



# TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS RESIDENTS SHAKEN

NOW SPACEX  
TEST FLIGHTS ARE  
GROUNDED PENDING  
OUTCOMES OF FAA  
INVESTIGATION

Deandrea Hamilton  
Editor

Clear, unobstructed views of the skies over the Turks and Caicos islands were an ideal canvas for a spectacular, albeit frightening show that materialised as a SpaceX starship engine disintegrated in real time, in mid-air on Thursday evening.

**E**VEN the moment of the explosion was caught on cell phone video by a guest staying at Norman's Cay in the Turks and Caicos Islands; NBC news has shared that the video was credited to Marshall Sisson in an Instagram post.

For at least a 30-minutes, flights were suspended from Miami to the Dominican Republic, and the Turks and Caicos with some flights stuck in holding patterns or diverted in order to dodge disaster and to allow the airspace debris to clear.

Now, the United States has decided to ground the giant starship rocket of SpaceX, according to a BBC report. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said it is now working with SpaceX and has opened an investigation.

"UK partners will also be liaising with the TCI Environmental Health Department, Maritime Department and Department of Environment and Coastal Resources to consider any potential environmental issues that may occur on land or in the marine

environment, but during initial discussions between the UK Space Agency and SpaceX, it has been confirmed that no Hydrazine was on board the Starship rocket," said the Turks and Caicos Islands government on Saturday.

It was thrilling, crazy, scary and shocking. That is likely the reason, millions of people have viewed the scores of videos from varying vantage points which have been posted to social media by those rattled from their regular routine to witness the explosion.

"I heard a loud noise up here in Long Bay, but I'm afraid to look out," said one resident of eastern Providenciales.

Another asked, "What was that? It shook my house. Crazy."

We are now learning that the debris, which fell on some of the islands in the Turks

and Caicos, cannot be ferreted away as a keepsake, because the property belongs to the owner of the rocket. It is also dangerous.

"Friday, 17 January, TCIG Officials convened a meeting with relevant partners in the United Kingdom including the UK Space Agency, who are supporting the post-incident response, including technical expertise on the handling of debris, health and safety risks, protocols and procedures. The UK Air Accident Investigation Branch have been notified and discussions are ongoing with the US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) who will liaise with SpaceX.

This is now an active investigation led by the US FAA in liaison with UK and TCI counterparts," informed a Turks and Caicos Government advisory.

For just about everyone reporting on what they heard, felt and saw it started with a loud boom that shook buildings and rattled emotions as residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands witnessed the explosion and splintering of a part of a SpaceX Starship over the islands.

A day later, there were expressions of relief.

■ Residents shaken, see page 18

Photo by Marshall Sisson, Instagram





# FDA bans red dye ahead of RFK’s Senate Hearings; he had declared taking dyes out of Food would be Job #1

Deandrea Hamilton,  
Editor

The president who nominated him to head the National Health Service is not even inaugurated as yet, nor has he passed through the requisite Senate confirmation hearings to take on the important role in Health and Human Services but already Robert F. Kennedy Jr is having a profound effect on the state of health in the US, say those looking on.

ON Wednesday January 15, the American Food and Drug Administration, FDA announced that it was banning Red Dye No. 3. Many would say it is finally a reasonable response to a three year old petition, supported by studies which was filed by advocates who claimed the additive is linked to cancer; not in humans but in the animals the dye was tested on. What is incredibly concerning is that this dye, once approved as ‘okay’ to be included in thousands of food products, is in everything from drinks to candies to over the counter medication. Here is what the Today Show shared from its research. “Red Dye No. 3, also known as erythrosine, is a synthetic food dye that gives foods and drinks a bright red

color. It is also sometimes used in oral medicines and dietary supplements. It first was approved for use in food in 1907. It’s made from petroleum. The FDA has approved 36 color additives for use in the U.S.; nine are synthetic dyes.” Here is that list of foods experts say you should now avoid: Candy, especially seasonal candies, such as candy corn and dyed marshmallows; Cakes and cupcakes; Frozen desserts, such as ice pops and ice creams with strawberry flavoring; Frostings; Maraschino cherries; Fruit cocktails; Colored beverages; Protein shakes; Vegetarian meats; Bacon bits; Sausages; Strawberry milk and Puddings. The pe- ies titution cited two stud- that showed cancer in male lab rats when exposed to high levels of Red No. 3. According to the FDA an- nounce- ment, the way Red No. 3 caus- es cancer in male lab rats does not occur in humans. And humans are typically exposed to much lower levels of Red No. 3 than lab rats. The announcement said that studies in other animals and humans

did not result in these effects. Frantically, health experts have sprung into action, populating the media circuit in an effort to warn consumers. Worried, they say, what this additive may have been doing and what it has already done to millions of people because of its widespread use. And it would be products consumed not only by Americans, but all of its export markets which includes The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Here is what MSNBC reported on the ban by the FDA, which was announced on Wednesday January 15: “The dye is still used in thousands of foods, including candy, cereals, cherries in

fruit cocktails and strawberry-flavored milkshakes, according to the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a food safety advocacy group that petitioned the agency in 2022 to end its use. More than 9,200 food items contain the dye, including hundreds of products made by large food companies, CSPI said, citing Agriculture Department data. The FDA is not prohibiting other artificial dyes, including Red No. 40, which has been linked to behavioral issues in children.”

If the additive is used,

legally it must be included on the label. You will want to check for: D&C Red No. 3; FD&C Red 3 or Red 3. Kennedy, who is expected to be approved as Health and Human Services secretary in the confirmation hearings, had said back in October that, “The first thing I’d do isn’t going to cost you anything because I’m just gonna tell the cereal companies: Take all the dyes out of their food.” He has also been critical of the FDA approval system, labelling it “corrupt.” The ban has now spurned conversation in countries like Canada which exports more than \$16 billion in processed foods from the United States. Red dye No. 3 is also banned in New Zealand, Australia and European countries.



TURKS AND CAICOS

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## Another Hard-hitting loss for Turks and Caicos; Gospel preacher Elva Talbot Murdered at home

Deandrea Hamilton  
Editor

The first murder for 2025 in the Turks and Caicos Islands is a beloved pastor, mother, sister, niece, mentor, friend and more. Incredibly, Pastor Elva Talbot was stabbed to death and as residents struggled to come to grips with how the gospel preacher and teacher was killed, there came the report that the suspect is someone very close to her and is said to be cooperating with TCI Police in their investigation of the family tragedy.

“Head of Crime, Safeguarding, Public Protection, and Intelligence Superintendent Dean Holden said, “Shortly after 2 p.m., our Police Control Room received a call for assistance on Robinson Street.

“Our officers, along with medical personnel, were dispatched and, upon entering the given residence, discovered the lifeless body of a female with what appeared to be stab wounds. Based on preliminary investigations, a male suspect has been arrested.”

The male suspect in custody is reportedly the son of the minister Talbot. Some have said her adult son struggles with mental health issues. It is unclear if he is indeed guilty of killing his mother, what may have triggered a homicidal reaction.

Many, including the police, have acknowledged the Christian leader as one who invested time, love and support into many people of the Turks and Caicos.

“The victim has been identified as Elva Talbot, who, from all indications, was a pillar of strength and devotion within the Five Cays community. On behalf of the RT&CIPF, I extend condolences to Ms Talbot’s relatives and friends.”

Her church New Life Global Harvest in October 2024 celebrated its 34th anniversary, presenting those attending the service with momentos and Prophetess Talbot with tokens of love and appreciation.

She was outspoken, often posting prayers and messages, encouraging poems and standing against negative trends and forces in society. She preached the Gospel and fully promoted soul salvation to those she met, anywhere. Known as an Apostolic Prophetess, Dr. Elva Talbot was also an author, recently penning the book: Discover your Spiritual Gifts and Calling.

Hers was another confusing loss, which stunned the nation.

Condolences poured in from around the world and our news organisation extended the same, heartfelt sorrow to her family and church ministry on this stunning blow.

The RT&CIPF is asking members of the public to assist with this investigation.

If you have any information about this homicide, please call 911, the closest police station, or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-8477. Additionally, individuals are encouraged to download the Crime Stoppers P3 app to share information.

# 43 Nominated as Voters decide who will lead TCI into Next Decade

Deandrea Hamilton  
Editor

Forty-three men and women have secured nominations for the February 7 General Elections according to the Elections Department of the Turks and Caicos Islands; it reflects a relative decrease in nominee interest despite a constitutional expansion of electable seats in the House of Assembly.

**N**OMINATION day was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 across the voting districts of the TCI.

Each of the major political parties - the People’s Democratic Movement (PDM) and the Progressive National Party (PNP) had 19 individuals officially nominated for the 19 seats now up for grabs in the upcoming runoff. Ten of those seats are districts, the other nine are for the all-island or at-large contenders.

It is a consequential race which establishes who will govern the islands into the next decade.

The third party, the Progressive Democratic Alliance (PDA) which now enters its third election race has one man who will challenge in the all-island category, which has grown from five seats to nine.

Five independent candidates have nominated this time around, showing a waning interest there as electors continue to cast votes largely for the established political machinery.

In the recent constitutional amendment, which took effect in late November 2024, the concept of appointing four people to the House of Assembly was repealed and replaced. The four, which came - two from the Governor and one from each major party - will now be elected to serve by the Voters.

Each ballot will feature two distinct sections, according to the Elections Department. One section will be devoted to the all-island candidates, the other section will be for the constituency or district candidate choices.

Voters will choose nine people in the all-island category and one individual to represent their home constituency.

Forty-three names on a single ballot where you get to choose multiple candidates may seem daunting, but over the years electors have managed the transition remarkably well, though the



tallying process was often described as protracted.

It was in 2012 that the Turks and Caicos adopted, constitutionally, this unique style of voting. It would still employ the first past the post system, which gives the seat to the candidate with the popular vote or most votes at the end of the night. It now also gave electors the option of choosing more representatives. That meant someone for the district and five people who ran on a national level.

Previously, Turks and Caicos elections featured 15 constituency seats; often with only two contenders. One from the PDM and one from the PNP; voters were expected to select one and be done. Over the years that has brought election victory evenly to these two political camps. Six election wins for the PDM, the oldest party and six election wins for the PNP, the incumbent party.

Based on the numbers, the dramatic change to elect not one but six MPs presented in the revised, UK-drafted 2011 Constitution Order seemed to be an exciting new prospect. It followed three-years of UK Direct Rule, when elected representation was put on hold due to jarring allegations of “systemic

corruption” in government and abuse of power in governance.

This broadening of the field of who could serve in the house of representatives held the power to not only disrupt the popularity of a two party system but it flung wide the doors of opportunity to individuals who brought independent insight and opted to run unattached to the entrenched parties.

There were 37 candidates in that general election, given the nod by the PDM, the PNP, the PPP (People Progressive Party, which is now defunct) and those who ran as independents.

The November 9, 2012 general election ballot had six constituencies which featured three candidates, four of them offered to the voter two candidates and vying for the five all-island seats available at that time, were 11 individuals.

Voter turnout was nearly 88%; the highest it’s been since the 2011 constitution was enacted.

Four years later, the December 15, 2016 general election saw voter turnout dip by 7% but candidates’ interest in House of Assembly representation boomed with 52 nominees.

■ 43 Nominated, see page 13

## BORDER FORCE, REGIMENT, AND POLICE DISRUPT CONSTRUCTION SITE AT APARTMENT COMPLEX BEHIND AFRICAN SHOP, BLUE HILLS, PROVIDENCIALES

(Friday, January 17th, 2025) – Turks and Caicos Islands

On Wednesday, January 15th, 2025, the Border Force, Regiment, and Police disrupted a construction site located behind the African Shop on Millennium Highway, Blue Hills, Providenciales.

The operation targeted a group of illegal workers who were on-site, actively working while a concrete truck was pouring. The sudden arrival of law enforcement, with five or six vehicles, caused panic. Workers began fleeing in all directions, some jumping from the three-story building, scaling a high wall, and running across the road into nearby bushes.

Law enforcement managed to



apprehend several individuals; however, the majority successfully escaped.

Wilkie Arthur  
Investigative Journalist

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Press Release



Turks & Caicos Islands National Insurance Board

Penalty Fee Amnesty & Rate Reduction

The Turks and Caicos Islands National Insurance Board is pleased to announce the enactment of the Turks And Caicos Islands National Insurance (Additional Charges) (Amnesty) Ordinance 2024. This Ordinance grants a six-month amnesty period for all contributors bringing their accounts current, or whose contributions are paid in full, prior to or during the period December 1, 2024, thru May 31, 2025. All related surcharges will be waived.

