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# The Bahama Journal

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**TUESDAY - OCTOBER 24TH, 2017**

**75 CENTS**

# PLP NEEDS RADICAL REFORMS, SAYS SEARS



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

**"MINNIS IN DENIAL", SAID PLP CHAIRMAN**

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
 Journal Staff Writer

"The Free National Movement has no plan for our Bahama land", were the words Bradley Roberts spoke during his address officially opening of the Progressive Liberal Party's (PLP) 53rd National General Convention at Melia Nassau Beach Hotel, yesterday.

■ See CHAIRMAN / page 2...

**Citizenship Commission May Require Constitutional Change Says Mitchell**

BY AMAJAHN KNOWLES  
 Journal Staff Writer

Former Minister of Immigration Fred Mitchell has said the the Prime Minister's immigration deadline may require an amendment to the constitution.

■ See CITIZENSHIP / page 2...

**F**ormer Cabinet Minister Alfred Sears says unless The Progressive Liberal Party undertakes fundamental internal transformation, "it is unlikely that the party will regain anytime soon the loyalty of its disaffected members and win the trust of the wider Bahamian electorate."

Mr. Sears who ran for the position of leader of the PLP before said he was asked by many of the Party's stalwart Councillors and delegates to contest for the leadership position in the convention currently in progress. He said while he is grateful for the expressions of confidence in

his leadership, his experience as a candidate for leader in January 2017, as confirmed by the results of the general elections in May 2017, convinced him of "the urgent necessity for the PLP to reconnect to its core values and institute radical internal governance reforms to create a more democratic, transparent and accountable party."

Mr. Sears represented the people of Fort Charlotte for two consecutive terms in the House of Assembly and served as Minister of Education and Attorney general in the first Christie administration in 2002.

He said, "the Constitution of the PLP mandates that there be a National

General Convention every year in the month of either October or November or as is otherwise determined by the NGC. The Convention this week will be only the second time, in about eight years, that the Branches, NGC members, Delegates and members of the Party will assemble in national convention to review the work of the Party, modify and/or establish new policies, programs and Standing Orders, make amendments by resolution to the Platform, Byelaws and Constitution, receive and adopt reports of the NGC and Branches and elect Officers of the Party."

■ See PLP NEEDS RADICAL / page 2...



► Former Cabinet Minister Alfred Sears (Journal file photo)

## PRESENTATION OF TABLETS TO THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF GAMBIER PRIMARY SCHOOL



► Presentation of tablets by Prime Minister Minnis to the students and teachers of Gambier Primary School, Gambier Village.



► Former Tourism Minister Obie Wilchombe (Journal file photo)

## Wilchombe Says Christie Thinks He Would Be A "Good Fit" For Chairman

While former Progressive Liberal Party leader Perry Christie has not publicly stated who he will support for leader or chairman, former Tourism Minister Obie Wilchombe has indicated that Mr. Christie has said that he would be a good fit for the position he is seeking.

Mr. Wilchombe made the revelation while appearing as a guest on the Love 97/ JCN Program "Jones and Company."

"I'm trying to get him to support me.

"He has indicated that he thinks I would be a good fit for the chairmanship of the party, I've worked with him, I've been loyal to him and his leadership because I believe that's imperative for an organization.

"I believe Christie has been misunderstood in many circumstances, I think often times he has been wrongly criticized," Mr. Wilchombe said.

Mr. Wilchombe also stated that he does not believe in the antagonis-

tic campaign and "attacking his brothers" and believes that he should be elected chairman based on his ideas, thoughts and relationships and these factors must be in the best interest of the party.

Mr. Wilchombe added that he agrees with pundits call for the party to rebrand, as he has been a leading voice for this new transformation of the PLP since its crushing defeat at the polls in May.

■ See WILCHOMBE SAYS / page 2...

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# “MINNIS IN DENIAL”, SAID PLP CHAIRMAN

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mr. Roberts, the PLP outgoing chairman focused on the fact that crime has seemingly increased under the current administration, saying, “Crime and unemployment has increased and the consensus is, the FNM has no plan for our Bahama land.”

He then accuses Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis of being in denial, as to the disappointments that plague the Bahamas.

“Dr. Minnis remains in denial as he continues to tell Bahamians that there is a sense of calm over the country, while eight month old babies and teenagers are being murdered on our streets and in the safety of

their homes.

“Clearly this calm was the calm before the fury Category five hurricanes FNM hit the Bahamas.” Mr. Roberts shared with the audience.

It has been five months since the FNM assumed office and Mr. Roberts indicated that although five months ago the PLP faced a devastating defeat by the Free National Movement (FNM) at the May 10th polls, where the Bahamian people spoke loud and clear, he reassured persons that “this is not uncharted political waters”.

He told PLP delegates that just as this most recent loss was heartbreaking for many, the former administration has found ways to overcome such defeats in the past and is confident they will

succeed again in the next general election; he said,

“We made this journey between 1992, 1997 and 2002 with glorious electoral results, so be not dismayed. We will bounce back once again.”

