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75 CENTS

Manpower Audit for Police

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
 Journal Staff Writer

Minister of National Security Marvin Dames announced that the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPf) is

undergoing a manpower audit, which is a part of revising and reforming the underperforming anti-crime initiatives. In his address on crime in the House of Assembly on Wednesday, Dames said the success of any crime plan must include as one of its principal drivers, the men

and women on the frontline. "There is an urgent need for us to determine if there is an actual shortage of manpower or whether the issue is one of deployment," Dames said. He said his department has begun a comprehensive manpower audit that will verify what human resources

are required to effectively operate police stations and other policing divisions. "Every member of the Royal Bahamas Police Force will be provided with the requisite training and retraining," Dames said.

■ See MANPOWER / page 2...



► Minister of National Security Marvin Dames (Journal file photo)

CARICOM-UK MINISTERS MEET



► Bahamas Minister of Foreign Affairs Darren Henfield joined CARICOM Foreign Ministers on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 for a meeting with the United Kingdom Minister responsible for the Caribbean. The meeting was held in the margins of the 72nd United Nations General Assembly. Minister Henfield is at centre in the second row. (Photo/BIS)

PLP GOVT DISAGREED WITH BPL'S PLAN

BY ONIKE ARCHER
 Journal Staff Writer

President of the Bahamas Electrical Workers Union (BEWU) Paul Maynard said the former Progressive Liberal Party administration disagreed with the proposed business plan which supports the termination of Bahamas Power and Light (BPL) employees.

Mr. Maynard's comments came during an interview with The Bahama Journal yesterday, where he explained that former Deputy Prime Minister Philip Davis did not agree with the plan.

"The business plan wanted to let people go. He [Mr. Davis] was not in agreement with that; neither he nor the former prime minister was in agreement with that," Mr. Maynard said.

According to Mr. Maynard, Mr. Davis shared his view with him to offset such plans delineated in the business plan to fire persons.

■ See PLP GOVT DISAGREED on PAGE 2...



► President of the Bahamas Electrical Workers Union (BEWU) Paul Maynard (Journal file photo)

Residents Warned of Potential Tornadoes and Flooding

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Department of Meteorology has put residents of the southeastern islands of The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands on a high alert for possible floods as Hurricane Maria got a little

stronger as it moves towards that area. "Hurricane Maria also has the potential to produce several tornadoes as it moves along its track," according to a statement by the Department of Meteorology.

■ See RESIDENTS / page 2...

Audited BPL Report Reveals Abuse

BY RANECHEA ELLIS
 Journal Staff Writer

Minister of Works Desmond Bannister said the audited report from Ernst and Young confirmed that Bahamas Power and Light's (BPL) theft scandal involved a total of some 41 fraudulent cheques that were issued to 13 fictitious vendors totaling over \$1.8 million.

Mr. Bannister highlighted the findings of the report in

House of Assembly on Wednesday where he revealed that three additional fake cheques were issued to legitimate vendors totaling more than \$126,000.

The handovers took place before the May 10 general elections and according to Mr. Bannister, they were laid out in a draft report during a recent forensic investigation at BPL.

■ See AUDITED BPL / page 2...

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Manpower Audit for Police

Continued from / PAGE 1...

He added that the training is essential to officers carrying out their duty.

Dames said there is a need for training at every level and in every law enforcement agency.

"Training has been inconsistent and lacks a true focus. We will ensure that our law enforcement officers at all levels are properly trained in line with international law enforcement standards," Dames said.

He said no longer will a pass be given to persons based on relation-

ships, but they will ensure that all officers are well prepared to more than effectively carry out the duties required of them.

He added that the overly centralized approach to policing was negatively impacting the delivery of critical policing services.

"We fully understand that in certain situations it may be appropriate to pull large groups of officers together and to carry out large selective police operations. However, these operations should not weaken police divisions to the point where normal delivery of

policing services is disrupted," Dames said.

He added that there should never be a situation where only two police officers are on duty during a given shift at a police station expecting them to provide quality service to the community.

"The police command is well on the way to addressing these problems as soon as our establishment review is completed we will introduce a permanent fix to this problem," Dames said.

As a part of the plan to fix those

issues, he said a detective unit will be re-established in every police division to ensure that every community is provided with swifter response times to serious offenses.

"I believe a decentralized approach to tackling crime issues at the divisional level, with the appropriate levels of accountability in place, will assist both the police and the community in addressing crime and other quality of life issues," Dames said.

He added that over the years, successive governments have continued

recruitment activities to address the manpower needs of the police force and despite these efforts it appears that sufficient officers are still not available during key times to adequately provide the police presence necessary to prevent and detect crime on a sustained basis.

