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WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 18TH, 2017

75 CENTS

# Govt Offers to Buy Grand Lucayan

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES  
 Journal Staff Writer

**T**he possible boost of the economy of the nation's second city Freeport is in the offing with the revelation that the government has made an offer to

Hutchinson Whampoa to purchase the Grand Lucayan Resort. This was revealed by Press Secretary Anthony Newbold during the government's weekly press briefing.

While details of the offer still remain sketchy, Mr. Newbold said full disclosure will be made when the prime minister feels it's

the right time to do so.

In July Dr. Minnis indicated the government was in talks to partner with unnamed investors to take an equity stake in a group that would ensure the Grand Lucayan's re-opening in time for the winter 2018 season.

The August deadline set by Prime Minister Dr. Hubert

Minnis for repairs to begin on Freeport's 'anchor' hotel property has come and gone, and residents have expressed anxiety about the silence surrounding the Government's efforts to craft a purchase in which it would take a part-ownership stake.

■ See BUY GRAND LUCAYAN / page 2...



► Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis (Journal file photo)

## PM Defends Health Minister

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis called out Progressive Liberal Party's (PLP) Chairman, Bradley Roberts, referring to him as belligerent and out of touch, and accused him of political grandstanding.

In a press statement, read by Press Secretary Anthony Newbold yesterday, Dr. Minnis said that he was not surprised by the comments Mr. Roberts made as a result of Health Minister, Dr. Duane Sands reportedly conducting surgeries while a sitting Cabinet Minister.

"It is shameful and disgraceful, though no longer surprising, that the PLP and its belligerent and out of touch Chairman would place political grandstanding and cheap shots ahead of saving lives," Dr. Minnis said.

■ See PM DEFENDS / page 3...

## BPL APPOINTS BAHAMIANS AS NEW CEO AND COO

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
 Journal Staff Writer

Bahamas Power and Light (BPL) has appointed two Bahamians to head the management team. They include a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and a Chief Operating Officer (COO).

Whitney Heastie, has been made CEO and Mrs. Christina Alston, with over 25 years of experience in the electricity utility sector, has been awarded the title of COO.

The announcement of the new executives was made at a BPL Press Conference yesterday.

Mr. Heastie's role as CEO is in effect, while Mrs. Alston's role becomes effective November 13th.

BPL Chairman, Ms. Darnell Osbourne expressed the importance of hiring Bahamians, as BPL feels it's imperative to maintain the board and employees with Bahamians only.

"I indicated that the board was looking forward to attracting some of our own Bahamians who have worked abroad and have gained a lot of international experience and best practices in utility companies. We are quite pleased that we have found these two individuals." Ms. Osbourne stated.

■ See BPL APPOINTS / page 2...

## GOVERNMENT HOUSE - CHANGING OF THE GUARD



► The Royal Bahamas Defence Force held the Changing of the Guard Ceremony at Government House on Friday, October 13, 2017, viewed by Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling. (BIS Photos/Letisha Henderson)

## Minister "Can't Serve Two Masters," Says Roberts

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES  
 Journal Staff Writer

Not letting up on his fierce criticism of Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands, Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Bradley Roberts has suggested that the Minister choose a side.

In a statement released yesterday Mr. Roberts called on Prime Minister Hubert Minnis to eliminate the apparent conflict of interest.

"To preserve the integrity of the institution called the cabinet, Prime Minister Minnis is duty bound to eliminate the conflict of interest surrounding his Health Minister, Dr. Duane Sands. The rules are the rules and the codes of ethics apply to all cabinet ministers, including Dr. Sands.

"If Dr. Sands wishes to perform surgical procedures gratis, he does not need to be a cabinet minister to do that. The future viability of our health services industry and the future of the coun-



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

try's health were never predicated on Duane Sands becoming the Minister of Health and if he leaves the cabinet today, nothing will change in the health sector.

■ See CAN'T SERVE TWO / page 2...

## Illegal Immigrants Create Underground Economy

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

Since the announcement by Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, that all illegals immigrants in The Bahamas have until December 31st to regularize themselves or leave the country, it has been suggested that these immigrants create an underground economy that is not regulated.

"We know that illegal immigration has been a long-standing problem in the country and successive governments have addressed it in fits and starts, but it remains a problem.

"There is another layer of concern about illegal

immigration. The illegal population creates an underground economy that is unregulated," Mr. Newbold said.