For only the third time in the party’s 64 year history has there been a change of leadership. As the PLP undergoes a leadership transition, Mr. Roberts says “this tells me that the Progressive Liberal Party delegates take the awesome task and responsibility of choosing their leader very seriously.

“We understand that our election positions have implications, not only for the future of our party, but the policy direction of our country,” he said.

The 53rd National General

Convention’s theme is ‘A new perspective is timely and appropriate’ and Mr. Roberts believes that the exchange of ideas and policy proposals would reflect the national day mood of the Bahamian people.

Additionally, Mr. Roberts also implored persons to be tolerant of opposing views during this general election. He said, “As you campaign for and debate the merits of the various candidates of your choice, I beseech you, not once, not twice, but one hundred times to do so in a spirit of mutual respect.

“Please be tolerant of opposing views and voices of descent and these expressions are part and parcel of the democratic process and fully protected by the party’s constitution,” said

Mr. Roberts.

He then disclosed that amendments have been made to the PLP’s constitution, based on the report of the standing constitutional committee dated 16th of October.

The report to Mr. Roberts (the former PLP chairman) says, “The party will be guided by the new leadership going forward on our proposed major review of our party’s constitution.”

He said, “when we emerge from this convention, I’m confident we will be stronger and more united as a body politic and to return the great Progressive Liberal Party to the governance of this country as we fight for the soul of this great commonwealth.”

# PLP NEEDS RADICAL REFORMS, SAYS SEARS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

“This Convention is the first since the Party suffered one of its most devas-

tating general elections loss since 1973. In Convention, we should review why the Party lost and begin to reform the Party in order to

regain the trust of the Bahamian electorate.

“At the Convention in January 2017, I submitted a Leadership Platform “A

Vision for Our Revolution” containing detailed proposals to grow the Bahamian economy, strengthen Local


Government and establish the Commonwealth Republic of The Bahamas with checks and balances to ensure accountable, transparent and honest government as well as proposed necessary reforms within the Party. Further, for this Convention, I submitted to the Secretary General a number of select resolutions to amend the Constitution of the Progressive Liberal Party to begin the reform of the Party.

I invite Stalwart Councillors and Delegates to support the resolutions

to bring about these constitutional reforms this week at the Convention. I believe that these constitutional reforms will strengthen the Party, signal to the Bahamian electorate that the reform process is underway and prepare the Party for victory in 2022,” said Mr. Sears.

“Under the current electoral process within the Progressive Liberal Party, I will not accept a nomination to contest for any leadership position at this convention.

See PLP NEEDS / page 4...

  
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 –


Daniel Joseph Boehm, Divorced,  
of 6330 Stockwell Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46237, United States of America


and

Cheryl Anne Vaughn, Divorced,  
of 6330 Stockwell Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46237, 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 12th day of October, 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 –


Eric Donald Frank, Single,  
of 3921 NE 24th Avenue, Lighthouse Point, FL 33064, United States of America


and

Jessica Marie Hill, Single,  
of 3921 NE 24th Avenue, Lighthouse Point, FL 33064, 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 12th day of October, 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 –


Stephen Anthony Brannon, Single,  
of 2511 Brown Noddy Lane, Apt 201, Tampa, FL 33619, United States of America

and

Ashley Brianna Dupree, Single,  
of 2511 Brown Noddy Lane, Apt 201, Tampa, FL 33619, 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 2nd day of October, 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 –

Christian Rodrigo Foncillas, Divorced,  
of San Jose De La Sierra 93, DPTO 117A, Las Condes, Santiago, Chile

and

Anyia Loreto Araya, Single,  
of San Jose De La Sierra 93, DPTO 117A, Las Condes, Santiago, Chile

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 12th day of October, 2017.

  
Registrar of Marriages

## Citizenship Commission May Require Constitutional Change Says Mitchell

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Amid public outcry in the aftermath of the government’s immigration ultimatum, Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis announced over the weekend that his government will establish an independent Commission to approve citizenship applications. Since independence citizenship applications were approved by the Cabinet.

However, while appearing as a guest on the Love 97 Radio Program Mr. Mitchell said the issue isn’t as straight forward as it seems and may require adjustment to the law to make it a reality.

“The question is we would have to see the legislation the devil is in the details; can the government derogate from the power the constitution gives to the government.

“A delegate can’t delegate, the constitution gives you the power, at the moment is says the minister and the minister is the conduit is the cabinet.

“My view is that you can have a committee of the cabinet but the minister should just be the minister

“ I want to look very carefully at what the legislation may say because as I read it now the constitution does say parliament by law prescribes how citizenship can be granted, it does not allow as far as I can tell you to delegate it to some other body.

“It was always envisioned to be a decision of the government, now the government in my view can mean the minister, the cabinet committee but it should always be subject to the political authority.” Mr. Mitchell said.

