

LOCAL NEWS

When I Consider TCI

In what follows, if it seems disjointed and rambling, it is, to some extent; but if you bear with me for a minute, I think that in the end, you will find that there is an inter-relatedness to the apparent disparities.

A la John Milton, "When I consider how my life is spent," I think of the country of my birth and early influences until my mid-teens when I departed those idyllic isles, I am left almost incredulous.

But governmentder these Turks and Caicos Islands, it is impossible not to think of the country as I knew it and as it is now, the push and pull of what seems a distant past and the current, constant and ubiquitous chatter of divisions along all sorts of lines, the hyperbolic palling and exhortations of our government and political leaders and the blatant failure of those leaders to honestly and forthrightly keep our people informed and address our calls for dealing with some of our very basic needs – despite the Scylla and Charybdis through which they (the government leaders and politicians) must guide the ole ship of state if a safe journey is to be had.

In the last 50 years or so, these little islands-country have grown and developed with such rapidity, that we have become – to use the oft repeated phrase – "the envy of the Caribbean region." True, false or indifferent, the statements indicative of the fact that these islands have attracted investors, developers, speculators, workers and others from several different countries. Consequently, our country finds itself in an enviable economic position vis-à-vis many other countries.

When I consider the state of our country, my mind automatically thinks

about our history or should I say, our lack of history! And when I say "our history," I do so deliberately, because I make a distinction between the history of the geographical Turks and Caicos Islands and the history of African people in the TCI.

There is no definitive history of our people in this country. That fact is evident in that since 1834, or since Black people became the majority of the population of this country, we have just one "National Hero" who was born in 1945. Could this be because our education system has failed to incorporate our history into the national curriculum? A curriculum which is not only devoid of the story of Mary Prince – the only, as far as I know, first-hand account of the enslavement of Africans in these islands, but also our political history since 1976!

Could this be a major reason why our leaders (who, for the most part, are "youngsters") today, as are the rest of us, are ignorant of persons who might have played significant roles in the lives of our people and might be deserving of such elevated status. How then would they know of clinical nurse and midwife May Wood, dentist Donald Astwood, Sr. and iconic teacher Helena J. Robinson and their heroic service to our country?

These are persons from Grand Turk, whom I remember. I am certain there are others from GT and the other islands whom others might consider for high honors. For example, in recent years, there have been several local authors of books, but I am not aware of any of them who have considered this particular issue. But, I have a non-agenarian brother-in-law who has more history of the TCI in his memory than you may find in most of the written histories. Why can't these

reservoirs of our history be harnessed for the benefit of us all, but especially for those who are yet to come?

Those leaders whose positions are within our power to choose, we seem to choose primarily on familial, friendship and partisan, political lines. Education levels, leadership experience and demonstrated commitment to advancing our people and country seem to be secondary. And when we choose, do we consider the abilities of these persons to creatively and cogently craft arguments to negotiate, defend and demand our positions as they sit at the table with interlocuters from around the world?

And, if such attributes are lacking, how long will be the learning curve? And if they have or learn such skills, would we be able to avoid -- after we have chosen those whom we want to lead us, -- the perennial plethora of complaints and voices of disappointment and disgust at the unavailability, invisibility and silence of our Representatives? These very same Representatives who seem to have very little confidence in us, which is made obvious when we are inundated with the vast number of foreign "experts" and consultants – even when the country has invested heavily in scholarships for higher education at home and internationally?

But, on the other hand, for the most part, it appears that this class of "educated elites" are not interested in advancing our country for the benefit of us all, but rather are more interested in personal advancement, maintaining the status quo, protecting their own little fiefdoms and then pulling up the ladder once they have gained the higher ground.



By Lee Ingham

If this is the case, how can there be any wonder that we find ourselves in such a morass from which it appears that we are incapable of extricating ourselves? Understandable is the position taken by the few who would be change agents, -- that they would remain silent, ignore the underhandedness and unfairness and "go along to get along" to avoid ostracization and denial of opportunities.