The Board shall, during the amnesty period, waive a person's liability to pay any additional charges due in respect of late payment of contributions if:-

- (a) the employer or self-employed person submits satisfactory proof to the Board that all contributions owed under the National Insurance Ordinance have been paid as at the date of commencement of this Ordinance; or
- (b) the employer or self-employed person pays all outstanding contributions owed under the National Insurance Ordinance during the designated amnesty period.

Exclusion:

Additional charges which are payable or become payable in consequence of proceedings before any court shall not be waived.

You are further advised that effective June 1, 2025, there will also be a reduction in the surcharge rate for the late payment of contributions. The additional charge will continue to accrue at an initial 10% of contributions for the first month, plus a subsequent 1.5% for each month or part thereof of delay. This is a further 1.5% reduction, now 8.5% lower than the 10% charged at the inception of the Fund.

The National Insurance Board encourages, as many of our contributors who can do so, to utilize this opportunity.

We also take this opportunity to continue to encourage our contributors to pay their contributions on time, to avoid all penalty charges.

END







## GOV'T COMMITTED TO MAKING HOUSING MORE AFFORDABLE-PM

KINGSTON, January 15 (JIS):

Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, has reiterated the Government's commitment to ensuring that all Jamaicans have access to affordable housing solutions.

He noted that there is an imbalance between housing supply and affordability, with many qualified individuals struggling to find solutions within their income bracket.

"The issue is not the finance; it's that people who qualify can't get the houses that are available on the market," he pointed out, while addressing a recent meeting with the National Leadership Prayer Breakfast Committee at the Office of the Prime Minister.

He explained that the market is producing homes primarily for those with higher income, leaving a gap for low and middle-income families.

In addition, he noted that houses priced at \$12 million are often sold for \$18 million due to market demand dynamics.

"What we want to do is to get the market to produce houses in all categories," he said, stressing the need for affordable options alongside high-end developments.

"We need developers who can build houses at scale to bring down costs and make housing more affordable," he stressed.

The Prime Minister noted the role of the National Housing Trust (NHT) in financing low-income and achievable housing projects.

"We're doing everything to create what is called effective demand," he said, noting that the Guaranteed Purchase Programme was introduced as a strategic measure to mitigate market risks for developers.

"We say to developers; you build the houses, we buy them at a specific price and then we sell them at an affordable price," he detailed.

This approach aims to encourage developers to construct homes without fearing financial losses.

"Government can't build houses; what we can do is use resources to finance affordable housing and say, 'you can only get this finance if you sell at this price,'" he pointed out.

The Prime Minister cited other initiatives aimed at making housing more affordable, including reducing the interest rates on mortgages, with some low-income borrowers benefiting from a zero per cent interest rate.

Efforts are under way to deliver 43,000 houses over the next few years as part of a broader strategy to meet housing demands.



Hon. Vickram Bharrat  
Minister of Natural Resources

## Gold revenue increased by US\$181 million in 2024

January 14, 2025 - Guyana's gold production revenue saw a significant increase in 2024, driven in large by the government's efforts to deploy advanced technologies to boost operations.

While production of gold itself saw a modest rise – from 432,113 ounces in 2023 to 434,067 ounces in 2024 – the Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, told a press briefing on Tuesday that the total gold revenue for the year 2024 was an impressive US\$989.9 million.

The minister said that the revenue growth spells out the sector's importance to the country's economy.

"I believe this is an encouraging sign for the sector and for the stakeholders, so much so that we are seeing

■ Gold revenue, see page 13



## Freeport Health Campus development, progressing steadily

FREEPORT, Grand Bahama, The Bahamas -- The Government of The Bahamas is committed to improving healthcare facilities throughout The Bahamas, with steady progress being made on the state-of-the-art Freeport Health Campus. With construction set in three phases, the Freeport Health Campus, when completed, will be a major development for Grand Bahama, providing comprehensive and essential healthcare services for all -- citizens, residents, visitors, and those arriving on the new Celebration Cay.

**P**HASE one of the project — a 60,000-square-foot clinic — is set for completion in late 2025, according to the Minister of Health and Wellness, the Hon. Dr. Michael Darville. "The Freeport Health Campus is more than



(BIS Photos/ Andrew Miller)

just a building; it is an embodiment of our collective vision for accessible, high-quality healthcare. Imagine a place where families can come together to receive a multitude

of essential services, all under one roof — a hub of healing, equipped with cutting-edge technology and staffed by compassionate

■ Freeport Health, see page 37

## Munroe to cybersecurity delegates: ‘...to build a better mousetrap’

NASSAU, The Bahamas -- Cybersecurity is a national security issue for The Bahamas, and indeed the world, Minister of National Security, the Hon. Wayne Munroe, K.C., told local, regional and international delegates attending the Opening Session of the Third Annual Computer Incident Response Team's (CIRT-BS) three-day Cybersecurity Conference and ITU Regional CyberDrill.

Minister Munroe challenged delegates to continue to build a better mousetrap for those "bad actors" who will change and evolve in an effort to take advantage of new cybersecurity resilience initiatives designed to strengthen digital ecosystems.

The Conference has four key objectives: To enhance The Bahamas' cybersecurity preparedness through the National Cybersecurity Strategy and associated workshops; To conduct a simulated CyberDrill to test and assess the effectiveness of incident response plans; To foster unity and cooperation among stakeholders, including government agencies, private sector organizations, academia, and civil society in responding to cyber threats, and to strengthen technical expertise in areas such as incident response, threat intelligence, digital forensics, and emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (A.I.), through hands-on training.

Its aims include promoting public awareness by highlighting the importance of cybersecurity at all levels of society and encouraging proactive measures to safeguard personal and organizational data,



and to drive policy innovation by facilitating discussions on regulatory frameworks and strategies to "future-proof" the digital ecosystem in The Bahamas and the region.

Delivering the Keynote Address, Mr. Munroe said The Bahamas is committed to building a secure digital ecosystem that

safeguards critical infrastructure, businesses, and individuals from cyber threats, making cybersecurity a national priority for the government.

Some of the initiatives undertaken in this regard includes the launch of CIRT-BS and its operational services in January 2024, approval (March 2024) and official launch of the country's National Cybersecurity Strategy (NCS) in December 2024; Drafting of critical cybersecurity legislation; Membership in the prestigious Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST), with LAC4 (Latin American and Caribbean Cyber Competence Centre) membership soon to follow; Development of a child online protection strategy, in addition to the

■ Cybersecurity, see page 18





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# INVEST TCI DRIVES

## DEVELOPMENT THROUGH STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

As we embrace the opportunities of this New Year, our team remains steadfast in our commitment to growth and development in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

**R**ECENTLY, our team conducted routine site visits to three ongoing developments: Ellipse Grace Bay, MOLO Hotel Group, and Windsong Resort (Phase II), located on Providenciales. Site visits are an important aspect of our investment process and form a key part of our aftercare strategy, helping us align projects with our shared vision for

sustainable growth and community impact. During the visits, the team engaged in discussions with stakeholders to better understand project needs and identify ways we can provide support to ensure successful outcomes. Stay tuned as we share more updates on these exciting developments and continue building a prosperous 2025 together.







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## THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER AND PUBLIC POLICY WARNS THE PUBLIC OF FAKE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS SOLICITING MONEY

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, 14th January 2025 - The Office of the Premier and Public Policy is urging the public to remain vigilant following reports of fraudulent social media accounts impersonating the Premier and soliciting money.

It is important to note that the Premier and his team do NOT operate accounts that solicit financial assistance; and that these messages are part of a fraudulent scheme. These fake accounts are using the Premier's name, photos, and official title to deceive individuals into sending funds or sharing personal information. We strongly urge the public to exercise caution and refrain from responding to any such messages.

The Office of the Premier and Public Policy is working closely with relevant authorities and social media platforms to address this issue. Protecting the trust and security of our citizens remains our highest priority.

We thank you for your vigilance and cooperation in this matter. Please share this information widely to help prevent others from falling victim to this scam.

## CIBC Caribbean warns about ‘smishing’ scam

Nassau, Bahamas, January 15, 2025 – CIBC Caribbean has warned about an ongoing ‘smishing scam’ targeting clients in The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands.

It noted that fraudsters have been sending text messages to persons stating that their accounts were placed on hold or that their cards were locked and requesting them to click on a link and to enter their banking credentials in order to regain access to their accounts.

The bank has reiterated that it does not send out texts or SMS messages with links for clients to click on.

■ ‘smishing’, see page 13



# Illegal Migrants Detained After Vessel Interceptions Over the Weekend

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands – Tuesday, 14 January 2025: On 12th January 2025, the Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force responded to an alert by the Marine Branch of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force regarding the interception of an illegal vessel. Onboard were 29 illegal migrants, comprising 23 males, including two minors, and six females, including one minor.

ON 13th January, the Border Force responded to another incident involving the interception of an illegal vessel. Upon arrival, 121 illegal migrants were apprehended near the vessel. This group included 103 males, one of whom was a minor, and 17 females.

These individuals are believed to be Haitian nationals and are currently being detained at the detention centre.

We extend our gratitude to the Royal Turks and Caicos Police Force and the TCI Regiment for their invaluable

assistance.

Further details will be released as the investigation progresses.

The public is reminded that harbouring or facilitating the entry of illegal migrants is a serious criminal offence under the Immigration Ordinance, punishable by fines of up to \$20,000 and up to four years of imprisonment.

Authorities are fully committed to prosecuting anyone found in violation of these laws to the fullest extent.

For any media inquiries, please contact [crilightbourne@gov.tc](mailto:crilightbourne@gov.tc)



## NASSAU CRUISE PORT WELCOMES NEW COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

[Nassau, Bahamas, January 15, 2025] — On Tuesday, January 14, 2025, we were delighted to welcome the new Commissioner of Police for the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF), Shanta E. Knowles, OM, and her executive team on an official tour of Nassau Cruise Port (NCP). Collin Cleare, Regional

Director of Security and PFSO, and Edwin Fountain, Deputy PFSO, escorted the group alongside the ships in port and throughout the arrivals and retail areas as they engaged with the port community and with visitors. They also made a special stop at the World Famous Straw Market.

“On behalf of all of us at Nassau Cruise Port, we extend our warmest congratulations to Commissioner Knowles on her recent appointment as the new Commissioner of Police,” said Mr. Cleare.

“We are excited to welcome her to this vital role and look forward to continuing

to foster a strong and collaborative partnership with the RBPF in ensuring the safety and security of our community and our visitors. Together, we will continue to uphold the values of excellence and service and contribute to a brighter and safer future for The Bahamas.”





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# TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS GOVERNMENT (TCIG) – SPACE X INCIDENT PUBLIC ADVISORY

Photo by Merinda Duff

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands – Friday 17 January, 2024:  
On Thursday 16 January 2025, debris from a failed SpaceX launch impacted the Turks and Caicos Islands. In the immediacy of the outfall, the Turks and Caicos Islands Airport Authority diverted all flights in TCI airspace as well as grounded all flights until an all clear had been given.

**T**HERE are no reported injuries and reports of only minimal damage to property at this time.

Today, Friday, 17 January, TCIG Officials convened a meeting with relevant partners in the United Kingdom including the UK Space Agency, who are supporting the post incident response, including technical expertise on the handling of debris, health and safety risks, protocols and procedures. The UK Air Accident Investigation Branch have been notified and discussions are ongoing with the US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) who will liaise with SpaceX.

This is now an active investigation led by the US FAA in liaison with UK and TCI counterparts.

We are not at this time aware of any specific risks related to the re-entry of space debris on Thursday 16 January. However, space objects can sometimes contain hazardous materials which can cause serious harm to health. Members of the public who come across objects that they think might be space debris should take the following actions:

- Do not touch the object
  - Make a note of the location (Island and exact coordinates) of the object and the time (including any maritime observations of debris)
  - If possible take a photograph of the object (without touching it) alongside another object for scale
  - Notify the authorities by sending the details to [nationalsecurity@gov.tc](mailto:nationalsecurity@gov.tc) with the subject title Space X Debris.
  - Space debris remains the property of the spacecraft owner
- If you have already handled what you think might be space debris please put it in a safe place where others will not handle it and inform the authorities at [nationalsecurity@gov.tc](mailto:nationalsecurity@gov.tc). Further advice will be provided for the collation of the debris.
- The safety of our residents and visitors remains our highest priority. We appreciate the community's vigilance and cooperation as we work alongside international partners to manage this incident.



## TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS GOVERNMENT (TCIG) SPACE X INCIDENT PUBLIC ADVISORY #2

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands – Friday 17th January 2024: As previously advised, the incident is an active investigation led by the US FAA in liaison with UK and TCI counterparts.

UK partners will also be liaising with the TCI Environmental Health Department, Maritime Department and Department of Environment and Coastal Resources to consider any potential environmental issues that may occur on land or in the marine environment, but during initial discussions between the UK Space Agency and SpaceX, it has been confirmed that no Hydrazine was on

board the Starship rocket.

However, in the abundance of caution, members of the public who come across objects that they think might be space debris should adhere to the advice provided in the first advisory:

- Do not touch the object
- Make a note of the location (Island and exact coordinates) of the object and the time
- If possible take a photograph of the object (without touching it) alongside another object for scale
- Notify the authorities by sending the

details to [nationalsecurity@gov.tc](mailto:nationalsecurity@gov.tc) with the subject title Space X Debris.

- Please also notify the authorities of any maritime observations of debris, including time, location and photograph
- Space debris remains the property of the spacecraft owner

If you have already handled what you think might be space debris please put it in a safe place where others will not handle it and inform the authorities at [nationalsecurity@gov.tc](mailto:nationalsecurity@gov.tc). Further advice will be provided for the collation of the debris.





43 Nominated

continued from page 4

It was the election cycle that saw the birth of a new political party, the PDA and a whopping number of independents offered for the five all-island seats.

History shows 31 candidates ran for the 10 district seats with South Caicos fielding the most, at four candidates on the district side of the ballot paper. In the all-island category, 21 names were presented to the nation.

Fast forward to February 19, 2021 when interest in candidacy dwindled to its lowest, 38 people. We saw no challenge of the PDA in any of the constituencies and unattached interest came from seven individuals.

Voter turnout also dropped dramatically in 2021 to 75%, reflecting that over 2,000

voters or one third of the electorate did not participate in the vote. While the lower turnout could have been fear linked to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, many leaned toward high voter apathy or disillusionment with the political system.

After a noteworthy bi-partisan victory on changes to the Constitution, the 2024 amendments gave voters more to consider. More candidates for which to cast a vote, more years for political parties to serve and more ministers to carry out country affairs, among other things.

Voters can select a total of ten individuals to serve in what will now be the Parliament of the Turks and Caicos Islands. That’s four more

votes to be carefully chosen by colouring in an oval next to the name of the candidates of one’s choice. One constituency, nine all-island. The excruciating wait for returns and results on the choices of now 9,353 registered voters - an increase of 772 electors - will be cut significantly as ballots will now be tabulated, electronically.

Electronic voting makes its debut in the Turks and Caicos Islands on February 7, 2025 and when the results come in, whomever is named the winner in each of the 10 districts and whomever makes it as among the top nine finishers in the All-Island category will go on to comprise the Parliament for the next five years.

‘smishing’

continued from page 10

Clients who receive any communication with links should check that they are from a bona fide source prior to attempting to click on them.

The latest fraud attempt is a smishing scam and we are taking the necessary steps to report the fraudulent sites, the bank said.

Smishing occurs when fraudsters attempt to steal customers’ data or money through a text message that tries to trick them into following a link and revealing personal details or login information.

If you believe that you have encountered a suspicious message, just follow these simple tips.

Firstly, don’t click on any links or attachments and don’t reply to the message. Try and establish the legitimacy of the message by getting in contact with the organisation through alternative means, for example, calling the phone number on your printed statements.

If the sender claims to represent CIBC Caribbean, then forward the email as an attachment to our dedicated fraud team (fraud@cibcfib.com) and delete the message from your system.

It is also a good idea to regularly review all your financial accounts and if you spot any irregularities, contact the bank immediately. Additionally, email security should be reviewed and consider changing your password to a stronger one, using a combination of characters, letters and numbers. Never share your internet banking log-in credentials or One-Time Verification Codes (OTVC) with anyone!

Gold revenue

continued from page 6

now that a number of key stakeholders are expanding or restarting their mining operations, and they are also new players entering the sector,” Minister Bharrat said.

He explained that in 2025 the government will continue to work with small and medium-scale miners to increase their recovery rate.

Large-scale producers have significantly increased production, with some achieving

almost 95 per cent recovery rate, according to the minister.

However, local miners have struggled with a 40 to 45 percent recovery rate, which the government believes can be improved with the right types of investments.

Several new areas have been allocated through lotteries in key mining districts in Regions One, Seven and Eight. This has

empowered some 500 small miners with access to concessions of their own in 2024.

“Those miners will soon go into operation,” Minister Bharrat added.

The Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) has also been tasked with improving its monitoring system in order to boost production and eradicate illegal mining practices.



Marine Safety Tips:

- \*Check the weather and tides. Do not get caught out by the conditions.**
- \*Ensure you have sufficient life jackets, First Aid kits, dry food and water to sustain you and your team for 24 hours.**
- \*Carry a means of calling for help. For example, a mobile phone in a waterproof pouch, a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) or a VHF/DSC radio signalling device.**
- \*Don’t Drink and Boat. Alcohol impairs judgment and decision-making.**
- \*Have a passage plan and share your plans: Tell someone where you are going and when you’ll be back. If you do not return as planned, they can raise the alarm.**
- \*Ensure sufficient fuel is in the vessel before departing from shore. Use less than half of your fuel to reach your destination.**





SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED		
Notices of Unauthorised Occupation	Letters of Illegal Occupation	Enforcement Notices (Private Land)
5	63	76

Multi-agency team continues enforcement and inspection exercises within informal settlements

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands 13th January 2025 - Multi-agency team continues enforcement and inspection exercises within informal settlements On December 11th and 12th 2024, a team comprising representatives from the Crown Land Unit (CLU), Physical Planning Department, Informal Settlements Unit (ISU), Ministry of Immigration and Border Services, and the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force successfully conducted enforcement and inspection exercises in Five Cays and Lower Bight.

■ Multi-agency team, see page 37

Department of Agriculture Enhances Pig Farming in the Turks and Caicos Islands Through Artificial Insemination Initiative

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands 14th January 2025 – This week, the Department of Agriculture is undertaking a groundbreaking Artificial Insemination (AI) exercise on pig farms throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), including farms in North Caicos, Providenciales, and Grand Turk, as well as the farm at His Majesty’s Prison. This initiative aims to enhance pig production across the islands by improving the genetic quality of local pigs.



To achieve this, the Department sourced high-quality pig semen from Newport Genetics in Jamaica. The semen includes two of the most productive breeds in the world—Landrace and Large White. These breeds are renowned for their superior meat quality and high productivity, making them ideal for strengthening the local pig farming industry.

The Department has secured the expertise of Dr. Bent, a reproductive specialist from Jamaica, to carry out the insemination. Dr. Bent is working alongside the Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Thomas, to ensure the success of this initiative. Preparations for this week’s activities began earlier, with female pigs (sows) receiving treatments to bring them into

heat, thereby optimizing the conditions for successful insemination.

This initiative aligns with the Department’s ongoing commitment to bolstering the food security status of the Turks and Caicos Islands. By improving the genetics of pigs on local farms, the Department aims to increase productivity and contribute to the islands’ sustainable agricultural development.

The Department of Agriculture would like to express its gratitude to the farmers for their cooperation and support in making this initiative a success. Together, we are building a more resilient, productive agricultural sector and improving food security in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

For further information email Agriculture@gov.tc or FB page Department of Agriculture TCI

HEALTH ADVISORY: PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST RESPIRATORY AND GASTROINTESTINAL INFECTIONS

Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos Islands – Friday, 10 January 2025: The Ministry of Health and Human Services is issuing a public health advisory to raise awareness about the increasing prevalence of respiratory and gastrointestinal infections during this season, both locally and internationally. Seasonal increases in these infections are anticipated. The Ministry encourages the public to adopt preventative measures to protect themselves and others, particularly vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and individuals with underlying health conditions.

Respiratory infections, such as the common cold, influenza, COVID-19, and Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV), are primarily transmitted through droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. Symptoms may include fever, cough, sore throat, and shortness of breath.

The Ministry is closely monitoring the situation with Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV), a respiratory virus increasingly detected in some regions. While it often causes mild symptoms, it can lead to severe respiratory illness in children, older adults, and individuals with weakened immune systems.

To date, no cases of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) have been detected in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Ministry remains vigilant and continues to monitor the situation.

To minimise the risk of respiratory infections, the public is advised to:

Let’s Protect Each Other TOGETHER We STOP the FLU!

Tips for staying healthy this flu season

MAINTAIN A HEALTHY DIET

STAY HYDRATED

GET ADEQUATE REST

GET REGULAR EXERCISE

STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK

The flu vaccine is available at all Primary Health Care Clinic across the country

Practice Good Hygiene: Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers when soap is unavailable.

Avoid Close Contact with Sick Individuals: Maintain distance from people who are unwell to minimize exposure to respiratory droplets.

Disinfect Frequently-Touched Surfaces: Regularly clean surfaces such as doorknobs, countertops, and mobile devices with disinfectant.

Wear Masks: Use a mask in crowded or enclosed spaces, especially if experiencing respiratory symptoms.

Cover Coughs and Sneezes: Use a tissue or your elbow to cover your mouth and nose. Dispose of tissues properly and wash hands immediately.

Stay Home if Sick: Avoid public spaces to reduce the risk of spreading infections to others.

Get Vaccinated: Ensure vaccinations, including the flu shot and COVID-19 booster, are up-to-date. These vaccines are available for free at Primary Health Care Clinics across the country.

Gastrointestinal infections, often caused by viruses, bacteria, or contaminated food and water, can result in symptoms such as diarrhea,

vomiting, stomach cramps, and fever.

Preventative measures include:

Practice Safe Food Handling: Wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly. Cook meat to the recommended temperature and avoid consuming raw or undercooked foods.

Drink Safe Water: Use bottled or boiled water if the safety of the water supply is uncertain.

Wash Hands: Hand hygiene is critical after using the restroom and before eating or preparing food.

Disinfect Surfaces: Regularly clean food preparation areas to prevent contamination.

Stay Hydrated: If symptoms of diarrhea or vomiting occur, drink plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration.

If symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections are severe or persist beyond a few days, individuals should seek medical care immediately. Signs of concern include high fever, difficulty breathing, severe abdominal pain, or signs of dehydration such as dizziness, reduced urination, or extreme fatigue.

The Ministry of Health remains committed to safeguarding public health and is closely monitoring the local, regional, and international situation. The public will be kept informed of any significant updates. By following these guidelines, we can collectively reduce the burden of respiratory and gastrointestinal infections.

For more information, please visit the Ministry of Health’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/tciministryofhealth/>.





# BAMBARRA BEACH

## VOTED #1 BEST BEACH IN THE CARIBBEAN IN USA TODAY’S 10BEST READERS’ CHOICE AWARDS 2025

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands 13th January 2025 - Bambarra Beach is the Best Beach in the Caribbean! The Middle Caicos beach was adjudged the #1 Beach in the Caribbean in USA Today’s 10Best Readers’ Choice Awards 2025. Grace Bay Beach was voted the #10 Best Beach.