## Wichombe Says Christie Thinks He Would Be A “Good Fit” For Chairman

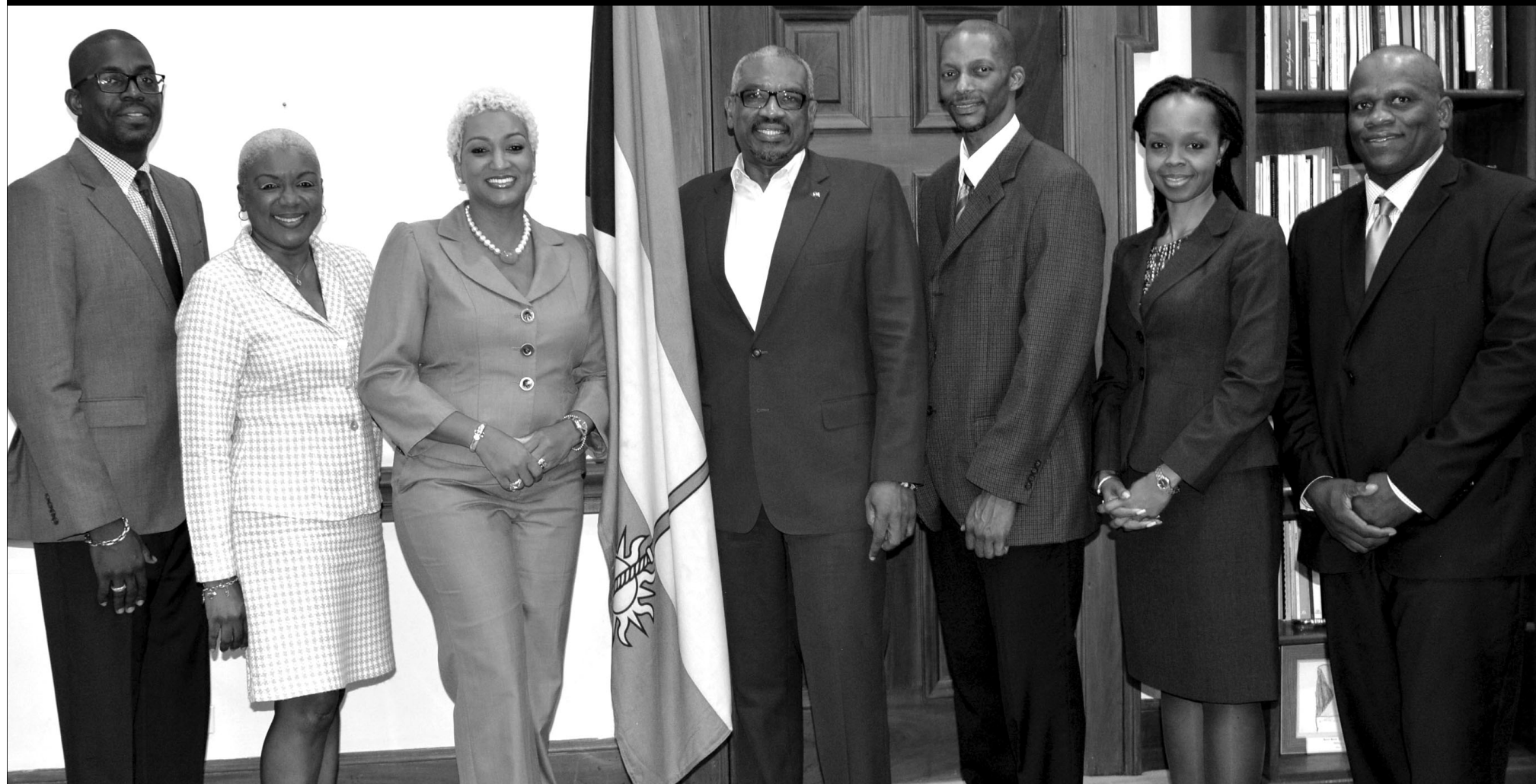
Continued from / PAGE 1...

Former Foreign Affairs Minister Senator Fred Mitchell has since confirmed that he would also be seeking the party’s chairmanship.

He joins several other PLPs who have

announced their intentions to vie for chairmanship of the party. They include, former Mortgage Corporation Chairman Alex Storr, former Long Island candidate Glendon Rolle and former Minister of State for Legal Affairs Damian Gomez.

## NATIONAL JUNKANOO COMMITTEE PAYS COURTESY CALL ON PRIME MINISTER MINNIS



► The National Junkanoo Committee (NJC) paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis (centre) at the Office of the Prime Minister, recently. Pictured from left: Kishlane O'Brien, Co-Chair; Dr. Dwight Marshall, Co-Chair; Adrian Carter, Communications/Public Relations; Nicole Sutherland-King, Legal Adviser; Vernon Rolle, Parades Management, Chair/Task Force; Charlene Reid, Outreach & Workshops; Ellery Deveaux, Min. of Youth Sports & Culture Junkanoo Coordinator; and Rowena Poitier-Sutherland, Director of Culture. (Photo/Yontalay Bowe, OPM Media Services)

# Millennials Part Of PLP New Perspective

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
Journal Staff Writer

Millennials were the main focus at this year's Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) convention.

