



### **International challenges about Financial Investigations as it relates to Transnational & Organize Crime in the Turks and Ciaos Islands**

- Transnational organized crime is estimated to generate \$870 billion globally each year. Every year many persons lives are lost as a result of transnational organized crime.

#### **What is Transnational Organized Crime.**

Generally define as crime that involves the illicit criminal activities in more than one country with the intent of gaining influence or material and monetary benefits.

There are many activities that can be characterized as transnational organized crime. In the Turks and Caicos Islands these are the common Transnational organized crime that are threats to the Turks and Caicos

## Smuggling of Migrants

**On March 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 Two vessel carrying a combined 171 illegal migrants in Turks and Caicos territorial waters were intercepted through joint operations in the Turks and Caicos Islands Police Department and the Turks and Caicos Regiment. The smuggling of migrants generates \$2,000.00 USD per person, with a total of 171 migrants criminal estimated proceeds are \$350,000.00 USD from one (1) slope bound for Turks and Caicos Islands.**





## Trafficking of Firearms

On November 15<sup>TH</sup> 2022 US Customs through sharing of information with the Turks and Caicos Island Police Department intercept as shipment of US guns with street value of \$50,000.00 USD bound for the Turks and Caicos





## Drugs Trafficking

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024 the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force and Turks and Caicos Regiment through a joint operation seized more than \$2,000,000.00 USD in street value of Cannabis sativa (Marijuana) following separate interceptions involving smuggling of migrants.





On a yearly bases million of dollars are generated from these transnational organized crime which are then launder by the organized crime groups mainly in Haiti link to rugs trafficking and smuggling of migrants



## There are many challenges conducting Financial Investigation into persons as it relates to smuggling of migrants trafficking of Firearms and Drugs Trafficking in the Turks and Caicos Islands

- ▶ Persons are reluctant to give information because we small Island country.
- ▶ The local population most of the people are related through friends and family.
- ▶ Tracing, freezing and confiscation of assets as it relates the material and monetary benefits from these crimes when proceeds are launder across borders.
- ▶ There has been a rise in murders committed with the use of firearms, therefore persons are afraid to give information and witness testimony in court hearings.
- ▶ Lack of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with some neighboring countries example such as Haiti.
- ▶ Witness protection is a major concern to persons, because of this persons leave the country.

## **To improve Financial Investigation and Money Laundering Investigation in the Turks and Caicos Islands the following steps can be consider**

- ▶ **Develop an investigative plan**
- ▶ **Create subject profiles**
- ▶ **Analyze and chart financial flows**
- ▶ **Prepare an evidence matrix**
- ▶ **Use of open source information**
- ▶ **Collaborate with regulatory and law enforcement agencies**
- ▶ **Use information gathering and analysis techniques**
- ▶ **Implement asset tracing and recovery strategies.**
- ▶ **Utilize international cooperation channels**

### **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

**Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLATs) enable law enforcement authorities and prosecutors to obtain evidence, information, and testimony abroad in a form admissible in the courts of the requesting state. As a general matter, MLATs require the requested state to provide the requesting state with certain kinds of assistance or evidence such as documents, records, and testimony, provided the requirements of the treaty are satisfied. The process is streamlined through the establishment of a Central Authority ( Attorney General Chambers) within each country to make, receive, and facilitate the execution of requests for evidence intended for use in criminal investigations, prosecutions, and related proceedings.**

## Live case under investigation

- ▶ The office of the Department of Public Prosecution ( DPP) VS
- ▶ Subject A and others who has stolen several small vessels in the Turks and Caicos Islands to facilitate the
- ▶ Smuggling of Migrants
- ▶ Drugs Trafficking
- ▶ Subject A and others has been charge criminally for these transnational organized crime who are in prison awaiting there court trial.
- ▶ The Financial Investigation into these persons assets and their monetary benefit is halted due the lack of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Haiti and its instability.
- ▶ The Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA ) many difficulty in obtaining Financial Intelligences on subject A and others.