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PLP WARNS FOREIGN INVESTORS

• Promises to repeal New Commercial Bill

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

The Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) has not rightly rejected the Commercial Enterprises Bill calling it "fundamentally flawed, fundamentally wrong and funda-

mentally ill-conceived". In a press statement, Leader of the Opposition, Philip Davis said that the bill when the party returns to office it will be repealed. "The PLP is fundamentally opposed to the Commercial Enterprises Bill. "It did not support it in the House. It will not support it in the Senate. It will take its

case on the road to the Bahamian people. "When we come to office we will repeal it and those who accept its benefits ought to think carefully before accepting the benefits of this legislation," Mr. Davis said. Calling the bill an unnecessary intervention for attracting Foreign Direct Investment, Mr. Davis said

that the party has its suspicions of why such a bill was tabled. "During the debate in the House, nothing was advanced to justify the intervention of this bill. All that was said to justify the policy of the Government can be achieved by improving management protocols and the efficiency of the public

administration," Mr. Davis said. Making specific reference to zoning ordinances within the bill, Mr. Davis said, that in itself presents a conflict of interest. "We are also suspicious of the creation of "specified enterprise zones". "Such a designation of land will no doubt enhance its



► Leader of the Opposition, Philip Davis (Journal file photo)

value. We know who the land barons are in this country. They hold too much of the wealth of the country as it stands. This will only further enrich them at the expense of the public at large. "For example, if the city of Nassau is designated as such, who is more likely to benefit.

■ See PLP WARNS / page 3...

PM MINNIS: 'SIR ALI' GAVE COUNTRY FULL MEASURE OF HIS DEVOTION



► Official Funeral of Sir Arlington Butler, November 24, 2017 at Christ Church Cathedral. In first pew are Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling and Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis. **BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay**

Chamber Calls For Balance In New Bill

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

While welcoming the Commercial Enterprise Bill, as attracting Foreign Direct Investment to develop certain sectors of the economy is essential to growth and development, The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation (BCCEC) says there needs to be balance in the investment with local businesses. "Attracting foreign investment and the

development of certain sectors in the economy is essential to the growth and development of the economy and is fully supported by the BCCEC.

"The Bill can be seen as an interim solution for businesses in certain industries with a foreign ownership component to navigate the process for obtaining Investments Board approvals and work permits.

■ See FOR BALANCE IN NEW BILL / page 2...

BOWE CALLS FOR DEFINED POLICIES

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

With the Commercial Enterprise Bill being passed

in the House of Assembly last week, President of the Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants, Gowon Bowe, said that he

remains optimistic about the growth of the economy and that The Bahamas has not suffered from lack of interest when it comes to investment.

"You can measure optimism by the virtue of persons on the outside looking in and I think that the Bahamas has still not suf-

fered from lack of interest, that persons are still there," Mr. Bowe stated.

■ See BOWE CALLS / page 3...



► President of the Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants, Gowon Bowe (Journal file photo)



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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 --

Peter Vels, Divorced,
of 5 Bonnor Close, Holt ACT 2615, Australia

and

Lisa Theodosia Porgazian, Single,
of 5 Bonnor Close, Holt ACT 2615, 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 17th day of November, 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 --

Alvaro Ezequiel Salinas, Single,
of 807 Golf Ct., Stafford TX 77477, United States of America

and

Tiffany LaRae Kent, Single,
of 807 Golf Ct., Stafford TX 77477, 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 14th day of November, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages

Chamber Calls For Balance In New Bill

Continued from / PAGE 1...

“The BCCEC applauds the creation of a Commercial Enterprises Facilitation Unit and hopes that it will include representatives from the private sector,” the statement said.

In a press release the BCCEC, responding to the bill, said there are some anomalies to the newly tabled bill.

“The BCCEC wishes the attraction of foreign investment to be balanced, with the support of local businesses, particularly small and medium sized enterprises which are the backbone of the local economy.

“Wholly owned Bahamian businesses are not currently required to apply for Investments Board (the “Board”) approval. In order to take advantage of benefits contemplated by the Bill, a newly established wholly Bahamian owned business would be required to apply for approval from the Board.

“Accordingly, in parallel with the initiatives outlined in the Bill (subject to the amendments that have been provided) which are aimed largely at foreign investors, incentivizing Bahamian businesses in these sectors and addressing the ease of doing business is also of paramount importance for the growth and diversification of the economy,” the release said.