Under the theme "a new perspective," night one of the convention saw seven young people on the platform.

Three of the seven speakers last night were millennials and a number of them were seen mingling with delegates and soliciting votes as they are running for the vari-

ous positions in the party. Alphonso Major, Reneika Knowles, Tevin Ferguson and Lamar Matthews are among some of the youngest persons vying for the vice chairmanship position.

Major said he's expecting the PLP to come out of the convention seeing the importance of investing in the millennials of the party.

"I think that for too long we've used millennials for certain levels of campaign and certain levels of governance. We've

never used them at the forefront fully and I think that this is that time where we have to now utilize them. Based on the past elections the fact that we only got 37% of the votes, there was a resounding no from the millennial population and as we go into 2022, the numbers are only going to increase in that population. Therefore those are the persons we must tackle and get to believe in us again," Major said.

Tevin Ferguson said that he believes that the

young people are the future of the party and that's why he put himself forward for the vice chairman post.

"I've put myself forward in my community and nationally because youth need to be educated and empowered for the road to 2022," Ferguson said.

Kenan Johnson vice chairman said he is proud that younger persons have put themselves forward because when young and old come together, then you get

'the right mix.'

Former PLP candidate for Killarney and candidate for vice chairman Reneika Knowles said the power of youth inclusion is in the hands of the delegates as they have the choice now to choose a millennial for the vice chairman post.

"Being able to elect young people into positions, to be able to help and authentically execute what it is that they should be doing, is the way they are starting to include the young people. The young

people equals a fresh face a new perspective and help start a new era," Knowles said.

Among those addressing the opening night of the convention were Keenan Johnson, Vice Chairman, Glenisha Albury, Andre Kelly, former chairman of the Young Liberals, Doctor Erecia Hepburn, Mr. Obie Roberts, Attorney Robyn Lynes and Monique Pindling, daughter of former Prime Minister, the late Sir Lynden Pindling.

## The Bahamas Agriculture & Marine Science Institute

# WEEKLY PRICE REPORT

WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Wholesale Crop	Weight	Size	BAMSI Price	USDA-AMS		Retail Weight	BAMSI Price	USDA-AMS	
				HIGH	LOW			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 Green	8lbs		16.00	15.00	12.00	1lb.	2.50	1.88	1.50
Habanero Orange	8lbs		40.00	15.00	12.00	1lb.	5.50	1.88	1.50
Okra						1lb.	3.00	N/A	N/A

Abaco Big Bird  
Whole Chicken  
Leg Quarters  
Wings

Wholesale Prices  
Weight

Per lb. 2.14  
40lbs 28.36  
40lbs 66.04

Retail Prices  
Weight

1 lb 2.39  
10lbs 8.49  
10lbs 19.24

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



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## PRESENTATION OF TABLETS TO THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF GAMBIER PRIMARY SCHOOL



► Presentation of tablets by Prime Minister Minnis to the students and teachers of Gambier Primary School, Gambier Village.

# BISHOP HALL CALLS For Government Intervention In Policies

BY LICEG BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

Eight years since the CLICO debacle, Bishop Simeon Hall is calling on the government to step in to ensure that Bahamians are protected from eventualities like the one that led to CLICO flatling.

With yesterday being the second tranche of payments in a series of three tranches during 2017, policyholders gathered at the CLICO head office on Mt. Royal Avenue to collect their cheques.

Speaking with the Journal, Bishop Hall, who was once a policyholder with CLICO, commended the government for living up to its commitment. However,

he called on the government to ensure that another episode of failed insurances does not reoccur.

“CLICO has made this another expression of its obligation to the policyholders and we are very glad and we commend the government for continuing to bring this to fruition.

“I cannot resist the temptation though, to call on the government to see that this never happens again.

“And that all those policyholders are dealt with as soon as possible,” he said.

Bishop Hall says that although he and many of the policyholders are grateful that they are being paid out, he wished

that the government had met with individuals who held policies with the company.

“I would have liked for a government official to call people together and to give them information. But be that as it may people are hurting by this,” he said.

Bishop Hall recounted how, although, one man was receiving a cheque, he was overwhelmed by the timing of which the cheque came.

“I met a gentleman sitting at a desk and he was crying, literally crying and I asked him, sir what’s the matter, you’re getting a cheque why are you crying?”

“He said I wish my wife was here to enjoy this day. She died two

years ago waiting for these kinds of things. So, you know some things are just egregious and wrong and CLICO is one of them.

“But again, thank God for small blessings and I hope that the day comes soon when this thing will be finalized,” Bishop Hall said.

He expressed concern that the monies from CLICO had allegedly been invested and that investment did not pan out when the company closed its doors and added that policyholders were left ‘holding the bag’.

