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# The Bahama Journal

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# BOB IS DOWNSIZING

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
Journal Staff Writer

**T**he Bank of the Bahamas has confirmed that it began downsizing. The statement yesterday the bank said it is doing what it calls 'right sizing' in an effort to get the bank back on a path of sustainable prof-

itability to enhance their shareholders' and stakeholders' value.

Bank officials have confirmed that less than 30 staff members will be effected.

Nonetheless, they say these are extremely difficult decisions, primarily because they hold implications for the continued employment of team members and impact many areas of the bank.

"However, these decisions are based on careful assessment of our operations and the corporate objective of securing enhanced efficiencies," said BOB Officials.

They added that all decisions were taken with the greatest level of diligence, care and sensitivity.

News of the layoffs followed the decision to close two of the bank's family island locations namely, their

Eight Mile Rock branch, which has been closed permanently and its Exuma branch, which will follow at year's end.

The past few years have been rocky for Bank of the Bahamas. It has recorded losses of \$11 million, which was five million more than it did during the same period in 2016.

■ See **BOB IS DOWNSIZING** / page 2...



► Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) National Chairman, Fred Mitchell (Journal file photo)

## PLP Chairman Says Gov't Not Concerned About Bahamians

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) National Chairman, Fred Mitchell, expressing his concern over recent layoffs or downsizing at the Bank of The Bahamas (BOB), said that the Free National Movement (FNM) administration is more concerned about statistics and figures and less about the Bahamian people.

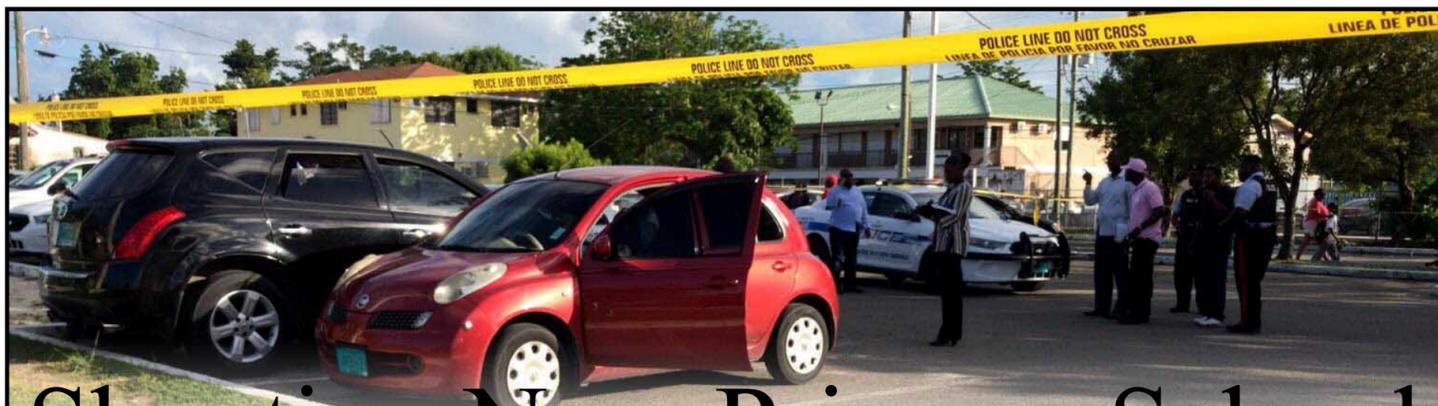
"It is always dreadful when men and women lose their jobs.

"It is an unfortunate pattern so far in this administration - job losses after job losses. The (FNM) administration thinks too often of stats and figures and not enough about people," Mr. Mitchell said.

In a press statement, Mr. Mitchell said that although there is an expectation of the government to give an explanation as to why there is a reduction in banking and its services, the PLP is looking to make available recommendations for the banking sector.

"No doubt the Government is bound to explain fully and frankly its strategy with regard to the Bank at a time of retrenchment in the availability of banking services in communities that are unbanked or under banked.

