represents a proactive step in aligning international best practice with the Commission's mission to promote a resilient, trustworthy financial services environment.



L-R: Her Excellency Cécile Tassin, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, The Honourable Dr. Lackram Bodee, Minister of Health of Trinidad and Tobago and Dr Lisa Indar Executive Director, CARPHA



Her Excellency Cécile Tassin (left), Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Lackram Bodee (centre)

# CARPHA Inaugurates Regional Emergency Operations Centre to Strengthen Caribbean Health Security

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) today, Friday 3rd July, 2026 officially inaugurated the CARPHA Regional Emergency Operations Centre (CREOC), marking a major milestone in strengthening the Caribbean’s capacity to prepare for, coordinate, and respond to public health emergencies and disasters.

The facility was inaugurated by The Honourable Dr. Lackram Bodee, Minister of Health of Trinidad and Tobago, Her Excellency Cécile Tassin, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director of CARPHA, at CARPHA Headquarters in Port of Spain.

Constructed and furnished with the financial resources of European Union through the 11th EDF Programme of Support for Health Security Strengthening for Prevention and Control of Outbreaks of Communicable Diseases in the Caribbean, the Regional Emergency Operations Centre will serve as the Caribbean’s central hub for coordinating regional public health emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience-building activities across CARPHA’s 26 Member States.

The Honourable Dr. Lackram Bodee, Minister of Health of Trinidad and Tobago, noted that “Health security is a shared responsibility. No single country, regardless of its resources, can address modern public health threats in isolation. Our strength lies in partnership.”

Speaking at the inauguration, Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director of CARPHA, said: “As a region of Small Island Developing States, our interconnected economies, borders and communities mean that public health threats can spread rapidly across the Caribbean. This Emergency Operations Centre will strengthen our ability to detect threats early, coordinate regional action and protect the health security of our people.”

Her Excellency Cécile Tassin, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, reaffirmed “This Centre represents something much larger: the Caribbean’s determination to work together, to strengthen regional health security, and to protect its people through solidarity, preparedness and shared expertise.”

Designed in accordance with the World Health Organization’s Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) Framework, the CARPHA Regional EOC has been



Dr. Lisa Indar Executive Director, CARPHA

established as a Type C Emergency Operations Centre; the highest level of operational capability within the WHO classification system. It is uniquely positioned to coordinate complex, multi-country public health emergencies while supporting national Emergency Operations Centres throughout the Caribbean.

The Centre enhances CARPHA’s ability to monitor emerging public health threats, coordinate regional preparedness and response activities, facilitate timely information sharing, produce regional risk assessments, mobilise technical expertise, and support evidence-based decision-making during emergencies.

Powered by CARPHA’s Caribbean-tailored Regional Integrated Early Warning Surveillance and Response System (RIEWS), the new Emergency Operations Centre provides the infrastructure to detect emerging threats earlier, strengthen situational awareness and coordinate faster, evidence based emergency responses across the Caribbean. Together with Timeliness Metrics and multisectoral response mechanisms, it will enable CARPHA to better serve its Member States by improving coordination and accelerating action when every minute counts.

Operating as the Region’s central coordination hub, the CREOC will strengthen collaboration among Ministries of Health, disaster



Her Excellency Cécile Tassin, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and Dr Lisa Indar Executive Director, CARPHA unveiled the plaque to commission the Regional Emergency Operations Centre

management agencies, regional institutions, and international partners.

It will also support the deployment of specialised technical teams, coordinate emergency logistics, facilitate risk communication, and maintain a common regional operating picture during public health events.

The establishment of the Centre builds on lessons learned from recent regional emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic, dengue outbreaks, Hurricanes Melissa and Beryl and other climate-related disasters that underscored the importance of coordinated regional action.

The Regional EOC will operate using a scalable activation model ranging from routine surveillance and monitoring through to full regional emergency activation, allowing CARPHA to rapidly expand its coordination functions as situations evolve. It will support responses to infectious disease outbreaks, severe weather events with public health consequences, environmental and chemical incidents, mass gatherings, and other events with regional or international public health implications.