The statement outlined various disadvantages that the bill may impose on local businesses, in particular, taxes that local businesses must pay.

“Bahamian owned business in certain sectors such as mutual fund administration, wealth management, boutique health facilities will be disadvantaged and will not be able to compete.

“For example, a foreign owned business, which is non-resident for Exchange Control purposes pays a nominal business license tax whilst a Bahamian owned

business serving the same non-resident clients must pay business license tax on their gross turnover whether or not they make a profit,” according to the statement.

The statement specified areas of the bill that needed further clarification including:

“A number of the industries listed in the Schedule are too broadly referred to, such as . wealth management, international trade and boutique health facilities. For example, if one were to invest \$250, 000 and set up a doctor’s office with 2 physicians is that a “boutique health facility”?”

“For a company applying for a Specified Commercial Enterprises Certificate (SCEC) that is a services enterprise where no significant capital is required, what would constitute an investment of the minimum of \$250k?”

“If the Specified Commercial Enterprises Certificate (SCEC) is only valid for one (1) year, why grant a work permit for three (3) years as in section 8 (4), with an option to renew for an additional three (3) years? There should be consistency in the term and tenure between the granting of a certificate and work permits.

“There appears to be conflicting details with sections 8 (1), (2) and (3). Should the approval of a work permit accompany the application for the SCEC, since the SCEC process is a vehicle for attracting such companies and individuals?” the organization asked..

It suggested that the expediency expected to consider and approve work permits for persons covered under the SCEC should be applied to other government agencies to help in improving the ease of doing business.

The Commercial Enterprise Bill was passed in the House of Assembly on Wednesday and is expected to be debated in the Senate.



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 --

John Thomas Campbell, Divorced,
of 16 Ingleside Ave, Cranston, RI 02905, United States of America

and

Tisha Ann Glynn, Divorced,
of 32 Smith Rd., Harrisville, RI 02905, 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 27th 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 --

Cameron Thomas Davis, Single,
of 4721 Marlborough Dr., Virginia Beach VA 23464, United States of America

and

Rebecca Rose Casey, Single,
of 4721 Marlborough Dr., Virginia Beach VA 23464, 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 14th day of November, 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 --

Paul Anthony Minors, Widowed,
of 11 Birdie Court, Cooloongup, WA 6168, United States of America

and

Terrie Byett, Divorced,
of 11 Birdie Court, Cooloongup, WA 6168, 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 13th day of November, 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 --

Gregory Michael Garvin, Divorced,
of 3405 Mystic River Dr., Naples FL 34120, United States of America

and

Luz Stella Quintero, Single,
of 3405 Mystic River Dr., Naples FL 34120, 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 10th day of November, 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 --

Christopher Travis Jillette, Divorced,
of 460 East Ave, Lewiston ME, 04240, United States of America

and

Carolyn Sylvia Guerette, Divorced,
of 460 East Ave, Lewiston ME, 04240, 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 14th day of November, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages

PM Minnis: 'Sir Ali' Gave Country Full Measure of His Devotion



► The Bahamian Flag, presented to Sir Arlington's widow, Lady Hazel Butler, by Minister of Financial Services, Trade & Industry and Immigration the Hon. Brent Symonette, at the graveside. **BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay**

BY MATT MAURA
Bahamas Information Services

Former Cabinet Minister,
Member of Parliament and

House Speaker, Sir Arlington Griffith Butler, K.C.M.G., was remembered Friday (November 24, 2017) as a man who responded to the

injustices of his times by entering the political arena to help bring about racial, economic and social equality in The Bahamas.

Sir Arlington was further remembered as a man "who lent his energy to the struggle for Majority Rule."

■ See 'SIR ALI' on PAGE 4...

PLP WARNS FOREIGN INVESTORS

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

"No doubt Brent Symonette, who is the mover of this Bill and a major land owner in the city of Nassau, in New Providence and in The Bahamas," Mr. Davis said.

The bill which has an investment threshold of \$250,000, that will allow for

automatic work permits, "does nothing for Bahamians" according to Mr. Davis.

"It will undercut the progress that Bahamians have made in this country under the PLP after 1967 and Majority Rule. It threatens the jobs of young professionals in this country.