"The time has come for us to determine once and for all what human resources we require to detect and adequately provide policing services to the communities throughout the Commonwealth of The Bahamas," Dames said.

PLP Govt Disagreed with BPL's Plan

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"To combat that, he [Mr. Davis] would add a few cents on to the kilowatt hour in order to keep the staff," Mr. Maynard explained.

The Bahamas Power and

Light Business Plan, prepared by PowerSecure, covered a number of strategies PowerSecure recommended, such as reliability and affordability.

The plan operated on the assumption that BPL has a

staffing level that appears to be about 30 percent high compared to utilities of similar size and make up.

During his contribution to the debate in the House of Assembly on Wednesday, Minister of Works Desmond Bannister said, "Integral to the business plan, which the former administration agreed with, was a decision that a reduction of staff by approxi-

mately 30 percent would result in savings of \$13 million annually."

Mr. Bannister further explained the business plan's vision.

"The plan refers to the proposed reduction of staff at BPL as 'a business necessity,' and envisioned the separation of 233 BPL staff members through a redundancy process in August or October 2017,

together with a possible reduction of an additional 64 staff members in September 2018," Mr. Bannister said.

"This business plan and the plan to separate 233 staff members at BPL has remained a secret of the former administration until today."

Mr. Bannister affirmed during his contribution in the House of Assembly that the current administration made

no obligations to PowereSecure's business plan.

"The people's government has made no commitment to a redundancy separation plan. The PowerSecure business plan is being carefully reviewed for its viability in the Bahamian economy. Decisions will be taken in due course in the best interest of the Bahaman people."



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Stephen Glenn Melvin, Divorced,
of 11 Deedes Cres. Bushland Beach, QLD 4818, Australia

and

Amanda Colleen Carrick, Divorced,
of 11 Deedes Cres. Bushland Beach, QLD 4818, Australia

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 11th day of September, 2017.

Maynard

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Richard James Mason, Single,
of 35 Cumbury Croft, Shard End, B34 6TU, United Kingdom

and

Sharon Elaine Daniel, Divorced,
of 13 Harold Road, Edgbaston, B16 9DN, United Kingdom

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 11th day of September, 2017.

Maynard

Registrar of Marriages

Audited BPL Report Reveals Abuse

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mr. Bannister further noted that the report is still being reviewed by police, but it raises serious questions the company must confront as it moves forward.

"First, the report identified numerous instances where the tender process was not followed. Many contracts were awarded in excess of \$100,000 for which no formal tender had been performed. In other instances, there was no evidence of any procurement analysis or of other quotations being obtained," he said.

"There were also instances where contracts were awarded to vendors who had not been selected in the tendering process, thereby rejecting the

companies that had actually submitted better bids; and in one egregious case a company that did not even bid was awarded a contract over the company that has followed the process, and to whom the tenders' committee has approved the award of a contract."

Citing one example after another, the minister said in two instances, J.S Johnson was the winning contractor in the bidding process for insurance coverage.

However, both contracts were subsequently issued to Sunshine Insurance.

The report advised that altogether, BPL had spent more than \$14 million with Sunshine Insurance during the period under investigation and there were similar irregularities and con-

cerns with how BPL violated business norms.

"Contracts were approved for entities that were owned by former BEC board members. This is troubling, and all of us ought to be concerned. The report identifies many instances of lack of vendor due diligence," he said.

"The chairman of the corporation was permitted to be involved in operational procurement activity. There was no clarity as to who has the authority to create vendor profiles and in several cases there was no supporting documentation for payments."

Minister Bannister said in the long-term, BPL has to institute better controls so as to ensure that its business is conducted in a more ethical, transparent and accountable manner.

'STRENGTHENING THE DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICES' SEMINAR



► Sir Michael Barber, Head of the first Delivery Unit developed under the Blair Administration of the United Kingdom and current leading global advisor on Delivery Management and Centre of Government Approach led seminars for parliamentarians, senior public servants, and private sector stakeholders on increasing value for money in public spending, September 18 to 20, 2017 at the British Colonial Hilton. The Ministry of Finance hosted seminars in relation to its Public Financial Management and Performance Monitoring Reform (PFM/PMR) Project. (BIS Photo/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr.)

Residents Warned of Potential Tornadoes and Flooding

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"Weather conditions continue to deteriorate over the Turks and Caicos Islands with strong tropical storms and possible hurricane conditions," over these islands Friday morning.

According to an alert issued by the Bahamas Department of Meteorology, "Extensive flooding is also expected as Maria is forecasted to produce eight to 16 inches of rainfall over the Turks and Caicos Islands and Mayaguana and up to four to eight inches over Inagua, Acklins and

Crooked Island."

