



# TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO THE BUDGET

## BUDGET 2018-19

In June 2018, the Premier and Minister of Finance, Trade and Investment Tabled the Estimates of Expenditure and Revenue for 2018/19 and the Fiscal Strategic Policy Statement for 2018-2022. The documents, describe the path the Government will take to support economic growth and full recovery of the Islands from the adverse impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria without compromising fiscal sustainability.

### REBUILDING RESPONSIBLY & RESILIENTLY

- ◆ National Task Force:
  - ◆ **manage strategically the hurricane recovery process**
  - ◆ **approach the nation's recovery in a manner that is cohesive, holistic, cost-efficient**
- ◆ \$20.2m in projects geared towards the rebuilding passed in Supplementary Appropriation No.1 in FY 17/18
- ◆ Further \$37.1m allocated in 2018/19 Estimates

### THE ECONOMY

- √ Real GDP Growth—3.2% (2018-19) and 2% (2019-2021f)
  - ⇒ Preliminary information 2018—the domestic economy stabilized during the first quarter
- √ Government Surpluses averaging over 8% of GDP since 2012
- √ Interest payments below 0.1% of GDP
- √ 'S&P—BBB+/A-2' Ratings Affirmed; Stable Outlook
- √ GDP Per Capita—\$25,300



### NEW DISTINCT INVESTMENT POLICY FEATURES

- ◆ Friendlier Business Environment
  1. An enabling Business Environment
  2. An articulated vision and goals
  3. Carefully documented project evaluation and approval process
  4. Encouragement of domestic investment
  5. A focus on Grand Turk
  6. Training Subsidies and;
  7. Engagement of Local Investors through structures that will allow the sale of equity to them, so they too can take advantage of the success of development projects.

### VISION 2040

“By 2040 a united Turks and Caicos Islands will be a global leader in levels of prosperity and human development. Our people will be positioned to be fully responsible for our collective future as a nation. We will have a more resilient country that balances economic, social and environmental development for the greater benefit of all our people and our posterity.”

COMING SOON!!!

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES FOR MSME GRANTS...

### OUR FUTURE



# PROGRAMME PRIORITIES AND BUDGET ALLOCATION 2018-19

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY MINISTRIES

### FINANCE

- ◆ Concession Policy
- ◆ Shared Economy Sector Policy
- ◆ Vacation Rental By-Owner (VRBO)
- ◆ First Time Home Owners – (Housing)
- ◆ Revenue Authority
- ◆ National Health Insurance Plan and Statutory Bodies Review

### TOURISM

- ◆ Improvement of data collection for targeted marketing and decision making,
- ◆ Promotion of the destination through various niche markets;
- ◆ Development of a maritime policy
- ◆ Modernization of the Gaming Industry
- ◆ Sustainable Funding Mechanisms
- ◆ Progressive Environmental Policies and Legislations



### EDUCATION

- ◆ Review of the National Curriculum
- ◆ Implement Special Needs Policy and the Alternative Education Policy
- ◆ Forge further collaboration with University of the West Indies (UWI) to further expand the Open Campus Programme in the Turks and Caicos Islands.
- ◆ Explore expansion of programmes at the Turks and Caicos Community College (TCICC) and to the establishment of a research centre at the TCICC.
- ◆ The Government will complete the full plans for a purpose built campus on the Island of Providenciales and will complete the rehabilitation works to the Grand Turk Campus.
- ◆ Further revision of the Scholarship Policy



### HOME AFFAIRS

- ◆ Conduct Poverty Assessment Program
- ◆ Expanded Social Services Department
- ◆ Constructs new Prison Wing
- ◆ Phased Prison Re-development Program with rehabilitative focus
- ◆ New Road Traffic Data-base
- ◆ Expanded Public Transportation Service

### HEALTH

- ◆ The strengthening of primary health care – health equity
- ◆ The development of agriculture
- ◆ Cancer Registry and Cancer Plan
- ◆ Health Regulatory Agency
- ◆ "Eat what you Grow, Grow what you Eat" program
- ◆ Increasing the training of food handlers
- ◆ Increasing inspections and surveillance to reduce vector borne diseases
- ◆ Raising awareness of cancer and to encouraging its prevention, detection and treatment.
- ◆ New Treatment Abroad Policy 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of this fiscal year. Healthy Lifestyles
- ◆ Implement School Nutrition Program.
- ◆ Develop and revise legislation for sports development Healthy Lifestyles, and Nutrition