**L**AST year, Bambarra Beach was voted the #2 Best Beach while Grace Bay was voted #9. Minister of Tourism, the Hon Josephine Connolly, is ecstatic about Bambarra’s ascent to the number one position. “This is really good news to welcome in the new year. As we continue to sell the Turks and Caicos Islands as a multi-island destination, it is very heartwarming to see our sister islands getting greater

recognition. And the fact that we have two beaches in that top ten list reaffirms the Turks and Caicos Islands’ reputation for having a variety of beautiful beaches. I would like to thank all who voted and urge those who are yet to visit to put us on your travel itinerary this year,” the Minister says. In describing Bambarra Beach, USA Today said: “Bambarra Beach, situated on Middle Caicos, seems to stretch on forever. What this secluded beach lacks in the amenities



one might expect from a resort-side Caribbean beach, it makes up for with its calm, clear, warm water, and plenty of room to spread out and relax.” The Department of Coastal Restoration (DER) welcomes the continued recognition as they are embarking on plans to enhance the visitor experience at Bambarra Beach. “The DECR is happy to see the recognition of Bambarra Beach on the world stage. This is especially encouraging as the Department further invests in amenities for beachgoers while ensuring the protection of our valuable coastal areas,” said Mr. Luc Clerveaux, Director of DECR. Experience Turks and Caicos also congratulate our partners and stakeholders who were also recognised among the Caribbean’s best in the USA Today 10Best Readers’ Choice Awards. Best All-Inclusive Caribbean Resort: Ambergis Cay #9 Best Caribbean Golf Course: Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Club #1 Best Caribbean Resort: The Sands at Grace Bay #4 Best Restaurant in the Caribbean: Hemingway’s on the Beach #2







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# GOVERNOR MEETINGS FOCUS ON PARTNERSHIPS AND STRATEGIES

On Wednesday January 15, Her Excellency the Governor held a series of meetings with Directors and Heads of Department within her portfolio of responsibilities to discuss the priorities and strategic objectives guiding budget submissions for the upcoming financial year. Discussions focused on ensuring fiscal responsibility, strategic planning, corporate requirements, delivery programmes and key risks.

**W**EDNESDAY'S meetings included the Financial Intelligence Agency, Integrity Commission, Financial Services Commission, Internal Audit Office, Elections Office, National Lands Secretariat, Human Rights Commission, National Security Secretariat and the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force. Tuesday January 14, Productive discussions as Her Excellency the Governor met with the Permanent Secretary of Finance and the Budget Director. They reviewed key priorities



for the upcoming fiscal year, focusing on strengthening financial controls, ensuring value for money (VFM) and driving effective delivery of government programs. Friday January 10, Her Excellency



the Governor had the pleasure of welcoming Captain Parker and Second Lieutenant Brooklyn Williams from the TCI Regiment. Captain Parker shared updates on the

■ MEETINGS, see page 37



TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS  
DIASPORA



# CALLING ALL TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDERS!

The TCI Diaspora Office invites you  
to participate in our survey.



SCAN TO REGISTER



# TikTok to go Dark on Sunday January 19

As of January 19, 2025, TikTok is set to “go dark” for its 170 million American users unless the U.S. government intervenes. This follows a Supreme Court ruling upholding a law that mandates ByteDance, TikTok’s Chinese parent company, to divest its ownership by this date due to national security concerns.



**IMPLICATIONS FOR USERS:**

- App Accessibility: TikTok will likely be removed from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, preventing new downloads. Existing users may continue to use the app, but without updates, leading to potential security vulnerabilities and degraded performance over time.
- Content Creators and Businesses: Many creators and small businesses rely on TikTok for income

and audience engagement. The ban introduces uncertainty, prompting some to migrate to alternative platforms like RedNote.

**NEXT STEPS:**

The situation remains fluid, with TikTok urging the U.S. government for clarity to prevent service disruptions. The incoming administration’s decisions will be pivotal in determining whether TikTok continues operations or faces an extended ban in the United States.

Sources: Forbes, BBC, AP News, NY Post and Investopedia.

## Palisades Fire 43% Contained, 73% Containment for Eaton Fire as LA braces for more “fire weather”

As of January 18, 2025, Los Angeles continues to grapple with devastating wildfires, notably the Palisades and Eaton fires. These fires have resulted in at least 27 fatalities, destroyed over 12,000 structures, and forced more than 80,000 residents to evacuate.



**Firefighting Efforts:**

- Navajo Nation Assistance: A 23-member firefighting team from the Navajo Nation has been tirelessly combating the wildfires on the outskirts of Los Angeles. Their tasks include extinguishing hotspots, restoring vehicular access to areas affected by landslides, and assessing damages.
- Aerial Operations: Pilots Annie Paya and Liz Lavagnino have been operating a Black Hawk helicopter, releasing 900 gallons of water per drop over the Pacific Palisades fires. Despite challenging conditions, including strong Santa Ana winds, their efforts have been instrumental in firefighting operations.



**Community and Political Responses:**

- Insurance Challenges: The increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires have strained California’s

■ *Global Economy, see page 6*

## Trump’s Inauguration Moves Indoors

Due to severe cold weather, U.S. President-elect Donald Trump’s swearing-in ceremony will take place inside the Capitol Rotunda on January 20, 2025. This marks the first indoor inauguration in 40 years. Attendance will be limited to ticketed guests and dignitaries. Public viewing will be available via live broadcasts at Washington’s Capital One Arena, where Trump is expected to appear after the ceremony. Other inaugural events, including the parade and evening celebrations, have been relocated to nearby venues to ensure safety and comfort for attendees.



## Residents shaken

continued from page 1



“We are not at this time aware of any specific risks related to the re-entry of space debris on Thursday 16 January. However, space objects can sometimes contain hazardous materials which can cause serious harm to health. Members of the public who come across objects that they think might be space debris should take the following actions:

- Do not touch the object
  - Make a note of the location (Island and exact coordinates) of the object and the time (including any maritime observations of debris)
  - If possible take a photograph of the object (without touching it) alongside another object for scale
  - Notify the authorities by sending the details to [nationalsecurity@gov.tc](mailto:nationalsecurity@gov.tc) with the subject title Space X Debris.
- Space debris remains the property of the spacecraft owner”

It was not an earthquake or the apocalypse (as many reported feeling at the time) but an explosion of part of an unmanned spacecraft, the largest in the fleet of SpaceX founder, Elon Musk. Musk is running a series of tests on the

rockets for a program set to revolutionise the scope of travel, by taking passengers literally out of this world and into outer space.

The test flight was set for a duration of 66 minutes. SpaceX, which launched from South Texas at 5:38pm experienced trouble after about 8 minutes in orbit.

From Forbes.com: “Shortly after the catch there was an issue, though: A SpaceX commentator on the livestream said, “we do believe that we have lost the ship during its ascent phase... during that ascent phase a couple of the engines dropped out and then shortly thereafter we lost communication.”

Parts of the rocket were picked up in Providenciales, South Caicos and Grand Turk, according to residents who posted photos of the bits they had gathered.

“Elon Musk’s company has been told to carry out a mishap investigation by the FAA. It needs the results of that probe before a determination comes on whether the progressive space plan resumes flights, said a BBC news report on Saturday afternoon.

## Cybersecurity

continued from page 6

hosting of numerous capacity-building events such as the CIRT-BS Cybersecurity Conference.

The National Security Minister had a “bit of advice” for delegates -- to build a better mousetrap.

“Change, progress, create opportunities, not just for economic advancement, but for bad actors who seek to exploit them, and so as change is rapid, criminal elements, bad actors, will seek to exploit that change. Cybersecurity and resilience is meant to address that,” Mr. Munroe said.

“Bad actors will evolve, they always do. Once you have found an answer, they will begin to seek another path, you can be assured of that. And so regardless of the exercises you will run, and the success you will have with it, be assured that as soon as you close one door, they will seek another. And so what do you have to do from today out, my advice to you is the same advice I give the security forces in this country, you will always be involved in what we call seeking to build a better mousetrap, because as the mice figure out the one you have built, you will have to build a better one. That should be your objective today. With all of the bright minds involved in this exercise I am

confident that will be achieved.”

Bahamian officials say the conference holds “immense significance” for the nation, region, and indeed the global community “as we come together to tackle one of the most critical issues of our time-- cybersecurity.”

They add that in a world where technology influences every aspect of life -- from governance to commerce, to personal communication -- the threats to the country’s digital infrastructure are growing increasingly sophisticated. The conference, with its theme of “Building Shared Cyber Resilience,” is hailed as being both timely and vital, as it “provides opportunities to combine collective knowledge, strengthen defenses, and work together to ensure the security and stability of an interconnected digital world.”

“Achieving the vision of a ‘secure and trusted digital society’ requires collaboration, dedication, and active participation from every corner of society -- government, private sector, academia, civil society, and individuals. We cannot rely on a single entity; this is a collective endeavor,” officials add. (BIS Photo - Conference attendees)/ Kristaan Ingraham)





# PM Davis presents the Prime Minister’s Cup to the Buffalo Bulls, victors in the 2025 Bahamas Bowl

NASSAU, The Bahamas -- Prime Minister and Minister of Finance the Hon. Philip Davis presents the Prime Minister’s Cup to the Buffalo Bulls, after their win over the Liberty University Flames, at the 2025 Bahamas Bowl, at the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium, on Saturday morning, January 4, 2025. The Bulls won with a score of 26-7, and also won the 2019 Bahamas Bowl. The Bahamas Bowl is one of 17 college football bowl games owned and operated by ESPN Events.







- GRAND TURK -

# New year SAVINGS

SALE DURATION : JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> -20<sup>TH</sup>  
Prices valid during sale dates only. While supplies last.





**SAVE \$1.01**  
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Pork Ribs  
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Milk, 96 oz  
*Leche de Almendra*  
*Lèt Zanmann*



**SAVE \$4.01**  
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**\$3.00 ea**  
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*Arándanos*  
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**SAVE \$1.78**  
was \$5.78  
**\$4.00 ea**  
EE Sugar, 4lb  
*Azucar*  
*Sik Blan*



# Call for Proposals



## Terms of Reference (TOR) Consultant Needed: Development of ESG Policy & Implementation Strategy for Invest TCI

Invest Turks and Caicos (Invest TCI) is seeking a consultant to develop a comprehensive Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Policy and Implementation Strategy to align with the Government’s Vision 2040 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



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**Application Deadline:**  
Friday, 27th December, 2024





# DECLARATIONS OF NOMINATED CANDIDATES FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS FEBRUARY 7TH 2025

January 15, 2025 - Section 50(1) of the Constitution stipulates that each Candidate for election to the Parliament shall, on the date of his or her nomination for election, make a written declaration to the Supervisor of Elections that he or she is qualified under section 46 of the Constitution and that no disqualifications apply to him or her as set out in section 49 of the Constitution. Nomination day was Tuesday January 14, 2025.

**D**ECLARATIONS were received from nineteen (19) candidates representing the Progressive National Party and nineteen (19) candidates representing the People's Democratic Party and from five (5) independent candidates. Section 50(2) of the Constitution also requires the Supervisor of Elections to publish all declarations received by the close of the next following working day.

Section 50(3) of the Constitution further stipulates that within five (5) days of the publication of Candidates' declarations, a challenge to the veracity of the declarations may be brought by any registered voter or the Honourable Attorney General before the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court shall hear and determine the matter as expeditiously as possible

and its decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.  
Declarations received from the forty-three (43) candidates nominated on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 to contest the general elections scheduled for Friday, February 7, 2025 are attached.

Lister Dudley Lewis  
Supervisor of Elections



## DS200 PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION

Come out and get familiar with the new **DS200 Tabulators** before casting your vote in this year's general election!

JANUARY 20, 2025



4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.



Conch Bar Community Center, Middle Caicos



Electoral District 4: Middle Caicos

For more information, call 946-2801 or 338-2801



## DS200 PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION

Come out and get familiar with the new **DS200 Tabulators** before casting your vote in this year's general election!

JANUARY 21, 2025



4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



Salvation Army Hall, Providenciales



- Electoral District 9: Five Cays
- Electoral District 10: Wheeland

For more information, call 946-2801 or 338-2801



## DS200 PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION

Come out and get familiar with the new **DS200 Tabulators** before casting your vote in this year's general election!

JANUARY 23, 2025



4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.



South Caicos DC Office, South Caicos



Electoral District 3: South Caicos

For more information, call 946-2801 or 338-2801



## DS200 PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION

Come out and get familiar with the new **DS200 Tabulators** before casting your vote in this year's general election!

JANUARY 22, 2025



4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



HJ Robinson High School Grand Turk



- Electoral District 1: North Grand Turk
- Electoral District 2: South Grand Turk

For more information, call 946-2801 or 338-2801



# Swingers Claim ‘Unofficial Winners’ of the 2025 Grand Bahama PineYard Rush Junkanoo Parade

GRAND BAHAMA, The Bahamas — As part of the week-long festivities leading up to Majority Rule Day, the unofficial results of the 2025 PineYard Rush Junkanoo Parade were unveiled at the Majority Rule Day Cultural Extravaganza in Downtown Freeport on Explorer’s Way on January 10, 2025 with the Swingers claiming victory in the ‘A’ Division.