“I often wonder who is the Minister of Finance

when CLICO went belly up. Who were those who were able to get their monies out one or two weeks before the debacle; some things are just wrong, and this is one of them.

“I can’t say specifically, but it seems like some monies went elsewhere and was invested and the investment turned sour and thus we were made to stand with the empty bag, holding the bag.

“The money never should have left the Bahamas in the first place. You could only take certain amount out; so how come? Somebody fell asleep at the wheel while CLICO went belly

up,” Bishop Hall said.

CLICO payouts took place for New Providence policyholders yesterday and will continue for Grand Bahamians on Monday October 30.

According to a CLICO (Bahamas) Limited (in Liquidation) Public Notice qualified policyholders, with few exceptions, were expected to receive up to \$5,000 in respect to their outstanding claim balances.

Policyholders who have yet to collect their cheques from the tranches that took place in April of this year and of last year will receive combined payment covering those disbursements.

## WORKSHOP ON RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES UNDERWAY

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
Journal Staff Writer

Radioactive substances have the potential to be highly dangerous and naturally the movement of such products and chemicals are vital to the safety of any country.

This information was revealed in a three day workshop staged by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environmental Health along with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The IAEA mission is to assist in establishing and maintaining the national inventory and developing national strategy for safe management and regulatory control of radiation sources

The Bahamas joined the IAEA in January 2014 with the commitment to control radioactive sources in the country safely.

Deputy Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Eugene Newry said, “Radioactive sources in the Bahamas are used for several beneficial purposes in areas such as health, industry, research and agriculture in both private and public sectors.”

The IAEA’s workshop will train and educate personnel from various ministries, such as Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment Health and Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the importance of regulatory infrastructure of radiation source control, the methodology of management and inventory of radioactive sources.

## PLP NEEDS RADICAL REFORMS, SAYS SEARS

Continued from / PAGE 2...

“I am available and willing to assist the Party, working from the ground up as a Stalwart Councillor and member of the Party’s Fort Charlotte Branch, in reforming its Constitution, reengineering its internal

governance processes, shaping its platform for sustainable economic development, deepening Bahamian ownership and entrepreneurship and providing servant leadership for honest and accountable national governance.

In a reformed

Progressive Liberal Party, with an open, fair and accountable internal governance and electoral processes, I would be pleased to offer my candidacy and be elected to serve the Party in a leadership position,” said the former MP.



### PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Sir Durward Knowles, through his involvement with One Bahamas Foundation, has exemplified the mandate of the Foundation by his ability to encourage, love and promote unity among all Bahamians throughout our nation;

**AND WHEREAS**, the One Bahamas Programme, which was established in 1992, was the brain child of the Honourable Algernon Allen, former Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture;

**AND WHEREAS**, in 1993, three outstanding individuals were elevated to the apex of the One Bahamas Foundation, Sir Orville Turnquest, former Governor General, became its Patron, while Sir Durward Knowles and Mr. Obie Ferguson became the organization’s Co-Chairpersons;

**AND WHEREAS**, Sir Durward has the distinction of becoming the first Bahamian to win an Olympic Gold Medal in Sailing at the 1964 Olympic in Tokyo, Japan;

**AND WHEREAS**, Sir Durward’s lifetime achievements in Sports, Rotary, Philanthropy and National Development are testaments to his legacy as a man for all seasons and a true Bahamian national hero;

**AND WHEREAS**, in celebration of Sir Durward Knowles’ 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, which falls on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017, the One Bahamas Foundation has organize a schedule of events celebrate the life and work of this outstanding centenarian;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Hubert A. Minnis, Prime Minister of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, do hereby proclaim the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017, as “**SIR DURWARD KNOWLES’ DAY**”.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.

HUBERT A. MINNIS  
PRIME MINISTER

# “WHERE IS MR. NYGARD’S SWIFT JUSTICE” to rebuild his house?

Environmental Activist, Vivian Whyly while being interviewed on JCN’s The Platform television show, opined that fashion mogul Peter Nygard has been denied justice because at four years he has yet to have been given permission to rebuild his home on Nygard Cay.

Mr. Whyly expressed that The Government of The Bahamas needs to grant Mr. Nygard a permit and allow him to rebuild his home.

When asked by the show’s host, “Wouldn’t the Government be in contempt of court since this matter is under judicial review?” Mr. Whyly responded, “A lady in Old Fort Bay was charged and convicted with killing her husband, and sentenced in a shorter time than it takes the Government to make a decision on Nygard.

“You have to be able to reasonably expect due process to be done in a timely manner. It’s been 4 years of wasting time.”

Mr. Whyly also expressed the view that the public doesn’t know a lot about the injunction, and that they are simply aware that there is an ongoing feud between two neighbours.

Save The Bays has taken the Government of The Bahamas to court for a judicial review concerning the decision to issue permits to Mr. Nygard to rebuild his home after it was mysteriously burned down a number of years ago. Mr. Nygard is still waiting to be granted permission to rebuild.