"This Bill does nothing for Bahamians

and is simple pandering to a privileged minority and foreign interests, while squeezing the economic way of life for many Bahamians," Mr. Davis lamented.

"Economic development and liberalization should not come at the expense or detriment of the Bahamian people," he said.



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BOWE CALLS FOR DEFINED POLICIES

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

Appearing on Love 97's weekday afternoon show "On Point", Mr. Bowe said that there needs to be defined policies when it comes to presenting the Bahamian market to the world.

"We have, if you will, beholding to those who come in because we have no defined policy.

"We deal with every proposal, every new enterprise as a new negotiation. And it is done on a one-off basis," Mr. Bowe indicated.

"We need to define our land policy; we need to define our economic policy; we need to define our actually concession policy, in terms of what we will use as stimulus and how we will grow.

"But more importantly we need to define what we want the Bahamas to be and market it to the world," he said.

When questioned by the show's host Wendall Jones regarding the threshold of the bill, Mr. Bowe indicated that steps must be taken to promote commercial activity and growth.

"We have to start looking at the country as a global player.

"There are some harsh realities when you speak about a population size of 400,000 persons, but in reality, with a land mass that can accommodate more.

"And, let me be very cautious. I'm not saying open it up so that you fill it with millions of non-Bahamians; it is saying that we have to take tangible steps towards increasing commercial activity in the country," Mr. Bowe said.

Mr. Bowe did indicate however, that more could be done for Bahamian or local investments.

"The disappointing side of the bill, that has been debated, is it didn't come along side, with what I would call, an overall plan of how this fits into economic policy, expansion growth and development.

"Had you said, my long term strategic plan, in terms of easing the act of doing business, getting the right skill-sets and personnel on board, includes ten parts, that it has a number of things I'm going to do for local businesses, a number of things. I'm going to do in taxing centers, overall immigration reform, which we've been speaking about for many, many years, and this is a component of that, and you can see how it fits in to a wider puzzle. I believe the discussion and debate would have gone in a different direction.

"The concern is, is this directed at specific enterprises and interests and are we forgetting the wider economy by virtue of selective legislation?

"I would just say that I am certainly supportive of taking steps to now improve efficiency in government. In terms of how we react to the global environment in which we operate, I am still a strong believer that you have to be talking about how the Bahamians own the economy when you talk about any type of international or Foreign Direct Investment coming in," Mr. Bowe said.

With more than 30,000 Bahamians unemployed, Mr. Bowe said the need to create commercial activity is important.

"The only way persons get employed, without it being a social benefit is by having economic activity where persons are being engaged to have productive labour, be paid a wage, spend that in the economy, and then that self-perpetuating cycle becomes a positive self-perpetuating cycle," Mr. Bowe said.

The Commercial Enterprise Bill stipulates that the business must invest a minimum of \$250,000. Their employees requiring a permit must be certified professionals, and their work permit application must be made within 30 days of them entering the country.

76 YEAR OLD IS HOMICIDE VICTIM

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
Journal Staff Writer

Police have in custody a male who is assisting in the investigation of the homicide of a 76-year old man who was found stabbed to death in his home on Friday.

This male suspect is a relative of the deceased.

A retired man, Leon Sweeting was found by two of his sons Friday morning in his Ambergris Street home.

According to police, when neighbours saw that Sweeting was not out on his usual morning routine they became worried and called relatives.

His sons who were already planning a visit seeing that their father missed the family's thanksgiving party the night before, called police upon seeing blood on

the walls.

On the scene and visibly shaken was one the victim's son, Glen Sweeting and his niece, Tracy Major-White, both telling The Bahama Journal that they couldn't understand why someone would do this, particularly considering Sweeting wasn't a bother to anyone.

"He'll help anyone he can even if you get him upset and he's a great dad, a great supporter of his children. If you need something, he'll do it no questions asked," Sweeting said.

"He was a very soft spoken quiet person. Extremely generous, always there for you when you need him. A quiet man who lived a simple life. He hung out under the tree with his friends seeing as he was retired; not a bother to anyone," Major-White said.

POLICE OFFICERS Seek Overtime Payout

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Police Officers are set to receive their third overtime compensation in early 2018, according to Executive Chairman, Sonny Miller.

