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► Member of Parliament for Exuma and Ragged Island, I. Chester Cooper (Journal file photo)

## COOPER QUESTIONS LOGIC OF LOANS

The Member of Parliament for Exuma and Ragged Island, I. Chester Cooper says the opposition questions the logic of the government borrowing U.S. dollars to pay off Bahamian dollar loans "at a time of excess liquidity in the system."

He noted that \$300 million is being used to pay off domestic treasury bills and bank advances.

The Opposition Shadow Minister of Finance says the fact that the government is able to raise US\$750 million, "is tangible proof that the cupboard was never bare."

■ See QUESTIONS / page 2...

# Finance Minister Explains Loans



► Minister of Finance, K. Peter Turnquest (Journal file photo)

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

The Minister of Finance, K. Peter Turnquest, went to great lengths yesterday to explain the reason and rationale behind the latest borrowings of the government. The Minister was able to restructure loans and get the interest rate reduced from

six and a quarter to six per cent.

Addressing members of the House of Assembly, Mr. Turnquest said "there were pressing funding needs at the end of the past fiscal year and the outset of the current period, which placed an urgent requirement on policy makers to identify immediate funding sources to meet these obligations".

"After evaluation of the funding options, the govern-

ment move expeditiously to source several short-term bridging facilities, which included US dollar bank credits \$450 million and domestic treasury bills and bank advances \$300 million," Mr. Turnquest said.

In his explanation, Mr. Turnquest added that these bridging facilities are in an effort to achieve a favourable profile.

■ See EXPLAINS LOANS / page 2...

## POLICE WEAR BODY CAMERAS

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

In an effort to reduce the level of crime in The Bahamas, the Royal Bahamas Police Force has introduced Point Blank body cameras that will not only help in the fight, but will also make police officers account-

able.

During a demonstration of police officers in action outfitted with the bodycams, Commissioner of Police, Anthony Ferguson said that the force is very excited about the initiative.

■ See WEAR BODY CAMERAS / page 2...

# Post Office Demo Hits Bay Street

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
 Journal Staff Writer

Still taking a stand against adverse working conditions, the staff of the post office took their protest from their doorstep at the general post office to Bay Street.

Armed with placards and pictures of mold and rats, workers from all of the post office branches gathered just two feet away from the House of Assembly demanding that both the prime minister and minister responsible for the post office Frankie Campbell hear their cry.

The demonstrators said all of the post office branches on the island have mold, leaky roofs and other health hazardous challenges.

"When it rains on the outside you might as well be on the outside, because it pours inside and everywhere is flooded. We have mold as well. We want to go back to work! Every morning we go and sign in then come here. This is not a fun thing for us, but we have to do this," said a Cable Beach post office employee.

Workers from the general post office also shared sentiments that they do not want to hold up the mail or hinder the public, but the conditions are just not workable.

While passing, Member of Parliament Mark Humes stopped to hear their cries and received the full brunt of the fury from the dissatisfied crowd.

Mr. Humes offered advice from his time as union president at the University of the Bahamas that also had a mold problem some time back, which caused health challenges.

When asked if he would work in those conditions, he said it is really up to the individual, but as for his personal experience at UB, he knows that those who had experienced challenges got the verification from a medical physician before proceeding.

Mr. Humes said he thinks this is a 'work through' situation and encouraged the crowd to sit, push and work through the issue with their minister.

The Minister of Transport who is responsible for the Post Office, Frankie Campbell did address the

issue in the House of Assembly, reiterating that the air conditioning will be fixed soon. He said that he does not take issue with the fact that 17 islands will not get their mail bags this week because of the protests.

"I am satisfied that we should not be quick to judge them. Those 17 islands are their cousins and aunts"

He added that the government is committed to the welfare of the people and will see that they are getting the urgent attention that they deserve.

"In the time that I have been the minister, all and every effort have been made to resolve the issues that are outstanding. I would have meet with the staff, heads of departments and ministerial colleagues in rela-

tion to the matters and while I am not pleased at where they are now, I am pleased to report that as a result of efforts that have been made that there is relief coming in the shortest possible time," Campbell said.

He said he wants the workers to know that the government is doing everything to bring the relief necessary to them in the shortest possible time.

## Gov't Pursues Process to Fuel Economy



► Minister of Financial Services and Immigration, Hon. Brent Symonette addresses stakeholders during the Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) Accountants Week, 'Financial State of Union' -- on November 14, 2017 at Melia Nassau Beach. (BIS Photo/Kristaan Ingraham)

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# Gov't Pursues Process to Fuel Economy

In a bid to counteract the effects of the current economic crisis and to stimulate economic recovery in The Bahamas, the government is 'aggressively' pursuing ways to boost the economy. This, according to the Minister of Financial Services, Trade & Industry and Immigration, the Hon. Brent Symonette is an objective that is of top priority to the government. Minister was speaking to stakeholders during the Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) 'Accountants Week' Opening Ceremony. The event was held at Melia Nassau Beach on Tuesday.