The Centre also strengthens implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) by enhancing regional surveillance, information management, emergency coordination, and operational readiness.

The inauguration forms part of CARPHA’s continued commitment to advancing regional health security and ensuring that Caribbean countries remain better prepared for current and emerging public health threats.



The Honourable Dr. Lackram Bodee, Minister of Health of Trinidad and Tobago

# Judge orders Trump to pay writer \$5 m for assault, defamation

A United States (US) judge ordered President Donald Trump on Wednesday to pay writer E Jean Carroll \$5 million after a civil jury found that he sexually assaulted and defamed her.

Last week, the US Supreme Court refused to hear Trump's appeal against the original May 2023 judgment ordering him to pay \$2 million in damages for sexual assault and \$3 million for defamatory statements.

Carroll, a former journalist and columnist who is now 82, accused the president of assaulting her in a dressing room

of a New York department store in 1996. When the allegations were published in a 2019 book, the Republican billionaire called her a "nut job" and claimed she had fabricated her case.

By declining to hear the appeal, the Supreme Court made the judgment final. On Wednesday, federal judge Lewis Kaplan ordered that the \$5 million Trump had been required to deposit with the court be paid.

The ruling also requires payment of unspecified accrued interest.

In a separate defamation case in New

York, Trump was ordered to pay \$83.3 million to Carroll. That judgment was upheld on appeal, but its enforcement remains suspended.

In late May, US media reported that Carroll herself was under criminal investigation, described as the latest example of Trump's willingness to use the justice system against his enemies.

The investigation, opened by Justice Department prosecutors, seeks to determine if Carroll lied under oath during several depositions against Trump, CNN and The New York Times reported.



US President Donald Trump

# Chinese company UBTech launches hyper-real humanoid robots for lonely people

Their metallic frames covered in supple, lifelike skin, a posse of new Chinese robots meant for companionship can offer users AI-generated conversation or a hand to hold, complete with manicured nails.

The company UBTech says its "U1" robot — equipped with eye cameras, chest sensors, and listening microphones — is the world's first full-sized, ultra-realistic humanoid designed for mass production.

Touted as an antidote to loneliness, the robots are priced at 119,800 yuan (\$17,600) for the most basic type and 990,000 yuan (\$145,700) for an "Ultra" version with more advanced features.

"Our bionic robots can accompany you for a lifetime," Michael Tam, head of UBTech's brand UWorld, said Tuesday at a launch event in the southern Chinese tech hub Shenzhen.

"It will never betray you, will always be loyal to you, and will love you unconditionally."

If you pay enough, the androids' hair, face and outfits can be customised to resemble a loved one, a celebrity, or an imaginary character.

Male and female U1s can speak through an artificial intelligence tool programmed by the company to offer soothing words if it detects fatigue or stress, and get to know its user over time.

The product is mainly aimed at single people and those aged over 60 — a "colossal market" in China of around 120 and 320 million respectively, according to Tam.

"These people have a great need for companionship," he said.

UBTech says it has already had more than 13,300 pre-orders, with deliveries due to start in September.



Humanoid robots are displayed during the launch of the U1 humanoid robot produced by UWorld, a brand under UBTech Robotics, in Shenzhen, China's Guangdong province on June 30, 2026. Silicone skin, soothing voice: Chinese company UBTech unveiled unprecedented hyper-realistic human-looking androids equipped with artificial intelligence (AI) and presented as anti-loneliness remedies.

Robotics is a booming sector worldwide, and Chinese startups have raced ahead in recent years, helped in part by their access to the country's existing supply chains.

The basic U1 can move its head, eyes and mouth, and has a battery life of up to four hours — but it doesn't do housework or cooking, and its skills do not extend to the bedroom either.

It is not designed to offer intimate relations, at least "for now", UBTech says.

But it can discuss users' daily concerns, remind them to take medication and help spot potential health problems, or even propose watching a World Cup

match together.

Generative AI is also being deployed elsewhere in an effort to ease loneliness, especially among elderly populations.

In South Korea, cuddly ChatGPT-powered dolls are used in some care homes, while a lamp-like AI device called ElliQ offers similar companionship and safety-monitoring services.

