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Vice President of Publishing
Andre Barefield

CGO
Alexander Wynne-Jones

COO
Brian Andersen

Executive Publisher / CEO
Marcus VandenBrink

CONTACT US

12559 New Brittany Blvd
Fort Myers, 33907
239.220.5554

Email for all inquiries:
info@businessviewmagazine.com

USA
Canada
Caribbean
Oceania

WWW.BUSINESSVIEWMAGAZINE.COM

Corner View

Well, we're already half past 2017 and it's time to start counting up the numbers, adding up the coins, and tallying up the net proceeds. How are things for you and your company here in the 9th hour of chaos? For most, it's not looking so bad. I get to talk to many different corporations in all sectors of the Caribbean economy every single day. And it's always interesting to me how one sector might be thriving in one country and tanking in another. Then, in the course of six to eight months, that same sector is thriving in the opposite country, and tanking in the country that it was just thriving in. What I notice most is the resilience of those who understand that operations may not always perform as planned, but you always have an opportunity to put things right back on track.

I also notice this sort of resilience and tenacity from various governments throughout the Caribbean. For instance, in this edition of Business View Caribbean, we feature Turks and Caicos Islands. Not more than 30 years ago, the economy of Turks and Caicos was impaired by infrastructure that was underdeveloped, and needed the simplicity of converting its gravel terrain to paved roads and highways capable of liberal traveling. From there, the government began making strides to compete in the tourism industry. It immediately improved the roads and highways, brought in major international hotel chains, and almost overnight the economy began to improve exponentially. They began capitalizing on the stop-over tourists, and many of those tourist stopped using Turks and Caicos as a portal, and more of an end destination for their tourism plans.

As the '90's approached, they invested in their air and cruise ports, and increased the economy almost two fold over the past decade. Families of means and celebrities, amongst many others, started finding their way to Turks and Caicos, and as it began to build a reputation for its beautiful beaches and clear blue waters, its financial industry started to flourish, as well. Within that



same period, the fishing industry became a thriving sector for the country. Through many challenges that the country faced, they immediately regrouped to make moves that would prove to be power strides for their economy; all the while putting forth a brand that caught the attention of the sports, entertainment, and even more specifically, the music industry with its esteemed Turks and Caicos Music & Cultural Festival.

And now, as they have just elected the country's first woman Premier, Turks and Caicos has high economic goals, even amongst some of its challenges, such as having to import labor, and not currently having a manufacturing sector that is exporting anything out of the country for a profit. Nonetheless, Premier Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson is leading the charge in this next phase of Turks and Caicos' growth. Titled with being a tireless fighter to do what's needed, she ran with the slogan "The right man for the job." And many of the businesses were enthusiastically behind her all the way. The country is not only hopeful, but expecting the brightest tomorrow, while living a very pleasant "today!"

This is what it means to grow, persist, evolve, and emerge to new heights. You can always find a way, it just takes work. We hope you like what's inside of this month's edition. It's a tale about resilience.

Until next time, plan, build, and continue to prosper

Andre
Andre Barefield

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