■ See **PLP CHAIRMAN** / page 2...



## Shooting Near Primary School

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

Students and parents of St. Francis and Joseph's

Catholic school experienced quite a scare yesterday when a brazen afternoon shooting took place near the school's campus.

According to police reports, shortly before 3pm, they received information that a male was shot in a parking lot near the school

located on Boyd Road.

On arrival at the scene, the police met the victim sitting in a red vehicle with a gunshot wound to the hand.

The victim was transported to the hospital and is listed in stable condition.

Investigations are ongoing in this matter.

## "CRIME TRENDING DOWN," SAYS DEAN

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

Gangs violence is an everyday reality that the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) is contending with. However, with a new perspective in combating crime and criminal elements, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Stephen Dean said that there are some initiatives the force is taking in the fight against crime.

Speaking at a Rotary Club of West Nassau weekly meeting, Senior ACP Dean said that through some initiatives undertaken by the force, serious crime is trending down.

"Most of our serious crimes continue to trend downwards, and while we don't glory in it, it is a positive sign.

"Since the new commissioner has come in, we have been looking at some initiatives,

because what has been happening over the past three or four weeks, you would not have heard the regular call of the murders. Things have been happening.

"We have been arresting a number of bad guys off the street. We've been taking particularly, a lot of firearms off the streets of New Providence," Mr. Dean said.

"High powered weapons, automatic weapons, we have been finding them," he said.

Mr. Dean attributed the fact that crime has been trending down to strategies that the force has recently implemented.

"We, believe that because we are taking a number of firearms out the criminal's hands, we are forcing a reduction in some of these serious crimes.

■ See **CRIME TRENDING DOWN** / page 2...



► Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Stephen Dean (Journal file photo)

## BAHAMASAIR REVENUE IMPROVES

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
Journal Staff Writer

Bahamasair's Managing Director, Tracy Cooper says there has been a ten to fifteen per cent improvement in the overall revenue of the national flag carrier.

Bahamasair has extended their flight schedule to other countries. Speaking with the Bahama Journal on the airline's inaugural flight to Houston, Texas, Mr. Cooper said, "starting from the beginning of this year, we have expanded into

Port-au-Prince, Haiti, as well as Cape Haitian. We also have Chicago on the radar for January 2018," Mr. Cooper said.

While Bahamasair has made great efforts to continue expanding their flights to other parts of the world,

Mr. Cooper stated that they have to be mindful not to overwhelm themselves.

"We have to be careful just how much we expand, simply because we will be busting at the seams a bit, based on our aircraft count."

Bahamasair has acquired five new one year old ATR turbo props and three Boeing 737 Jets which are operated primarily for all international flights.

■ See **BAHAMASAIR** / page 2...

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## HOLY SPIRIT ANGLICAN CHURCH HONOUREES PAY COURTESY CALL ON THE GOVERNOR GENERAL



► Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling, Governor General (seated centre), received Canon Peter Scott and honourees of Holy Spirit Anglican Church in a courtesy call at Government House on Wednesday, November 15, 2017. Honourees have been dedicated workers for the church parish. Seated from left: Debbie McKinney, Barbara Archer, Canon Peter Scott, Dame Marguerite Pindling, Reverend Joseph Mycklewyhte, Patricia Babbs, and Fabienne Bailey-Brown (church administrative assistant for 24 years). Standing from left: Monique Cooper, Charles Miller, Lydia Isaacs-Thompson, and Deanne Cooper. (BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)

### BOB IS DOWNSIZING

Continued from / PAGE 1...

On Wednesday when the allegations of downsizing were made, Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest said he knew nothing of the lay-offs, as his office does not get involved in the day to day decisions of the bank.

He further stated that if they were downsizing, he saw it as a deliberate, considered action to make the bank profitable.

"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.