Lian Jye Su, a Singapore-based chief analyst at Omdia, told AFP that he does see "value in a companion robot, albeit in a niche market" such as elderly care or mental wellness.

But "they have to pass the 'uncanny

valley' test to appear physically and emotionally acceptable", with current models perhaps too off-putting to sell well, Su said, referring to the phenomenon in which interactions with artificial objects are so human-like it triggers unease.

The race to develop AI tools that humans trust has raised concerns over data privacy and the risk of becoming emotionally attached to a machine, including accusations that chatbots have encouraged suicides.

UBTech says the data processed by its U1 robots is encrypted and will not be used to train its AI models.

In Shenzhen on Tuesday, the company did not shy away from sci-fi associations, showing off its ultra-realistic bots with outfits and visuals inspired by video games, and a spaceship on a giant screen.

Robots of all shapes and sizes can be seen in many places in China, from hotels to shopping centres and in factories.

The country accounted for 85 percent of the world's humanoid installations last year, according to Barclays bank.

The government has designated robotics a strategic industry, and says that by last year, more than 140 Chinese companies had already launched more than 330 humanoid robot models.

These companies, like their global rivals, are also ploughing resources into the development of physical AI — technology that allows robots to move and interact with the world autonomously. For now, the scope and performance of real-life use cases for robots that use AI for movement remains limited, however, with most impressive displays pre-programmed or remotely operated.

# APRIL TOPS THEM ALL

*April Thirumalaiyandi Captures Five Championship Titles in  
Outstanding Colorado Tennis Campaign*



**SEE PG32**

# FIFA investigating alleged racist abuse of IShowSpeed at World Cup

FIFA has launched an investigation into allegations of racist abuse directed at American streamer IShowSpeed by a spectator during a 2026 FIFA World Cup match in Miami.

In a statement issued Tuesday, football's governing body said it had immediately opened an investigation after being made aware of the incident.

"FIFA strongly condemns racism, hate and discrimination in all forms. These actions have no place in football, at the FIFA World Cup, or anywhere in society. FIFA was made aware of an incident involving a supporter and #IShowSpeed at Miami Stadium during the Argentina vs Cabo Verde match on 3 July 2026 and immediately initiated an investi-

gation," the body said.

One of the most popular streamers in the world, Darren Watkins Jr, often just called Speed, has more than 56 million subscribers on YouTube and more than 53 million on TikTok. He has worked with FIFA on numerous occasions and has a streaming partnership with the organisation for the 2026 World Cup.

The incident under investigation took place at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, Florida on July 3, and footage has since been shared online appearing to show Speed being confronted by a fan wearing an Argentina jersey.

FIFA, in its statement, reiterated that racism is not welcome at the World Cup.



American Streamer IShowSpeed reacts to Argentina scoring a goal during the Argentina v Cape Verde Match on July 3 in Miami (Instagram IShowSpeed)



American Streamer IShowSpeed reacts to Argentina scoring a goal during the Argentina v Cape Verde Match on July 3 in Miami (Instagram IShowSpeed)

West Indies completed their first home Test series triumph for two years when the second and final match against Sri Lanka petered out into a tame, rain-affected draw on the last day at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua, on Tuesday. Needing victory to square the series after a crushing innings loss in

the first Test a week earlier at the same venue, the tourists declared their second innings at 251 for nine just after lunch, setting their hosts the daunting target of 302 in less than two sessions for a sweep of the two-match duel. However, the West Indies' opening pair of John Campbell and Bran-

# Rain hands West Indies series win over Sri Lanka

don King put together an unbroken opening stand of 89, interrupted first by a brief shower and by longer, sustained precipitation which extinguished any prospect of an outright result either way. Fulfilling the often bewildering and tedious formalities of the traditional game in situations like this, play resumed in late afternoon for 40 minutes of aimless cricket when

the match was called off as a draw with the West Indies at 109 with loss. Both Campbell and King were unbeaten on 51 apiece. West Indies' last Test series win on home soil was a 2-0 hammering of Bangladesh in 2024 when comfortable victories were achieved at this venue and then at the Daren Sammy Stadium in St Lucia.