During a press briefing at the Office of the Prime Minister yesterday, Press Secretary Anthony Newbold also said that illegals create an environment for what can be termed as 'gangsterism' as it's not being monitored.

"The country does not benefit from this economy, as it's unregulated. Nobody is policing it and so in the words of one of our colorful radio personalities, it encourages the rise of gangsterism," Mr. Newbold said.

■ See IMMIGRANTS / page 2...

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# Minister "Can't Serve Two Masters," Says Roberts

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"He voluntarily accepted the post of Health Minister and must comply with the terms and conditions of the post without exception. Dr. Sands is not special and no amount of excuses and deflections will change the fact that he is in a fundamental conflict between his public duty and private business interests.

"Dr. Sands cannot be regulator and practitioner

all at the same time. This is impatient of debate. Choose ye this day which master you will serve," Mr. Roberts said

Mr. Roberts also urged the press to further probe Dr. Sands.

"I invite the Press to put these Questions to Dr. Duane Sands:

"Who is currently paying his professional indemnity insurance as he performs pro bona surgeries at the Rand Hospital Grand Bahama? "What happens if

something goes wrong during these surgeries?

"Would the Hon. Minister Sands be caught up in a serious conflict of interest?

"Why the lies and deception by the Minister of Health who knows he should not be practicing surgery whilst holding the office of Minister of Health?

"Has Dr. Sands conducted surgery for patients of Dr. Ronald Knowles who is contracted for Dialysis patients

since been appointed Minister of Health in May 2017? If affirmative, how much was he paid?

"Was it Dr. Sands who proclaim 'nothing is free' but now wishes Bahamians to believe that somethings are free?," Mr. Roberts said.

On Sunday, Roberts said in a press statement that if reports are true that the minister is still performing surgeries then Sands "is in direct violation of [the] established and longstanding Cabinet code of ethics and procedures for its ministers, as the health minister would have placed himself in a fundamental conflict between his private business interests and his public duty".

Dr. Sands since con-

firmed he still performs "would not let patients free operations and die over politics".

## BPL APPOINTS BAHAMIANS AS NEW CEO AND COO

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Further expanding on the board's decision of hiring Bahamians, Ferron Bethell said, "As indicated by the chair, both of our appointees are Bahamians and the board feels gratified in fulfilling that aspect of its promised mandate and we will continue to look to fulfill necessary positions with Bahamians."

Speaking of his time he has spent as director of BPL, Mr. Heastie disclosed that the task ahead of him is not insurmountable, but admitted there is much work to be done. However, he is confident that whatever future missions are set before him, it can be accomplished, as there is a strong team in place.

Mr. Heastie declared that he feels very confident that in due time the Bahamian people will see the results of the hard work that BPL is going to put forth.

In regards to immediate concerns of BPL, Mr. Heastie said, "We've been assessing the needs of the corporation and we have already began to put in place some of the strategies we need immediately to remedy some of the nagging issues that are plaguing the company."

Furthermore, adequate generation on the ground is also a major concern for the new CEO, as there are still some outages around transmission and distribution.

Mr. Heastie said that he has engaged in the study of the transmission and distribution system, which will assist in prioritizing the areas of softness.

Mr. Heastie says the biggest challenge facing him is two-fold; Transmission and Distribution and Generation, where pockets of outages have been constant complaints of Bahamians throughout the Bahamas.

Possessing a confident and positive disposition toward the challenges he may face as BPL's new CEO, Mr. Heastie said, "certainly from an individual perspective coming in to the new CEO position, I have been apprised of what has been going on and I'm ready to take on that challenge."

Mr. Heastie brings with him 20 years of experience in design, operation and the enhancement industrial facilities obtained in The United States.

Additionally, he returned to the Freeport, Bahamas seven years ago and was instrumental in remediating Grand Bahama Power Company.

Newly appointed COO, Mrs. Alston's is also an award winning Electrical Engineer. She is knowledgeable in the areas of Transmission and Distribution Planning as well as Biomass Cogeneration.

She is a certified energy manager whose most recent position was director of supply chain services for Georgia Transmission Corporation; the largest transmission cooperative in The United States.

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(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, Tampla, FL 33619, United States of America

and

Ashley Brienne Dupree, Single,  
of 2511 Brown Noddy Lane, Apt 201, Tampla, 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

Anya 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

## Govt Offers to Buy Grand Lucayan

Continued from / PAGE 1...