"Our plan is to reinforce the principles of strong leadership, based on ethical governance, that is transparent and accountable, and which applies firm and prudent fiscal responsibility and management," said Minister Symonette. "These elements are vital to the financial stability and future growth of the Bahamian economy."

He said that the country's fiscal deficit is estimated to be 5.7 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the fiscal year ending June 2017, up from 3.5 percent of GDP in FY2016, due to sharp increases in the wage bill, post-hurricane cleanup and reconstruction spending, temporary tax reliefs, and disruptions in revenue collection.

The central government debt-to-GDP ratio,

he explained, is estimated to have increased to 73 percent of GDP in FY2017.

"This was incurred in the previous five years under the former administration," he said. "What this means is that we are in pretty bad shape! And it will take tough decisions to steadily reduce the annual deficit and decrease government debt."

He said that these dramatic actions would have long lasting implications for all investors and citizens.

"In order for The Bahamas economy to compete and prosper in [the] global environment, we must create conditions that facilitate the "ease of doing business" in an open, innovative, productive and competitive environment.

"The Bahamas ranks 121st place among 190 countries on the World Bank's ease of doing business index," said Minister Symonette. "The government has embraced this idea, with the understanding that we must be forward thinking if we are to advance ourselves as a nation, and continue to compete in the global economy.

The IMF October 2017 reported that The Bahamas has had a prolonged period of stagnation, resulting in declining income relative to neighboring countries; concerns about fiscal sustainability; and a severe household



► Minister of Financial Services and Immigration, Hon. Brent Symonette addresses stakeholders during the Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) Accountants Week, 'Financial State of Union' -- on November 14, 2017 at Melia Nassau Beach. (BIS Photo/Kristaan Ingraham)

debt overhang problem."

He pointed out that they also cited elevated public debt, limited external buffers, and a pegged exchange rate regime, as constraints to the policy space to allow response to shocks.

"For its part, the government is committed to creating favorable conditions by building an efficient public sector and investing in public infrastructure to sustain, support and spur economic growth," he said. "Currently in progress is the drafting and tabling of legislation to streamline procedures and improve

the ease of doing business."

As well as, the enhancement and reconfiguration of government agencies to facilitate ease of process and sharing of information between agencies (companies registrar, business license unit, NIB, BIA, regulatory agencies), the Minister said that the government has already begun to implement changes to immigration processes for tax residency, work permit relaxation for certain classes of persons, economic permanent residency and threshold for purchase of a residence to \$750,000.

## Bank of the Bahamas downsizing

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
Journal Staff Writer

Bank of the Bahamas is undergoing a downsizing

### Finance Minister Explains Loans

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

"I want to emphasize that these facilities were always contemplated to be short-term in nature, with a subsequent "termining out", i.e., length of the maturities to achieve a more favourable debt servicing profile.

"And, having considered conditions in the domestic market, and the number of significant rollovers contemplated, the intention was to explore the possibility of rolling up these short-term credits into an international bond issue," Mr. Turnquest explained.

Mr. Turnquest further explained that the government does acknowledge the need to establish a fund to cover the cost of the new venture.

"The government is cognizant of the need to ensure that resources are available to meet its future debt service obligations, and intends to establish, during the next budget, a sinking fund to cover the principal payments arising from this new borrowing.

"This is part and parcel of our commitment to responsible fiscal practices," Mr. Turnquest stated.

"We are extremely pleased with the outcome of this transaction. The positive response from investors confirms the market's confidence in the government's policy and initiatives for achieving sustainable fiscal outcomes and pursuing the necessary reforms to support growth of the Bahamian economy," he said.

The bond offering totaled some \$750 million at a rate of six percent and is the result of a successful five day road show, which took Mr. Turnquest, along with representatives from the Ministry of Finance to meet with current investors in government paper as well as potential new investors. The trip took the group to London, New York, Boston and Los Angeles.

exercise at two of their branches.

It is reported that 15 or more persons were let go from the Village Road branch on Tuesday and another large number of persons from the Harold Road branch on Wednesday.

Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest said he knew nothing of the layoffs as his office does not get involved in the day to day decisions of the bank.

"When we did our last operation with the Bank of The Bahamas and appointed this new board, we committed to them and the Bahamian people that we will not allow politics to get involved in the operation of the bank, because we've seen where that has gotten us,"

Turnquest said.

He added that to the extent that they've made any moves, he's sure it is a deliberate, considered action to make the bank profitable.

Turnquest said that the government is only there to guide and this layoff matter is one for either the chairman or labour minister.

