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# The Bahama Journal

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# Minister Accused of House Breach

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES  
Journal Staff Writer

**P**rogressive Liberal Party Chairman Bradley Roberts has taken Minister of Works Desmond Bannister to task for comments he made in

the House of Assembly last week which indicated that former Minister of Education Jerome Fitzgerald was guilty of abuse of parliamentary privilege.

In a statement yesterday, Mr. Roberts called Bannister "hypocritical" and questioned why the minister did not act sooner if he had knowledge of

alleged impropriety.

"I point out that trading goods and services for money is not a 'gift' and as for no-bid contracts, all of the contracts awarded to repair public schools for the current fiscal year were no-bid negotiated contracts - all \$20 million worth - so the last people to talk about no-bid contracts

should be hypocritical FNM ministers," Mr. Roberts said.

"Former Education Minister Jerome Fitzgerald responded that the inference by Bannister that his familial connection was the reason for the contract award to Bahamas Cargo and Logistics, formerly Global Custom Brokers, or that he

influenced or benefitted from the contract were both 'false and defamatory.' Fitzgerald said he would file a lawsuit and we agree.

"Sunshine Insurance for its part responded that at no stage did they ever use any political effort or leverage to seek to influence the outcome of any tender process; we believe them. This insurance broker participated in a sealed tender process for the provision of captive insurance coverage for BEC/BPL in 2013. They won the bid and were awarded the contract. In 2017, four years later, Sunshine Insurance again participated in the same process and the contract was renewed in June 2017 to the period June 2018 under the superintendence of FNM Minister Bannister.



► Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Bradley Roberts (Journal file photo)



► Minister of Works Desmond Bannister (Journal file photo)

## GOVT PLEDGES SUPPORT TO DOMINICAN STUDENTS



► Prime Minister of Dominica Roosevelt Skerrit, whose country was recently ravaged by Hurricane Maria, stopped in Nassau Sunday morning, September 24, and met with Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, Minister of Financial Services, Trade & Industry and Immigration Brent Symonette, and Minister of Transport and Local Government Frankie Campbell. (Photo/Yontalay Bowe - OPM Media Services)

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON  
Journal Staff Writer

Primary and high school Dominican students are expected to attend schools throughout The Bahamas which is a part of the government's pledge to assist the Caribbean country that was devastated by Hurricane Maria.

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis made the announcement of the government's pledge to accept Dominican students yesterday, during the visit of Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit to The Bahamas.

Press Secretary Anthony Newbold told The Bahama Journal that the government is prepared to facilitate Dominica's children and the government is working with CARICOM to determine how many students would come.

■ See GOVT PLEDGES SUPPORT on PAGE 2...

## 30 New Jobs for GB Youth

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES  
Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis is promising a much need economic boost in the Grand Bahama and 30 new jobs, as the island's economy was dealt a significant blow after Hurricane Irma.

Dr. Minnis' comments came

during a visit to the island this past weekend.

The visit presented an opportunity to continue discussions with a number of businesses and potential investment partners, who have exhibited keen interest in the economic recovery of Grand Bahama.

■ See 30 NEW JOBS on PAGE 2...

## Bahamas Expresses Banking Fears at UN

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON  
Journal Staff Writer

Notwithstanding The Bahamas' best efforts at self-sufficiency, exogenous shocks, in the form of reduced correspondent banking relationships, continue to create challenges for the region, according to Minister of Foreign Affairs Darren Henfield.

Henfield's comment came as he expressed the country's fear of banking relationships during his address at the 72nd United Nations General Assembly in New York on Saturday.

He complained that international banking institutions, fearing that they may be subject to fines and sanctions related to illicit activities of money laundering and terrorist financing, have pulled out "en masse."

■ See BANKING FEARS AT UN on PAGE 2...