The Department of Meteorology has also issued a hurricane warning for the Southeast Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

This warning will remain in effect for the islands of Mayaguana, Inagua, Crooked Island, Acklins, Long Cay, and Samana Cay, as hurricane conditions were anticipated last night or as early as this morning.

A tropical storm watch is now in effect for Central Bahamas, which includes Cat Island, Exuma, Long Island, Rum Cay and San Salvador, this tropical storm

watch means that these islands can experience tropical storm conditions as early as today.

"Maria is moving toward the northwest at near nine miles per hour. A turn toward the north-northwest is forecasted for early this morning with that motion continuing through Saturday," the statement read.

On the forecast track, Maria's eye will continue to pass offshore of the northern coast of the Dominican Republic and then move near or just east of the Turks and Caicos and Southeastern

Bahamas Friday.

Maximum winds for Hurricane Maria are 120 miles per hour with higher gusts.

Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 70 miles from the center and tropical force winds extend outward up to 160 miles from the center.

Dangerous storm surge accompanied by large destructive waves will raise water levels to as much as four to six feet above normal tide, according to the issued Met advisory.

Hurricane Maria is now a category 3 storm.

HIGHLIGHTS OF UNESCO-IHP MEETING



► Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, along with the Minister of Education Jeffrey Lloyd, greeted delegates attending the 12th United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization International Hydrological Programme and Meeting of National Committees and Focal Points, Wednesday, September 20, 2017. The three-day meeting was held at the British Colonial Hilton. (BIS Photos/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr.)



► Delegates attend the UNESCO-IHP Meeting.

**\$340K
BIMINI
DRUG
BUST**

BY RANECHEA ELLIS
Journal Staff Writer

Police made another major drug bust in Bimini on Wednesday evening.

According to police, officers were patrolling Kings Highway around 11 p.m. on Wednesday when they spotted a suspicious looking vehicle.

A search revealed nine nylon bags, each containing suspected marijuana.

The male occupants of the vehicle, both residents of the island, were taken into custody.

A quick count has put the estimated value of the suspected drugs at \$340,000.



Complaints Filed Over Club Land'or Employees' Salaries

BY ONIKE ARCHER
Journal Staff Writer

Formal complaints concerning the delinquent payment of salaries at Club Land'or has been filed in the Office of the Attorney General, according to Minister of Labour Senator Dion Foulkes.

Following the opening of the International Labour Organization Workshop on Wednesday, Mr. Foulkes spoke with The Bahama Journal about the current concerns with the now closed

Club Land'or.

"A significant amount of the employees, both line staff and managerial staff are owed back pay and other benefits," he said.

"From time to time, they've paid portions of their salaries, but not the complete salary."

Non-paid employees of Club Land'or have been a pertinent concern for Mr. Foulkes since before elections in May.

Furthermore, Mr. Foulkes inherited the problems surrounding Club Land'or.

He said, "It is something that preceded my coming into office and it's been going on now for a little while.

"The employees have filed several complaints both with the Department of Labour and with the Office of the Prime Minister and I have been directed by the prime minister to deal with it swiftly."

Club Land'or owes 100 employees back pay and benefits and the matter has been ongoing for two years.

**The Bahamas Agriculture & Marine Science Institute
WEEKLY PRICE REPORT
WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 4th, 2017**

Wholesale Crop	Weight	Size	BAMSI			USDA-AMS			
			Price	HIGH	LOW	Retail Weight	Price	HIGH	LOW
Banana	40lbs		18.00	20.00	20.00	1lb.	0.49	0.72	0.49
Papaya	10lbs		14.00	18.00	16.00	each	1.59	1.57	1.57
Habanero Pepper	8lbs		40.00	15.00	12.00	1lb.	5.50	1.88	1.50
Avocado Pears						each	1.50	2.50	1.82
Avocado (small)						each	0.75	2.50	1.82
Limes	40lbs		38.00	23.00	21.00	each	0.20	0.30	0.58
			Wholesale Prices Weight			Retail Prices Weight			
Abaco Big Bird						1 lb	2.39		
Whole Chicken	Per lb.		2.14			10lbs	8.49		
Leg Quarters	40lbs					10lbs	19.24		
Wings	40lbs								

Source: USDA-AMS Miami
United States Department of Agriculture Market Service



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JUNKANOO GROUPS GET INCREASE IN SEED MONEY

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Youth, Sports and Culture Minister Michael Pintard yesterday during the official hand over of seed money to Junkanoo group leaders and representatives said it is the aim of the Free National Movement (FNM) to expand the culture of Junkanoo and made a commitment to the groups that seed money will be given in early 2018.