Speaking with the media at the launch of its quarterly news digest, Mr. Miller said that they have already been given the month they will receive their due compensation.

"We've been given a date, January 2018. We know it may be long, we want to encourage our members to let's bear with it.

"Again, let's look at the fact that we are actually being paid, all the court battle is finished and so even though we believe it's our

money, and we should want it now, we are patient and we are professional enough to wait on it.

Although given the month they will receive the payment and not an actual date, Mr. Miller said the association intends to meet with the Minister of Finance to request a specific date.

"As an association, we seek to meet with the Minister of Finance and kind of see if he can work out anything for us so that we can get that payment sometime around January 14 or 15, because January really is a long month for us, as a matter of fact, for all government employees," Mr. Miller said.

A final payment is expected in May 2018.

Mr. Miller also revealed

the associations' intent to seek a pay increase as officers had not had an increase in 20 years.

"We have already put together a committee that will be looking at proposed salary increases for police officers, we haven't had one in a very, very long time.

"We want the public to know that we are out there working daily, our members are out there working daily and we don't want them to get the overtime payment, which was owed to us from 2014-2015, to get that mixed up with what we seek to do when it comes to putting in our proposal for salary increase.

"We haven't had one in almost 20 years," Mr. Miller stated.

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT ATTENDS



Photo shows the team which traveled to Malta and London, just prior to the departure of the Local Government team on November 17th. Left to right, the Hon. Frankie Campbell, M.P., Minister of Transport & Local Government, Denise Lewis Johnson, Chairman, Bahamas Maritime Authority Board of Directors, LaShanta Greenslade, Coordinator, Local Government Junior Council Program, and Cephas Cooper, Director of Local Government, Department of Local Government. (BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna)



► Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis, conveying condolences. BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay

PM Minnis: 'Sir Ali' Gave Country Full Measure of His Devotion

Continued from / PAGE 3...

At an Official Funeral at Christ Church Cathedral, George Street, Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis memorialized Sir Arlington as "part of a generation of men and women who must be remembered in our history for their courage, determination and commitment to freedom and democracy.

"We have lost a Bahamian patriot and politician who loved his country and who gave his Bahamaland his full measure of devotion."

Sir Arlington Butler was a former educator, attorney, Member of Parliament, Cabinet Minister, House Speaker, Bahamas Ambassador to the United States of America, and Bahamian sporting community luminary. He died at the age of 79. Following the funeral, his remains were interred at Lakeview Memorial Gardens.

Delivering condolences at the Official Funeral, Prime Minister Minnis said Sir Arlington was also a "fierce defender of the authority of the Speaker of the Honourable House of Assembly." (Sir Arlington served as Speaker of the Honourable House of Assembly from 1972-1977.)

"He revered the House of Assembly which Sir Arthur Foulkes (former Governor-General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas) once described as the 'centrepiece of an independent Parliamentary democracy called the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.'

"Sir Arlington had a deep respect for the institution and its traditions. He had an

extraordinary knowledge of Parliamentary procedure and the rights of Parliament, steeped in ancient history," said Prime Minister Minnis.

"He was a fierce defender of the authority and independence of the Speaker," the Prime Minister added.

Arlington Griffith Butler was a former educator who left the profession to contest a seat in the House of Assembly in 1968. Four years later, he was elected Speaker of the Honourable House of Assembly.

After parting ways with the governing party, Sir Arlington ran unsuccessfully in the General Elections of 1977, 1982 and 1987.

Sir Arlington returned to the House of Assembly following the 1992 General Elections, and was made a senior Member of Cabinet by Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hubert A. Ingraham.

Sir Arlington was subsequently appointed Bahamas Ambassador to the United States of America, and in 1996, received a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II for his public service and many contributions to national development over several decades.

Sir Arlington was also (to date) the longest serving President of The Bahamas Olympic Association.

"His presence, exuberant spirit and fellowship will be missed," Prime Minister Minnis said. "We honour Sir Arlington Butler for his service and love of country. With grateful hearts, we thank him for his many and diverse contributions to our Commonwealth."



\$10,000 DONATION FOR ROOTS GROUP

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
Journal Staff Writer

The Roots Junkanoo group has received a much needed donation.

The reigning New Years day champions received \$10,000 from Bahamas Striping Group of Companies towards the upcoming holiday parades.