The Grand Lucayan's closure to-date has resulted in the loss of 1,000-plus jobs; 59 per cent of grand Bahama's hotel room inventory; and business

closures and redundancies in the Port Lucaya marketplace. Many have warned that Freeport's tourism sector may never recover if the property does not open for at least part of the 2017-2018 winter season.

## Illegal Immigrants Create Underground Economy

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mr. Newbold stated that the underground economy which can also be classified as gangsterism, is a reason behind the need to get illegal immigration under control.

"We don't need any of that, and again we just add that to the fact that laws of The Bahamas are being broken," he said.

"As if we need more problems, one more reason to get it, illegal immi-

gration under control," Mr. Newbold said.

Mr. Newbold added that it was Prime Minister Dr Hubert . Minnis' commitment to follow through with his announcement of despite threats.

"It's another commitment from Prime Minister Minnis to get this immigration problem under control and he intends to follow through on it, threats will not dissuade him," Mr. Newbold said.

**CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMISSION EDUCATIONAL FORUM FOR TEENS**



► The Consumer Protection Commission (CPC) on Monday, October 16, 2017 hosted the Commerce Education class of Temple Christian High School to an educational forum at the CPC's office. The students learned of the role and function of the CPC, their rights as teen consumers, and how a complaint is lodged with CPC, to resolution. Commissioners present spoke of the role of the commissioners on the CPC's board; and the CPC Chairman and officers facilitated.

# Murder Count 115

## - New CCTV system talks to begin

BY RANECHEA ELLIS  
Journal Staff Writer

With three murders in under 36 hours, National Security Minister Marvin Dames says a new CCTV set up and the revamping of the system to fix the issues will take place very soon.

The country's 115th murder took place last night when a young male was shot on Prison Lane off East Street. He was transported to hospital where he was pronounced dead. On Monday night a homicide occurred on Ida Street when Gregory Hanna, a young man was shot and killed. That followed the murder of a father of two children found with gunshot wounds on Hospital lane on Sunday night. Police have no significant leads in these matters.

Mr. Dames spoke with reporters outside of Cabinet Office yesterday and said they know where the issues are and that his team plans to deal with them as best as they can

through a number of initiatives, one of which includes a new CCTV set up.

"Well, I'm waiting I have another meeting probably within another week with stakeholders and service providers," he said.

"To make certain that all of those issues that were plaguing the system would have been rectified and once that is done, we will move into growing the system adding analytics, license plate recognition and gunshot detection."

In 2012 the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) spent some \$4.6 on CCTVs. However, according to the minister, 119 of the 243 cameras were no producing quality images.

Most of the CCTVs have been placed in the Downtown area and other crime hotspots.

Last month in the House of Assembly Mr. Dames revealed that anti-crime initiatives, which includes CCTV and electronic monitoring had

failed.

He said over the years The Bahamas has been spending millions of dollars on anti-crime pro-

grams 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.

## PM Defends Health Minister

Continued from / PAGE 1...

He accused the PLP of being concerned about their own interests and not in tune with the needs of Bahamians.

"The PLP is more concerned with playing games and taking care of their own self-interests than it is with the needs of the Bahamian people.

"This is why they were overwhelmingly rejected at the polls, and why most Bahamians continue to hold the PLP in such low regard," the statement said.

Dr. Minnis suggested that the time the PLP leadership takes in attacking public servants, should be diverted to assisting Bahamian people.

"Instead of attacking a fine public servant, who has selflessly dedicated himself to saving and improving thousands of lives of individuals from every political

persuasion, the PLP leadership should donate more of their time and talents to volunteerism, rather than seeking power in order to enrich themselves at the expense of Bahamian people, whom they woefully neglected in their last disastrous, unproductive and scandal-ridden term in office," Dr. Minnis stated.

Dr. Minnis commended Dr. Sands for his devotion to the Ministry of Health and for his continued commitment to the health of Bahamians and residents and hailed him as an exemplary public servant.

"I want to personally thank my colleague for his stellar commitment to the Bahamian people.

"It comes as no surprise to anyone who knows Dr. Sands that he would volunteer to perform critical surgery for those in need.

"This is in addition to the work he is doing as Minister of Health to

make improvements in health care throughout the country," Dr. Minnis said.

Earlier this week, the Chairman of the PLP accused Dr. Sands of violating an established and long-standing cabinet code of ethics and procedures, stating that as the Minister of Health he [Dr. Sands] placed himself in a "fundamental conflict" with his "private business interest and his public duty".