Speaking to the media and Junkanoo leaders at the Ministry of Youth Sports and Culture yesterday, Mr. Pintard said he is happy to see young Bahamians becoming more involved in culture.

"It is an honor to serve in this capacity at a time when many young Bahamians making a decision to step up to the plate and continue the tradition that has been started by many of the giants who are in this room," he said.

"We are looking forward to playing a pivotal role as government in helping to revitalize and further expand Junkanoo."

Mr. Pintard also remarked that by virtue of, Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis is committed to expanding culture in general, especially considering he is an avid junkanooer.

"The prime minister in particular is a junkanooer. He is absolutely committed to

culture in general, Junkanoo in particular and that's going to be reflected in the increase allocation to the expansion of Junkanoo in general and that is going to be evident," Mr. Pintard said.

He further told the groups that they can expect to receive their share of seed monies earlier in 2018 to begin preparations for the major festival.

"Making a commitment that it will be much earlier in 2018, we wish to lead by example and we are happy to have as partners the Junkanoo leaders and all of their members and members of corporate Bahamas who we will be coming to in a very short period of time to partner with us in some exciting initiatives in further revitalizing Junkanoo," Mr. Pintard said.

Also in attendance at yesterday's presentation were co-chairs of the National Junkanoo Committee (NJC) Kishlane O'Brien and Dr. Dwight Marshall.

Mrs. O'Brien expressed her excitement, as this presentation was her first official function as part of the representative team of the NJC.

"We'd like to thank the minister and his government for considering the needs and the thoughts for Junkanoo throughout The Bahamas," Mrs. O'Brien said.

"For allowing us to voice

our concerns in a way that he saw fit to make presence to the prime minister, the Senate and the Cabinet to ensure that this increase today as you would see in your benefits will all be some that's tangible and quite needy for us at this time."

Seed money for Junkanoo groups was presented three months following a candid meeting with the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Michael Pintard and Junkanoo leaders in New Providence, on June 28, 2017.

Seed money is given to help jump start Junkanoo groups with their preparations for Boxing and New Year's Day parades.



► Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Michael Pintard presented seed money to Junkanoo group leaders yesterday. (Photos/Sherard Campbell)

HIGHLIGHTS OF UNESCO-IHP MEETING



► Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, along with the Minister of Education Jeffrey Lloyd, greeted delegates attending the 12th United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization International Hydrological Programme and Meeting of National Committees and Focal Points, Wednesday, September 20, 2017. The three-day meeting was held at the British Colonial Hilton. (BIS Photo/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr.)



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PAYING THE PRICE FOR RUDENESS

We covered the start of this war with articles describing the battle over easement rights, the mysterious burning of a home, the blocks to rebuilding, and countless questionable court filings. This series of articles asks the needed questions and presents the arguments in full.

It appears that our level of political discourse in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas has devolved to such a level where people seem to have forgotten their 'brought-up-sy'.

Just yesterday it was reported that an individual was convicted of contempt of court for insulting a judge—plain rudeness. The political activist was fined \$15,000 to be paid to the Bahamas Cancer Society, \$6,000 to be paid to the Bahamas Red Cross, and assigned a number of community service hours with the Bahamas Geriatric Hospital.

Hats off to the judge for not letting his rudeness stand.

Why can't we simply 'disagree without being disagreeable', as has been wisely stated? Why do we have to debase ourselves and those of whom we speak simply to get a point across? People so easily forget that we should always treat others the way we wish to be treated.

It has been reported that this individual sometimes works with Fred Smith on Save The Bays' projects. We hope the rudeness displayed does not represent the lessons he is learning from that association. But chances are, it's exactly what he is learning.

If he truly does work with Fred Smith and Save The Bays, he is likely learning a series of things. He is learning that,

- It's okay to break rules in one country to further your agenda in another.
- It's okay to vilify and viciously and unjustly attack an individual if it furthers your agenda.
- It's okay to impede your country's governing process for your own personal agenda.
- It's okay to waste taxpayers' money for your own personal agenda.

THE CLIFTON REVIEW

By P. J. Malone

The Clifton Review is a bi-weekly column that examines the question of the Clifton project along with the evolution of the war between two billionaires, the links to unsavory characters, the use of the courts for personal agendas, the involvement of the Government opposition party (the FNM), and the attacks on the Government of The Bahamas.

- It's okay to malign your country's good name all in the cause of furthering your personal agenda.

It's no wonder this individual can shamelessly attack a judge for no good reason and without compunction.

He could not have been brought up this way. Our society is a society of proud Bahamians who know the difference between right and wrong and who know how to treat everyone with respect.