Managing director of Bahamas Striping Dr. Allen Albury said the investment was an investment in community.

"I think what was important for us was recognizing that junkanoo groups play a vital role in the development of our young people in

terms of the artistic culture also in terms of the discipline and keeping our young men and women off the streets, men in particular," Albury said.

He added that the groups give youth something positive to do and thus they thought that it was vitally important for the company to be apart.

"We celebrate with the roots group and wish them all the best in the 2017/2018 junkanoo season," Albury said.

While Atlantis remains the primary sponsor for the group, the investment will land Bahamas Striping Group advertisement on one

of the groups pieces.

Roots director of finance Dwayne Ellis said their focus this year extended beyond bay street.

"We have been the first group to start a scholarship fund. This year we were able to give five of our group members assistance to attend universities in the United States, Canada and China," Ellis said.

He added that with the assistance of the funds, they will continue to focus on their theme of "What happens after Bay Street".

"The funds we received will go towards our worthy causes for the upcoming year," Ellis said.

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Is The Bahamas Still On A List Of Rogue Nations?

What ever happened to the matter that was put before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) by the Save The Bays 5? Is the Commonwealth of The Bahamas still on a list with rogue nations that kidnap, torture and kill its citizens?

The Bahamas got on that list because of actions by Fred Smith, thru the Grand Bahama Human Rights Association, working on behalf of Save The Bays, which is chiefly funded by hedge-fund billionaire Louis Moore Bacon. Fred Smith filed a petition with the IACHR citing that the Save The Bays 5 were in fear for their lives.

We know that the former Administration replied to the IACHR outlining the discrepancies and hypocrisies in Fred Smith's petition, but what became of it? Is this another matter the new Administration has dropped? Except in this case, if they did let Fred Smith's claims stand, the new Free National Movement Government is clearly making their position clear.

If the new Minnis Administration did not follow up on the former Government's objection to the petition before the IACHR, the new Administration is clearly saying to the Bahamian people, 'we don't care about The Bahamas; we care more about political pay back to Save The Bays' individuals; so much so that we are prepared to sacrifice the good name of the Bahamas to allow Fred Smith to do what he wants.'

The five individuals named in the petition before the IACHR who said they were in fear for their lives are Fred Smith, Joseph Darville, Romauld Ferreira, Kirkland Bodie and Francisco Nunez; they are/were all connected to Save The Bays.

And Romauld Ferreira is truly compromised in this situation. Investigative journalists need to get to work and find out what's happening with this IACHR matter and the extent to which this Cabinet Minister is compromised.

Save The Bays is an organization operating in The Bahamas that has established itself as an environmental group. It has a United States 501(c)(3) status and its chief funder, as they have indicated, is hedge-fund billionaire Louis Bacon. Contradictorily, they have also called themselves a political organization, which is actually in violation of U.S. Treasury rules for any 501(c)(3) to do.

So having engaged in political activities, launched political attacks against the former Progressive Liberal Party Government, and created a near constitutional crisis in the country, they attempted to—inappropriately, as it seems—involve outside international agencies

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.

to aid in their fight.

Fred Smith, as Director & Attorney for Save The Bays and President of the Grand Bahama Human Rights Association, obviously misrepresented the facts in the petition he filed with the Inter American Commission on Human Rights. In so doing, he has put our country's reputation at stake. As far as we know, the Commonwealth of The Bahamas is still listed in the IACHR's official records as a country with human rights abuses, and as such, is now in the league of countries with rogue governments who kidnap, torture and kill its citizens.

Bahamian children and grandchildren now have to live in a country that will be scorned or linked to countries with rogue governments who kidnap, torture and kill its citizens.

Here's how Fred Smith got the IACHR to believe them:

For starters, it appears to have been a convoluted story, which most false stories are—quite convoluted. Fred Smith ran to the IACHR on behalf of the Save The Bays 5 and allegedly reported that there was a murder plot against them and the former Progressive Liberal Party Government had people in the police to carry it out.

It is assumed that since they allegedly gave the IACHR Bobo and Toggie's proclaimed false statements, the Commission believed STB's story and mandated that the Government of The Bahamas take measures to protect these Save The Bays' individuals; and thus putting us in the league of countries with rogue governments who kidnap, torture, and murder their citizens.