### PLP Chairman Says Gov't Not Concerned About Bahamians

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"The PLP is expecting to move shortly through its Council to provide some policy guidelines on these developments in the banking sector including issues such as labour retrenchment, banking fees and the services that are no longer offered in far flung communities.

"Our concern is always the fate of our people," Mr. Mitchell said.

On Wednesday, Bank of The Bahamas issued a press statement that spoke to lay-offs from its Village Road and Harold Road Branches.

The statement read: "BOB commenced the rightsizing of departments and units this week in another strategic move to improve operational efficiencies with the ultimate goal of setting the Bank back on a path to sustainable profitability."

## "CRIME TRENDING DOWN," SAYS DEAN

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"I can tell you some of the initiatives. We have instituted the Anti-gang and firearms Unit.

"It's a law, an anti-gang law that we are targeting of persons who are involved in gangs. We are doing a lot of work behind the scenes, to

bring these persons into custody.

"We realized that gangs in our country is a reality, it's real. We have a lot of young men involved in these gangs, these are real issues in these communities.

"We have the Flying Squad, this is a group of very serious, elite officers who tar-

get some bad guys, and they have been targeting them, and bringing them into custody.

"We have the Rapid Response Unit, that we have put in place, and this is another group of officers who are always willing and ready for any emergencies, for any situation that is needed. Any person who believes that they are

above the law, this is who we send to get them," Mr. Dean said.

President of the Rotary Club of West Nassau, Christopher Dorsette, during the club's weekly meeting, spoke to the role of rotary in the fight against crime.

"Well we as a Rotary Club, and the Rotary Club of The Bahamas as a whole, we are working with the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

"We have an initiative called 'Road to Peace', which really speaks to how we as members of a service organi-

zation try to give our members, as well as the wider community, to resolve their issues in peaceful way. We have mentoring programs, [and] we have conflict resolution programs.

"We just had a training last week Saturday, with persons who would go into schools and teach the students how to resolve their conflicts in peaceful ways. And that's how we feel that we are making a contribution to the efforts of the Royal Bahamas Police Force, in combating crime," Mr. Dorsette said.

## More BPL Fraud Charges

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
Journal Staff Writer

Just several days after an all points bulletin was put out for their arrests, the other two men wanted in connection with a Bahamas Power and Light investigation were charged yesterday.

Appearing before chief magistrate Joy-Ann Ferguson Pratt were attorney Che Campbell Chase and former BPL employee James Dean.

Thirty-five-year-old Chase was arraigned on one count of conspiracy to commit fraud and seven counts of fraud amounting in over \$200,000.

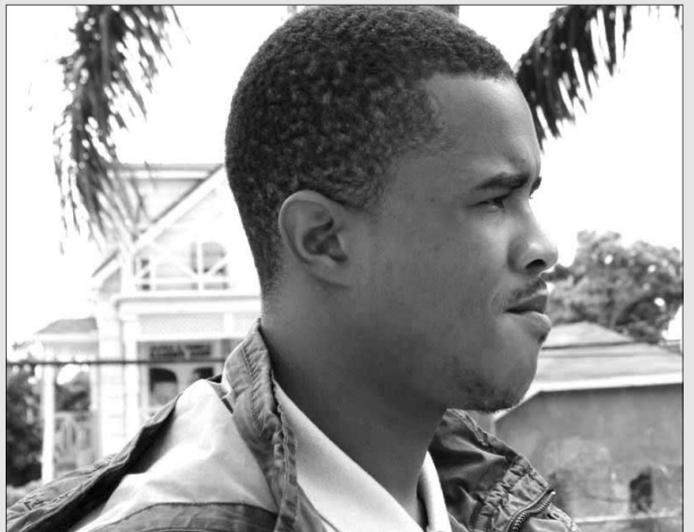
It is alleged that between February and April of this year Chase defrauded BPL by cashing a number of checks at the CIBC JFK branch.