Many of our forefathers and foremothers would be rolling over in their graves to see how our society has deteriorated to a place where people walking the streets have forgotten their manners; teenagers disrespecting their elders; and people disparaging others just out of pure mean-heartedness.

It is so scary to watch our society degenerate into a place where such things are taking place.

What some people don't seem to understand is that their behavior is not cute or smart and it doesn't benefit them or anyone else. It is simply a reflection of their own level of ignorance and barbarity.

Hopefully, this individual has learned his lesson and remembers what he must have been taught as a little boy, which is to always treat people with respect.

He must have! Because if he is a son of the Bahamian soil, he most definitely was taught these most cherished values of our forefathers.

Learn to treat people with respect, you here?!

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Wendall K. Jones Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimalee P. Jones Vice President/Operations

EDITORIAL

GETTING OVER

As we remember: The Free National Movement, ahead of the general election, said it planned to enforce a zero tolerance for crime; this it did against a background where – as one of its main principles – it believed it to be the right of every citizen to live and work in a safe and prosperous community.

This is admirable; and thus today's commentary were we focus on the extent to which the so-called average citizen him or herself complicit and enmeshed in all manner of wrong-doing; thus the silence of the masses even as allegation piled upon allegation rolls in.

Here we are also reminded of the fact that the kind of place we today inhabit has been built – one crooked block upon the other – by we the people.

Evidently, things are such precisely because so very many people routinely flout either law or social convention and for that matter, there is always that other sense we are getting which confirms us and many others that, 'getting over' is really the name of the game.

And so we note that: One of the more interesting debates that might be most illuminating would be a large national discussion as to just how much corruption we should accept in a Bahamas which – like most countries in the world- has to contend with this ubiquitous phenomenon.

Here we would advise that were this issue to be raised just as we –tongue in cheek – have advised, we would get cheesy answers as to how we should show zero-tolerance to such wrongdoing even when evidence galore suggests that some of the loudest zealots are simultaneously on some Mr. Biggs' corruption pay-roll!

And then, there are all those other oily ones who spend a life-term working in the system; learning its ways and culture and at the end of it all live to display wealth that could not have come their legitimately garnered earnings; other words, there we find evidence – albeit circumstantial of corruption on the hoof.

Our Bahamas is that kind of place! And so today we would suggest that: Although corruption is a menace for developed and developing countries alike, it is particularly relevant for Small Island developing states where corruption is not infrequently linked with national development.

However that may be, there is no denying that systemic corruption—whether it be high-level political corruption, lack of financial transparency, or petty bribery among public officials and law enforcement personnel—undermines good governance and the rule of law; accelerates moral decay; fosters negative international perceptions of the country; stymies foreign investment; impedes the delivery of public services; exacerbates poverty; and, in the final analysis, retards social and economic development.

We pray God that there is little evidence to support widely held scuttle-buck to the effect that, there are in the system any number of people who routinely steal money and other valued stuff from their employer.

And this is why even as we reference a particularly egregious offence of the sort usually referenced, we would want to believe that it is an exception to the rule; and that, public servants are for the most part good stewards.

But yet, we return – as it were – to that alleged crime scene where [as allegations now swirl] an accounts clerk at the Ministry of Finance, did falsify the payment records of VMMS Business Service from December 15, 2016 to April 5, 2017, purporting to show that a business service was entitled to receive payments totaling \$530,377.67.

We note also that the said clerk was also charged with 10 counts of stealing by reason of employment. He is accused of being concerned with others and stealing a total of \$445,996.42 in cash from the ministry between December 21, 2016 and March 31, 2017, which he had access to by virtue of his employment.

And so we conclude this litany by noting that the said clerk also faced one count of attempted stealing by reason of employment for allegedly attempting to steal \$41,115 from the ministry on April 5, 2017 and that: The said clerk pleaded not guilty to all of the charges.

Evidently, it follows that the said clerk is to be presumed innocent of the charges laid against him.

But yet we do fear that this one clerk's actions was not his alone; that he had confederates; and that, they who brought the first charge would sometime soon reel in some others concerned.

Obviously the same caveat concerning presumption of innocence applies.