The part Fred Smith left out in their story to the IACHR was that Bobo and Toggie were paid for giving their statements, which was caught on tape and is a part of court evidence.

Can somebody please find out what the new Minnis Administration is doing to take our names off of the international human rights lists with rogue nations who kidnap, torture, and kill their citizens.

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The Bahama Journal Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimaley P. Jones Vice President Operations

E D I T O R I A L

IN THESE DARK TIMES

That these are times when darkness now threatens humanity world-wide; times when – as William Butler Yeats once suggested – the centre seems to be on the verge of collapse—times when chaos threatens all that is good, true and beautiful.

Evidently, the facts now show that somehow or the other, we have deviated from that truest of paths; and so today, the chickens are coming home to roost.

It is now self-evident that this is a time and a place where more and more Bahamians now face a very bleak future and where their leaders must now make some hard choices.

Clearly, then, they who now run things and they who would replace them should be up and doing with searching for and finding real solutions to the very real problems now facing the Bahamian people.

And for sure – very many of this nation's children born to the suffering masses and their bevy of indigent poor will suffer and hurt even more.

Some hard choices will have to be made; inclusive of those concerned with how much of the social burden is to be borne by the least, lost and the marginalized.

These hard choices all derive from the fact that jobs are scarce, money is tight and that, some firms and some households will perish; and as they do, the dread quantum of human suffering in this land will grow exponentially.

This explains precisely why and how we now find ourselves in the stricken ranks of all of those people around this region and world who now in the very teeth of poverty now cower in fear.

And so, today – even as Christmas approaches: There is that distressingly large number of Bahamians out-there in this deeply challenged land who are becoming sadder and sadder by the day—with most of them being becalmed in that space where [hope and dream and pray as they might]: this season is not a season for them to be jolly.

And then, there are 'out-there' any number of Bahamians who are now getting themselves prepared for that kind of season where –gluttons and wine-bibbers that they are—the word in the wind whispers to them that, this is but

another time for them to eat, drink and be merry!

For our part, we counsel moderation; we counsel mercy and we encourage any and all who would truly remember the reason for the season to be up and doing with trying to recognize Jesus Christ when He appears in the guise of the wretched, the hungry, the abused and the neglected.

Strangely enough, were we to truly humble our wretched selves long enough to take full note of the real Christmas story [as told by Saints Matthew, Luke, John and by the blessed Saint Paul] we would realize that, this King of Kings, This Lord of Lords was made flesh in the living guise of a strip of humanity that was fated to be scourged, mocked, humiliated and murdered at the behest of some of those in high secular and state authority who are always on the look-out for challenge.

Indeed, then: For those of us who do believe, we do have it on faith that Jesus Christ thirsted for truth; for justice; for mercy and for the alleviation of all of that hurt and distress visited by the high and mighty upon the suffering heads of the so-called least of the least.

And so, it now goes that notwithstanding the extent to which the Advent Season has been perverted and polluted by the crassest kind of Mammon worship, we are thankful that yet there remains that mighty remnant of believers who routinely – day in and day out – do both the right thing and [perchance by grace] they also reach that Ebenezer zone where they do the righteous deed.

This is what we too might achieve were we to stop, relax and thereafter—think deeply with a view to really-really-really find time sufficient to reflect on the real reason for this season.

And just perhaps—a time would come when we would remember and recognize Jesus as He comes forward in the guise of that child who needs a foster-parent; that child who deserves a doting and caring mother- and of course, too, if He comes re-presented in the misery-laced guise of that man, woman, boy or girl who is lost, lonely, rejected and neglected.

He is that light in the night—Darkness shall not prevail!

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

SHUT-EYE
Baha Mar to the Rescue
I EEN ASKIN' FER MUCH!
MARIO WHERE YOU?
\$250 MILLION FOR BASKETBALL 3 YEARS PROGRAM
Signed Baha Mar. #pcolorsett 23-11-17



PRIME MINISTER MINNIS OFFICIALLY OPENED NEW MARINA VILLAGE RESTAURANTS

► **PARADISE ISLAND** — Marina Village at Atlantis was on Saturday was the place to be for a 'Down Home Party in Da Backyard', where Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis officially opened several new restaurants including McKenzie's Fresh Conch, Pirate Republic Taproom, and Frankie Gone Bananas, amidst live entertainment and a Bahamian arts and crafts market. Photos show some of the festivities, with the Prime Minister and Mrs. Minnis welcomed and accompanied by Atlantis President and Managing Director Audrey Oswell, and Senior Vice-President, Public Affairs Ed Fields. **(BIS Photos/Peter Ramsay)**

CORONER INVESTIGATES POLICE SHOOTING

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Her Majesty's Coroner is in the process of investigating a shooting that involved police officers as a male suspect over the weekend.