**F**OLLOWING closely in second place was the Superstar Rockers, while in third was Platinum Knights; fourth place was Classic Dancers; and New Generation placed fifth. The overall winner in the ‘B’ Division was Showtime, followed by Sting in second place, and the Bushwackers in third place. The results highlighted the incredible talent and hard work of all the participating groups, showcasing the true spirit of Junkanoo. This year’s parade brought residents and visitors together to celebrate the energy and pride that make Junkanoo so special.



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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JUDGING BEGINS- MARCH. 5TH 2025

PRIZES TO BE WON

1<sup>st</sup> 1st place trophy, irrigation system, fertilizer, and potting material

2<sup>nd</sup> Animal manure, soil, pesticide, and fertilizer

3<sup>rd</sup> Pesticide and Fertilizer

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TCI



## Bahamasair’s Inaugural Boeing 737 Marks Major Milestone Landing on New Runway in South Bimini



GRAND BAHAMA, The Bahamas — The Government of The Bahamas is making great progress and focusing on addressing the community needs, namely the multi-million-dollar Bimini International Airport development, which remains on track for completion by the end of 2025.

Ground was broken for this project in 2024.

On January 10, 2025, Majority Rule Day holiday, Bahamasair, the national flag carrier, made an historic inaugural landing at Bimini Airport.

The Boeing 737, carrying 122 passengers, touched down on the newly-completed runway.

“This is the first set of flights flown by Bahamasair into Bimini,” said Director of Bimini Airport Jeremy Ebie.

The completed runway now accommodates larger aircraft and the airport’s infrastructure is now capable of processing passengers, and providing the necessary services for a higher level of transportation that wasn’t previously available.

“This represents a really great transition for the airport,” Ebie added.

Additionally, preparations are underway to accommodate increased airlift services from international carriers, which creates accessibility to the island.

This inaugural flight marks an exciting new chapter for Bimini, highlighting the island’s growth and opens the door for more visitors to experience all it has to offer. It also enhances the travel experience for both residents and tourists.





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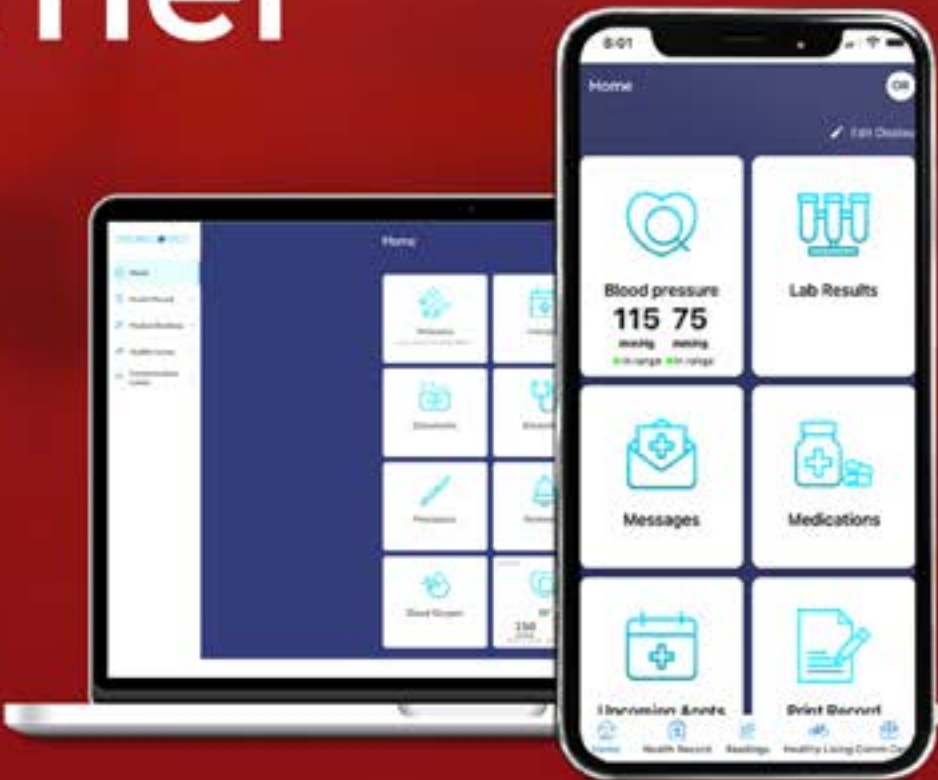


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**Secure:** Just like the desktop or computer version, the app is built on a secure platform.

*Like the desktop version, you can access your health information from InterHealth Canada Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital now more conveniently than ever.*

## FEATURES INCLUDE

- **Record Your Allergies**
- **Review Your Appointments**
- **List of Medical Conditions**
- **Vital Signs**
- **Lab Results**





### Handling Stolen Goods

Thirty-three-year-old WOLBERT FERGUSON has been charged with TWO COUNTS OF HANDLING STOLEN GOODS and BURGLARY.

Mr Ferguson of Kew Town, Providenciales, is expected to appear in court at the next available date.

The accused was held by officers of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force following a report of a burglary on Monday, 6th January 2025.

The incident allegedly occurred at the Central Storage located on Industrial Drive.

## Two Illegal Sloop Interceptions; 148 illegal migrants detained

The Marine Branch of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force successfully intercepted two illegal sloops within the last 24 hours.

**I**n the first incident, at around 2:25 a.m. on January 12, the Maritime Operations Center tracked a suspicious target in the Bird Rock, Long Bay area.

Officers of the Marine Branch were informed, and at 2:35 a.m., they spotted a dark blue wooden vessel with two outboard engines carrying several individuals. The illegal sloop was intercepted, and officers discovered TWENTY-SEVEN (27) illegal migrants- TWENTY-ONE (21) males, including two minors and SIX (6) females.

All individuals were handed over to the TCI Border Force for processing.

Shortly after 1 a.m. on Monday January 13, the Marine Branch, alongside the TCI Regiment, received information that a blue 38-foot wooden Haitian vessel with two



outboard engines was in TCI waters.

The vessel was located and intercepted. Onboard the vessel was ONE HUNDRED and TWENTY-ONE (121) persons – ONE HUNDRED and FOUR (104) males—including a minor and SEVENTEEN (17) females.

Assistant Commissioner (ag) Mat Newton said, “I am grateful to our partners—TCI Border Force and TCI Regiment—for their assistance and support in successfully processing the illegal migrants intercepted by the police. This

shows that the layers of security in place are increasingly effective, and we continue to build our defensive measures to tackle this type of crime.”

The RTCIPF asks the public to notify the closest police station, contact 911, the Serious Crime Unit at 231-1842, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477, and anonymously give any information on illegal activity.

Additionally, persons are encouraged to download the CrimeStoppers P3 app and share information anonymously.



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JAN 20TH 2025



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- **Provide clean water**  
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- **Provide regular veterinary care**  
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# Bahamas National Trust Announces New Executive Board Members

The Bahamas National Trust (BNT) is excited to announce the appointment of new officers and members of the BNT Council 2024 -2025, elected at the organization’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October and later confirmed during a special meeting after the AGM.

**MS. JOANNE** Smith has been elected as President of the Council. As President and Creative Director of Media Enterprises, she brings a wealth of experience to the role. A former President of the Rotary Club of East Nassau and a Lifetime Member of the BNT, Smith is a passionate advocate for environmental preservation. Her long-standing involvement in producing educational materials for the BNT and her expertise in public relations will be invaluable as the nonprofit strives to promote the national park system and expand its membership base.

Returning to the Council as Deputy President is Ms. Janet Johnson, a former BNT President. With more than 40 years of leadership experience in the tourism industry, both internationally and nationally, Johnson’s marketing expertise will be critical as the BNT implements its 2024-2029 Strategic Plan, targeting expanded infrastructure and visitation for 12 national parks.

Ms. Ashley Sturup joins the team as the Honorary Secretary. A lawyer with a strong background in the Office of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs, Sturup will provide essential support in enforcing Park Bylaws and other legal matters. She is also a member of the BNT’s Legal Affairs Committee.

Mr. Phillip Cumming has been appointed Honorary Treasurer. A chartered accountant and past President of the Rotary Club of East Nassau, Cumming is also an avid birder and nature photographer.

Elected members of the BNT Council include: Geoff Andrews (immediate past President); Marvin Arrington; Glenn Bannister; Kevin Cartwright; Hank Ferguson; Janet Johnson; Marcus Laing; Neil McKinney; Devin Peet; Naisha Roberts; Karin Sanchez; Gary Sands; Tanya Woodside; and Eddie



Left to right: Janet Johnson, BNT Deputy President; Joanne Smith, BNT President; Philip Cumming, Hon. Treasurer; and Ashley Sturup, Hon. Secretary



**Leah Carr**  
Communications Officer

Tel: (242) 393-1317 | [lcarr@bnt.bs](mailto:lcarr@bnt.bs)

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Carter.

Appointed members are: Dr. Maria Woodside-Oriakhi, University of The Bahamas; Dr. Ana Luz Porzecanski, American Museum of Natural History; Dr. Karen Bjorndal, University of Florida; Christopher Hughes, US Parks Service; Meredith Ross, Leon Levy Foundation; Dr. Pamela Reid, University of Miami RSMAS; Dr. Barney Long, re:wild; and Aurelio Ramos, National Audubon Society.

Representing The Bahamas Government are: Christina Davis-Justin and Holly Peel, Governor General’s Representatives; Ashley Sturup, Ministry of Education; Dr. Kenneth Romer, Ministry of Tourism; Dr. Rhianna Neeley-Murphy, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources; and Gregory Bethel, Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources.

“We are thrilled to welcome such a talented and diverse group of leaders to our Executive Board,” said Lakeshia Anderson-Rolle, BNT’s Executive Director. “Their combined experience and dedication to The Bahamas’ national park system will be essential as we work to accomplish the goals outlined in our new five-year strategic plan.”

“It is indeed an honor to serve as the President of the BNT,” said Joanne Smith. “They have grown The Bahamas’ national park system to 33 national parks that protect marine resources, endangered species, and the habitats necessary for the survival of our island flora and fauna. I am looking forward to working with the BNT team and the Council to ensure we meet our strategic goals.

“One of my goals is to increase the membership of the organization and support sustainable finance mechanisms for the parks. I am especially grateful to past President Geoff Andrews, who has agreed to lead the Advancement Committee in successfully achieving our financial goals over the next five years. We hold our first full Council meeting at the end of January and look forward to working with the Council on initiatives that guide the BNT into its next chapter.”

To learn more about the BNT’s role in managing national parks, protecting wildlife, and informing environmental policy, please visit its website: [www.bnt.bs](http://www.bnt.bs), and follow its various social media channels: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.



## Old age pension to increase to \$41,000 from January 2025

The old age pension in Guyana is set to increase to \$41,000 per month, effective January 1, 2025. The total pension payout for 2025 is projected to exceed \$37 billion.

This was announced by Senior Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance and Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh, during his 2025 budget presentation at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre on Friday.

“In keeping with a commitment that we gave in our manifesto, with effect from the 1st of January 2025, old age pension will be paid at a rate of \$20,500 multiplied by two equal \$41,000 per month,” the minister stated.

This measure will inject an additional \$4.5 billion into the economy by increasing the disposable income of the 76,000 old age pensioners.

The total pension payout for 2025 is projected to exceed \$37 billion, Dr Singh revealed.

The old age pension has seen significant increases in recent years: \$36,000 in 2024, \$33,000 in 2023, \$28,000 in 2022, and \$25,000 in 2021. Since the PPP/C government assumed office in 2020, the old age pension has increased by 75%.

Furthermore, the minister announced that public assistance will also increase from \$19,000 to \$22,000 per month.

“This will place in the hands of the recipients of the public assistants an additional \$1.4 billion of around 40,000 persons,” Minister Singh said.

These major investments will significantly bring relief to citizens, cushioning their pockets and ease the cost of living in the country.

# Exclusive Offer Unlocks \$300 in Instant Savings for the Ultimate Winter Escape to The Islands of The Bahamas

From January 13 to February 28, 2025, travelers can book a 4-night (or longer) air-inclusive vacation to The Islands of The Bahamas and enjoy an exclusive \$300 instant savings at participating hotels and resorts. Stays are valid from January 14 to June 30, 2025, making it the perfect time to swap snow for sand. Terms and conditions apply.