THE BAHAMAS
Sun, Sand, Sea and the
The Bahama Journal

NO BETTER READING



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Matthew Andrew Taylor, Single,
of 37 Middlecroft Road, Chesterfield, United States of America

and

Sarah Louise Widdowson, Single,
of 11 Belmont Drive, Staveley, Chesterfield, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 6th day of September, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



► Pictured is Minister of Labour Senator Dion Foulkes addressing the two-day Productivity Legislation Workshop sponsored by the International Labour Organization, the National Tripartite Council and the Department of Labour. (Photo/BIS)



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Zachary Otto Arnold, Single,
of 12515 Waddell Creek RD SE, Olympia WA 98512, United States of America

and

Marie Yvonne Graham, Single,
of 1720 West Marine View Dr. #139, Everett WA 98201, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 24th day of August, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Frederick Hewitson, Divorced,
of Calle Falua 9, Apt.1B, El Rincon, Los Cristianos, Tenerife 38650, Spain

and

Paula Carol O'Callaghan, Widowed,
of Calle Falua 9, Apt.1B, El Rincon, Los Cristianos, Tenerife 38650, Spain

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 6th day of September, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Glen John Back, Single,
of 16 Jesmond Mews, Hartlepool, England

and

Alexandra Emily Gibson, Single,
of 16 Jesmond Mews, Hartlepool, England

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 1st day of September, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Aaron Samuel Bailey, Divorced,
of 100 Anderson Street, Apartment 7411, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, United States of America

and

Cheryl Lynn Demko, Divorced,
of 100 Anderson Street, Apartment 7411, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 24th day of August, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages

Foulkes Calls for Increased Productivity

Minister of Labour Senator Dion Foulkes pledged the government's full commitment to continue to work with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the National Tripartite Council and all of its social partners to fully implement a National Productivity Council as he officially opened a two-day Productivity Legislation Workshop sponsored by the International Labour Organization and the National Tripartite Council at the Department of Labour on Wednesday.

"In order for The Bahamas to compete in the global arena, it is essential that our productivity is increased in both the public and private sectors," said Minister Foulkes.

The labour minister continued, "It is vital that we give focused attention to this topic of 'National Productivity' as we strive to increase our economic growth. The government cannot achieve this goal by itself, therefore I congratulate the organizers of this workshop from the Department of Labour as well as President Ferguson and the executives of TUC

and President Evans and the executives of the NCTU and CEO Summer of the chamber for their unwavering support in promoting and encouraging social dialogue and the utilization of the National Tripartite Council in our national development."

The workshop is designed to provide social partners a better understanding of National Productivity Legislation in the region and assist in formulating recommendations for the consideration of the same here in The Bahamas.

The workshop was also addressed by Tyrone Morris, secretary general of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas Trade Union Congress; Peter Goudie of The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers' Confederation; Bernard Evans, president of the National Congress of Trade Unions Bahamas and Kelvin Sergeant, ILO specialist for sustainable enterprise and job creation.

Also in attendance were Senator Jennifer Isaacs-Dotson, Cecilia Strachan, permanent secretary (acting) in the Ministry of Labour, Robert Farquharson, director of labour and various labour leaders in the country.

GOT NEWS?
Please call The Bahama Journal's News TIP LINE at 356-7254 and let us know!

STATEMENT BY JEROME K. FITZGERALD FORMER EDUCATION MINISTER AND MP FOR MARATHON IN RESPONSE TO NEWSPAPER HEADLINES AND CERTAIN HOUSE COMMENTS

"I wish to advise the public that upon review of the headlines of the local dailies today, 21st September 2017, and the egregious and skillfully misleading information contained therein, I have consulted my attorneys, with the clear objective of bringing a legal action for defamation.

"I understand that the Minister of Works, the Honourable Desmond Bannister, made certain comments about one of my father's companies and it's relationship with BPL in the House of Assembly yesterday, gratuitously interposing my name in his statement.

"I have made it unequivocally clear both inside and outside the House of Assembly on numerous occasions, that I do not own any shares in any of my father's companies and this most recent assertion, in light of all that have been previously communicated, is defamatory

and is not protected by the privileges of the House of Assembly. I am not a beneficiary of any of the proceeds of any such contract, if indeed there was one.

"I am advised that Bahamas Cargo and Logistics formerly Global

Custom Brokers of which my father is the beneficial owner, has maintained a longstanding commercial relationship with BEC/BPL which dates as far back as the late 1980s.

The inference that the familial connection with me was the reason for the contract or that I influenced or benefitted from the contract are both false and defamatory."

'STRENGTHENING THE DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICES' SEMINAR



► Sir Michael Barber, Head of the first Delivery Unit developed under the Blair Administration of the United Kingdom and current leading global advisor on Delivery Management and Centre of Government Approach led seminars for parliamentarians, senior public servants, and private sector stakeholders on increasing value for money in public spending, September 18 to 20, 2017 at the British Colonial Hilton. The Ministry of Finance hosted seminars in relation to its Public Financial Management and Performance Monitoring Reform (PFM/PMR) Project. (BIS Photo/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr.)