Dr. Sands in turn confirmed that he did indeed performed surgeries since his appointment and noted that he made that evidently clear when he contributed to the Budget in May of this year.

He also noted that the services he provided were volunteered services and he was not paid to carry out the task.

Dr. Sands is among two other surgeons who are cardiothoracic surgeons who specializes in dialysis and vascular cases.

## 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

Wholesale Prices Weight		
Abaco Big Bird		
Whole Chicken	Per lb.	2.14
Leg Quarters	40lbs	28.36
Wings	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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# ATTORNEY GENERAL OPENS 2017 Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting

Under the theme 'Strengthening The Rule of Law Through Technology', Bahamas Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Senator the Hon. Carl W. Bethel, welcomed and addressed 52 Attorneys General, Law Ministers, and Delegates to the 2017 Meeting of Commonwealth Law Ministers, on October 16, 2017 at the Official Opening Ceremony, in the Davies Ballroom, at Baha Mar's Convention Center.

He said the Bahamas is pleased to host the meetings, bringing together a wealth of the strongest legal minds connected under the auspices of Great Britain's network of nations.

"The meetings, which bring together Attorneys General and Law Ministers from the 52 Commonwealth countries, are intended to facilitate discussions on legal and administrative issues of concern to member countries, and to the broader Commonwealth of Nations and International Community," said the Attorney General.

"These meetings give us the opportunity to not only interact with our colleagues in the Commonwealth, but to engage in meaningful discussion on how we, as a group, can assist each other in addressing these issues of mutual interests."

The Attorney General laid out the legal course of the conclave over the next few days by adding that the meetings also provide the opportunity for bilateral and multilateral meetings with regional and global counterparts to share experiences, discuss best practices, and explore the possibility of closer working relationships.

"During these meetings, we will focus on Law Reform and Technology, two very important issues to countries around the world. Here in The Bahamas, we have been actively engaged in discussions with various stakeholders on Law Reform measures and are consistently reviewing the administration of justice in our juris-



► Bahamas Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Senator the Hon. Carl W. Bethel, addressed Opening Ceremony of the 2017 Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting held at Baha Mar Convention Centre, October 16, 2017. (BIS Photo/Derek Smith)

diction with a view on how we become more relevant and effective in an ever-evolving society," said the Attorney General.

Bethel described the "two-edged sword of technology" as the driving force of new methods of doing business globally, but also as "providing new methodologies to those seeking to conduct serious crimes or attack the civil order of society; it is impacting every sector of society.

"We, as Attorneys General and Law Ministers, must not only be aware of the technological advancements, but fully understand the impact they are currently having, and the potential impact, positive and negative, that technology can have in the future, on the administration of justice in our individual countries and by extension the entire Commonwealth. We need to discuss how we embrace technology as part of the creation of a more efficient justice system as part of our reform

measures," said Attorney General Bethel.

He also advised that "The Commonwealth has recently launched some new exciting tools," which will be presented to the Law Ministers Meeting, such as a new mobile App, which is forthcoming and "will be demonstrated at the meeting, and will assist prosecution offices by ensuring secure, reliable communications in exchanging information across borders."

"The Commonwealth's new Office for Criminal and Civil Justice Reform will be a fantastic source of online information and collaboration for Commonwealth member countries," said the Attorney General.

Bethel concluded by inviting participants to enjoy the beauty of the islands and bear in mind the responsibility to protect it as well.

"Recent hurricanes Irma and Maria have shown only too clearly how vulnerable we are to

the threat of climate change. Law ministers will be discussing the importance of adequate legal frameworks to appropriately respond to natural disasters," said the Attorney General.

"As we are getting ready for four days of lively discussions and fruitful exchanges, which is the aim of the Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting, and of the Commonwealth as a

family, I look forward to meeting with colleagues to debate, learn and share best practices, with the ultimate goal of improving our citizens' lives by upholding the rule of law."

## SENATOR MITCHELL CONDEMNS FNM GOV'T

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
Journal Staff Writer

Senator Fred Mitchell has roundly criticized the Free National Movement Government for false promises and for constantly blaming the former administration for their inefficiencies.

Mr. Mitchell spoke Monday night at the PLP's central regional meeting held at Columbus Primary School where he publicly condemned the current administration for appearing productive, but lacking in what they promised while campaigning.