► Bahamas Minister of Foreign Affairs the Hon. Darren Henfield during presentation of his National Statement at the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, September 23, 2017. (Photo/BIS)

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# Minister Accused of House Breach

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"The contract award begs the question of why Minister Bannister refused to intervene in the public interest if he had evidence of impropriety on the part of Sunshine Insurance that he felt corrupted the process. Impropriety is sufficient

cause for cancellation and I charge that Bannister has no cause or evidence of impropriety and his posturing and charade in the House were cowardly abuses of parliamentary privilege."

Mr. Roberts also lambasted Deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette who he said recently awarded him-

self a huge contract from Bahamasair.

"No politician in my lifetime has used politics and the public treasury more extensively and greedily for personal enrichment than one Brent Theodore Symonette. The sizable share of the financial proceeds from the \$200 million

NPRIP; the \$70 million Airport Gateway Project; the \$48 million parking lot and access road to the TAR National Stadium and the Frank Watson Highway found its way into the pockets and coffers of Brent Symonette. Brent is now back in the proverbial buffet line no doubt seeking multiple helpings

from the public coffers," Mr. Roberts said.

"We know the FNM has no plans to govern; no plans for BEC and after being scammed out of \$2.8 million. We know the prime minister has absolutely no intentions of tabling that letter from CCRIF he promised three times to table."

## Bahamas Expresses Banking Fears at UN

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"Citizens in our region depend of the services pro-

vided by these entities, and have now become severely disadvantaged as a result of the actions taken," Henfield

added.

"This threatens our ability to remain competitive as one of the leading international centres and hinders our efforts to expand our trading relationships.

"The Head of the IMF, Ms. Christine Lagarde, spoke convincingly in 2016 on the subject of correspondent banking, highlighting

that all stakeholders had to uphold their end of the bargain."

He explained that The Bahamas has invested in a strong compliance regime, at great financial costs.

"We invite the international community to work together to find another way to deal with the issue and allow input from those to be

impacted by their decisions before moving the goalposts again," Henfield said.

"Despite the challenges faced, the government of The Bahamas remains committed to a comprehensive development agenda for the country. With the launch of the National Development Plan Vision 2040 in the coming months, we will set a

course towards the achievement of the SDGs.

"In this connection, The Bahamas has committed to participating in the Voluntary National Review process at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in 2018."



### 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.

Registrar of Marriages

## 30 NEW JOBS FOR GB YOUTH

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"We had a productive meeting with the Grand Bahama Port Authority and discussed several matters which will have a positive impact on the island's economy," Dr. Minnis said.

"We are committed to working with the GBPA in order to eliminate all road blocks to investment. We are dedicated to streamlining our investment process with the first step being the creation of an Investment Unit in Grand Bahama.

"Our government will review our immigration, customs, and exchange control policies with a view to creating a formula to making it easier to

invest and do business in Grand Bahama.

"The government is focused on the redevelopment of the Our Lucaya Strip. We recognize the urgency of this matter and my colleagues and I are working diligently to complete the best deal.

"Grand Bahama requires more than just the re-opening of the hotel strip. We must revive our entire tourism product therefore, our discussion with the owner and potential partners are with a view to transforming the property into the first step of an innovative and unique destination for Grand Bahama."

The prime minister also announced the launch of the first in a series of entrepreneurship programs starting with an apiary or honey production program.

This program, starting October 26, "will guarantee 30 young people the opportunity to start their own honey production business," Dr. Minnis said.

The prime minister added that the government is committed to ensuring that the existing jobs on the strip remain.

To this end, the government will continue its aggressive discussions until it can unveil its plan for a new tourism product and new destination.

## Govt Pledges Support to Dominican Students

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Dr. Minnis said a lot of Dominican schoolchildren have been displaced by the storm and this is why The Bahamas is opening its school system to accommodate them.

"The immigration minister would deal with that matter so that they can be placed within our school

system," the prime minister added.

While the government would place the students in public schools, Dr. Minnis pleaded with Bahamians, especially those with Dominican roots, to assist in accommodating the students in private schools.