"Sometimes you have to go back to go forward, and the Bank of The Bahamas is one of those circumstances that in order for it to have an opportunity to grow and grow without continued support from the government, it has to do those kinds of things that an entrepreneurial institution will do in order to ensure profitability," Turnquest said.

He said that when the

bank expands its profitability, it will be able to expand and serve communities that are underserved with products that are creative and will drive the domestic financial services sector forward.

"I have committed to the bank that I'm not going to

get involved in their operation. We are here to guide from a policy point of view as an investor. So to the extent that they need my guidance they will consult, but other than that they run the operation," Turnquest said.

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## POLICE WEAR BODY CAMERAS

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

"I can tell you that the officers are excited. I've spoken to any number of persons in the community and they are excited to see the police advancing at this level of technology.

"We in the police force, including the executives and all members are very excited, because we believe that this will help the police image wise and boost the public confidence with the police," Commissioner Ferguson stated.

Not only will the body cams help with the criminal element, but will also

make officers accountable as it will capture the daily moves of officers, according to Commissioner Ferguson.

"When the police interact with members of the public, they can be assured that the police will be behaving with utmost level of professionalism and members of the public will be pleased to know that they are truly our friends.

"They [will] know, when we speak, we are speaking the facts as it is and there will be no doubt as to the actions of the police have taken.

"It is my intention to, once the testing is done, we will no doubt move to

acquire this practice for all of the mobile units," Commissioner Ferguson said.

According to Commissioner Ferguson, the devices will be preset and officers will not have the option to turn the cameras on and off as they may wish.

Police officers in Grand Bahama as well as Abaco also have access to the Point Blank body camera.

To date a number of police officers of the Mobile and Traffic Division as well as plain clothes officers are outfitted with the new technology.

## COOPER QUESTIONS LOGIC OF LOANS

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

Calling Mr. Cooper's comments misguided, Minister of Finance, K. Peter Turnquest said, "the current administration met a Treasury that was wholly cash strapped, with government agencies holding hundreds of millions of dollars in arrears owed to Bahamian individuals and businesses. I don't know how

much bearer the members opposite could have left the proverbial cupboard.

"The sole reason we did borrow and are borrowing funds at the current level is that we have had to take on the unfunded obligations and fill up the bare cupboard left by the former PLP administration that the Member of Exuma is so cleverly-but unsuccessfully trying to dis-

tance himself away from," said the Minister.

Explaining the rationale for paying off \$300 million in domestic borrowing from the international bond offering, Mr. Turnquest stated, "our debt planning exercise is done with the consultation of the Central Bank and other institutional stakeholders to ensure that our interventions optimize the opportunities

both domestic and foreign within the confines of prudent marco-fiscal management of the economy. There is significant analysis that informs these decisions," he said.

Speaking in the House of Assembly, Mr. Cooper who is Deputy Leader of the Progressive Liberal Party said, "although the government boasts its success for

locking in new debt after an intensive globe trot, we reiterate the point that since the Free National Movement government took office, there has been no significant foreign direct investments materializing and the government has presented no plan of any kind to spur life into the economy."

Mr. Cooper said he looks forward to the government's

focused attention on job creation as there have been extensive layoffs and many Bahamian families are hurting.

"We await the government's attention to creating opportunities for job creation, economic growth, Foreign Direct Investment and driving entrepreneurship and domestic investment," said the Exuma MP.

# Bahamas Ministry of Tourism targets European market at WTM in London

**LONDON, England** - Minister of Tourism & Aviation, The Hon. Dionisio D'Aguilar, lead a delegation of tourism officials and industry partners to World Travel Market (WTM) 2017 in London, England last week.

While at World Travel Market, the delegation met with officials and representatives of the travel trade and media to update them on new developments in The Islands Of The Bahamas.

Meetings were held with key airline and tour operator partners including: British Airways & British Airways Holidays; Condor Airlines, which just started new service from Frankfurt to Nassau; Alpitour and Air Caraibes.

Minister D'Aguilar also attended the United Nations World Tourism Organization's Ministers' Summit and the World Travel Market Minister's Investment Summit.

To ensure that details of the new hotel openings and refurbishments, as well as new planned developments were widely shared throughout Europe, the Tourism Minister and other execu-

tives had several interviews with key media.

Another key initiative was spreading the word that The Bahamas is open for business following Hurricanes Irma and Maria.



## ALIV'S AMAZING YEAR

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

As the only other major mobile network in the country, ALIV has made a brand for itself in an arena that was monopolized for years. Chief ALIV Officer (CAO) Damian Blackburn said creating the brand ALIV has been a fantastic journey.

"It's been an amazing year, clearly. Launching this a year ago was an incredible achievement and a real highlight, but I supposed the main highlight is working with all the talented Bahamians in the ALIV team.

"It is a Bahamian company, but it was brand new a year ago, [and] we're delighted with what we did and the brand position we gained.

