

it, we will reach one million dollars of unrecovered debts and that is a lot of money for a company of this size. That is unacceptable because people are not paying their bills," said Powell.

The CEO explained that in the long run the money has to be repaid to the shareholders.

"Someone is going have to pay. Our shareholders are not going to keep putting money into this company if they cannot get the money that our consumers who use our services are not paying. It is a challenge and we are re-engineering our entire billing process which will deal with e-billing and so on."

PPC provides electricity to the Islands of Providenciales, South Caicos, North Caicos, Middle Caicos and Pine Cay, however their delinquency rate is highest in Provo with an average of about 55 disconnections per month.

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When the Beaches Turks & Caicos Resort & Spa's Italian Village and Waterpark is completed by the end of this year, it will be the biggest of its kind in the region.

The current popular Pirate's Island Waterpark will be expanded to ten times its initial size with an aquaplayground which will unveil seven new slides, for a

total of nine allowing guests to choose between body and tube, as they wind down up to 300 feet of pure adventure.

The above pictured artist's impression of the waterpark will feature a pool and aqua play area complete with water cannons, cranks, spray features and an all-new surf simulator.

Fort George Cay already a protected site

Minister of Natural Resources Hon. McAllister Hanchell has rubished a newspaper article in another section of the press which accused him of snubbing plans to protect Fort George Cay.

In a frank and candid letter to the public, Minister Hanchell expressed his disgust by the allegations against him and his Ministry, highlighting his disappointment regarding a private correspondence between his Ministry and the National Trust, which was splashed across the pages of the newspaper.

"Fort George is a Historical Site, which is protected

under the National Parks Ordinance (1992). I therefore categorically deny that Government Snubs Plans to Protect Fort George Cay," said Hon Hanchell.

He said he was disappointed in the Turks and Caicos Weekly News who he said "saw fit to publish what I consider a private correspondence between my office and the National Trust, without first acquiring the facts of the matter," saying that the article needed clarification.

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THE SECOND ANNUAL



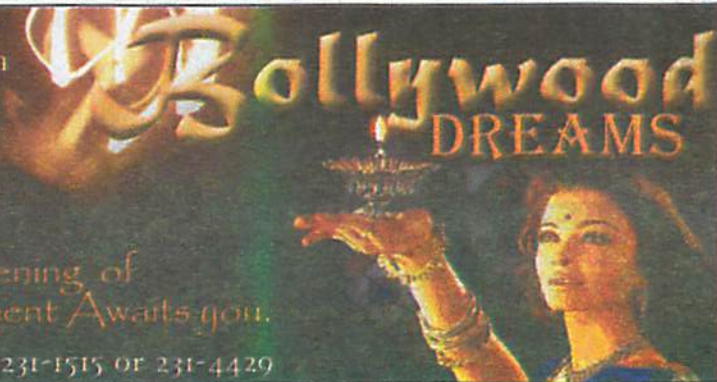
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Fort George Cay already a protected site

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"Mrs. Gibbs-Williams made a request to present an action plan to conduct ecological surveys of Fort George Cay to the Cabinet in light of rumors of plans to develop the cay. Contrary to popular belief and misguided, poorly-researched journalism, the fact of the matter is that there are currently no plans to develop Fort George Cay. The Government receives proposals and development concepts on a daily basis from would-be investors. Some are genuine and warrant attention, others are not feasible and are not addressed. If there is a proposal for Fort George Cay then it is just that, a proposal. But I am not aware of any proposal to date," Minister Hanchell further said in the article.

He said further, that Government has established the DECR, which he said has specific mandate for the management of the Protected Areas System and the TCI environment in general, stressing that the body was responsible for scientific research and monitoring, and is staffed with some of the most qualified scientists in the region (Including Turks and Caicos Islanders).

Hon. Hanchell added that the DECR had more than five times the technical staff capacity and almost without doubt more financial resources at their disposal than the National Trust, and as a result, in the spirit of cooperation the National Trust should at least first consult with the DECR and avoid trying to circumvent and undermine persons in authority.

"In addition, the DECR has ongoing monitoring and projects slated for ecosystem surveys of several of the Protected Areas, Fort George included. These

projects are conceived to compliment a previous study conducted by a consultant group, which was engaged by the Government to review all the Protected Areas to provide management advice to the Government. The Turks and Caicos National Museum working in partnership with the DECR recently conducted a field expedition to Fort George Cay and they have written reports and articles on their findings, which are now being published in the Times of the Islands magazine," the Minister further noted.

Minister Hanchell noted, also, that there were ongoing scientific work being carried out on Fort George and almost all of the Protected Areas under the supervision of the DECR, noting that he saw no reason to duplicate ongoing efforts, which are producing valuable results.

"The News Paper Heading 'Plans to Protect Fort George' is misleading, and contentious. Fort George is a Historical Site, which is protected under the National Parks Ordinance (1992). In fact, Fort George has double protective status, the fort itself is protected as a Historical Site, and the entire island and the surrounding coastal environment up to the reef wall is protected as the Fort George Land and Sea National Park. So, may I ask how can a survey protect the already legally protected Historical Site?" the Minister argued.

According to him, to understand the game plan of the National Trust, one has to understand its history and current operation. He said National Trust was established in 1992 by the Government of the TCI (Under a PNP Administration), to be an independent body from Government, with complete autonomy, that could hold land and areas of cultural, historical and natural significance for the people of the TCI.

He said in November 2006, Cabinet approved the following parcels of Land comprising approximately 600 acres for outright transfer to the National Trust:

North Caicos Wades Green Plantation – 26 acres (Parcels 50301/11pt, 50304/5pt & 50305/2pt; Middle Caicos, Vera Hamilton Primary School Building – 2 acres (Parcel 40204/42), Conch Bar Caves – 193 acres (Parcel 40105/5pt), Village Pond – 7 acres (40104/62), Garden Pond Field Road – 185 acres (40301/3pt, 40301/24pt, Haulover Plantation Field Road – 34 acres (40301/17, 18,20,21pt), Crossing Placce Trail West from Conch Bar – 138 acres (40101/0pt, 40102/0pt) and Indian Cave - 2 acres.

He said those sites were in addition to Little Water Cay, Cheshire Hall, and Bird Rock, which he said was already awarded to the National Trust.

"Therefore, it is ironic that the Executive Director – Ms Ethlyn Gibbs - Williams of the Trust should accuse the Government of not wanting to cooperate with the National Trust. Unlike the Government, Section 6 of the TCNT calls for the Government to appoint three members to the Trust Council, which is done annually.

"Conveniently, however, these members are never informed or invited to meetings, and I can attest to this. Since I assumed responsibility for the Ministry of Natural Resources, no one from the Government has been invited to meetings of the National Trust," Hon. Hanchell said.

Minister Hanchell further noted that both he and previous Minister of Natural Resources Hon. Galmo Williams encouraged the Director of the Trust to organize membership drives, but to no avail.