“The Bahamas has seen tremendous growth in visitors, and this offer underscores our commitment to expanding tourism as a key driver of economic growth,” said the Hon. I. Chester Cooper, The Bahamas’ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Investments & Aviation. “By offering an exceptional value to global travelers, we’re not only inviting visitors to explore our diverse islands but also supporting local businesses and fostering sustained economic development across The Bahamas.”

Booking a 4-night (or longer) air-inclusive vacation package



with participating tour operators guarantees instant \$300 savings, plus the opportunity to combine this offer with other deals for even more value. Travelers can also inquire about added perks like bonus nights, spa credits, and

airport transfers when booking through participating tour operators.

Latina Duncombe, Director General of the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, Investments & Aviation, added, “Through our partnerships

with international travel providers, we are creating opportunities for visitors to seamlessly explore the unique attractions, vibrant culture, and breathtaking natural beauty that make The Bahamas truly exceptional.”

The islands of The Bahamas is the ultimate winter getaway, where adventure, luxury, and relaxation come together for an unforgettable escape from the cold. Take advantage of these major savings by visiting: [Bahamas.com/300-off](http://Bahamas.com/300-off).



# Foreign Visitors Spent \$21.8 Billion on US Travel in November

Recent data published by the National Travel and Tourism Office (NTTO) indicates that in November 2024, international visitors made unprecedented expenditures of \$21.8 billion on travel and tourism-related activities within the United States, reflecting an increase of nearly 9 percent compared to November 2023.



In contrast, American travelers spent \$21.3 billion on international travel during the same month, resulting in a trade surplus of \$435 million for travel and tourism-related goods and services. From January to November 2024, international visitors have contributed approximately \$231.6 billion to US travel and tourism-related goods and services, marking a 13 percent rise compared to 2023.

On average, this equates to an infusion of \$693 million per day into the US economy year to date. In November 2024, US travel and tourism exports represented 22.7 percent of total US services exports and accounted for 8 percent of all US exports, including both goods and services. In November 2024, international visitors to the United States spent a total of \$12.3 billion on travel and tourism-related goods and services, marking an increase from \$11.2 billion in November 2023. This represents a nearly 10 percent rise compared to the previous year. The expenditures encompass a variety of items, including food, ■ *Foreign Visitors, see page 37*

## SURVEY SHOWS MSMEs INCREASED IN 2023



KINGSTON, January 17 (JIS): Data from the Economic and Social Survey of Jamaica (ESSJ) 2023 indicate that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) increased in number and sales relative to 2022. Sales from MSMEs rose by 1.2 per cent, totalling \$207.4 billion, driven by the performance of micro and medium-sized firms across various sectors, including Electricity and Water Supply, Mining and Quarrying, and Manufacturing.

Details were provided by Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Dr. Wayne Henry, in a message read by Senior Technical Specialist: Socio-economic Development, PIOJ, Charmaine Brimm, at the opening of the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce’s ‘MSME Business Roadshow’, on January 16, at the Twickenham Park Church of the Open Bible in St. Catherine. “Providing micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) with the opportunities to access services and facilitating access to financing to bolster their initiatives, represents a pivotal stride towards advancing economic development and mitigating poverty,” Dr. Henry said. The Director General noted that data from the Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) showed that Loans to Local Business Firms increased by 18.5 per cent in 2023, relative to 2022. In addition, government initiatives, such as the provision of funds to organisations for on-lending, tax incentives, and business development programmes, alongside private-sector initiatives, played crucial roles in fostering this growth. In the Own Account Worker category, which is used as a proxy for employment in the sector, this accounted for approximately 30.8 per cent of the Jamaican labour force, a 1.6 percentage point decrease. ■ *SURVEY SHOWS, see page 37*

## SIGNIFICANT TRANSFORMATION IN JCF – DR. CHANG



MONTEGO BAY, January 16 (JIS): There has been a significant transformation within the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), enabling the law-enforcement entity to be better equipped in tackling crime, says Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang. Speaking to JCF personnel and other stakeholders at a recent function in Newmarket, St. Elizabeth, Dr. Chang emphasised the ongoing commitment to modernise the police force and cited the entity’s evolution into a professional unit that now attracts some of Jamaica’s most talented young men and women to the field of law enforcement.

His remarks came amidst a backdrop of infrastructural development across the island, where numerous police stations have been upgraded and some are either under construction or slated to be built. “This revitalisation of facilities serves as a tangible step towards enhancing the working environment for police officers, fostering a sense of pride and professionalism within the ranks,” Dr. Chang said. “While there is still much work to be done, the transformation of the JCF is evident. We are witnessing a new generation of police officers stepping forward, eager to serve their communities and uphold the law,” he added. Dr. Chang said that a key component of this transformation is the Government’s commitment to fully digitise the JCF, noting that this technological upgrade aims to align the Force with international best practices and First-World standards. “We want to put those days of logging information in that big black book at the stations behind us. Our goal is for the JCF to be fully computerised and up to speed with the latest in law-enforcement technology,” he added. The Minister also spoke about the enhanced crime-fighting capabilities of the JCF, attributing much of this progress to the integration of advanced technology. He noted that as criminals have become more strategic and sophisticated in their methods, the police must also evolve to stay one step ahead. ■ *SIGNIFICANT, see page 37*

# BURGLARY

Here are some useful tips that can assist in lessening your chance of being a victim of this particular crime.

1. Make your home look occupied example leaving lights on, radio or television.
2. Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors.
3. Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.
4. Make sure that your door hinges are on the inside
5. Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with as many secure devices as deemed necessary.
6. Push button locks on door knobs are easy for burglars to open. Install deadlock bolts on all your outside doors.
7. Sliding glass doors are vulnerable, insert a piece of stick to jam the door from sliding from the outside. Special locks are available for better security.
8. Other windows may need better locks. Check with a locksmith or hardware store for alternatives.





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# CANDIDATES NOMINATE

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands – Thursday, 16 January 2025  
to contest the Turks and Caicos Islands General

ELECTORAL DISRTICT 01 GRAND TURK NORTH

- Progressive National Party**  
Otis Chuck Morris  
Electoral District Candidate
- People Democratic Movement**  
George Lightbourne  
Electoral District Candidate

ELECTORAL DISTRICT 02 GRAND TURK SOUTH

- People Democratic Movement**  
Edwin Astwood  
Electoral District Candidate
- Progressive National Party**  
Walter Frederick Lake Gardiner  
Electoral District Candidate

ELECTORAL DISTRICT 03 SOUTH CAICOS

- Progressive National Party**  
John Malcolm  
Electoral District Candidate
- People Democratic Movement**  
Hynetta Lenore Forbes  
Electoral District Candidate

ELECTORAL DISTRICT 04 MIDDLE AND NORTH CAICOS

- People Democratic Movement**  
Denaz Williams  
Electoral District Candidate
- Progressive National Party**  
Arlington Alexander Musgrove  
Electoral District Candidate

ELECTORAL DISTRICT 05 LEEWARD, PROVIDENCIALES

- Progressive National Party**  
Akierra Mary Deanne Missick  
Electoral District Candidate
- People Democratic Movement**  
Keith Cox  
Electoral District Candidate

ELECTORAL DISTRICT 06 THE BIGHT, PROVIDENCIALES

- Progressive National Party**  
Matthew Timothy Stubbs  
Electoral District Candidate
- People Democratic Movement**  
Kimbule Audric Skippings  
Electoral District Candidate





# ED ON 14 JANUARY 2025

5: The following Candidates were Nominated on January 14th 2025,  
al scheduled to be held on February 7th 2025.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT 07 RICHMOND HILL AND CHESHIRE HALL

People Democratic Movement

Finbar Albert Grant

Electoral District Candidate

Progressive National Party

Samuel Ernest Been

Electoral District Candidate

ELECTORAL DISTRICT 08 BLUE HILLS, PROVIDENCIALES

Progressive National Party

Randy Dexter Howell

Electoral District Candidate

People Democratic Movement

Anthony Mc Cleaver Walkin

Electoral District Candidate

ELECTORAL DISTRICT 09 FIVE CAYS, PROVIDENCIALES

People Democratic Movement

Bryant R. Cox

Electoral District Candidate

Progressive National Party

Rachel M. Taylor

Electoral District Candidate

ELECTORAL DISTRICT 10 WHEELAND, PROVIDENCIALES

People Democratic Movement

Vaden Delroy Williams

Electoral District Candidate

Progressive National Party

Kyle Robert Knowles

Electoral District Candidate

INDEPENDENT DISTRICT CANDIDATE

Electoral District 02 Grand Turk South

Derek Been

Independent

Electoral District 03 South Caicos

Tamell Seymour

ALL ISLA ND CANDIDATES

Progressive National Party

1. Sharon Anne Simons

2. Erwin Jay Saunders

3. Charles Washington Missick

4. Jameka Lashawn Williams

5. Willin Antoni Belliard

6. Josephine Olivia Connolly

7. Shaun David Malcolm

8. Zhavargo Jermaine Jolly

9. Jamell Ryan Robinson

People Democratic Movement

1. Ralph Lewis Higgs

2. Dwayne Taylor

3. Sabrina Green

4. Alvin Kingsley Garland

5. Robert Antonio Been

6. Karen Evadne Malcolm

7. Sean Richard Astwood

8. Ruth Ariza

9. Termard Butterfield

ALL ISLAND INDEPENDENT

1. Paul Bernard Beresford

2. Phillip Mc Rae Robinson

PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

All Island Candidate

Winston Mc Laughlin

Lister Dudley Lewis

Supervisor of Elections







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# Therapy Abroad Team from Illinois State University Supports Speech and Communication Development Across TCI Schools

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands 13th January 2025 – The Special Education Needs Services (SENS) Department of the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports, and Culture, recently welcomed a team of 10 dedicated volunteers from Illinois State University’s Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders through the Therapy Abroad program. Throughout their visit, the team made a significant impact, conducting 45 speech assessments and providing invaluable support to private and public schools and students.




THE visiting team worked with the SNAP Center, Preparing Little Minds, Tumble Tots, Thelma Lightbourne Primary, and Ianthe Pratt Primary schools this past week. Their efforts included one-on-one speech assessments, group speech therapy sessions with students, and collaborative meetings with teachers

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2. Create Your Account


You will receive an email invitation link. Once you receive the link, open and create an account to access your health information on your computer or desktop.

3. Download the App

Download the My Care Corner mobile app from the App Store or Google Play.

4. Login To Your Account

It is essential for patients to log in using the same portal or computer credentials and set a 4-digit PIN for future sign-ins. It is important for patients to keep their passwords and PINs secure and private.



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to provide insights and strategies to assist children with speech delays and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

Director of the SENS Department, Dr. Anya Malcolm-Gibbs, expressed her gratitude for the collaborative effort: “We are immensely grateful to the Therapy Abroad team and the volunteers from Illinois State University for their unwavering commitment to supporting our students. Their assessments and therapy sessions have brought us closer to understanding and addressing our children’s unique speech and communication needs. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our Coordinator of Assessments, Mrs. Lashaunda Skippings, whose tireless efforts ensured the success of this initiative.”

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Mr. James Astwood, also praised the initiative: “This ongoing partnership between Therapy Abroad and the SENS Department highlights the importance of global collaboration in addressing the diverse needs of our students. The expertise shared and the assessments conducted will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on our schools and the children they serve. We look forward to continuing such partnerships to further enhance the services we provide.”

The SENS Department remains committed to fostering innovative partnerships and delivering specialized support to ensure that every child receives the resources they need to thrive.



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## The Health Regulations Authority Informs Health Care Facilities of Provisional Licensing Requirements

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands – Monday, 14th January 2025: The Health Regulation Authority (HRA) announces a significant update for all entities operating within the healthcare sector across the Turks and Caicos Islands. Under the new provisions outlined in the Health Regulation Authority’s Ordinance and Regulation, entities that were operational before the passage of this legislation will be granted provisional licences effective until 31 March 2025.

This provisional licensing measure facilitates a smooth transition to compliance with the new regulatory framework. During this period, entities are required to take necessary steps to align their operations with the updated standards and complete the formal licensing process as mandated by the Health Regulation Authority.

Key details of the provisional licensing include:

**Provisional Licensing Period:** All pre-existing entities will automatically receive provisional licences, valid until March 31st 2025. This period ensures a seamless transition to full compliance with the new regulatory standards.