# Olivia Graveley Becomes First Turks and Caicos Islands Woman to Earn US Soccer National B Coaching License

The Turks and Caicos Islands football community celebrates a historic achievement as Olivia Graveley, Director of the Grand Turk Football Program, becomes the first woman from the Turks and Caicos Islands to earn the US Soccer National B Coaching License.

This landmark accomplishment represents a significant milestone not only in Graveley’s coaching journey but also in the continued advancement of football development in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The US Soccer National B Coaching License is one of the highest-level coaching qualifications offered by US Soccer, equipping coaches with advanced knowledge in player development, tactical understanding, leadership, and high-performance coaching.

Reflecting on her achievement, Graveley shared:

“Receiving my US B License is a proud milestone in my coaching journey. The experience challenged me, strengthened my knowledge, and equipped me with valuable tools to support the development of football in the Turks and Caicos Islands. I am grateful to the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association and everyone who supported me throughout this process. I look forward to applying what I have learned to help develop our players, coaches, and programs while contributing to the continued growth of the game in our country.”

Acting General Secretary Candia Ewing praised Graveley’s accomplishment, highlighting the remarkable journey that has brought her to this historic milestone.

“Olivia’s achievement is one that the entire

Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association celebrates with great pride. Her football journey is a shining example of what dedication, resilience, and commitment can achieve. She progressed through our youth development programme, proudly represented the Turks and Caicos Islands Women’s National Team, and has since grown into an invaluable member of the Association, serving in several key roles before becoming Director of the Grand Turk Football Program.

Earning the US Soccer National B Coaching License is a tremendous accomplishment and a reflection of Olivia’s unwavering pursuit of excellence. She continues to raise the standard for coaching in the Turks and Caicos Islands while inspiring the next generation of players, coaches, and young women to believe that they too can reach the highest levels of the game. We are excited to see the positive impact her knowledge and leadership will continue to have on football across our islands.”

As Director of the Grand Turk Football Program, Graveley has been instrumental in developing young footballers, mentoring aspiring coaches, and creating meaningful opportunities for players across Grand Turk. Her latest achievement further reinforces her commitment to raising coaching standards and strengthening football development throughout the country.

Olivia’s story reflects the complete football pathway in the Turks and Caicos Islands, from youth player to national team representative, football administrator, coach, and now one of the country’s most highly



Olivia Graveley

qualified coaches. Her success stands as an inspiration to aspiring coaches, particularly women and girls, demonstrating the opportunities that exist through dedication, education, and a passion for the game.

TCIFA Technical Director, Dane Ritchie, said: “Olivia has been a shining example for other players who have had the opportunity to represent the Turks and Caicos Islands. Her dedication has driven her to qualify herself to continue making invaluable contributions to the growth and development of football in the country.

Congratulations on achieving your US B License Olivia, looking forward to seeing you continue your development and the devel-

opment of the Grand Turk youths and programs. Continue to inspire others to take on such roles in the future to continue the growth and development of the sport in Turks and Caicos Islands”

The TCIFA congratulates Olivia Graveley on this historic accomplishment and commends her unwavering commitment to the growth of football in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Her achievement also reflects the importance of continuous coach education and lifelong learning, values that the Association actively encourages as it works to strengthen football development at every level across the country.

**-Contributed**

# French Football Federation mulls legal action after Paraguay senator’s racist remarks about Mbappe

The French Football Federation (FFF) says racist remarks by Paraguayan Senator Celeste Amarilla targeting France striker Kylian Mbappe must be prosecuted.

Multiple statements, shared on an X account attributed to Amarilla following Paraguay’s 0-1 loss to France on July 4, took aim at the French captain, who is black and of Cameroonian descent.

The FFF described the comments, as “utterly abhorrent and unacceptable.”

“How can anyone make such statements? These remarks are criminal and reprehensible. They must be prosecuted here as elsewhere. The FFF is filing a report with the prosecutor’s office for the purpose of judicial action,” it said.

The federation extended “its full support to its captain, its players, and more generally to all victims of such odious remarks”, noting that now more than ever, the FFF is committed to fighting racism and all forms of discrimination.