"But really, it's the way the brands been received. It has been fantastic and the absolute trust and the sense of pride in the Bahamian people about creating a brand like ALIV in your community, it's been fantastic," Mr. Blackburn stated.

Celebrating its first anniversary, Mr. Blackburn admitted that there have been challenges, which he says the company worked its way through.

"Every business man or women would tell you that of course, there are things that we would do differently, but we are delighted with what we've done.

"There has been kinks in the road along the way, but we've straightened them out and we've taken the challenges head on and we're proud of what was done.

"We could have done some things differently, but we took the journey we did," Mr. Blackburn boasted.

He said that challenges with competition, only makes a company stronger.

"The whole nature of competition is a challenge, and there's no specific challenge except that we've got to be on our game every day.

"The ALIV team come to work every morning, bringing their A-game with them so that we can meet any challenge that comes from competition or otherwise.

"Competition makes everybody stronger as hopefully you all now see," Mr. Blackburn said.

With 85,000 customers, Mr. Blackburn said that the team at ALIV has work hard and that in itself is a highlight of the company.

"We've assembled [that] team in record speed. They've shown great passion, enthusiasm, creativity and motivation to bring The Bahamas ALIV," he said.

Mr. Blackburn credited "the 85,000 customers who have shown absolute faith in our service and use it every day and we're very, very proud. That's a big highlight for so many people to show faith in what we've been saying, and we welcome everybody else to join us in this next year," Mr. Blackburn said.

## American Visitor Arrested For Marijuana

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

Police have arrested a female American visitor for possession of a quantity of marijuana while at the international section of the Lynden Pinning International Airport (LPIA).

According to police reports, shortly after 6pm on Tuesday, officers from the Airport Division, acting on information conducted a search of the American female and found a quantity of marijuana in her luggage.

She was subsequently taken into custody and investigations continue in the matter.

Meantime, Mobile Division officers took another illegal firearm of the streets of New Providence.

Particulars are that shortly before 2pm yesterday officers, again, acting on information went to Moon McPhee Community Park in Yellow Elder Gardens, where they found a black .9mm Smith and Wesson firearm and three rounds of ammunition in a garbage bin. No one was arrested in connection with this find.

Police are seeking the public's assistance in locating Dominique Johnson.

The 13-year-old resident of Farrington Road was reported missing by family members.

Johnson is of medium brown complexion and stands about five feet four inches tall and is of slim build. Anyone knowing of her whereabouts are asked to contact the police at 919 or 328-tips.

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# Infusion Of Millions Into Economy Blocked

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.

Fashion mogul Peter Nygard once suggested that if the Free National Movement won the last election that hedge-fund billionaire Louis Moore Bacon would be "all-powerful".

Was Peter Nygard right?

Millions was to be spent on the rebuilding of Nygard's home after it was mysteriously destroyed by fire and the intention was to employ at least 200 Bahamians; however, Mr. Nygard has suggested that it was all blocked by Louis Bacon.

Nygard shared that he went through the proper processes for rebuilding, and everything he was going to build and was required to build was public information, and "they" managed to shut that down anyway.

Frustrated at not being able to rebuild his home Mr. Nygard once expressed about his neighbour Louis Bacon, "He was successful. To this day, I cannot build anything. I put in for a permit to rebuild my burned down house and he put an injunction against that. I tried to finish building my sea protection to prevent my beach from erosion, and he put an injunction against preparing to do that.

He further stated "These are two-three years old and then he plans to hold these up in court until he wins his election. If he wins the election, then he is going to be all-powerful; then he's got the Government on his side."

As previously discussed, you can see evidence of the concessions made to Save The Bays Director and attorney, Fred Smith on behalf of Save The Bays, an organization that is chiefly funded by Louis Bacon and an organization that was founded by Louis Bacon as one of its co-founders.

Mr. Nygard feels that Fred Smith was hired by Bacon to seemingly do as much damage as he could to Nygard.

## THE CLIFTON REVIEW

By P. J. Malone

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

It is interesting to watch how this entire Clifton saga has played out with The Bahamas as its backdrop and the Bahamian people as its witnesses. It's a sad affair really especially given the loss of potential revenue from the rebuilding of Nygard Cay following the fire.

The millions to be spent on the rebuilding of Peter Nygard's home is a much-needed injection of revenue into our economy.

Over the years, Peter Nygard has provided impassioned insights into the challenges he has been having with his neighbour Louis Bacon. He shared that this is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what he has been going through and suffering with the plot—as he described it, "this very evil conspiracy plot with Bacon to take over my property".

The conflict between Peter Nygard and Louis Bacon, neighbours behind the Lyford Cay gates, has been going on for years. Unfortunately, it's still not over and is not likely to be any time soon.