**Support and Resources:** The Health Regulation Authority will offer informational sessions, support materials, and consultation services to assist entities in meeting compliance requirements. Entities are encouraged to utilise these resources to avoid operational disruptions.

**Compliance Requirements:** During the provisional period, entities must review and adjust their operations to meet the new standards set by the Health Regulation Authority. Comprehensive guidelines and compliance checklists will be provided to aid this process.

**Full Licensing Process:** All entities must complete the formal licensing process before the provisional licences expire on March 31st 2025. The Guidelines for Health Care Facilities provide detailed requirements. Further communication will be provided once the licensing portal is live, ensuring ample preparation time.

The Health Regulation Authority is committed to supporting all stakeholders through this transition. For any questions or further assistance, please contact the HRA office at 649-338-4924 or via email at [info@hra.gov.tc](mailto:info@hra.gov.tc).

Entities are urged to begin preparations promptly to ensure a smooth transition before the provisional licences expire on 31 March 2025.

**Contact Information:** Health Regulation Authority  
Phone: 649-338-4924 Email: [info@hra.gov.tc](mailto:info@hra.gov.tc)

Click the link to view the guidelines for healthcare facilities: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uvNLGy-87-7i7ETgDaUAey1N2PHdkelc/view?usp=sharing>

# CANCER CARE EQUIPMENT COMMISSIONED INTO SERVICE AT NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

**KINGSTON, January 15 (JIS):**  
A new state-of-the-art immunohistochemistry (IHC) machine, installed at the National Public Health Laboratory in Kingston, was commissioned into service on Wednesday (January 15).

**T**HE unveiling of the VENTANA® BenchMark GX, valued US\$419,584.38, is intended to strengthen the Ministry of Health and Wellness’ capabilities in managing breast cancer analysis, diagnosis and treatment.

The Ministry partnered with Roche, one of the largest biotechnical companies globally, for the undertaking.

Portfolio Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, said the acquisition marks a major step in further enhancing Jamaica’s diagnostic capacity, and will support the Ministry’s efforts to improve breast cancer care in the health system.

“The need for diagnostics is a big one in our public health system, and I am prepared to say we are not where we want to be. We have acquired a few mammograms over the last year and there are others that are supposed to be coming in. We... want to ensure that the initial screening, even before lab testing, is easier to assess as we encourage more persons to access,” he stated.

While acknowledging, “We are better off today than we were [approximately] five years ago”, the Minister maintained that “it’s a journey that has to continue if we are to stem the late detection and, unfortunately, the mortality rates in terms of late detection”.

Dr. Tufton emphasised that early diagnosis is critical in providing the necessary treatment and saving lives, noting data indicating that one in 21 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

Dr. Tufton indicated that through the ‘Know Your Numbers’ Initiative, more than 100,000 tests were conducted. The initiative aims to encourage more Jamaicans to get screened for lifestyle diseases.

“We are going to be doing a lot more of that as part of the policy initiative to get more in,” he said, adding that through the Ministry’s mobile health centres, more persons will have access to healthcare services in small towns and communities.

Additionally, Dr. Tufton said more will



be done to normalise the concept of screening for lifestyle diseases in order to support early detection and, by extension, a longer and better quality of life, particularly through the Ministry’s primary healthcare reform programme.

Meanwhile, Dr. Tufton said the work undertaken at the National Public Health Laboratory is crucial in providing diagnostics for the tests that have been undertaken through various programmes.

“Right now, on a monthly basis, some 40,000 samples are collected [and] some 200,000 tests are conducted... using approximately 20 machines which essentially provide the critical diagnosis for Jamaicans right across the length and breadth of the country as to their health status, and that is done by 250... employees,” he informed.

Dr. Tufton also indicated that the Ministry is moving towards having adequate diagnostic equipment within all the necessary health facilities as part of “helping or supporting the screening and the determination process as to what the status of the health of an individual is”.

Additionally, he said the Ministry is introducing a policy that will result in the long-term engagement of service contractors to repair and maintain equipment at health facilities.

Meanwhile, Consultant Haemato-oncologist at the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH), Dr. Joye Taylor-Houston, said accurate and early cancer diagnosis is essential in the fight against the disease.

“By improving access to tests, we can enhance patient care and outcomes through early diagnosis and, therefore, reduce the

risk of the disease’s recurrence,” she stated.

Dr. Taylor-Houston said the oncology community is committed to the cause of providing comprehensive cancer care that meets the needs of patients.

“This new immunohistochemistry equipment will assist us in providing this level of care,” she added.

Disease Area Strategy Director, Roche Caribbean, Central America and Venezuela, Juan Cruz, said the equipment’s provision will enable Jamaica to optimise the national breast cancer testing regime and improve biomarker testing and diagnosis.

“This collaboration is another important step in the country’s commitment to having the required diagnostic capacity for a personalised approach to breast cancer, continuing the work that we began since 2015,” he said.

General Manager, Roche Caribbean, Central America and Venezuela, Alvaro Soto, acknowledged Jamaica being one of the first Caribbean countries to commence local IHC and continue this process to ensure precise cancer diagnostics.

“This milestone underscores the country’s commitment to enhancing healthcare outcomes through advanced technology. Achieving precise and early cancer diagnosis is crucial in the fight against this disease. With this new equipment, we are optimistic about the significant improvements in patient care,” he said.

Roche’s investment in the installation, maintenance and provision of test reagents for the equipment represents 86 per cent of the total cost.

The remaining 13.52 per cent allocated by the Health Ministry is for test reagents.

## A valid electrical license is required to perform electrical work in the Turks and Caicos Islands

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands 15TH January, 2025 – The Ministry of Public Safety and Utilities of the Turks and Caicos Islands’ Government (TCIG), in collaboration with the Electricity Board, reminds the public that, under the Electricity Ordinance (2021), it is unlawful to perform any electrical work without a valid electrical license issued by the Electricity Board.

“Electricians working across various sectors including commercial construction, residential buildings, solar photovoltaic installations and hospitality such as hotels, resorts and villas must hold a valid electrical license,” explained Commissioner Delano R. Arthur of the Energy and Utilities Department. “Operating

without a valid license is not only unlawful but poses significant risks to the safety of the operator and the general public, and to the quality of electrical work in these industries.”

Licenses are issued in the following categories:

- Electrical Engineer
- Master Electrician
- Journeyman Electrician
- Wireman
- Lineman
- Apprentice
- Engineer-in-Training

To obtain a license, applicants must: Complete an application form, which may be found at Section 72 of the Electricity Ordinance, and submit



it to the Chair of the Electricity Board. Provide all required supporting documents based on the qualifications outlined in Sections 74–80 of the Electricity Ordinance.

For license renewal, electricians are encouraged to apply at least three months before the expiration of their current license using the same

application form (Section 72, Electricity Ordinance). Renewing early ensures compliance with the Ordinance and avoids disruptions in licensure validity. Licenses expiring within the next three months are now eligible for renewal.

Additionally, electricians licensed outside of the Turks and Caicos Islands, including visiting tourists, are prohibited

from performing electrical work locally unless they obtain the appropriate license under the Electricity Ordinance.

Licenses issued under the Electricity Ordinance are valid for one year unless revoked earlier by the authorities (Section 71, Electricity Ordinance). Any individual may face severe penalties including a fine of up to USD \$5,000 and/or imprisonment for up to two years for offences including:

- Forging, altering, or defacing a license,
- Performing electrical work without a valid license,
- Failing to comply with license conditions, or
- Submitting false documentation to obtain a license.

■ *Perform electrical, see page 37*



Perform electrical

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“We urge all electricians to prioritize compliance with licensing requirements to preserve public safety and uphold the integrity and quality of electrical work across the Turks and Caicos Islands,” added Commissioner Arthur.

For further information on the licensing or renewal process, eligibility criteria or to access application forms, please contact:  
Energy and Utilities Department  
Email: eud@gov.tc

SIGNIFICANT

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“Technology is our ally in this fight. It equips our officers with the tools they need to combat crime effectively and efficiently,” Dr. Chang said.

In addition to technological advancements, Dr. Chang announced an increase in police vehicles, which will significantly improve the JCF’s response time to incidents across the island.

The Minister called on citizens to become more engaged in community safety efforts, urging them to share information with the police.

“We need the support of the community. If citizens come forward with what they know, we can send a clear message to criminals,” he said.

SURVEY SHOWS

continued from page 30

The Director General said on average, business and consumer confidence improved, with the Index of Business Confidence averaging

MEETINGS

continued from page 17

Regiment’s operations over the festive season, ongoing training initiatives and the growing interest in their recruitment campaign.

The TCI Regiment continues to inspire with its vision for growth and excellence. If you are interested in joining this dynamic unit, now is the time!

Thursday January 9, the Her Excellency the Governor joined Her Excellency the Deputy Governor and the Executive Board of Permanent Secretaries to discuss priorities for the year ahead. The discussions focused on:

- Leadership and performance management – ensuring accountability and fostering a results-driven culture within the public service.
- Driving standards – elevating the quality of service delivery to meet the needs of citizens effectively
- Key risks and issues, including business continuity, critical incident response plans and addressing challenges proactively to ensure sustainable progress.

Wednesday January 8, Her Excellency the Governor received

a courtesy call from the Hon. Chief Justice, Hon. Attorney General and Professor Nicholas W. Barber, who is a Professor of Constitutional Law and Theory and Senior Proctor at the University of Oxford. Professor Barber delivered this year’s Sir Richard W. Ground, OBE, QC, Annual Memorial Lecture as part of the Opening of the Legal Year 2025.

Tuesday January 7, Her Excellency the Governor welcomed a delegation from the United States Coast Guard led by Vice Admiral Nathan A. Moore; Atlantic Area Commander, Coast Guard Defence Forces East Director, Department of Homeland Security, Joint Task Force East.

The focus of the meeting was to strengthen the relationship between the Turks and Caicos Islands and the US, to support intelligence co-operation and to counter illicit activity in and around the TCI maritime domain. This meeting informed ongoing collaboration between TCI, US law enforcement agencies and regional partners in tackling shared threats.

SOURCE: TCI OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, Facebook

139.8 points and the Index of Consumer Confidence rising to 163.0 points, indicating a positive economic outlook.

Meanwhile, from a Community Renewal standpoint, he said the focus on building community social capital and providing tools to enable community residents, in this instance the entrepreneurs, to develop necessary skill sets and knowledge to enhance the growth and expansion of their business and eventually wean themselves off government social programmes, is central to the community renewal process.

Dr. Henry added that an important strategy to achieve this will be to identify and optimise the human and other assets within Community Renewal Programme (CRP) areas and to transform these attributes into wealth-creating and income-generating opportunities.

“This is what is being achieved today with the participation of approximately 20 Local Economic Initiative (LEI)/community businesses being a small subset of the over 400 LEIs registered with the Social Development Commission (SDC), who are in attendance,” the Director General added.

Underscoring the critical role of the MSME sector in advancing the fundamental components of Jamaica’s economic structure, Dr. Henry said that they play essential roles in promoting equity, preserving wealth, fostering economic growth, generating employment opportunities, facilitating sustained development, encouraging innovation, and expanding the private sector.

The PIOJ is a sponsor of the Ministry’s second phase of its flagship initiative, the ‘MSME Business Roadshow’, being executed in partnership with the Inter-American Development (IDB).

Freeport Health

continued from page 6



professionals dedicated to the well-being of our community,” said Dr. Darville.

In addition to the Freeport Health Campus, Dr. Darville highlighted improvements to existing facilities, including the completion of the morgue at Rand Memorial Hospital and renovations at Davies House to offer critical oncology and mammogram services. “These enhancements reflect our unwavering dedication to addressing the diverse health needs of all residents, particularly in areas of growing demand,” he said.

With these ongoing improvements and the upcoming completion of phase one, the Freeport Health Campus is poised to see a significant boost in healthcare services in Grand Bahama, supporting the health and well-being of the community for years to come.

Multi-agency team

continued from page 14

In the first exercise on Wednesday 11th, Notices of Unauthorised Occupation were served on five incomplete and unoccupied structures on a block of Crown Land along South Dock Road, Five Cays. Enforcement Notices were also issued to seventy-six structures across four private sites in Lower Bight. These notices cite unauthorised developments and direct that the structure be removed within a specified timeframe.

On Thursday 12th, the team returned to Five Cays and served Letters of Illegal Occupation on sixty-three occupied structures on another block of Crown Land. Letters were given to the occupants by hand and, in cases where occupants could not be located, posted on the structures.