According to police reports, officers were walking on Beatrice Avenue and

Bay Lilly Drive on Saturday shortly before 9p.m, when a male suspect attempted to knock down police officers.

The male suspect was shot by police and subsequently taken to hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

In other crime news: Police have launched an

island-wide manhunt for a suspect involved in a shooting that has left a male suffering minor injuries.

Reports are that shortly after 7p.m on Saturday police received a report that a man was at a park in Golden Gates, when he was approached by a man armed with a firearm who shot him.

The victim ran to a nearby residence where he was taken to hospital treated and discharged.

Investigations are ongoing.

Police are also on the hunt for suspects in two separate armed robberies.

Reports coming from police say that shortly

before 5p.m on Saturday, a man armed with a handgun, robbed a shoe store in Palmdale of an undisclosed amount of cash before fleeing on foot.

In a separate incident, shortly before 8p.m on Saturday, a man and a woman were sitting on a beach in eastern New

Providence when they were approached by three men.

One of the men, armed with a handgun robbed the pair of cash and personal items before speeding off in a vehicle.

Police are asking anyone with information to contact the police at 919 or Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS.

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The Dynamics of the Southern Hemisphere – Part I

There is no doubt that Dubai and South Africa have brought a new dynamic to life in the Southern Hemisphere. Dubai is no doubt the hub of this region and has become a global mecca for entertainment, modernity, a digital city and a major tourism destination. South Africa is the story of a people who are in the process of achieving first world development status through the transformation of its economy, society and political institutions.

Getting to Dubai and South Africa is a two-day airplane trek – it takes about 30-34 hours when you add in stop-over time. The journey stated in Nassau and then to New York City.

The flight on Emirates Airline from New York City departed for Dubai via Milan, Italy which was about 7.5 to 8 hours. The Emirates plane was the largest that I have ever travelled on. It had two levels – an economy level comprised of various classes and an upper level or second story for first and business classes. In the economy level, each row had ten seats across – three seats on each side and four in the middle. There were about sixty rows.

The flight from Milan to Dubai was about six hours. On all segments of the trip the service was excellent, with stewardesses serving two meals with intermittent provision of beverages throughout the flight.

An outstanding feature of the aircraft was the entertainment. Wi-Fi was on-board and every conceivable television programme in various languages were available along with a rich list of

Eneas Files

By Godfrey Eneas



movies – old, new and dramas.

DUBAI -- Dubai has become the hub of the Southern Hemisphere and it has emerged as a gateway city for the world. The routes of Emirates Airline connect with every major city around the world. The airline has a minimal presence in Latin America, as only Brazil (Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo) have regular flights along with Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The staff of Emirates Airline encompasses thirty-six different languages. In the Dubai International Airport one encounters a staff from possible every nation. This is necessary because travelers either as tourists, in transit or individ-

uals taking up employment are arriving at an airport which is open twenty-four hours each and every day.

There are four or five terminals. Each terminal is larger than the Lynden Pindling International. It is completely digitized, every high-end brand store can be found; every fast food outlet (American, British European) is present. It is clean, and the signage is outstanding.

In my opinion, there is no airport in the world that compares to Dubai International. Many say Dubai is the richest city in the world. As a city, it is certainly the most modern and is expanding every minute. It is just spectacular!

Atlantis Bahamas is the model for Atlantis Dubai. A number of Bahamians took the opportunity to transfer from Atlantis Bahamas to Atlantis Dubai. Despite this, there seems to be no cross-fertilization of markets. Emirates Airlines should and could be used to create some synergy between the two destinations. After all, Dubai is a global hub and a gateway to the world.

Dubai has become a regional theme park resort. It is a regional Disney World as millions from the region come to Dubai to see Legoland, Ballywood, Motiongate, IMG World, just

to name a few. You can get a bird's eye view of Dubai for six hours. It is an amazing place, and it has raised the bar for global tourism destinations.