Mr. Nygard indicated that the once public letter to Bacon suggesting a truce between him and Bacon wasn't the only time that he called for a cessation of the hostilities; he had asked Bacon a number of times and even wrote Bacon letters telling him that this fight they were in didn't make any sense.

Nygard had offered to give 10 million dollars to the Bahamian people and asked Bacon to match it so that they could do something jointly for the Bahamian people. Nygard felt

that that would be far better than "pissing it away" as he described it, making the lawyers rich with their battle. Instead, Nygard wants to "make the people of The Bahamas rich."

So, from all of the apparent machinations of Louis Bacon and use of Save The Bays to seemingly carry out his scheme against Peter

Nygard, Save The Bays has not only successfully blocked Peter Nygard from rebuilding his home, Save The Bays has stood in the way of Bahamian jobs and has prevented an infusion of millions of dollars into the Bahamian economy.

And we have allowed that?!

## Minister Pintard Gives Report on Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting

BY ERIC ROSE  
Bahamas Information Services

Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture the Hon. Michael Pintard said in the House of Assembly, on November 15, 2017, that shortly after his appointment as Minister responsible for Youth Affairs, he received an invitation by the Commonwealth Secretariat to attend the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting, held in Kampala, Uganda.

"This invitation permitted me along with members of my delegation Mr. Darron Turnquest, Director of Youth Affairs, and Ms. Keturah Babb, Youth Delegate – to explore opportunities for strategic partnerships," Minister Pintard said.

Minister Pintard noted that it was important that public officials and those who are sponsored by the "People's Money" provide the basis for expenditure on travel to such meetings.

"We are further obligated to report on the outcomes we expect and what the terms of reference were for the meeting," he added. "Please note that the representation by the Government of The Bahamas in this forum provided an opportunity for my Ministry to develop and adopt, based on the Government's agenda, clear, transpar-

ent and Commonwealth-endorsed approaches to youth participation, youth empowerment and development."

Minister Pintard said that they also explored how to create youth networks, inclusive of utilizing national youth councils.

"Furthermore, we were able to increase our capacity to improve and/or create guidelines for partnerships between my Ministry, representatives of youth organizations and other youth governing bodies within and outside of The Bahamas," he stated.

In addition, to the previously stated objectives, Minister Pintard said, the purpose of the meeting was three-fold.

The first objective, he said, was to review and assess programs in national youth development; share, celebrate and adopt good practice strategies, solutions and models; and identify new priorities for action to advance youth development in the Commonwealth – in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015.

The second broad objective, he said, was to explore the holistic potential of youth and their role in national development and in the youth sector.

■ See MINISTER PINTARD GIVES / page 7...

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# The Rough Cut

By Felix F. Bethel

“...this craziness...”

And of course, The Haitian people were made to pay a frightfully high price for their victory over imperialism as manifested in those dread times.

To this day, those struggles continue.

These are also the people whose labor is always in high demand whenever this or that high-flying business magnate needs labor that is cost-efficient, reliable and drug-free.

Jetta Baptiste, president of the Haitian Bahamian Society of the Bahamas, accused the government of creating more illegal migrants by deporting persons born in the Bahamas without adequate infrastructure to document their legitimate claim to Bahamian citizenship.

As Baptiste exclaims: “What saddens me is that they have not learned anything from past failures. They keep repeating the same old mistakes over and over again.

And so, on one fine day, A HAITIAN MAN ASKED me if both of my parents were HIGH-SHUNS!

And so today, with any number of vitally important issues on my mind, I tell you that: Some of the thousands of young men and women who – through no fault of their own – were born to parents who – through no fault of theirs’ – were living here [as undocumented migrants in a Bahamas where most of them -whilst wanted for their labor - were also fated to be detested-; thus today's large crowd of Bahamian born and bred people who only want to be given their passports so that they can find home somewhere else where they might be welcomed— “...Pretty-please all of you who would lead, please let them go!

When will this craziness end?

In truth, it will not ever end; this because most of my people hate the black in themselves and thus they also despise the Blackness they see or smell in others who are their kith and kin!

& then: The sloop came in AND AS FATE WOULD HAVE the troops and hordes of passengers were able – presumably with the help of their friends to escape the people who – like thugs in uniform are paid to hunt them down as if they were disease-carrying vermin.

This is so very sad and – as for me and all the people who think like me – we detest this way of dealing

with the so-called influx of these black brothers and sisters of ours.

Now note well some of what the late Dame Doris on once upon a time had to say about these wandering and wondering strangers who need to know how much longer they will be obliged to wait just a tad longer people. “...Either we must absorb them or expel them. Expulsion is out of the question...” Dame Doris Johnson.

And now, the Minnis regime is taking – as we might have predicted or post-dicted; but ‘---dicted’ nonetheless: The round-ups as set to begin and thus THEIR harassment of Felix Bethel for allegedly befriending and housing some of these children of a still – SOVEREIGN GOD--- heaven help us all; protect us all from the thuggish wiles of all of those steroid afflicted types who daily rough up people who THEY THINK are undocumented HIGH-SHUNS!!!