Sunshine Insurance (Agents & Brokers) statement to contract allegations

Sunshine Insurance (Agents & Brokers) Ltd. (Sunshine Insurance) takes very seriously its role as a responsible corporate citizen. As a result, it is necessary to address the remarks made by the Minister of Works in the House of Assembly yesterday and the consequential comments in the press.

At the outset it is important to note that Sunshine Insurance is an insurance broker. As is the industry norm, in this role as a broker, Sunshine Insurance does not retain clients' premium. The clients' premium is passed on to insurers, less the commission earned. Therefore, Sunshine Insurance earns commission on business it places with insurers.

In the context of a broker, in 2013, Sunshine Insurance participated in the BEC/BPL sealed tender process for the provision of their insurance coverage and was awarded the bid.

In 2017 – four years later – Sunshine Insurance again participated in the sealed tender process. The insurance contract was renewed in June 2017 to the period June 2018. The current Minister of Works was in office at that time.

At no stage has Sunshine Insurance ever used any political effort to seek to influence the outcome of a tender process. Sunshine Insurance prides itself on operating to the highest international standards and does not participate in any unlawful or unethical practice. Any statement to the contrary is simply false.

Our sense of corporate citizenship and contributions to our community are extensive and well-documented.

Dames: 'Electronic Monitoring Failed Crime Fight'

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
Journal Staff Writer

Minister of National Security Marvin Dames revealed that anti-crime initiatives, which includes CCTV and electronic monitoring has failed.

In his address to the House of Assembly on Wednesday, Dames said for years The Bahamas has been spending millions of dollars on anti-crime programs and the acquisition of modern crime fighting tools and equipment, but based on their most recent review, the results have shown that a less than adequate job of oversight and maintenance was done.

"This outcome can be attributed to poor execution, a lack of legislative or regulatory support and a poor oversight at the policy level," Dames said.

He added that although many of these efforts were well intentioned, they were not having the intended impact on crime that had been anticipated.

He used the electronic monitoring program as his first example and said in places across the United States, Canada and Mexico that system is used to serve as an alternative to incarceration for first time nonviolent offenders.

"We're probably one of the only countries that places ankle bracelets on persons charged with murder and other serious crimes and do not ensure that stricter guidelines are stipulated," Dames said.

He added that the electronic monitoring bracelets did little to deter suspects either in engaging in criminal activity or becoming victims to crime themselves and police records indicate that since November last year, 13 persons have been murdered while being monitored and one suspect was charged with murder after being monitored.

"We pay millions of dollars annually to monitor suspects and latest figures show that 268 offenders are being electronically monitored for a number of offences including 70 for

murders, 18 for attempted murders, 103 armed robberies and 59 for firearm offences," Dames said.

He said one of the reasons that the programs failed is because the devices are placed on some of the most serious offenders and exclusionary zones and curfews were not always imposed as conditions, thus some of the most dangerous offenders were able to move about the city freely and unrestricted.

"It should not be that we should have persons granted bail and freely roaming our streets while armed, facing multiple murder charges. My ministry has been in active discussion with the Office of the Attorney General to explore avenues to ensure that persons charged with multiple similar offences committed overtime remain incarcerated to the time of their trail without bail," Dames said.

He added that in April 2012, the government of the Bahamas invested \$4.6 million in the establishment of a state-of-the-art CCTV monitoring center and installed 243 CCTV cameras mainly in the downtown area and a few crime hot spot areas in New Providence.

He said the system was not being properly maintained and could not be expanded due to insufficient bandwidth which is essential for producing quality images, which impacted nearly 119 of the 243 CCTV cameras.

Dames said the government has already taken steps to ensure that every camera is functioning and also there is communication with BTC to correct the bandwidth issue to the right level and upgrade the servers and hard drives.

"A properly functioning electronic monitoring program in conjunction with the CCTV project and supported by mobile patrols will all enhance our ability to aggressively address crime issues that have occur on our streets and neighborhoods by targeting prolific offenders and disrupting their activities," Dames said.

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BUSINESS

MAJOR STOCK INDEXES

	LAST	CHANGE	%CHG
DJIA	22359.23	-53.36	-0.24%
S&P 500	2500.60	-7.64	-0.30%
Nasdaq	6422.69	-33.35	-0.52%
Russell 2000	1444.18	-1.24	-0.09%
DJ Total Mkt	25897.78	-74.30	-0.29%



► Minister of State for Grand Bahama in the Office of The Prime Minister Senator the Hon. Kwasi Thompson was the guest speaker at the opening of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Seminar at Pelican Bay Resort, Thursday, September 21, 2017. (BIS Photo/Lisa Davis)

Minister Thompson - 'GB Should Be Centre for Arbitration in The Bahamas'

As the government of The Bahamas continues its quest to make Grand Bahama the centre for industry and innovation, and the entrepreneurial hub, it is important to embrace new ways to resolve matters and maintain respect and peace among members of the community, according to Minister of State for Grand

Bahama, Senator the Hon. Kwasi Thompson.

