



TURK AND CAICOS ISLANDS CITIZENS GUIDE TO THE BUDGET

BUDGET 2017-18

In March 2017, the Premier and Minister of Finance, Investment and Trade presented the newly elected Government's three years plan for revenue, expenditure and debt financing under the theme "*The Building Blocks of Our People Centered Development Program*". The plan, also referred to as the National Budget describes the sustainable path for economic growth and identify priority areas for spending.

SUSTAINABLE AND BENEFICIAL ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR ALL

- ◆ Simplify the investment approval process
- ◆ Removing barriers to investments
- ◆ Invest in Border Control and Crime Fighting
- ◆ Friendlier Business Environment
 - ⇒ Reducing Costs of doing Business
- ◆ Expansion and Diversification of the Economy
 - ⇒ Financial sector
 - ⇒ Family Islands



- ◆ Improving the Labour Market Legislations
- ◆ Signing Development Agreements

JOB CREATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- ◆ Growth and Sustainability of Trade
- ◆ Improve the Business Environment for Small Businesses
 - ⇒ Strengthen the Capacity to Service the business sector
 - ⇒ Promote stronger collaboration, in trade and investment



- ◆ Over 90 Newly Created Jobs within the Public Sector
 - ⇒ Employer of choice within the TCI

BUDGET ALLOCATION 2017-18

- ◇ **The planned expenditure is \$267.9 million, 6.2% higher than the approved budget for 2016/17**
- ◇ **Recurrent Expenditure of \$223.5 million is 83% of the total expenditure and 82% of recurrent revenue;**
- ◇ **Capital expenditure is \$38.3 million or 14% of total expenditure.**
 - ◆ Staff costs account for \$89.2 million or 32.6% of recurrent revenue and 40% of recurrent expenditure.
 - ◆ Pensions and gratuities expenses account for \$6.2 million or just under 2% of recurrent revenue and 2.69% of recurrent expenditure.
 - ◆ Local Travel and Subsistence is \$2.6 million, 1.5% lower than the revised budget of 2016-17 and 1.16% of the recurrent expenses.
 - ◆ International travel and subsistence has been reduced by 13.7%
 - ◆ Utility and communication expenses accounts for 2.4% of recurrent expenses
 - ◆ Subvention Charges (Excluding NHIB) is \$12.0 million is 4% of revenue and 5% of expenses. The Integrity Commission's budget has increased by 17.9% over the revised budget.
 - ◆ The Community College's subvention has been increased by 22.5%
 - ◆ Training expense across ministries, have been increased by 16.5% and now accounts for 0.33% of the budget.
 - ◆ NHIB \$23.9 million for the treatment abroad programme, and to subsidize the health care costs for Wards of the State, the indigent population and utility charges for the hospitals.
 - ◆ \$9.5m or 3.5% for the Ministry of Tourism, Environment, Heritage and Culture.
 - ◆ \$9.6m or 3.6% of the total budget for the Judicial Administration
 - ◆ \$7m or 2.6% of the total budget for the Attorney General's Chambers.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

- ◇ Continue Dialogue with the UK
- ◇ Comprehensive Social Legislative Agenda
- ◇ Crown Land Ordinance
- ◇ Police Ordinance
- ◇ Public Service Ordinance
- ◇ Road Safety Ordinance
- ◇ Review of Local Government
- ◇ Rehabilitation of Offenders
- ◇ Immigration Ordinance

◇ **The major areas of spending in the budget are:**

- ◆ \$66.7m or 25.0% of total expenditure for the Ministry of Health, Agriculture and Human Services and \$62.7 million of recurrent expenses.
- ◆ \$41.0m or 15.3% of total expenditure for the Ministry of Education, Youth and Library Services.
- ◆ \$24.5m or 9.3 % of the total budget for the Ministry of Infrastructure, Housing and Planning.
- ◆ \$29.8m or 11% of total expenditure for the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force.
- ◆ \$20.3m or 7.6% for the Ministry of Finance, Trade and Investment;
- ◆ \$14.8m or 5.5% for the Ministry of Home Affairs, Transportation and Communications including 10 new staff for the Prison and two for the Fire Department.
- ◆ \$9.9m or 3.7% for the Ministry of Border Control and Employment.
- ◆ \$9.5m or 3.5% for the Ministry of Tourism, Environment, Heritage and Culture.
- ◆ \$9.6m or 3.6% of the total budget for the Judicial Administration
- ◆ \$7m or 2.6% of the total budget for the Attorney General's Chambers.

PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENT PLAN

ALL ISLANDS

- ◇ Population Policy - \$180,000
- ◇ Upgrading of Shelters - \$200,000
- ◇ Health Information System - \$200,000
- ◇ Scanning of Documents and Registration and Citizenship - \$950,000.
- ◇ Purchase of Police Vehicles \$1,100,000
- ◇ Repairs to Police Buildings \$500,000
- ◇ Review of Local Government \$20,000
- ◇ International Finance, Marketing and Promotion
- ◇ National Physical Development Plan
- ◇ Road Development all Islands—4,200,000
- ◇ Juvenile Centre
- ◇ Dental Equipment
- ◇ Upgrading of Schools and Sporting Facilities

NORTH CAICOS

- ◇ Craft Market for North Caicos - \$470,000
- ◇ Promenade for Bottle Creek, North Caicos - \$550,000
- ◇ Dental Equipment
- ◇ Community Clinic—Bottle Creek
- ◇ Upgrading Raymond Gardiner - \$900,000

SOUTH CAICOS

- ◇ South Caicos Government Complex \$500,000
- ◇ South Caicos Sports and Recreational Centre
- ◇ South Caicos Airside and Terminal
- ◇

PROVIDENCIALES

- ◇ National Physical Development Plan
- ◇ Upgrading of Schools and Sporting Facilities
- ◇ Refurbishment of Sammy Been Building – Phase 3 - \$300,000
- ◇ Bight Fish Fry and Cultural Village
- ◇ New Primary School—PLS \$1,750,000
- ◇ Radar Tracking Software - \$300,000
- ◇ Furniture and Equipment for Morgue - \$300,000
- ◇ National Emergency Operating Centre - \$2.5m
- ◇ CCTV Phase 2 \$1,600,000.

GRAND TURK

- ◇ Water Enhancement Project for Grand Turk \$750,000
- ◇ Strengthening of Retaining Walls
- ◇ New Block at Eliza Simmons Primary school
- ◇ Furniture and Equipment for Wellness Centre
- ◇ Furniture and Equipment for Morgue - \$300,000
- ◇ Phase II - \$250,000
- ◇ Furniture and Equipment for Wellness Centre Phase II - \$250,000

SALT CAY

- ◇ Upgrading of School and Sporting Facilities
- ◇ Dental Equipment

MIDDLE CAICOS

- ◇ Upgrading of Schools and Sporting Facilities



Appeal to Contractors...



.....However, Mr. Speaker, there is another side to the equation.

Our Contractors! Many of our contractors are not bidding for capital works and I would like to encourage them through this platform again, that nation building is every resident's business and they should take advantage of the Computerized Job Estimation Techniques (CJET) Workshop that is scheduled **from 22nd to 26th May 2017 in Providenciales and from 29th May to 2nd June 2017 in Grand Turk**. Contractors take advantage of the trainings that will follow this and attend the pre-bid meetings when they are scheduled. Log on to the government website so that you know when tenders are released and give yourself a chance to help to advance this our beautiful by nature, Turks and Caicos Islands."**(excerpt from the Premier and Minister of Finance, Trade and Investments Budget Speech, 2017/18)**

Need for Change

....We recognize that there is an urgent need for change in all aspects and my Government is committed to realizing change as a matter of urgency and have begun to lay the blocks so that we can impact lives in much more meaningful lives.

Mr. Speaker when I see the suffering of our people I really do wish that I had a magic wand to effect the desired change right away but we will give all in our power to deliver on the change that our people voted for. We are also committed to being open and transparent Government, to fulfill our commitment to meet with you in Town Hall Meetings and in other forums.

Mr. Speaker nothing we face as a people is insurmountable. Many require a little effort, a little resource but all require a change in mind set by us.

We must see our responsibility as citizens. We must take ownership and be more responsible in our own life decisions and choices and then as a stakeholder in this country.

We remain committed to nation building and visionary leadership that is people centered. We remain committed to Island development as many along the **chain do** not even require much, just a little attention.

We remain committed to community and the addressing of issues by our community. We remain committed to each individual citizen. We cannot afford to leave any one citizen behind.

We are committed to providing opportunities, the protections and a prosperous future, but it is for you to avail yourself of the opportunity...**(excerpt from the Premier and Minister of Finance, Trade and Investments Budget Speech, 2017/18)**

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