And for that matter: we have that kind of instance where -- For better or worse, street corner commerce and daily life in and throughout this island's heartland communities are being dominated by Haitians and to a lesser degree by Jamaicans and a number of other 'stranger' types.

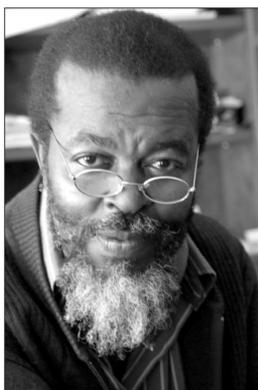
In addition, there is no doubting the fact that, these people are working hand-in-glove with Bahamians who have fled areas and communities like Bain Town, Grant's Town, Englerston, Coconut Grove and certain sections of Freetown in the Eastern District.

Put as succinctly as we might, today the fact remains that it is precisely these areas which are today the focus of Urban Renewal and the rest of the Police Force...”

It is also to be noted that: Somewhere in this mix, there is both irony and pathos mixed: the Royal Bahamas Police Force is charged with bringing order to and for very many of the this land's newest Bahamians in places where some of their undocumented cousins now find refuge.

Tragically so, some of these places in our heartland communities [so we are told] are also home to men and women who also trade in guns and drugs at the street-corner level.

For as long as most Bahamians can remember, social intercourse between



Haitians and Bahamas has been exceptionally intense.

Evidently, this intensity of relations is deeply rooted in factors relevant to history; to geography and to rivalry between competing European powers.

And so let it be known that: A Haitian man approached me on one fine evening and – as he mused – he had a question for me: were both of my parents of Haitian extraction!

That question stumped me!

Incidentally, practically everyone seems to be on their p's and q's as they try to wrap their fuzzy-wuzzy minds on a slew of gestures concerning the treatment of not only the Haitian people but also any number of people who could – like me – pass for a Haitian, morning, noon or night!

And as some of us know: Haiti won its freedom on the battlefield; and so it would have been in those days when the Haitian people fought and won a great revolution that slaves in The Bahamas and elsewhere in the region, inclusive of the United States could and did look to Haiti as home in a then-heartless world.

And of course, The Haitian people were made to pay a frightfully high price for their victory over imperialism as manifested in those dread times.

To this day, those struggles continue.

These are also the people whose labor is always in high demand whenever this or that high-flying business magnate needs labor that is cost-efficient, reliable and drug-free.

Jetta Baptiste, president of the Haitian Bahamian Society of the Bahamas, accused the government of creating more illegal migrants by deporting persons born in the Bahamas without adequate infrastructure to document their legitimate claim to Bahamian citizenship. When will this craziness end?

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E D I T O R I A L

## BONDED IN COMMUNITY

One of the facts of life that matter in all countries has to do with that reality that tells us that – when all is said and done – there is so very much [and sometimes more] that depends on family engagement [whether for good or for ill] as circumstances.

Evidently, this is neatly captured in some of those larger stories and narratives limning the lives of the rich, the famous and [of course] all those people who are often defined as 'movers and shakers'. These are the people who make things happen – whether for the good or the ill of the parties concerned.

And clearly, one of the great paradoxes inherent in these times has to do with the extent to which our rich, famous and powerful sons and daughters now live in worlds that are sealed away [and perhaps even inoculated] from the denizens of most of our heart-land communities.

Were they – meaning the rich and the famous and they who are deemed movers and shakers – were to get down from their high horses, they would get to know precisely how and why so very many of our people are in full flight from any semblance of reality that would animate their socially superior brothers and sisters.

Here the truth of the matter is evident -- one which suggests that if we continue to go down these totally different paths there we shall find nothing but sorrows piled upon even more sorrows!

As these arrive, Blind Blake's cry resonates— Come witness your judgment.

But yet, this need not be our shared fate this being so precisely because we are small enough and coherent enough and decent enough – that with some effort – we can rise to the challenge inherent in these hard times.

The question today which we pose and which – to a certain degree – we answer concerns the extent to which we are pulling together in pursuit of community or for that matter, the extent to which we are finding it either difficult or nigh impossible to stop the rot that has already settled in at the root of what is now a terribly and deeply wounded Bahama Land.

In a sense, then, the troubles we have can be

boiled down to demonstrating what can and must happen to a people when they decide that they will bow down and worship things and all that money can buy –whether bought wholesale or retail or on some other buy-now-pay-later [also known as 'A debt peonage trap'.

Put simply, then, when money determines one's life chances—Class-based indignities ensue; thus that high level of rage and out-rage that hereof late seems to permeate our society.