So, we are left with a sort of symbiotic relationship between the Leaders and those in strategic positions, resulting in the Leaders being protected and their minions engaged in an untenable tradition of interposition, delay and nullification.

The majority of the people, then, are left with trying to eke out an economic existence in the face of high cost of living in this country, an infrastructure which suffers from inattention and "don't give a damn" attitude while we, the people, seem willing to forego demanding informational meetings and discussions with our Representatives and holding them accountable for their inaction and failure to respond to the needs of we, the people.

We can and must do better!!
To be continued!
A luta continua!!

PROVO WATER COMPANY LIMITED

Provo Water Company Ltd is seeking suitable applicants to fill the following position. Only candidates who meet the minimum requirements will be considered.

Post: Senior Project & Data Analyst
Job Category: Project & Data Management
Relevant Work Experience: 1 - 5 years minimum in an equivalent position
Education Level: Bachelor's degree
Salary Range: Starting at \$60,000 and commensurate with experience & education

Job Description:

Provo Water Company Limited is seeking an experienced individual with a proven track record in database management and analysis having a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in a business-related field to fill the post of Senior Project & Data Analyst.

This position is to engage and manage project management responsibilities including assisting in the coordination and completion of projects on time within budget and within scope. Oversee assigned aspects of projects, assign responsibilities and monitor and summarize the progress of a project. The successful candidate will assist the manager with clients and coordinate with other departments to ensure deliverables fall within the applicable scope and budget. Data Analysts will develop analysis and reporting capabilities and monitor performance and quality control plans to identify improvements. Lastly, he/she will troubleshoot data-related problems and provide support to departments as well as some customers when required.

The applicant should demonstrate an effective approach to database management and analysis, maintain a positive and proactive attitude, have strong organizational skills, and possess excellent communication skills.

Responsibilities (including but not limited to):

- Project Management Activities
- Aid and supervise Data Management activities for the department
- Conduct and analyze Business Process Reviews to optimize efficiency and effectiveness
- Provide daily reporting and updates to the Manager in support of decision making and operational matters
- Filter and clean company data through computer reports, printouts, and performance indicators to locate and correct problems
- Work with Management to prioritize business and information needs
- Manage Support requests from other departments
- Manage Vendor relationships
- Assist in other departmental tasks as required
- Attend conferences and training as required to maintain proficiency

Education

- Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics, Economics, Computer Science, Information Management or Statistics or appropriate field of study preferred

- Project Management Professional (PMP) / PRINCE II certification is a plus
- 1 - 3 Years proven working experience as a project manager, data analyst or business data analyst

Skills and Experience Requirements

- Technical expertise regarding data models, database design development, data mining and segmentation techniques Ability to prioritize and organize work assignments to meet deadlines
- Able to work in a fast-paced environment.
- Strong organizational and decision-making skills
- Working knowledge of Project Management
- Effective team player
- Strong knowledge of and experience with reporting packages (Business Objects etc.), databases (SQL etc.), programming (XML, JavaScript, or ETL frameworks)
- Effective in dealing with difficult customers/people (angry/hostile)
- Strong analytical skills with the ability to collect, organize, analyze, and disseminate significant amounts of information with attention to detail and accuracy
- Adept at queries, report writing and presenting findings
- Ability to handle confidential information tactfully in person and on the phone
- Excellent written and oral communication
- High degree of confidence and professionalism
- Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office and Windows-based applications

Preferred Skills

- Developing and Tracking Budgets
- Coaching & Supervision
- Project Management
- Process Improvement
- Planning
- Data and Statistical Analysis
- Familiar with modern Database and information system technologies
- Managing Vendor Relationships

Deadline

All applications (inclusive of cover letter, CV & copies of qualifications) must be submitted by September 8, 2023, to:

Chief Technology Officer
Provo Water Company Limited
197A Grace Bay Road
Grace Bay, Providenciales
Turks and Caicos Islands
recruitment@provowater.tc

Interested Belongers must also submit copies of their application to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2. Position currently available. Only applicants selected for an interview will be notified.