“These remarks dishonour those who make them and those who spread them. The players of the France Na-



Kylian Mbappe

tional Team represent France; it is our country that is being insulted,” it said.

The country’s Minister of Sports, Youth and Community Life, Marina Ferrar-

ri, said she was “outraged” by the remarks.

“These remarks are abhorrent, unworthy, and all the more unacceptable

given that they come from a political figure. In the face of racism, we will not remain silent. By targeting Kylian Mbappé, the senator is attacking everything our captain embodies and everything our country stands for: liberty, equality, and fraternity,” she said in a post translated to English.

In solidarity with Ferrari, Paraguayan Congresswoman Johanna Ortega expressed disappointment in her colleague.

“Passion can never justify racism or hate speech. Paraguay maintains a relationship of respect and cooperation with France that is not reflected in these statements. The sport that filled us with such pride in this World Cup deserves to be free of such discourse,” she noted, adding, “Racism has no place in sports or in politics... my solidarity and my apologies to the French people.”

Mbappe himself on Monday condemned the comments in an X post addressed to Amarilla, chastening her for dishonouring Paraguay’s World Cup journey.

# Egypt file complaint against referee after World Cup exit

The Egyptian football federation said on Wednesday it had asked for the officiating team from the Pharaohs' 2-3 defeat to Argentina in the last 16 of the World Cup to be thrown out of the competition.

"Hany Aburida, president of the Egyptian Football Federation, filed a complaint with FIFA, demanding an investigation into the French referee Francois Letexier... after the serious refereeing mistakes committed by the team of referees and double standards," said a statement from the federation.

On Tuesday, Letexier ruled out a Mostafa Ziko goal when Egypt were leading 1-0 after VAR intervened to spot a foul on Lisandro Martinez much earlier in the move.

A few minutes later, Ziko put Egypt 2-0 up and on the brink of a place in the last eight for the first time, but there was further controversy in added time, after Cristian Romero and Lionel Messi had brought the champions level.

In the build-up to Argentina's winner scored by Enzo Fernandez, Egypt be-

lieve they should have been awarded a penalty for a pull by Alexis Mac Allister on Hamdy Fathy.

"Aburida demanded the investigation of the entire team of referees, including the video technology referees, because of the blatant errors and insisting on not reviewing some of the footage that we believe are in favour of the Egyptian national team, and we see in it the Pharaohs' right to a correct goal and a penalty," said the Egyptian statement.

It added the president had also "demanded the exclusion of the referee and the entire crew from the World Cup after investigating these mistakes and proving the crime of discrimination against the Egyptian national team".

The statement echoed remarks by Egypt coach Hossam Hassan immediately after the game.

"I do not want to put it nicely and talk about hard luck. We have been cheated unfairly today, we have suffered injustice," Hassan told reporters.

"We haven't seen respect or fair

play. There has not been respect or fair play."

Hassan told broadcaster BeIN Sports: "Perhaps they wanted to keep the world champions in the competition. Perhaps they wanted Messi to

stay in the running.

"In football, there are sometimes external factors that go beyond the technical aspects. The world champions received support at every level."



Referee Francois Letexier (right) shows a yellow card to Egypt head coach Hossam Hassan during the FIFA World Cup Round of 16 match between Argentina and Egypt at Atlanta Stadium in Georgia, United States, on July 07, 2026.

# Russia heads to sports court to overturn its ban from international track and field

Russia's track and field federation says it has gone to the Court of Arbitration for Sport to overturn a World Athletics ruling suspending its athletes from international events due to the war in Ukraine.

World Athletics excluded all athletes from Russia and its ally Belarus from its international events in March 2022, days after Russian forces invaded Ukraine.

It kept that suspension in place at a council meeting last week. Since then, the International Olympic Committee has eased its restrictions on Russia ahead of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics — something the Kremlin hailed as an "important step" — and recommended that other sports bodies do the same.

"Russian Athletics notes that World Athletics' decision affects the fundamental interests of athletics in Russia and restricts Russian athletes' right to compete, on grounds

that Russian Athletics considers discriminatory," the Russian track federation said in a statement.