We fear that the day will come when they who are rich and powerful will accelerate their social segregation from those people who live out their hard-scrabble lives directly under the focused gaze of the police and their well-paid informants.

Here we hasten to add that: Most of the wealthy may have indeed earned their success with their skills and hard work. But to some extent each of them has also been at the right place at the right time. Each has benefited from a system that has favored their projects, while other hard-working, talented people have not been as lucky.

The success of the wealthy—and of our whole community—depends on to some extent of the efforts of everyone in it. Spending some money to ensure that our whole community prospers is both in our collective interest and is also the right thing to do.

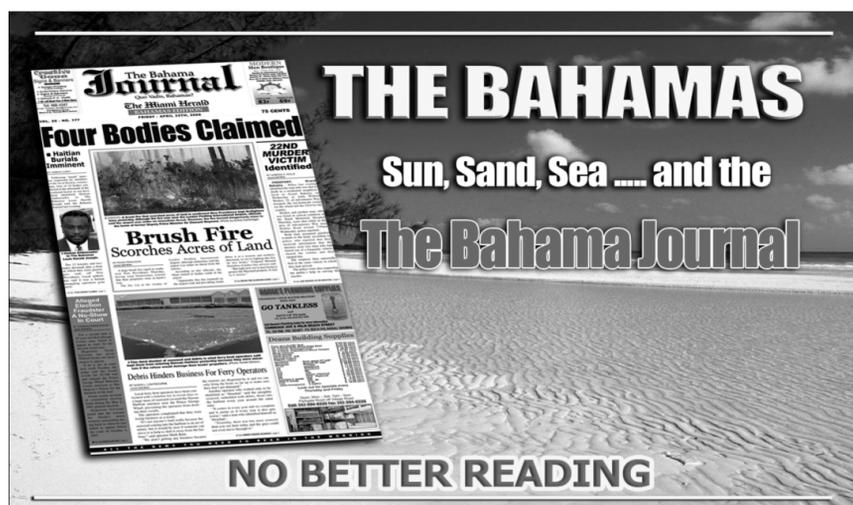
And thus we also insist that: Asking the wealthy to give away most of their money would indeed be wrong. But it is fair to ask them to share some of what they make to help underwrite the system that made their prosperity possible and to support those who have not benefited from as much from that system.

The sum of the matter at hand deeply suggests that it is now clear that: In order to preserve our own freedoms and pursue our own happiness, we can't just think about ourselves. We have to think about the country that made these liberties possible. We have to think about our fellow citizens with whom we share a community. And we have to think about what's required to preserve that culture which once upon a time did bond so very many of our people together in communities of family-like citizens!

SHUT-EYE

HAITIANS VANISH.

(IN THIN AIR)





► **ONE-DAY CONFERENCE TARGETS 12TH GRADERS** – Girl Con 2017, a one-day conference designed especially for 12th grade students, is the highlight of 'National Women's Week.' The conference will be held on Monday, November 27 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. An essay competition will also be a part of the activities scheduled. National Women's Week will be observed from November 26 to December 2. Shown from left during a press conference on Monday, November 13, 2017 are: Donna Laing-Jones; Senator Jasmine Turner-Dareus, one of the panelists; Pakesia Parker-Edgecombe, Parliamentary Secretary of Information and Communications in the Office of the Prime Minister; Senator the Hon. Katherine Forbes-Smith, President of the Senate; Yvonne Ward, Ministry of Education; Patrice Johnson, Department of Social Services; and Kiarra Jones. **(BIS Photo/Lisa Davis)**

# Girl Con 2017 to Highlight National Women's Week Activities

**FREEPORT, Grand Bahama** – A one-day conference geared towards Grade 12 females, Girl Con 2017, will highlight 'National Women's Week,' November 26 to December 2 under the theme "Strong Women – Strong Families – Strong Communities."

During a press conference on Monday at the Office of the Prime Minister, Grand Bahama, Senate President, the Hon. Katherine Forbes-Smith, said the Girls Conference will be held on November 28, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, at Keen I Media Centre, on Cromwell and Sergeant Major Drive.

With 15 young ladies from the 10 high schools on the island expected to be in attendance, the attendees will hear from five panellists: Rev.

Marie Roach-Hepburn; Senator Jasmine Turner-Dareus; Gia Pierre, playwright and author; Lynda Wells, photographer and Eldri Ferguson-Mackey, business.

"We've asked these five women to speak at this event, but speak in a very different manner. They're going to tell their personal stories about some of the things that really has been both negative and positive, in terms of their success and their career."

Senator Smith continued, "We feel that these young girls... 12th grade students from the 10 high schools -- will be very much uplifted by what these women have to say. It is really surprising, when you talk to these women, some of the barriers that they surpassed to be successful today."

Two of the panelists, successful artists, have been chosen so that young women can see that they can be successful in the arts, Mrs. Smith further explained.