He said, "they say it's the people's time and they said they had the answers to poverty and helping out poor people; when we know in fact all

they're doing is firing people from the public service since they got in office."

Mr. Mitchell, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, also expressed his discontent in Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands admitting to the public that since taking office he has conducted private surgeries.

"The manual of procedure ever since 1967 says in this country that a minister cannot do private work while he's a minister in the government."

Mr. Mitchell indicated that in the manual, it states that if you have a problem, the Prime Minister could waive whatever conflict you have. Seemingly, Minister Sands received permission to conduct such private surgeries from the Prime Minister, he said.

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# ACTIVIST: “Save The Bays Was Politically Motivated”

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.

The operatives of Hedgefund billionaire, Louis Bacon, used Save The Bays as his base to attack Peter Nygard and any institution he deems not worthy of existence, says Vivian Whyly.

Whyly, an environmental activist who fought to save Clifton Cay from developers, made some strong arguments and profound revelations sometime ago on the JCN Television show “The Platform.” He suggests that Save The Bays, a purported environmental organization in The Bahamas, is the mouthpiece of Louis Bacon and is a super-PAC (political action committee), set up to overthrow the then PLP Government of The Bahamas.

Evidence to Whyly’s assertion was the numerous ads ran by Save The Bays before the last general elections seeking to discredit the Government of former Prime Minister Perry Christie. Whyly believed that these ads poisoned the minds of the Bahamian people because, “if you see something in writing often enough, you start to believe it, which is most unfortunate.”

The Progressive Liberal Party did lose the general elections on May 10th, which suggests that Save The Bays was very successful in its campaign.

The ads were said to total more than the ads the Government, the then Opposition party, the FNM, and the DNA party combined have ran. Each Save The Bays’ ad published had at the bottom of the ad, “This ad was paid for by Save The Bays.” Mr. Whyly asked, “What does Save The Bays have to do with the governing of the Bahamas?”

Fred Smith, Director and attorney for Save The Bays, would appear to confirm this assertion since he divulged that Save The Bays is a political organization. These assertions give credence to the calls from a number of individuals for Louis Bacon to be declared Persona Non Grata for his efforts to destabilize the government.

The real nature of Save The Bays, calls the Save The Bays United States 501c3 status into question. It puts Bacon at risk of violating U.S. treasury laws since Save The Bays is recorded as an environmental group, but is operating outside of those parameters.

Mr. Whyly suggests that the IRS should take a closer look at this. No group should disguise itself as an environmental group when it really seeks to undermine a government who does not do what they want it to do.

Whyly says that it is obvious that Save The Bays is a politically motivated interceptor of the due process of the Bahamian people’s laws and procedures. It is strictly political: You can see that through the fact that Louis Bacon sued Peter Nygard 15 times in various jurisdictions. Save The Bays’ attorney, Fred Smith, is working on behalf of Louis Bacon using the courts to stop Mr. Nygard from rebuilding his house and stopping the Bahamas Government from granting approval for the accreted land onto Peter Nygard’s property—which appears to be at the core of the matter.

Here is how accretion is defined by dic-

## 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.

tionary.law.com: “accretion - n. 1) in real estate, the increase of the actual land on a stream, lake or sea by the action of water which deposits soil upon the shoreline. Accretion is Mother Nature’s little gift to a landowner.”

In an effort to stop Peter Nygard from rebuilding his home after it was mysteriously set on fire, Save The Bays was formed and is admittedly being funded by Louis Bacon to focus on this effort. Save The Bays has been accused of running a smear campaign against Peter Nygard ever since. It is also attacking the PLP Government for not stopping the land accretion on Nygard Cay.

Some people wonder why Save The Bays isn’t going after any other landowner experiencing land accretion throughout the islands of The Bahamas. It is said that in other countries, the accreted land becomes the property of the property owner. However, here in The Bahamas, in this one instance, it is believed that Mother Nature’s act of accretion is enough to start an environmental group and launch an all out war against Peter Nygard.

When asked his opinion on the question: “What has Nygard done that is so egregiously wrong to invite such ongoing vicious attacks?” Whyly contends that Louis Bacon has the backing of the Lyford Cay owners, and they do not like the amount of black people that Nygard allows on his property.