His 31 year old co-accused, Dean, was charged with one count of conspiracy to commit fraud, forty-two counts of fraud and eleven counts of falsification of accounts by reason of his employment as a BPL Fixed Assets Officer

It is alleged that between February and April Dean defrauded BPL of over one million dollars and falsified a number of work order codes.

Both men plead not guilty to the charges and were remanded to the departments of corrections until March 26th and 27th 2018 when they will be tried with former CIBC bank employee Reno Bethel, and former BPL employees Orvano Symonette and Anthony Strachan.

Both men were represented by attorney Dion Smith and Elliott Lockhart.



► Former BPL employee James Dean, 31, was charged with one count of conspiracy to commit fraud, 42 counts of fraud, and 11 counts of falsification of accounts.

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## BAHAMASAIR REVENUE IMPROVES

Continued from / PAGE 1...

In the near future, Bahamasair is also looking to improve its fleet. "We're looking to upgrade our present fleet in the immediate future, simply because the airplanes are starting to feel their ages," Mr. Cooper further explained.

Once the fleet has been improved, Bahamasair eagerly looks forward to more expansions.

Bahamasair was in preparation for this flight eight months ago as the executive management committee waited for approval from the board of directors.

Chairman of Bahamasair, Orville Tommy Turnquest told the Journal, "The executive management committee decided that they would look at Houston and also Chicago."

Mr. Turnquest also stated that executive management

got approval from the board of directors back in March, prior to him taking office as Chairman in July.

"I took a second look at it around August, but then we went on pause when Hurricane Harvey hit Houston, but then decided that Houston was recovering quickly.

"With teams on the ground in Houston and the assistance of or industry partners and the Ministry of Tourism, I

thought, it was something we should continue to try," said Mr. Turnquest.

Bahamasair pride itself on providing good service and Mr. Turnquest said, that is has the support from Bahamians living in Houston and visitors travelling though Houston to The Bahamas. He said the key is to generate as much tourism to The Bahamas and the inaugural flight on Wednesday was another step forward in this

endeavour.

After a smooth two hour flight to Houston, Texas, Bahamians were greeted with a Junkanoo rush out in a welcome reception which was held at The Marriott Hotel where Bahamasair officials gave remarks.

The official ribbon cutting ceremony was held in the George Bush International Airport departure lounge before Bahamians, along with the international press.



► Minister of National Security the Hon. Marvin Dames speaks during the Official Opening Ceremony of the 3rd Annual Stan Patrol User Group (SPUG) Conference, held at the Paul H. Farquharson Conference Centre, on November 16, 2017. Pictured seated behind him is Commander of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF) Commodore Tellis Bethel. **(BIS Photos/Eric Rose)**

# Minister Dames Opens Stan Patrol User Group Meeting

BY ERIC ROSE  
Bahamas Information Services

Minister of National Security the Hon. Marvin Dames on Wednesday thanked the organisers and

sponsors of the 3rd Annual Stan Patrol User Group (SPUG) Meeting, and associated events and all of the presenters and participants whom, over the following two days “will have the

opportunity to discuss and share experiences in the operation and maintenance of these vessels that play a pivotal role in the execution of our individual and collective mandates, in maritime

law enforcement, search and rescue of lives at sea and disaster relief and recovery, to name a few.”

“My government remains committed to safeguarding the Commonwealth of The

Bahamas and this is evidenced through a number of initiatives including the procurement of more than nine patrol craft since 2014; continued development and improvement of military bases here on the island of New Providence, Matthew Town Inagua, and Gun Point, Ragged Island,” Minister Dames noted, at the Official Opening Ceremony, held at the Paul H. Farquharson Conference Centre.

Among those present for the Opening were Commander of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF) Commodore Tellis Bethel, Director of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Captain Stephen Russell, and Conference Chairperson Captain Adrian Chriswell.

Taking part in the two-day meeting were representatives from the following: Barbados Defence Force; Belize Defence Force; Canadian Coast Guard; Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard; Ecuador's Armada del Ecuador; Jamaica Defence Force Coast Guard; Mexico's Secretaria de Marina; Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard; other Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior Rates of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force; and Conference Sponsors – Damen, Pon Power Caterpillar and Alphatron Marine.