Expenditure Details in \$m



### Infrastructure

- ◆ Standardized TCIG Vehicle Policy
- ◆ Conduct a cost of service study of the energy sector
- ◆ Implementation of the water and sewerage policy and will ensure much needed improvements to the water and sewerage sector.
- ◆ Complete the first ever review of the management and operations of the Provo Water Company Ltd.
- ◆ The creation a National Physical Development Plan within the context of the Vision 2040 to reverse the incidence of unplanned residential developments
- ◆ Resilient Infrastructure Rebuilding

## PRIORITIZED NEW

### SPENDING

- ◆ Student Scholarships increased by 8% to \$4.0m
- ◆ Treatment Abroad Programme—increased by 38% from \$23.9m to \$33.0m
- ◆ Prison Services—9% increase from \$3.2m to \$3.6m
- ◆ Social Welfare and Gender Inequalities—14% increase from \$2.9m to \$3.3m
- ◆ Economic Recovery — Project Execution and Delivery Unit –\$864k
- ◆ Disaster Management and Emergencies—75% increase in allocation from \$734k to \$1.3m
- ◆ Improved Governance—Integrity Commission allocation from \$1.5m to \$1.9m
- ◆ Consumer protection subsidiary legislation
- ◆ Cruise assessment
- ◆ Valuation of Government Fixed Assets \_ - \$200k
- ◆ Maintenance of Radar Tower and Equipment - \$100k
- ◆ Population Policy –\$250k
- ◆ Digitization of Records –1\$m
- ◆ Cost of Supply Study—\$120k
- ◆ The PFM reform
- ◆ Country Poverty Assessment
- ◆ Cost of Living Survey
- ◆ Local Government Reform
- ◆ Over 60 newly created positions
  - √ 12 Prison Officers
  - √ 15 Border Control Officers
  - √ 8 Social Development Officers
  - √ 2 Liaison Officers
  - √ 2 Procurement Officers
  - √ 1 Human Resource Officer
  - √ 2 Disaster and Risk Reduction Specialists
  - √ 12 Primary Care positions
  - √ 1 Crown Counsel
  - √ 6 Infrastructure and Project Management

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY MINISTRIES CONT'D

### Border Control & Employment

- ◆ Operation Guardian Initiative to ensure that the laws of the land are upheld.
- ◆ The Advance Passenger Information System (APIS)
- ◆ It will establish, implement and publish Service Level Agreements (SLAs)
- ◆ Eradication of application backlogs for all products and services
- ◆ Integrated Border Management System
- ◆ Utilize traditional and emerging methods of engagement
- ◆ Promote and improve the employment of Turks and Caicos Islanders.
- ◆ Population Policy
- ◆ Digitization of Records
- ◆ Skills Audit
- ◆ Partnership Policy

# PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENT AND RECOVERY PLAN

## PROJECTS LINKED TO THE RECOVERY PROCESS AND OR ENHANCING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- ◇ Schools Infrastructure Project Phase 1 – accumulated budget over two years - \$3.4m.
- ◇ Schools Infrastructure Project Phase 2 – accumulated budget over two years - \$8.4m.
- ◇ Furniture and Equipment for Schools - \$500k
- ◇ Classroom Space for Department of Education - \$800k
- ◇ Shelters and Emergency Operations Centre - \$1.2m
- ◇ Reinstatement of Government Buildings All Islands – accumulated budget over two years - \$5.9m
- ◇ Reinstatement of Seawall Salt Cay - \$600k
- ◇ Refurbishment of Ministry of Health Infrastructure – accumulated over two budgets- \$2.6m



## PROJECTS LINKED TO EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

- ◇ E-lands – accumulated budget over two years - \$1.1m
- ◇ Fire Truck and Equipment - \$600k
- ◇ Road Safety Software – accumulated budget over two years - \$700k
- ◇ Replacement Furniture for Departments – accumulated budget over two years - \$600k
- ◇ Replacement of Government Vehicles Phase II - \$582k
- ◇ DECR and Tourism Facilities – accumulated over two years - \$900k
- ◇ Furniture and Equipment for Ministry of Health, Agriculture, Sports and Human Services – accumulated budget over two years - \$2.4m



## NATIONAL SECURITY

- ◇ CCTV – Grand Turk and Providenciales – accumulated costs over two years - \$1.6m
- ◇ Aircraft Replacement – accumulated costs over two years - \$3m
- ◇ Prison Block Reconstruction – accumulated costs over
- ◇ Digitization of Records
- ◇ New Boat
- ◇ BMS