Nygart has opened his Lyford Cay home to many different groups including summer camps for youth groups. All of these individuals have to pass through the Lyford Cay gates and drive past Louis Bacon and other Lyford Cay homes to get to Nygard Cay. Whyly bases his position on observations, interactions, and personal experience with Lyford Cay owners while working with them on the Clifton Environmental Project. He reveals that certain inappropriate questions were asked of him about Peter Nygard by Lyford Cay homeowners. Whyly reiterates that the reason previously stated is the real reason behind it all.

Whyly declared that Save The Bays is a political organization that should be investigated by the U.S. Government and that Louis Bacon must be declared Persona Non Grata and be asked to leave the Bahamas immediately

Several people are now calling for Louis Bacon to be considered a persona non grata. They say he should not be welcomed in The Bahamas for using millions of dollars to seek to destroy the Government of The Bahamas in his attempt to fight Peter Nygard using Saving The Bays and the court system. If Louis Bacon’s is found to be attempting to use subversive acts to destroy the Government of the Bahamas through Save The Bays, the Government would have no choice but to deem Louis Bacon a persona non grata and ask him to leave The Bahamas.

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E D I T O R I A L

# WEAK & BROKEN-HEARTED

As we have done in times past; so do we today as we take note of decisions made and decisions left to be made in open court by this or that judge or magistrate when they decide [whether with the help of a jury or otherwise] whether this or that convicted person is given a custodial sentence or not.

Indeed then:- Whether the reference made has to do with so-called ‘illegals’ or whether it has to do with how we treat with our own especially when we know that – come hell or high water, they are depending on us to do what is right.

In truth, then, there is – regrettably and unfortunately a virulent form of xenophobia which runs both deep and wide throughout our beloved archipelago.

This is especially unfortunate precisely because whilst some might think that reserve spite and gall for foreigners; facts attest and confirm that: When the chips are down, we only care for those among us who are clever, rich and famous.

And so today, there are unfortunately tens of thousands of our people who have known their own fair share of hurt, harm and troubling despair.

With this point made, agreed and understood: We insist that they who could or would make a difference that matters should engage their tongues.

Thus we set the stage where we are obliged to remind all and sundry that:- Again and again – and indeed we are today obliged to echo and repeat [perhaps ad nauseam – that we are always left both fatigued and perhaps also deeply offended when a magistrate would decide to levy a sentence that is clearly out of whack with the offence committed.

And so today, we take note of the truly sad case of Wilcher Rahming who was accused of breaking and entering and – having once made good his entry – with stealing one bag of rice weighing one pound and a can of tuna; all of this perhaps good enough for one poor man or woman or child’s meal for one.

As one news-laden report so faithfully expatiates: “A 21-year-old man was yesterday sentenced to just over a year in prison for breaking into a preschool and stealing a bag of rice and a can of tuna over the holiday weekend...”

Incidentally, [as we now note]: The stolen items had a total value of \$3.15.

Wow!  
The criminal-man’s name is Wilcher Rahming.

Sad to say, this man has been found guilty and has been sentenced to one year and two months for the crimes he agreed that he had committed.

Something has got to be ‘wrong’ with this picture.

This observation we make as we also take note not only of this man’s youthfulness; but also we do as we also surmise [based on precisely what we know about the conditions he will surely face in prison.

Indeed we do venture that: This poor man that not only will this man be coarsened by that experience but that: On one fine day, we who look on in mute wonderment may well reap a reward tinged with both rage and despair because of what the magistrate did to that man, Wilcher Rahming!

Indeed, then, it is on this note that we continue to ‘insist’ that the custodial sentence should be sparingly used; granted all we know about the extent to which such a sentence can be draconian especially to children when a parent or caretaker is spirited away to Her Majesty’s over-crowded ‘correctional lock-up located in the Eastern District on the island of New Providence!

Of-times, such a judgment can amount to and therefore also include punishment that is disproportionate to the offence committed.

And thus we wonder concerning the fate of one [presumably innocent until proven-guilty] Ahmad Armbrister, of 3rd Street, The Grove, who recently appeared before Magistrate Samuel McKinney.

This man faces – as has been reported:- Four counts of armed robbery and one count of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life.

“It is alleged that on February 25, being concerned with others and armed with a handgun, Armbrister robbed another individual of a cell phone worth \$50 along with \$68 in cash; and too: It is also alleged that on the same day, concerned with others and armed with a handgun, he also robbed another man of one black LG cell-phone worth \$32, and that he robbed another man of one Acer cell phone worth \$100 and one white Nissan Skyline worth \$5,000...”