About the Bahamian people, Whyly states: “All they know is a feud. That’s how bad this is—the newspaper ads and all the rest of that have nothing to do with the court moving on the case.”

Mr. Whyly feels that the court can deal with any contempt of court matters while at the same time dealing with the substance of the case on the injunction.

He went on to use this analogy: “If you pay your light bill and they turn your light off, they breach the contract. Peter [Nygard] pays his taxes. Make a decision. That’s all the Government should concentrate on and do.

“Where’s Mr. Nygard’s Swift Justice?” Whyly asks.

“You see, criminal matters are not the

## 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.

only matters in front of the court. There are civil matters also. And if it takes you four years, 48 months,” The show’s host finishes the statement, “for a court to do a judicial review, there is no swift justice. And justice delayed,” Mr. Whyly completes the statement, “is justice denied.”

Mr. Whyly reiterates that Peter Nygard has been denied justice.

Additionally, Mr. Whyly expressed these views:

“I believe that Mr. Nygard has been attacked repeatedly, and is continuously being attacked. Lyford Cay is not a sovereign country. Nygard is a friend of The Bahamas. The people who don’t like Mr. Nygard live in Lyford Cay, and they’re trying to dictate to The Bahamas how they should deal with Mr. Nygard.

“The [Bahamian] people know that this is a bunch of money by Save The Bays to make Mr. Nygard look bad. For what? That’s what the Bahaman people need to know. Why are they doing all of this to make Nygard look bad?

“People read the newspaper and come to me on the streets and they say, ‘Mr. Whyly, thank you for explaining what’s going on.’ Mr. Nygard has been almost a ragdoll in the pitbull’s mouth when it comes to their attempt to discredit him.

“Mr. Peter Nygard has been unfairly treated in The Bahamas because of undue influence by Save The Bays. I am saddened that the people in The Bahamas are not being allowed to benefit from being able to go in Lyford Cay, and being able to use the doc at the park.

“The Government should act. They should act in favour of granting Mr. Nygard these things. Because he hasn’t done anything not to be granted that.”

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Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

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E D I T O R I A L

# SELF-RIGHTEOUS BAHAMIANS

What far so very many Bahamians revel in has to do with their own-vaunted self-righteousness which oft-times comes packaged in with sanctimony of the rankest sort.

An egregious case in point has to do with the issue of gaming and the purported harm it does certain people who – as the word on the street goes – become addicted to ‘spinning’ and other neat ways of spending and sometimes wasting their own hard-earned money.

While we would be among the first to agree that such gaming can become addictive; but yet, we wonder why it is that so very many Bahamians – some of them secretly alcoholic – are so very reluctant to shout and trumpet the damages done men, women and their children as they imbibe any number of spirituous liquors.

This is precisely why we insist that: It is unfortunate that Mr. Craig Flowers and some others in the gaming business are now being pressed to answer charges that what they do can make addicts of some of their clients.

Strangely enough and therefore also with of large degree of paradox attached: Practically no one seems prepared to levy the same type of charge against the merchants who make a lion’s share of their fortunes from the sale of whiskey, gin, wine, et cetera and even more alcohol that can come under that very useful et cetera!

This is so very curious. If the truth be told: Vast fortunes have been made off the import, transport and consumption of Scotch Whiskey and other such libations to a Prohibition-Dry United States of America; and of course, practically every one favored enough to work in a suite – as opposed – to doing so on any of our dusty-mean streets can attest – Happy Hour does not come quick enough for so very many of them.

Sad to say: Very many of them become addicted!

What continues to amaze, therefore has to do with the extent to which Alcoholism is ignored whilst practically every ninny and her uncle can and do so brazenly excoriate the men and the women who have gone big-time whilst offering a ‘magic-driven’ opportunity to win [obviously with the odds stacked against them] – and so do they entertain themselves.

And thus an unlucky few become addicted; and thus, also—that lucky few who do win!

In sum, then: What we have on our col-

lective hands is a situation where practically everyone we know seems content to obsess themselves with the murder count and nonsensical conversations as to what the police should be doing about the so-called crime problem.

In the interim, some of these people ignore the fact that, there are certain social practices that lead directly to what is perceived as the “crime problem”.

Highest on that list of practices would be the indiscriminate and often profligate consumption of liquor, other spirits and a nasty mix of other drugs, licit and illicit alike.

In this regard then, we would suggest that, Bahamians of all strata and all other social conditions, routinely use alcohol as part of their family and community rituals; and for sure, even as very many of these people consume alcohol because it tends to lubricate social intercourse; few of them understand that use can and does sometime lead to abuse.

In addition, alcohol abuse sometimes slouches into a full-fledged medical crisis – alcoholism.

Here we suspect that, this problem is far more widespread than many people might recognize and that it may very well help explain the horrendous impact, drugs and alcohol have as regards impairing a person’s judgment; and thus and thereafter the carnage on our streets that comes with all those car crashes that maim and kill so very many people.