## HEALTHY LIFESTYLE PROMOTION – STRENGTHENING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

- ◇ Development of Non-Communicable Registers and Sports Development Project – accumulated budget over two years - \$500k

## SOCIAL PROJECTS AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- ◇ Construction of Promenade /Boardwalk and Craft Market for Bottle Creek – accumulated budget over two years - \$1.3m
- ◇ Heritage Sites Improvement Project – accumulated over two budget years - \$575k



# TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO THE BUDGET

## UPDATE ON THE GOVERNMENT RECRUITMENT PROCESS 2017-18

Human resources are the most important resource of any organization which is why recruitment, selection, placement and retention of quality persons is the main priority for the Office of the Deputy Governor (DGO). At the beginning of FY 17/18 there were 150 new and/or existing vacancies. The team at the Human Resource Management Directorate (HRMD) in collaboration with the various Ministries developed a very aggressive recruitment strategy which resulted in more than 250 recruitment exercises and Public Service Commission (PSC) approval for approximately 180 post during the year.



## TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Following on from recruitment is the need to continue to offer training and capacity building opportunities to new and existing staff. The Office of the Deputy Governor via the Training Department spends approximately \$250k annually on staff development. This is primarily done utilizing two methods. Firstly, the Training Department develops and offers a variety of programs throughout the course of the year which on average has an accumulative impact of 900 participants.

Secondly, the Professional Development Fund (PDF) provides Public Officers specifically with financial assistance for continuous development programs such as short courses and workshops, accredited programs, online degree programs, professional certificate programs such as CPA and ACCA as well as providing financial support for Civil Servants enrolled at the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College and grants to Civil Servants pursuing Bachelor or Graduate degree programs.



## RECRUITMENT 2018/19

Recruitment and training is and will always be a primary objective for the Civil Service. The Deputy Governor's Office programme objective is "To ensure that the Turks and Caicos Islands Public Service Organization is effective in implementing Government's policy via our recruitment and retention practices as well as offering capacity development opportunities for staff."