Dubai is not only about now. The future is very much apart of its present. There is an entity called the Dubai Museum of The Future. It is an incubator for innovation and design and a platform for inventions and prototypes.

Part of its infrastructure will be built with 3D pointing technologies. Its initial agenda is to draw attention to three main challenges that the world faces: water supply, food security and self-sufficient cities. The museum's opening theme is Re-imagining Climate Change, which showcases for food, water and urban environments.

Dubai has made the future a relevant part of its present through the concept of the Museum of The Future.

Dubai is a study in planning, development an execution. It is a model habitat for the 21st Century man and beyond.

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

POLICE STAFF ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES NEWSLETTER

● *Philip Don Wilson Digest*

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Executive members of the Police Staff Association (PSA) launched several initiatives inclusive of the introduction of its quarterly journal, the Philip Don Wilson digest-named after its first executive chairman, Retired Superintendent of Police Philip Wilson.

Rolling out the digest last Friday with its official name, Executive Chairman Sonny Miller said that the digest was a means to keep its association members informed and updated.

"In our first executive meeting, we decided that we want to keep our members up-to-date and we came up with various ideas to get our news and information out there.

"For too long our members have been saying that they don't know what is going on, what we have been doing, what we are accomplishing, even while we are here.

"So, in consultation with the executives, we decided that, we the executives, we would come up with a newsletter and in selecting a name. We said we will pay homage to the very first executive chairman of the Police Staff Association, a true warrior," Mr. Miller said.

Expressing his gratitude, Mr. Wilson reminisced on the developing stages of the association.

"The embryonic stage of the Police Staff Association was very, very crucial.

"When the association was formed, it was demanding then of the executive to ensure that it doesn't crumble. Had we crumbled, you would not be here today.

"The first year was a battle against a system that was embedded in colonialism. The organization [Royal Bahamas Police Force] was formed since 1840, under the British, and all of the officers then came up through the British system.

"Junior officers were only supposed to come to work on time, do your work and keep opinions to yourself. So, when the Free National Movement decided with good wisdom, to establish a Police Staff Association it was welcomed, by all of the junior officers," Mr. Wilson said.

The digest will be produced every quarter informing members of what has been done and what the association plans to do.

In this quarter's digest, the PSA announced the re-introduction of its membership identification cards and a new office home for the association that will be move in ready in early 2018.

Big Investment For Small Businesses

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
Journal Staff Writer

Three entrepreneurs got some much need financing for their budding businesses.

Investment group Bahamas – a subsidiary of Bahamas Striping Group of Companies– gave an investment to Quincy Rolle of United Data Technology, Kadar Whymys of KW Paving and Darius Johnson of Global Energy Solutions.

Rolle plans to create what he calls a smart city app that would

actually make it possible to report potholes, downed power lines and more.

"The smart city app can work along with any other system, but I can guarantee once its implemented it will be the go to solution, because there are levels of accountability set up directly in the application. From the moment you use your mobile phone to take a photo of a pothole, you submit that to the government it is then received by a representative who has to acknowledge receipt. Once the work has been forwarded

and fixed, the person who submitted the request gets notified that their complaint was solved," Rolle said.

Rolle and Whymys are also working together on an app that will help road works.

Johnson said his company will focus on lighting and energy solutions for not just New Providence, but the family islands as well.

"I want to get the solar cat eyes and other solar lights in the family islands. What I noticed at night in the family islands is at night you can hold your hand in the front of your

face and can't see it. Illuminating the streets can save lives," Johnson said.

Felix Stubbs, chairman of the investment group said they're committed to investing \$1 million dollars a year into small businesses.

That money will be split between at least 20 entrepreneurs based on the level of investment needed.

Stubbs said there are no limits on who the company will invest in, however they are looking for innovative businesses.

"When you look at the companies

we're investing in today, we're talking technology, construction and solar. Those are the kinds of things we think will be beneficial to the Bahamas so those will have the advantage but there are other things that people can do. If we find someone with an idea that \$10,000 can help them do something that can be successful, we may want to consider that," Stubbs said.

There are 7 levels from application to investment and the company vows to stick with their investees to ensure profitability.