Letters of Illegal Occupation instruct occupants to “desist from carrying out further development”. The property will be continuously monitored for activity in breach of this instruction. Further action can be taken by the Crown Land Unit if further breaches are observed.

Thursday’s joint exercise reinforced the commitment of the agencies to their shared responsibility to stem the proliferation of illegal occupation private and Crown lands across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Foreign Visitors

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accommodation, recreational activities, gifts, entertainment, local transportation within the United States, and other incidental expenses associated with foreign travel.

Travel receipts constituted 57 percent of the overall U.S. travel and tourism exports in November 2024.

In November 2024, U.S. carriers received \$3.2 billion in fares from international visitors, an increase from \$3.1 billion in the same month the previous year, reflecting a 3 percent growth compared to November 2023. These revenues are derived from the spending of foreign residents on international flights operated by U.S. airlines.

Airfare revenue represented 15 percent of the total U.S. travel and tourism exports for the month.

In November 2024, expenditures related to educational and health tourism, along with all spending by border, seasonal, and other short-term workers in the United States, reached \$6.3 billion, up from \$5.7 billion in November 2023. This indicates an increase of over 10 percent compared to the previous year. Spending in medical tourism, education, and short-term work accounted for 29 percent of the total U.S. travel and tourism exports in November 2024.

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# IATA: Airline Passenger Demand Keeps Booming

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has published data regarding global passenger demand for November 2024, highlighting several key points:

**T**OTAL demand, as measured in revenue passenger kilometers (RPK), increased by 8.1% in comparison to November 2023. Total capacity, indicated by available seat kilometers (ASK), rose by 5.7% year-on-year. The load factor for November reached 83.4%, reflecting an increase of 1.9 percentage points from November 2023, marking a record high for the month. International demand experienced a significant rise of 11.6% compared to November 2023. Capacity grew by 8.6% year-on-year,

with the load factor also at 83.4%, up by 2.3 percentage points from the previous year. This robust growth in demand was primarily driven by strong performances from carriers in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. Domestic demand saw an increase of 3.1% relative to November 2023. Capacity rose by 1.5% year-on-year, and the load factor was recorded at 83.5%, which is an increase of 1.2 percentage points compared to November 2023. Domestic revenue passenger kilometers (RPK) experienced a 3.1% increase compared to the previous year, reflecting a slight deceleration from the 3.5% growth recorded in October. All markets exhibited signs of stable growth, with the exception of the United States, which experienced a 2.7% contraction, a decline more pronounced than the 1.2% year-on-year decrease noted in October. This contraction is part of a

broader trend of slowing growth in the US domestic market since June 2024, primarily attributed to reduced activity from low-cost carriers. In contrast, mainline carriers in the US have continued to report growth during the same timeframe. All regions experienced growth in international passenger markets in November 2024 when compared to November 2023. Europe recorded the highest load factors at 85.0%, while the Asia-Pacific region led in growth, achieving a 19.9% year-on-year increase in demand. Airlines in the Asia-Pacific region reported a 19.9% year-on-year rise in demand, with capacity increasing by 16.2% and a load factor of 84.9%, reflecting an improvement of 2.6 percentage points compared to November 2023. European airlines experienced a 9.4% year-on-year growth in demand, with a capacity increase of 7.1%. The

load factor stood at 85.0%, which is an increase of 1.8 percentage points from November 2023. Middle Eastern airlines noted an 8.7% year-on-year increase in demand, with capacity rising by 3.9%. The load factor reached 81.0%, marking an increase of 3.6 percentage points compared to November 2023. North American airlines recorded a 3.1% year-on-year increase in demand, with a capacity rise of 1.6%. The load factor was 81.0%, which is an increase of 1.1 percentage points from November 2023. Latin American airlines saw an 11.4% year-on-year increase in demand, with capacity climbing by 11.9%. The load factor was 84.4%, reflecting a decrease of 0.4 percentage points compared to November 2023. African airlines experienced a 12.4% year-on-year increase in

demand, with capacity up by 6.0%. The load factor improved to 72.9%, an increase of 4.1 percentage points compared to November 2023. “November was another month of strong growth in the demand for air travel with an overall expansion of 8.1%. The month was also another reminder of the supply chain issues that are preventing airlines from getting the aircraft they need to meet growing demand. Capacity growth is lagging demand by 2.4 ppts and load factors are at record levels. Airlines are missing out on opportunities to better serve customers, modernize their products and improve their environmental performance because aircraft are not being delivered on time. The 2025 New Year’s resolution for the aerospace manufacturing sector must be finding a fast and durable solution for their supply chain issues,” said Willie Walsh, IATA’s Director General.

## 300 AGRICULTURAL WARDENS OVER NEXT THREE YEARS

MONTEGO BAY, January 14 (JIS):

Three hundred agricultural wardens are to be trained over the next three years to combat praedial larceny and other agricultural crimes, says Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Hon. Floyd Green. “These wardens are police officers who will be tasked to treat with agricultural crimes, and they will be deployed in praedial larceny hotspots,” he said. Minister Green, who was speaking to journalists following a recent tour of the Frome Sugar Factory in Westmoreland, said that the recruitment of officers has already begun and training is slated to commence this quarter. The idea is to roll out 100 wardens annually over the three years, he noted. “What you will see this year is more boots on the ground in our agricultural wardens programme, [and] we should see the deployment



of our first set of agricultural wardens this year,” he said. Minister Green said that a critical

area of focus for the wardens will be targeting stolen livestock and addressing irregularities in

butcheries, where organised crime has taken root. The wardens will be tasked

to clean up markets that may be complicit in the sale of stolen livestock, he noted. Minister Green said that the wardens programme is part of a broader collaboration with the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) to establish a specialised division to tackle agricultural crimes. Such a division, he noted, would not only oversee the deployment of personnel but also work closely with farmers to implement strategies aimed at safeguarding their livelihood. “We are also going to set up farmers’ watch groups and bring in technologies to help the farmers keep their areas safe. We are taking praedial larceny very seriously,” he said. Penalties for agricultural theft have been significantly increased, with maximum fines moving from \$250,000 to \$3 million, and prison sentences extended from six months to three years.



# USVI Washington DC Official Reflects on Milestones and Looks Ahead to a Transformative 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (January 15, 2025) – Teri Helenese, the United States Virgin Islands’ Director of State-Federal Relations and Washington Representative, enters the new year with a powerful message of hope and progress for Virgin Islanders. After a year of significant accomplishments in 2024, Helenese reaffirms her commitment to advancing the interests of the USVI on the national stage, with a renewed focus on collaboration, sustainability and equity.

**R**ELECTING on 2024, Helenese noted the strides made in strengthening climate resilience, advocating for equitable federal policies, and driving economic development. Among her notable achievements were the successful launch of disaster preparedness briefings across the islands and securing federal funding for advanced energy stabilization systems to mitigate interruptions in the USVI’s power supply. She also championed vital

initiatives to sustain the rum cover-over program, which remains a critical pillar of the Territory’s financial health. Collaboration and communication in the 119th Congress are central to this effort. Working with the Washington lobbyists and the rum cover-over working group, Helenese will continue to advocate for legislative vehicles that prioritize tax extenders and recognize the transformative impact of the rum cover-over program. “This past year has been a testament to the resilience and determination of the Virgin Islands community,” Helenese said. “We’ve made meaningful progress, and as we usher in 2025, I am optimistic about what lies ahead. Our work is far from over, and I am committed to continuing to advocate for policies and initiatives that uplift our people and strengthen our islands.” Helenese spearheaded the USVI’s recent partnership with NASA, paving the way for historic space artifacts, including an Apollo Command Module, to be displayed at libraries in St. Croix and St. Thomas. The initiative is designed to inspire the next generation of Virgin Islanders to pursue careers in STEM fields, fostering innovation and ambition among the Territory’s youth. Economic revitalization also took center stage in 2024, with Helenese championing efforts to



attract responsible investment and advocating for the safe and sustainable reopening of the St. Croix Refinery. “The refinery represents an opportunity to restore economic vitality to our community, but it must be balanced with environmental protections,” she emphasized. Helenese’s advocacy extended beyond economic and environmental concerns to issues of justice and equality. She remained a vocal

proponent for the reversal of the Insular Cases, calling them a “stain on the principles of democracy” and pushing for equitable treatment for all U.S. territories. As the USVI enters 2025, Helenese is optimistic about the region’s future. She underscored the importance of collaboration with regional partners, particularly CARICOM, to foster shared prosperity and economic stability. “Looking ahead, 2025 is a year brimming with opportunity. From advancing climate resilience to strengthening our economic foundation, we have the tools and determination to make a transformative impact,” Helenese said. “Together, we will continue to build a future that ensures the health, prosperity and unity of the Virgin Islands.” Helenese thanked the people of the USVI for their unwavering support and pledged to remain a tireless advocate on their behalf. “None of this would be possible without the strength and resilience of our community,” she said. “With your blessings, we will make 2025 a year of progress, prosperity, and promise for all Virgin Islanders.” Photograph available here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Bz5Sj2zLwUMamSo4nzeB0N\\_pn9VU4Dge/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Bz5Sj2zLwUMamSo4nzeB0N_pn9VU4Dge/view?usp=sharing)

## Call for Assistance: Updating Question Bank for the Annual Local Studies Competitions

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands 14th January 2025 – The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Education, Department of Culture and Heritage, and National Museum, is seeking the public’s assistance in updating the question bank for the Annual Local Studies Competitions. This exciting event was a highlight of 2024 Education Week and celebrates the rich history, culture, and heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Local Studies Competitions provide students with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of our nation’s past and present, fostering pride and awareness in our collective identity. The competition features two categories: the Inter-Primary School division and the Inter-High School division. Schools compete by answering challenging questions related to the Turks and Caicos Islands’ culture, history, geography, and notable figures. Last year, Holy Family Academy emerged victorious in the Primary School category, demonstrating their impressive knowledge and teamwork. Meanwhile, H. J. Robinson High School clinched the title in the Inter-High School category, showcasing their academic prowess and commitment to excellence. Both schools have set a high standard for future participants. To ensure the continued success and relevance of this competition, we invite educators, historians, culture bearers, and the general public to contribute by submitting questions for the updated question bank. Your input will help create a comprehensive and engaging pool of questions that challenge students while enriching their learning experience.

**Submission Guidelines:**  
Questions must focus on the culture, history, geography, and notable figures of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Submissions should include the question, and the correct answer clearly indicated. Contributors are encouraged to provide sources or references for accuracy. Submissions can be submitted using the link: <https://forms.office.com/r/TpBwFvczc5> or via email [tprosper@gov.tc](mailto:tprosper@gov.tc) or [edelancy@gov.tc](mailto:edelancy@gov.tc) no later than January 31st, 2025. Contributors will be acknowledged for their valuable input in shaping this year’s competition. Join us in making the 2025 Local Studies Competitions an unforgettable and enriching experience for our students. Let’s inspire the next generation to connect with and celebrate the essence of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Contact: Elsiann Delancy, Curriculum Development Officer, or Trazel Prospere, Senior Cultural Officer

### THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

## LOCAL STUDIES

Primary and Secondary

“Jeopardy Style”

# Competition



**Calling All!** 

Submit your Questions and Answers

**Topics:**

- Primary and Secondary Schools,
- National Symbols, National Song,
- The National Flag, Right Excellent J.A.O.S McCartney,
- The National Dress,
- Industries,
- Historical Sites
- Indigenous People,
- Outstanding Personalities,
- Branches of Government,
- Festivals,
- Local Dishes and Music
- Religion,
- Bermudians,
- Tourism,
- Key Dates in History,
- Current Government Members,
- Music,
- Flora and Fauna,
- Cultural Practices,
- Island Features,
- Past Government Members,
- Adventures in Outer Space,
- Boat Making,
- Loyalist,
- Weaving,

**Topics:**

- Legislative Council,
- National Societies,
- Where on Earth are the Turks and Caicos Islands?
- Head of State,
- Local Government,
- National Disasters/Hazards,
- Otherwise known as (Places and Persons),
- Things We Say,
- Currency,
- Ministries and Departments,
- TCI Federations,
- USA War of Independence,
- Sports,
- Education,
- Politics (Constitution, Parties, roles, abbreviations),
- NGOs,
- Education Policy and Ordinance.

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January 31st 2025

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