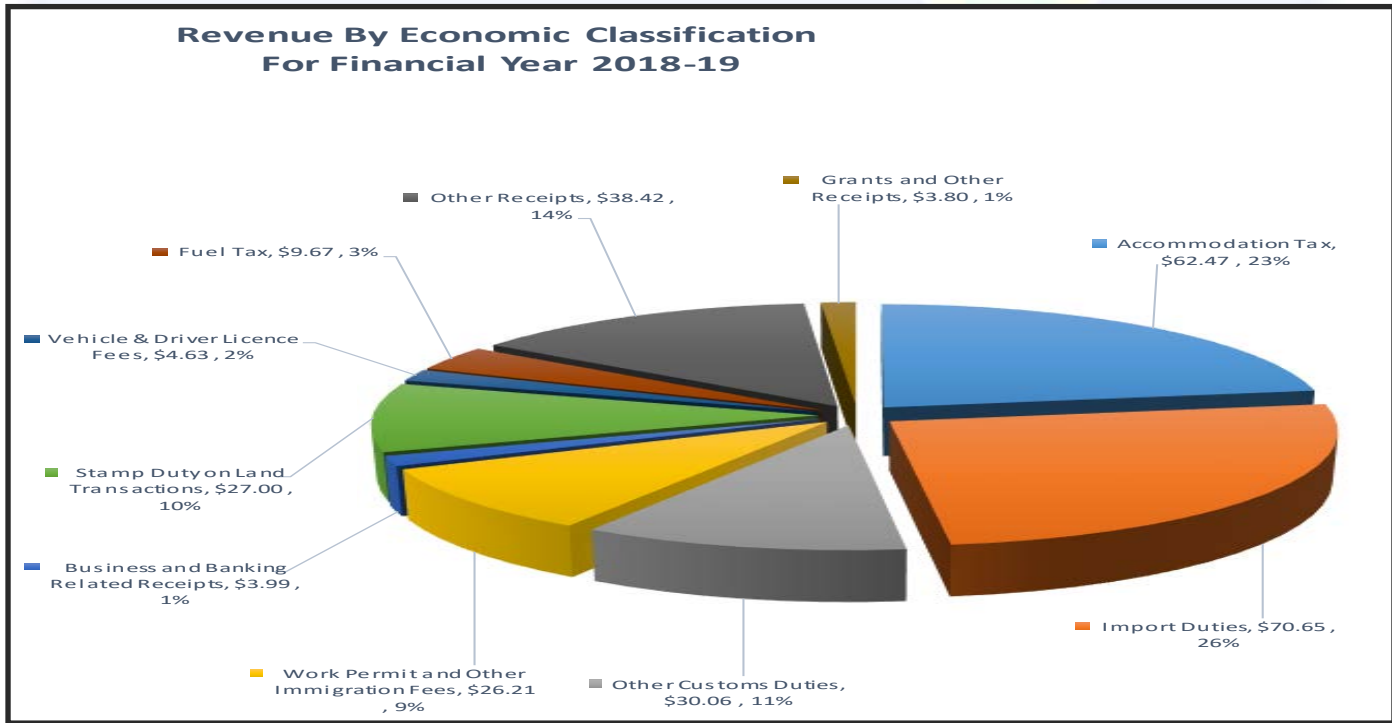
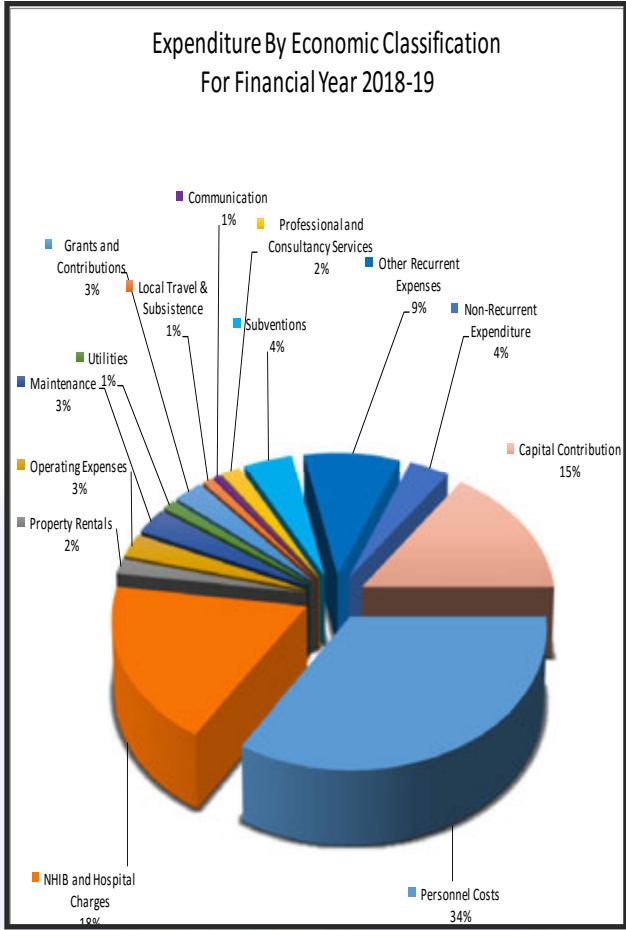
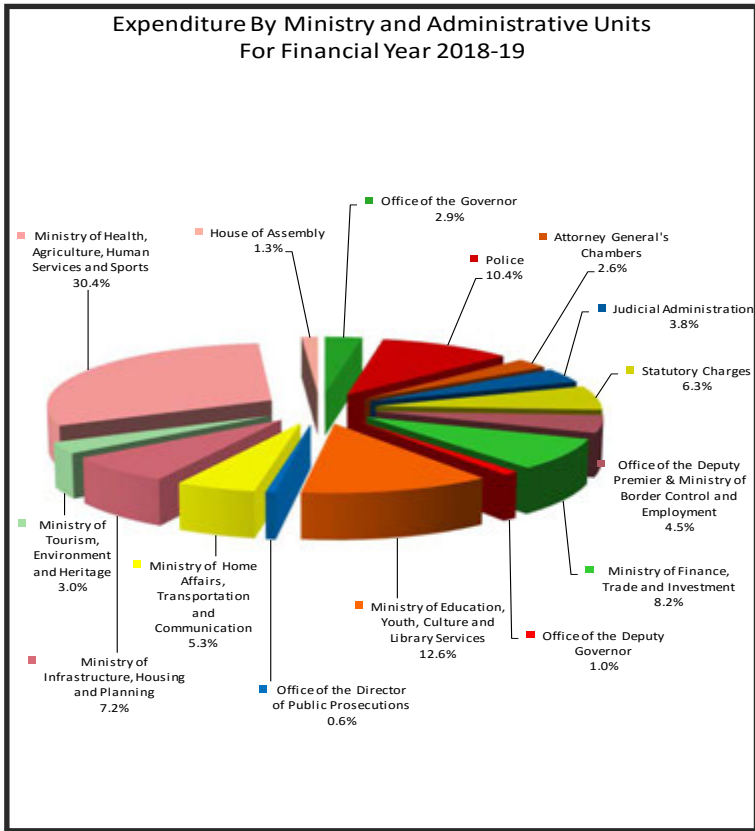
In this upcoming year the Government has approved funding for over 60 new posts coupled with 80 existing vacancies which results in 130 employment opportunities for current public officers, unemployed and underemployed persons as well as persons seeking a career change and looking to join the Civil Service.