"I'm sure there is a lot of Bahamians out there who would assist in accommo-

dating these individuals both financially and otherwise," Dr. Minnis said.

Last week, the powerful category 5 Hurricane Maria swept through Dominica with heavy rains that destroyed many homes throughout the tiny island.

According to international reports, Prime Minister Skerit sent a series of dramatic messages over the

internet as the storm battered the country.

"So far the winds have swept away the roofs of almost every person I have spoken to or otherwise made contact with," Skerit wrote. "The roof to my own official residence was among the first to go.

"The winds are merciless! We shall survive by the grace of God."



### 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.

Registrar of Marriages

## DOMINICA'S PM MEETS DR. MINNIS



► Prime Minister of Dominica Roosevelt Skerit, whose country was recently ravaged by Hurricane Maria, stopped in Nassau Sunday morning, September 24, and met with Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, Minister of Financial Services, Trade & Industry and Immigration Brent Symonette, and Minister of Transport and Local Government Frankie Campbell. (Photo/Yontalay Bowe - OPM Media Services)

# Police to Receive Overtime Pay This Week

## BPL's Board Backs CFO

BY AMAJHL KNOWLES  
Journal Staff Writer

Amid calls for her termination, Bahamas Power and Light's Board of Directors have reiterated its support for the company's Chief Financial Officer Cecille Greene.

Whitney Heastie, BPL Audit Committee chairman, while appearing as a guest on a local talk show, said the CFO was not involved in any wrongdoing despite the theft taking place under her watch.

"When we came on board there was an audit in process by Ernst and Young and we worked with them and took over from the previous board and continued working with them to identify how did this fraud happen and the people involved with the fraud," Heastie said.

"It was determined to be a collusion fraud, several different people from inside and outside the corporation were involved in creating the fraud.

"The report clearly stated that the CFO worked closely with the auditors to help them resolve the issues and she was not involved with the fraud. Yes, she was in charge, but she wasn't involved.

"People forged her signature and did certain things, but she was not involved in the fraud so that's why she wasn't terminated."

The Bahama Journal spoke to Bahamas Electrical Workers Union (BEWU) Secretary General Astrid Bodie last month, who said that the managers should take responsibility and be accountable for the situation that transpired.

She added that while the union doesn't condone stealing and wrongdoing on the job, Bodie said BEWU simply wants fair play in the workplace.

She explained that there were 44 BPL cheques in question that were given to 16 vendors and each one of those cheques were signed by the manager and should have been vetted by the manager.

"So you trying to tell me now, you as a manager have 44 cheques, fraudulent cheques that come across your desk. You sign them, you check the documents and you realize none of the documents are fraudulent. Something is wrong there. Out of 44 you should catch a few," Bodie said.

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
Journal Staff Writer

After almost four years, police officers who worked those 12 hour shifts will receive their overtime payment.

In an interview with The Bahama Journal on Friday, Police Staff Association Chairman Sonny Miller said police officers have received confirmation that the payout would come sometime this week.

"We've gotten confirmation however, what we're following up on at this time is the payment for the officers that had left the job prior to the first payment being made. We want to ensure that they're not left off this time in particular because we don't want to leave anyone behind," Miller said.



Police Staff Association Chairman Sonny Miller (Journal file photo)

He added that all officers worked hard and earned their pay.

Miller said the payment will go to almost all the officers in New Providence who worked those 12 hour shifts back in 2013 and 2014.

He said there is however

no determination as to what the dollar value is that the officers will be paid.

"There was one set figure and we know that we will be getting a portion of it," Miller said.

He added that they're appreciative of the payment and won't make a fuss over not having all the money at one time, as much as they'd like to have it.

The Police Staff Association received the news of their payment back in April while the Christie administration was on the campaign trail.

Their first payment was in May of this year with more than 1,000 police officers receiving payments.

Deputy Prime Minister K. Peter Turnquest told The Bahama Journal back in May that the government paid

police officers a total of \$2.17 million for overtime.