The minister's remarks came during the opening of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Seminar, which was held at Pelican Bay Resort, Thursday, September 21, 2017. The seminar was attended by local lawyers, business owners and executives of the Grand Bahama Port Authority.

Minister Thompson told

attendees that as with all new initiatives, local support is needed in order to be effective. Therefore, he suggested partnership and cooperation among Grand Bahamians as a major component of Grand Bahama's revitalization.

"And it can all start here, at a seminar like this," said Minister Thompson.

"Grand Bahama really should be the centre of arbitration for The Bahamas. I say that with-

out a doubt."

As the Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister for Grand Bahama, Mr. Thompson threw his full support behind ADR Bahamas and the role they play on the island of Grand Bahama, which, he pointed out, is a commitment to the resolution of disputes and issues by means other than litigation.

He noted that there are

always individuals seeking confidential, quick and convenient settlements.

"As we all know sometimes waiting for a court appointment or going through the process can, at times, prove to be tedious," noted Minister Thompson. "Arbitration seeks to resolve disputes fairly and quickly. The resolution is recognized as equivalent to a court decision, in most cases, and both

parties can move and have their disputes dealt with.

"It is my hope that ADR Bahamas will grow in popularity and eventually lead to an international arbitration centre that we seek to have operating here in Grand Bahama. This will bring opportunities for Bahamians, as well as for the business community and those persons who wish to do business and invest in The Bahamas."



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Further information and application forms can be obtained from:

Mrs. Katie Clarke, Assistant Director,
Bahamas Maritime Authority,
Shirlaw House
#226 Shirley Street,
P. O. Box N-4679,
Nassau, Bahamas;

Website: www.bahamasmaritime.com

OR

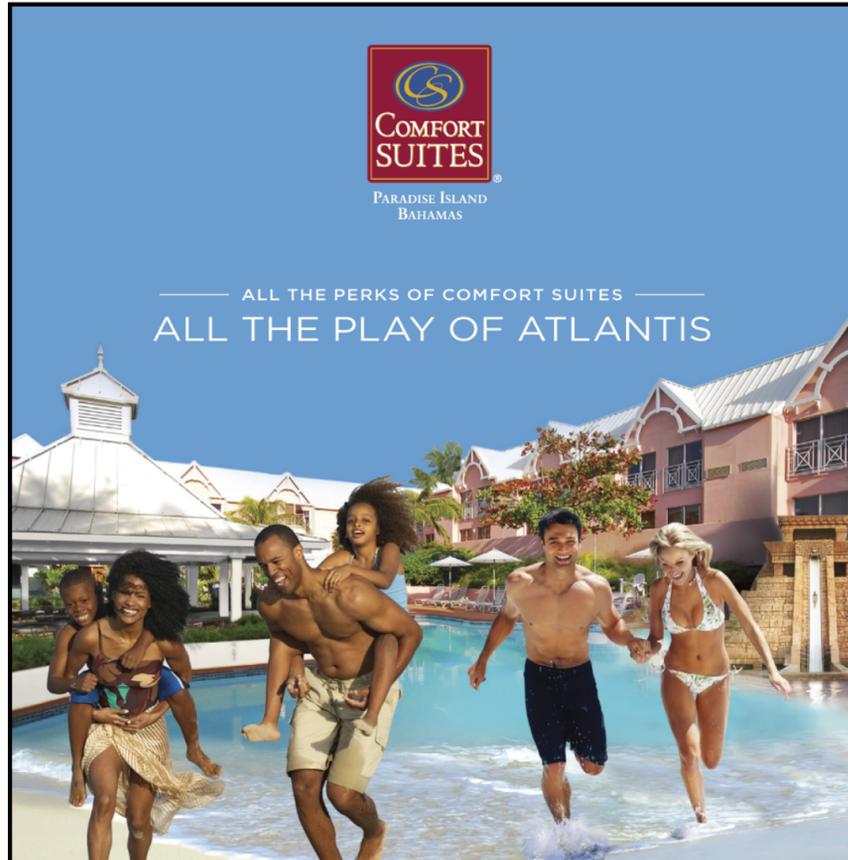
Email: scholarship@bahamasmaritime.com

Tel: +1-(242)-356-5772

Fax: +1-(242)-356-5889.



Completed applications must be submitted in person or by post, with copies of academic certificates/transcripts and proof of Bahamian citizenship, no later than Friday, 29th September 2017. Qualified applicants will be contacted for interviews.



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