To support this recruitment and encourage capacity building the Civil Service will continue to offer grants via the Professional Development Fund as well as local and international training opportunities for staff.

Another way the Civil Service promotes staff development is through the 'Staff on Study Leave' program. This program offers public officers who meet the criteria one-third of their salary whilst they proceed on study leave. This one-third salary may not seem like much but this allows persons to be able to enroll full time at University and still earn a portion of their salary to be able to fulfill their personal obligations.

Combined, the professional development fund, local and international training budgets and staff on study leave budget total roughly \$500,000 per year.

# GENERAL (CONSOLIDATED) FUND 2018-19



# TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS CITIZENS GUIDE TO THE BUDGET



...Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that the Turks and Caicos Islands are ahead of the curve in respect to our recovery process. Three weeks after the storms, my government started the recovery process once the damage assessment reports were received from CDEMA, UNDP, ECLAC and other international and regional agencies. Some of the actions taken as part of our immediately early recovery strategy included, but not limited to the following:

- I. Immediately following the storms my Government amended our fiscal policies, and passed several Customs Concessions Orders to allow many persons who were impacted to import materials duty free, this was even extended up to 3 times to allow those who received late payment from the insurance/bank to still benefit.
  - ◇ As of 31st March 2018 a total of \$7.9m was provided as relief of duties to the public of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The exemption of duties was granted on specified hurricane relief items, specified building materials, specified furniture and fuel.
  - ◇ This key decision allowed our businesses, homeowners, hotels etc. to resume operations in less than two months. An unprecedented feat in the region, given our level of impacted sustained. Many of the countries in the region that suffered similar level of impact are still struggling to rebound.
- II. Removal of bureaucratic red tapes to enable the private sector to bring in resources to repair or rebuild their infrastructure such as the hotels, small and medium businesses, telecommunication services and utilities services as part of the recovery process.
- III. Based on the lessons learnt, we have strengthened public-private partnership through drafting of MoUs to enable continuous recovery efforts and faster response time this and future potentials impacts.
- IV. We are currently in the process of reviewing a number of key legislations including the Disaster Management Ordinance and the Planning ordinance to strengthened the powers of the Director and expand the mandates of the Department under these ordinances, with view to build greater resilience within our community.
- V. The assessment reports from CDEMA and ECLAC provided a snap-shot of key priority areas which the Government should focused its short-medium recovery efforts. As part of our early recovery efforts, each Ministry and each Department were directed to reprioritize their work and begin immediately to implement the key recommendations of these report. This Mr. Speaker, forms part of our early recovery strategy and our secret for the quick recovery or the tourism season and the improvement you are now seeing in the economy.

Mr. Speaker these short to medium term recovery strategies, some of which are in the process of being implemented, serves as the foundation for the long term recovery of the Turks and Caicos Islands. I am pleased to inform this Honourable House, that my Government have retained the services of the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD) (a CARICOM Organ), to work with the Government to develop the national recovery plan.

Mr. Speaker, this plan will build on the work that we are currently putting in place and expand into strategies for recovery for the next 5 years and beyond. CARICAD is diligently working with TCIG and we expect to have the first draft of this plan later this month.

We have established A National Recovery Task Force which consist of key stakeholders including public and private membership to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the reports and the National Long Term Recovery Plan. The recovery task force has started their work and have held several meetings to date...

**(excerpt from the Premier and Minister of Finance, Trade and Investment - Budget Speech, 2018/19)**

Published by:  
The Ministry of  
Finance, Trade  
and  
Investments

(649 338-2070)

Visit us on the web  
at <https://gov.tc/>  
July 2018