When Miller was asked about the manpower audit going on in the Royal Bahamas Police Force he said, "From our avenue, our major concern is the welfare of our officers and we don't see anything he said as infringing on the rights of our members."

Miller added that they will monitor everything closely as time progresses, but their only job is to ensure the welfare of their officers not to question the minister or government unless their member's rights are infringed upon.

"We look forward to these new initiatives and where we can assist we will because as long as the public is safe and happy then the police are taken care of," Miller said.

## 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)

# The Bahamas Agriculture & Marine Science Institute

## WEEKLY PRICE REPORT

WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Wholesale Crop	Weight	Size	BAMS I			USDA-AMS			
			Price	HIGH	LOW	Retail Weight	BAMS I Price	USDA-AMS 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
			<b>Wholesale Prices Weight</b>			<b>Retail Prices Weight</b>			
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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## PM ATTENDS 'A TASTE OF PORT LUCAYA'



► Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis dances with a young girl in the Port Lucaya Market Square during 'A Taste of Port Lucaya,' which took place on Friday, September 22, 2017. The prime minister led a team of local Cabinet ministers and parliamentary secretaries to the event, which is being held throughout the month of September. It was designed to bring more attention, customers and economic increase to the businesses of Port Lucaya in Freeport, Grand Bahama. The Office of The Prime Minister in Grand Bahama joined forces with the Ministry of Tourism, BTC and other business partners to make 'A Taste of Port Lucaya' possible. (BIS Photo/Lisa Davis)

# Govt Working to Update Facilities that Aid Businesses

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest said the government is undertaking several key initiatives to update the facilities that exist to aid small businesses and Bahamian business generally.

Speaking at the Eleuthera Business Outlook, September 21, 2017, DPM Turnquest said the government also needs to consolidate and improve access to these initiatives so that Bahamian entrepreneurs get timely and effective support.

He said one of the schemes involves the introduction of small and medium enterprise development support programs geared to provide advice and technical support to the Bahamian business community and help walk them through the sometimes confusing maze of government.

The deputy prime minister explained that the government is also creating incentives to encourage risk taking in non-traditional sustainable industries, establishing a one-stop shop to improve efficiency and access to government services and improving customer facing software products to improve the ease and convenience of doing business with government across agencies.

Another initiative also

involves strengthening the existing Bahamas Venture Capital Fund (BVCF) by increasing contributions into the fund and coordinating other financing and business support agencies efforts, such as The Bahamas Development Bank, to avoid overlaps and mission creep.

"As you can see ladies and gentlemen, we are committed to providing meaningful assistance to small and medium sized local businesses and will continue to examine different ways and means of doing so," DPM Turnquest said.

"You may have heard of the prime minister's private/public sector driven 'Ease of doing business Committee,' which is tasked with identifying obstacles to the ease of starting a business or investing in The Bahamas and making recommendations to the government on measures to tackle these and enhance efficiency, accessibility and cost effectiveness."

He said, "The government is acutely aware of and sensitive to the fact that small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of our economy. Breaking barriers and promoting success in this regard will in turn help achieve the ambitious rates of economic growth that have been set as targets.

"This, in turn, will ensure continued gains in poverty reduction and help ensure

that those who have recently emerged from poverty do not slip back into its grip. This is

a moral imperative in addition to an economic challenge and thus we must face

our realities and improve the way we do business generally," said DPM Turnquest.



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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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## 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-rol!

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



► UB architecture students, along with their professor, are pictured at one of the UNESCO-IHP sessions. From left are: Valaria Flax, assistant professor, architecture, Whitney Sturup, Alexis Lightbourne and Royce Archer. **(Photo/Mike Swann, Water and Sewerage Corporation)**

# UB to Benefit from UNESCO Management of Water Resources Meeting

The 12th United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP) and Meeting of National Committees and Focal Points concluded Wednesday, September 20, with a commitment to form a UB-based Committee under the Ministry of Education.