In time, he will know his fate.

And so today, as we continue to wonder all we know for sure is that: It is what it is! Especially for the weak, the poor and the already broken-hearted.

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The advertisement features a collage of newspaper headlines from The Bahama Journal, including "Four Bodies Claimed", "Brush Fire Scorches Acres of Land", and "22ND MURDER VICTIM Identified". The background shows a beach scene with waves crashing on the shore.

# Minister Dames Commends New RBDF/BAIC Programme

BY ERIC ROSE  
Bahamas Information Services

Minister of National Security the Hon. Marvin Dames said, on October 16, 2017 that the first Transitional Entrepreneurial Training Seminar Between The Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF) and Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation (BAIC) provided an outlet for senior members of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force to redirect their expertise.

"Using their professional background, they will be able to focus on business development with the technical assistance of BAIC experts which all bodes well



► Minister of National Security the Hon. Marvin Dames speaks, on October 16, 2017, at the Official Opening Ceremony of the first Transitional Entrepreneurial Training Seminar Between The Royal Bahamas Defence Force and Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation at BAIC. (BIS Photos/Kristaan Ingraham)

for the economic development of our nation," Minister Dames said, during the official

opening of the entrepreneurial programme, held at BAIC, in the Soldier Road

Industrial Park.

Also taking part in the ceremony were RBDF Commodore Tellis Bethel; BAIC Executive Chairman Miriam Emmanuel, MP; BAIC General Manager Troy Sampson; senior Government Officials, BAIC staff members; RBDF Executives, Officers, Warrant Officers and Non-commissioned Officers; and seminar participants.

Minister Dames noted that he was pleased to be associated with "this innovative partnership" between the RBDF and BAIC and, therefore, commended all concerned for their visionary leadership and collaboration in making the programme a reality.

"I am certain that the

Member of Parliament for MICAL would agree that this programme fits well into BAIC's mantra of 'Growing. Partnering. Empowering'; and with the Defence Force's motto of 'Guard Our Heritage'," Minister Dames said.

"I understand that this joint venture was an idea that was initially presented to the General Manager at BAIC, Mr. Troy Sampson, by Commodore Tellis Bethel," Minister Dames pointed out. "Commodore Bethel has advised me that Mr. Sampson and his team welcomed and developed the idea without hesitation. I applaud both you and the teams that supported you in this joint venture."

Minister Dames stated

that the topics and activities that would be covered during the seminar were "impressive."

"They include local stock market investing, venture capital, government and private funding, tours of industrial parks and farms, and much more," he said.

Minister Dames added that the more than 30 men and women taking part in the pilot programme had all served over 25 years in the Defence Force and will more than likely be exploring those areas of business in which they would have developed some degree of skill.

"I am made to understand that most, if not all, of you would have worked in at least two or more departments during your tenure in the Defence Force, thereby adding to your overall ability to brainstorm and implement unique solutions through creative enterprise," he said. "In the business arena, your sense of discipline, commitment, hard work and responsibility are vital keys to your success."

Minister Dames said that it should be mentioned that the entrepreneurial programme falls under the RBDF's Operation Transformation, which is one of five strategic goals that have been set for the organization.

"Operation Transformation, I am advised, aims to invest in the leadership, management and supervisory skills of members of the Defence Force, as well as the development of their character, and their professional and vocational skills," he noted. "This initiative therefore makes it possible for Defence Force members to fulfill their vision of setting the standard of excellence in leadership, integrity and achievement in guarding their heritage."

The entrepreneurial seminar was, therefore, a part of a greater undertaking, Minister Dames stated.

"I urge you to ask questions, gain as much insight as you can into the business world, develop your business plans, and take full advantage of this wonderful opportunity for personal advancement," he said.

Minister Dames said that he was also made to understand that, as a pilot programme, the seminar allowed for constructive feedback, which would be directed towards "constant improvement and expansion" for future participants in what is intended to be an ongoing programme.

"It should be noted that the initial launch of this programme was slated to begin nearly a year ago but had to be rescheduled due to the passage of Hurricane Matthew then and Hurricane Irma earlier this year," Minister Dames pointed out. "Defence Force participants were subsequently called off to safeguard the Bahamian public and to provide disaster relief assistance."

"Nevertheless, time and opportunity have reemerged to permit the programme to resume," he added. "The experiences along the journey are practical reminders that the road to success is filled with many obstacles; however, if we keep pressing forward, upward, onward and together, eventually we will succeed."