Another event geared towards inspiring the young ladies will be an essay competition, again for 12th graders, under the theme, "Why females make strong families – strong communities." Prizes for the top three finalists include cash and electronics. First place winner will receive \$750; second place, \$500 and the third place winner will receive \$250. The winner of the competition will also be expected to deliver her essay during Girl Con 2017.

Yvonne Ward of the Ministry of Education, said the Ministry is excited about the event and they want the

12th grade students involved "because we feel they are the next generation of leaders. We expect you to pick up the mantle and ensure that our rights and privileges continue. We expect that through education.

Essays, she said, should be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on November 24. They should be placed in a sealed envelope and addressed to Patrice Johnson, Department of Social Services, Sun Plaza.

Pakesia Parker-Edgecombe, Parliamentary Secretary of Information and Communications in the Office of the Prime Minister, said "I think that it's important that, as women, we continue to come together. Oftentimes, society has a way of pitting us against each other and rather than supporting each other, we're always joining in that. I

think this conference not only shows a group of professional women and community leaders coming together, but also lets our young girls know that we can achieve much if we just support one another, and this is going to be doing that at this conference."

Mrs. Parker-Edgecombe thanked Senator Smith, the brainchild behind the event, and said that if women would just support each other, much would be accomplished.

Mrs. Ward urged the young ladies and principals to support these events.

Also present during the press conference were: Senator Jasmine Turner-Dareus; Patrice Johnson, Department of Social Services; Donna Laing-Jones; and Kiarra Jones.

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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 --

Anthony Dwight Stone Jr., Single,  
of 180 Bridges Rd., Polk City, Florida 33868, United States of America

and

Kelsey-Lynn Rossetti, Divorced,  
of 180 Bridges Rd., Polk City, Florida 33868, 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 3rd 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 --

Keith Roza, Divorced,  
of 32 Foster Creek Dr., Newcastle Ont. L1B 1G2, Canada

and

June Mary Ellen Burke, Divorced,  
of 32 Foster Creek Dr., Newcastle Ont. L1B 1G2, Canada

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 3rd 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 --

Nikolay Nikolaevich Boykov, Divorced,  
of 109 Schorsa Str., apt 204, Yekaterinburg, 620144, Russian Federation

and

Ekaterina Vladimirovna Romanova, Divorced,  
of 109 Schorsa Str., apt 204, Yekaterinburg, 620144, Russian Federation

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

Dated this 6th day of 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 --

Anthony Jay Nadeau, Single,  
of 710-H Greenridge Parkway, Brownsburg, IN 46112, United States of America

and

Jennifer Lynn Simpson, Single,  
of 710-H Greenridge Parkway, Brownsburg, IN 46112, 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.

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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 --

Richard Louis Orsini, Widowed,  
of 68 Jardin de Mer Place, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250, United States of America

and

Lauri Ann Owens, Divorced,  
of 125 Yucca Place, Neptune Beach, FL 32266, United States of America

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

Dated this 6th day of 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 --

Zhenkun Xie, Single,  
of 1/16 Carrington Ave, Hurstville NSW, Australia

and

Ying Jia, Single,  
of 1/16 Carrington Ave, Hurstville NSW, 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 6th day of November, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



► Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture the Hon. Michael Pintard speaks in the House of Assembly, on November 15, 2017, about The Bahamas delegation's attendance to the recent 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting, held in Kampala, Uganda. **(BIS Photo/Eric Rose)**

# Minister Pintard Gives Report on Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting

Continued from / PAGE 4...

“Furthermore participants at this conference gathered to consider emerging youth themes, and how they might contribute to the global youth development agenda,” Minister Pintard said.

Thirdly and finally, he said, the meeting gave participants an opportunity to engage with international organizations and the private sector on strategies for technical and financial support for national and regional youth development.

“I am happy to report that this meeting of Youth Ministers, and Youth Stakeholders and International Organizations achieved this,” he said. Minister Pintard pointed out that during the meetings, members of the Bahamian delegation were able to review current youth development tools used internationally, pursue resources and learn about potential access to professional support available to member states, which are affiliated with Commonwealth Youth Program (CYP).

These meetings, he said, proved to be successful for the entire team.

“We in the Ministry were able to secure numerous professional partnerships and strategic alliances with other Member States and International Organizations,” Minister Pintard said. “The Bahamas delegation had an opportunity to critically assess its own initiatives and the others presented, that we thought might be useful in The Bahamas.

“We were able to determine how we could better equip youth practitioners, young people, themselves, and, of course, how to guide the implementation of the National Youth Policy – which has been entrained for at least a decade.”

“Further opportunities were granted to investigate various avenues for technical assistance from represented agencies and further assistance from the Commonwealth Secretariat,” Minister Pintard added. “I am happy to report that significant inroads made during the recent trip to Uganda.”



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