And so today we are proud to note that: “...Gambling can be a fun once-in-a-while activity or, for the lucky few, a way to win that illusive jackpot...”

And since we live in a real world, we know it for a fact that: Gamblers can become obsessive and compulsive about playing this or that so-called ‘game’.

This means that some of them can and will find themselves in the throes of an addiction that could ruin them financially, socially, psychologically or even physically.

This is precisely where their Church families and other civic oriented groups can and should intervene – and of course, so too should the addicts’ family, neighbor and friends.

And just as obviously – if these fail – the State authority should so regulate and so appropriately tax matters that can lead to addiction that, funds are available to treat those made ill by such so-called ‘adventures’.

**THE BAHAMAS**  
Sun, Sand, Sea .... and the  
**The Bahama Journal**  
NO BETTER READING

# Bahamians Want One for One in Our own GB Power Company!

BY FREDERICK SMITH QC

**The hostile Takeover of Grand Bahama Power Company by a 100% foreign owned company, (Emera) which The Free National Movement Government approved without consultation with Bahamian shareholders of ICDU and without reference to any public policy conversation with general Bahamian public about foreign Company owning Power generation plant is wrong. More specifically, they did not consult with land owners, residents and licensees of the Grand Bahama Port Authority in Grand Bahama, the people most affected by its impact under Hawksbill Creek Agreement and primary obligations of GBPA to provide and maintain Utilities.**

**This is the Peoples' Power Company; The FNM is Selling the People Out**

Currently, the Bahamian shareholders in ICDU own something which initially generated dividends at 10 % pa for many years.

If the FNM government allows this transaction to go through, after November 8, 2017 Bahamians will own nothing.

**Why doesn't Emera simply trade us one share of GB Power for 1 share of ICDU?**

This is how Emera operates in the Eastern Caribbean, where the people of each country directly own shares in the Emera power company operators, and those shares are traded on the Eastern Caribbean Stock Exchange.

So why not repeat the same formula in the Bahamas?

If this transaction goes through, Bahamians will own nothing; we will own no shares in any company only depository receipts (DRs) and we may or may not get dividends in the future.

Our rights will be governed by the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Any litigation will have to occur in Canada.

GB Power is the most profitable subsidiary of all of Emera's galaxy of Canadian and international companies.

We will be deprived of receiving profits from our local power company.

We will only get, maybe some dividends from Emera International, which averages out all

profits and losses from its corporate galaxy.

- Shareholders of ICDU are frustrated because we have not been getting dividends for years.

- Freeport is hurting and Shareholders of ICDU will be motivated to sell because they need money and haven't even been able to get dividends.

- By not paying dividends, the value of the ICDU shares on BISX has been intentionally depressed over the years; compare the increase in value of shares over the same years in eg Emera in Canada or other energy companies.

- Thus allowing KPMG to "value" shares low!

- And once Emera owns 100%, rates in GB will increase and residents and businesses of Freeport and GB will pay for all the increased value of electricity plant growth investments etc without reaping any of the benefits, i.e. Bahamians will pay for infrastructure growth for Foreign capital gains and benefit, with a small return, after losses of all other locations taken in to the equation

- Note how cautioned all of the contents of their original email are about profits from DR in future.

- The approved transaction is complicated and convoluted and not in the national interest of the Bahamas and especially the residents and business in Grand Bahama.

Currently if GB Power makes profits, Bahamian shareholders and regulators will see those on the books and can go to a shareholders meeting and can be consulted and can speak and can agitate locally and politically and can make a local difference.

Once our shares are converted into international depository receipts, we become corporately and politically completely impotent in respect of our own local power company.

This is social, political, economic and cultural suicide.

We are giving up our sovereignty over our power generation in the industrial capital of the Bahamas!

Let me try and simplify it even further:

Right now, Bahamians



especially the residents of Freeport invested in their future nearly 20 years ago, actually own and are entitled to accountability from GB Power that runs the local power station.

If this transaction goes through, Bahamians will now own nothing other than a big promise of possible dividends from a foreign entity unrelated to GB Power with no accountability.

There may never be dividends; there is no longer any transparency of the financial value of GB Power; the profits of GB Power never have to be shared; it will no longer be listed in the Bahamian stock exchange.

It's a complete rip-off

Even if Emera is 80% owner of GB Power (which it is not)

What is the government of the Bahamas doing secretly approving transactions in which the owners of the shares haven't even been consulted about an arrangement between the government and Emera

In which they are going to forcibly take the shares owned by Bahamian citizens.

The whole object of the original sale was for GBPA to remain in control of GB Power.

The construct was always that the board of directors of GB Power would be equally appointed by GBPA/ICDU.

And also because of the Hawksbill Agreement that GBPA would have management control of GB Power.

This is how it operated until Edward St George's death and a few years after.

When the Saint Georges sold their 25% of ICDU; then the Haywards sold 25% of ICDU, that left 50% of the Bahamian owners.

And of course Emera has proceeded to acquire

bit by bit more of the Bahamian shares.