To the seminar participants, Minister Dames reiterated that they were being presented with an "incredible opportunity."

"It is my hope that you maximize the use of the opportunities being made available to you for the successful development of your future dreams," he said. "I thank you and congratulate you on another major milestone for the Defence Force and I wish you all the best of success."

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► Agriculture & Marine Resources Minister, the Hon. Renward Wells, centre, along with organizing committee announces world class and local sailing events at Best of the Best Regatta, taking place at Montagu Bay in December. (BIS Photos/Derek Smith)

## 2nd Annual 'Best of the Best Regatta' Takes Place December at Montagu Bay

BY GENA GIBBS  
Bahamas Information Services

The Ministry of Agriculture & Marine Resources, in collaboration with the Star Sailors League, announced they will host the Second Annual Best of the Best Regatta at Montagu Bay, December 6-10 of this year. Agriculture & Marine Resources Minister, the Hon. Renward Wells addressed the press in the Conference Room of the Ministry's Headquarters, October 11, to invite the public to support their fellow Bahamian sportsmen participating in the international cultural event.

"Our Planning Committee's work is well underway as we are looking forward to the battery of activities that will heighten public awareness of, and participation in, Bahamian culture, and showcase sloop sailing for Bahamians and

tourists alike," said Minister Wells.

"One hundred and fifty sailors from 24 countries around the world participated in the Inaugural Event in 2016. The international participants included Olympic-class sailors. This year, we have built on that success."

Minister Wells invited the public to come and enjoy the intense competition among the different sailing groups, which include 10 A-Class sloops, nine B-Class sloops, 32 C-Class sloops, and 50 world-class sailors.

"We will have Olympic-style sailing with live-streaming via internet around the world. The competition is open to all boat owners and sailors and has already registered over 200 Bahamian sailors, hailing from New Providence, Grand Bahama, Long Island, Exuma, Acklins,

Ragged Island, Andros, Cat Island and Mayaguana. We are grateful to the event's major sponsors: Paradise Games, Commonwealth Brewery, and Janae's Uniform Centre. I encourage other organizations to add their financial support to this cultural exhibition," said Minister

Wells.

Gratitude was also expressed to all stakeholders and sailors who are participating in the Sir Durward Knowles 100th Birthday Regatta, which will be held on October 28-29 at Montagu Bay.

"Sir Durward has contributed exponentially to the sport of sailing in The

Bahamas and the world at large. While I'm on the subject of sailing, I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Gavin McKinney, who last month won the International 5.5 Metre Class Association's 2017 World Championships in Benodet, France. The Bahamas is very proud of

him," said Minister Wells.

"As we embark on the Best of the Best events in December, I look forward to fierce sailing competitions, pageantry and vibrant, energized cultural entertainment. All are invited to join us and we pray God's blessing on the activities."



## TOASTMASTERS PAY COURTESY CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER



► Toastmasters from various local clubs, and officers, recently paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis at the Office of the Prime Minister (front row, centre). Pictured with the Prime Minister are: Ivan C. Thompson DTM - Division I Director, Andre Kelly DTM - Division F Director, Keith L. Major DTM - Advisor, TM Chervez Brown - Area 90 Director, TM TiaMaria Albury - Area 91 Director, TM Kendra Munroe - Area 92 Director, TM Lynette Bowley - Area 60 Director, TM Ruthlin Hanna - Area 61 Director, TM Garth Jackson - Area 62 Director, TM Nikenya Rolle - Club Growth Director, TM Dion Knowles - President, First Bahamas Branch, TM DiAndra Gibson - President, Commonwealth Bank Blue Diamonds Club, TM Kohfe Miller - President, Evangelistic Temple Club, TM Sheena Culmer - President, Bahamas Public Service Union Club, TM Deandra Dorsette - President, Bahamas Union of Teachers Club, TM Matt Knowles - President, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Club, TM Jana Stubbs - President, First New Providence Branch, TM Nadia Humes - Vice President Membership, Healing Communicators Club, TM Tarnisha Fowler - Vice President Membership, Bahamas Faith Ministries Club, TM Patricia Hamilton, TM Owenique Palmer, TM Gale Roberts, TM Tanya Sturup, and TM Anissa Sweeting. (Photo/Yontalay Bowe, OPM Media Services)