The national committee at the University of the Bahamas (UB), upon formation, will undertake initiatives to advance improved local water resources management through, for example, water resources education, water-related research, and water governance.

Furthermore, at the meeting, a UNESCO-IHP resolution was formally adopted to assist Caribbean nations affected by recent hurricanes. The adoption will address water resources supply and related infrastructure concerns regarding water

security for the affected areas, specifically "technical" expertise.

Delegates at the meeting agreed that climate adaptation and climate change mitigation of important water infrastructures are a particular requirement to avoid the repeat adverse effects of hurricanes and/or storm surges related to tropical storms.

The meeting, held at the British Colonial Hilton from September 18 thru 20, brought together over 60 international delegates representing the Caribbean and South and Central America.

The purpose of the meeting was to agree on resolutions for implementation of the IHP in Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and to discuss ways to achieve water security for small island developing states.



**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

## DOMINICA'S PM MEETS DR. MINNIS



► Prime Minister of Dominica Roosevelt Skerit, whose country was recently ravaged by Hurricane Maria, stopped in Nassau Sunday morning, September 24, and met with Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, Minister of Financial Services, Trade & Industry and Immigration Brent Symonette, and Minister of Transport and Local Government Frankie Campbell. **(Photo/Yontalay Bowe - OPM Media Services)**

## PM ATTENDS 'A TASTE OF PORT LUCAYA'



► Prime Minister Minnis and Minister of State for Grand Bahama Senator Kwasi Thompson laughs as Bahamian entertainer D-Mac takes his performance to the VIP section of the Market Square in Port Lucaya, September 22, 2017. D-Mac, who was one of many performers on Friday night, gave the prime minister, Minister Thompson and Parliamentary Secretary Iram Lewis an opportunity to sing along with him. (BIS Photo/Lisa Davis)

# Roberts Defends PLP over PowerSecure

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES  
Journal Staff Writer

Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Bradley Roberts said he feels in hindsight the former administration's decision to hire PowerSecure to manage Bahamas Power and Light (BPL) was a good one.

His comments came last Friday, while he appeared as a guest on Love 97's radio program "On Point."

"We brought in PowerSecure because of the dilemma that occurred because of the changing scenes in the distribution and the generation of electricity," Mr. Roberts said.

"The decision was taken that management was needed to be taken to a next level and experts were needed to be brought in.

"As to whether they were the right people to select or not, I don't know, but I am satisfied that they went through the process of public tendering.

Despite this, the PLP chairman also added that he believes Bahamians are well equipped to manage the utility provider themselves.

"We have invested extensively in training of Bahamians in electrical generation, telecommunication and water and sewage. Our people are well equipped in those areas," he said.

Mr. Roberts' comments came as the government announced last week the termination of its relationship with PowerSecure.

Minister of Works Desmond Bannister made the revelation to the business

community during a "Meet the Minister" Power Breakfast at the British Colonial Hilton.

"In the period ending July 25, 2017, BPL has spent some \$9,198,738.68 with PowerSecure. We shall have much time to reflect on the value of this investment," said Mr. Bannister.

He added, "Whilst PowerSecure undoubtedly meant well, there is much to be said for cultural knowledge. Placing an otherwise successful entity in the midst of an alien culture generally operates to the detriment of both.

Edison Sumner, the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation's (BCCEC) Chief Executive, has queried the government's and board's strategy for BPL going forward, given that the energy monopoly's problems remained largely the same as those that existed prior to PowerSecure's March 2016 appointment.

PowerSecure, now a part of Southern Company, had held a five-year operating agreement, which it signed in early 2016. That agreement provided for a maximum \$25 million payout.

It was signed in early 2016. Since taking the helm, PowerSecure's efforts at restructuring the cash-strapped utility provider has been marred by island-wide power outages in the capital and on some Family Islands.

Electricity bills also increased under PowerSecure's management.

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