"Russian Athletics continues to pursue all available legal measures to protect the interests of Russian athletes."

World Athletics vowed to defend the case.

"We take note of the Russian athletics federation's appeal to CAS, and we will be strenuously defending our position," it said in a statement.

CAS confirmed it has received "a request for arbitration" without giving details of when it could be heard.

World Athletics President Sebastian Coe said last week his organization discussed options for "a conditional pathway back into international competition" for Russian and Belarusian athletes, but opted against.



Referee Francois Letexier (right) shows a yellow card to Egypt head coach Hossam Hassan during the FIFA World Cup Round of 16 match between Argentina and Egypt at Atlanta Stadium in Georgia, United States, on July 07, 2026.



April Thirumalaiyandi and her coach Reynaldo Garcia (right) collect the winning trophies from a league organizer of the Little Mo Tennis Competition



April and her coach relishing in her latest exploits

# April Thirumalaiyandi Captures Five Championship Titles in Outstanding Colorado Tennis Campaign

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Eleven-year-old tennis standout April Thirumalaiyandi has achieved an extraordinary milestone on the international junior tennis circuit, winning five championship titles across two prestigious tournaments in Colorado, USA, in a remarkable display of skill, determination and resilience.

Representing the Turks and Caicos Islands, the young athlete first impressed at a USTA Level 6 Tournament, where she competed against older opponents and emerged as champion in both the Girls' Under-14 and Girls' Under-16 singles divisions. The victories showcased her ability to compete well above her age group and set the stage for an unforgettable performance at the Little Mo International in Colorado Springs. Held at the historic United States Air Force Academy, the Little Mo International attracts some of the world's most promising young tennis players. April rose to the occasion, completing a rare tournament "Trifecta" by winning all three events she entered, the Girls' Under-12 Singles, Girls' Under-12 Doubles and Mixed Under-12 Doubles championships.

Her most memorable victory came in the Girls' Under-12 singles final against Canada's second-seeded Emmanuella Ibrahim. April claimed the opening set 6-2 before facing a daunting challenge in the second, falling behind 1-5. Refusing to surrender, she mounted an inspiring comeback, winning six consecutive games to secure the second set 7-5 and



April gives the thumbs-up with two of her trophies

complete a straight-sets victory. The dramatic turnaround highlighted not only her technical ability but also the mental toughness and fighting spirit that have become trademarks of her game. Spectators watched as April remained composed under pressure, turning what appeared to be a certain third set into one of the tournament's most memorable finishes.

April continued her winning form in the Girls' Under-12 doubles competition, partnering with Maanya Balasubramanian of India and the United States. The pair combined brilliantly to defeat the Canadian team of Eva Paquette and Emmanuella Ibrahim 8-2 in the championship match, earning April her second title of the tournament. She completed the Trifecta in the Mixed

Under-12 Doubles event alongside American partner Mathias Simon, with whom she had previously enjoyed success at the Little Mo San Diego tournament. The duo dominated the final, defeating Kim Madelyn of Las Vegas and Richard Nabzdyk of Ohio 8-1 to secure the championship without allowing their opponents back into the contest. By the end of the week, April had collected five championship trophies across the two Colorado tournaments, Girls' Under-14 Singles Champion and Girls' Under-16 Singles Champion at the USTA Level 6 Tournament, followed by Girls' Under-12 Singles Champion, Girls' Under-12 Doubles Champion and Mixed Under-12 Doubles Champion at the Little Mo International.

The achievement represents one of the finest international performances by a junior tennis player from the Turks and Caicos Islands. Winning titles across multiple age divisions while competing against talented players from several countries is a testament to April's dedication, disciplined training and competitive mindset.

Her latest accomplishments continue to raise the profile of Turks and Caicos tennis on the international stage and reinforce her status as one of the country's brightest young sporting talents. With five championship trophies from two elite tournaments and a series of impressive victories over top-ranked opponents, April Thirumalaiyandi has firmly established herself as a rising star in junior tennis and a promising ambassador for the Turks and Caicos Islands.