But it was always the premise that the Bahamian power company was owned by a Bahamian company which had management control of GB Power through ICDU and GBPA under terms of HCA.

And also that Bahamians especially residents of Freeport would be able to benefit from profits generated from the local power company (not averaged profits and losses for all of Emera's activities all over the world)

So to create a construct in which Bahamians and residents no longer have any direct or indirect ownership and GB Power; and

GB Power is no longer under control of GBPA on its obligations under the Hawksbill Creek Agreement et cetera; and

What they're doing is putting Bahamians into non-share ownership of some international entity or Caribbean entity which may never give dividends on the depository receipts, and has no accountability to the securities commission, or any kind of financial scrutiny by the Bahamas government to look after the interests of Bahamian shareholders,

Until Edward St George's death, all Bahamian shareholders in ICDU received 10% on their investment.

Dividends were always 10% of the value of the investment until just a couple of years after Edward died.

So, by converting the ownership from shares directly or indirectly in GB Power,

GB Power can be delisted from the BISX and will no longer have to file any financial statements;

And because GBPA doesn't have any interest in it any more through St George and Hayward they are basically going to let GB Power rape the community on rates

This is exactly what happened when Hutcheson and GBPA negotiated a 20 year extension of all of the tax provisions under the HCA under the PLP in 2015, but, all other licenses had to pay real property tax et cetera unless they came

to some kind of agreement with the government under GB incentives act.

Basically the Hayward and St George families which own 50% of the GBPA have once again sold GBPA licensees and residents out and our PLP and FNM governments who have secretly approved this from early this year have been complicit in selling "The People" out!

GB Power is the most profitable centre for all of Emera International and Caribbean affiliate.

They make a huge profit;

And now by converting the shares of ICDU into

Depository Receipts in some other affiliate of the Caribbean, whatever dividends or returns might come along are dependent upon the profits averaged from all the companies as opposed to Bahamian residents who previously owned shares in directly of GB Power through I see the utilities of the local power company.

What they're doing is further capitalizing on the profits of GB power.

Whereas until this arrangement, because profits and dividends to ICDU shareholders were directly related to the profits generated from GB Power in Grand Bahama they would generally receive dividends.

Now, by removing GB Power from the formula, the residents and owners of shares in ICDU that convert their shares into depository receipts of the international or Caribbean Emera may never get any profits and

What profits we may get do get by way of dividends are not directly related to GB Power.

It's just another way of making more money from Grand Bahama.

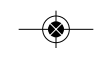
It's just a big rip-off.

The government is too blind to see that.

The simplest and most honest process is for Emera to offer to buy out anybody who wants to sell at whatever price they want of the shares in ICDU.

But whoever wants to keep their shares should be able to swap it equally for a share in GB Power.

**We Want One for One in Our own GB Power Company!**



# Archdeacon Palacios Tells Senior Citizens: **‘Life Still Happens After 60’**

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
*Journal Staff Writer*

Challenging senior citizens at a service in recognition of Older Persons and Older Persons month, Anglican Archdeacon James Palacios told the seniors that life still happens over 60.

Referencing the month's theme "Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society," Archdeacon Palacios in a comical but candid sermon to a packed church of senior citizens told them that their best years are ahead of them, and that they should not live their lives focused on the past.

"You can't live in the past. There is nothing you can do about the past, but there is everything you can do right now.

"All you can do is say, Lord I thank you for life in my body.

"I [am] too old to commit some of those sins [done in the past] and I pray I don't commit any now," Archdeacon Palacios said.

"At some point you have to let go of things of the past," he said.

The Archdeacon encouraged the senior citizens to rejuvenate, taking care of themselves so that they could enjoy life.

"Enjoy life, nourish your body, you could still exercise too," Archdeacon Palacios told the senior citizens.

He further told them that they are here to teach and lend support to the up and coming generation.

"It is our duty to influence the next generation and be there for them. Be there to teach them those old values that made us

who we are as a people.

"Integrity, honesty, good manners, respect for your elders, respect for your environment, tidiness and cleanliness," he said.

He told the seniors that it was their duty to make

certain that the generation of the future has a foundation laid for them.

"We have to be there to nurture them; that is our duty as seniors in our community and in our family. We have contributed to the generation

behind us and we have to contribute to the generation yet born," Archdeacon Palacios said.

The 27th International Day of Older Persons and Older Persons month was recognized yesterday by

the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development and the Department of Social Services Senior Citizens Division with a service and luncheon for senior citizens at Christ The King Anglican Church.

## **FORMER COB PRESIDENT PRESENTS BOOK TO MINISTER PINTARD**



► Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture the Hon. Michael Pintard (left) receives a copy of the book *Barefoot to Boardroom: The Intriguing Life Story of a Poor Country Lad Turned College President* from former College of The Bahamas President, and Secretary General for The Bahamas National Commission for UNESCO Dr. Leon Higgs, during a courtesy call at the Ministry, on October 23, 2017. (BIS Photo/ Eric Rose)

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