Minister Dames said that he was pleased to note the inclusion of The Bahamas National Emergency Management Agency at that edition of SPUG, as the lead agency in The Bahamas for the coordination of disaster preparation, relief and recovery.

“NEMA works closely with the Royal Bahamas Defence Force and regional and international agencies in the coordination and execution of pre-, peri- and post-disaster relief efforts,” he said.

As an archipelagic nation, Minister Dames pointed out, The Bahamas relies heavily

on maritime assets to enhance the interconnectivity of the islands.

“To provide a bit of historical background, on March 31, 1980, the RBDF was created to patrol and guard over 100,000 square miles and 2,000 rocks and cays of territorial boundaries initially monitored and guarded by the Royal Navy prior before our Independence in 1973,” he said.

“Since the inception of the RBDF over 37 years ago, the Force has grown and transitioned into an inclusive sea, air and land based military with a modernised fleet of vessels,” Minister Dames added. “With a primary mission to defend the sovereignty of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas and an encompassing mission of assisting other law enforcement agencies as required, the RBDF is also mandated to perform humanitarian tasks, at home and abroad.”

With the requirement to expand the operations of the RBDF into the Family Islands, Minister Dames said, The Bahamas Government approved the capital investment for the Sandy Bottom Project in 2014 with the Dutch ship-building company, Damen, and the Dutch Dredging company, Van Oord. Nine of the vessels built by Damen had been delivered, he continued, eight of which have been commissioned into service; and the dredging works and quay wall construction projects by Van Oord Bahamas were nearing completion.

Minister Dames said that he was advised that the first User Conference was initiated by the Coast Guard for the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Caribbean (KWCARIB) three years ago in Curacao, and was attended by seven countries - Jamaica, Honduras, Mexico, The Bahamas, Barbados, the USA and the KWCARIB.

■ See DAMES OPENS / page 6..

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# Solar Energy Experts Prepare BTVI for Certification Start-up

When Philip Holdom pulled up to BTVI this week, he brought a world of energy with him. Literally.

Holdom, President of Alternative Energy Supply and Chief Technology Officer of Sustainable Energy Ltd., is preparing the nation's premier technical training institute to offer solar energy courses. Subjects will range from design and installation to understanding the principles, capacity, monitoring and maintenance. And Holdom, considered a pioneer in renewables and a regional leader in solar and wind power, has agreed to teach the initial series of courses based on a curriculum he created in conjunction with BTVI.

"The potential for anyone who is interested in studying renewables, including solar, is unlimited," said Holdom, who installed his first renewable energy source on two Family Islands of The Bahamas nearly three decades ago. "For any young person who is deciding on a career or anyone in the construction or engineering fields now who wants a new challenge, I encourage them to look at studying renewables. As fossil fuels are eventually phased out and concern with environmental protection plus efficiency, consistency in delivery of power and reliability makes the demand for sustainable energy sources greater, the fields will be wide open for those with the proper skill sets."

Holdom does not have to work hard to sell prospective students on the value of studying solar.

Even as his trucks began delivering the equipment that the consortium of APS and Sustainable Energy Ltd. is providing, students, instructors and support staff including



► **Delivering on the promise** – Alternative Power Supply President and Sustainable Energy Ltd. CTO Philip Holdom, right, delivers solar panels and extensive equipment to BTVI as the country's premier technical trades institution prepares to offer its first courses in solar energy design, programming, installation, monitoring and maintenance. Receiving the equipment is Alexander Darville, BTVI Dean of Construction Trades. Holdom, a regional leader in energy renewables, developed the curriculum for solar energy studies in conjunction with BTVI and will teach the initial series leading to various levels of certification. The solar system that will be used by students is being donated by the Bahamian-based consortium that has a combined 50-year history in renewables with 370 MW of solar installs between The Bahamas and Europe. **(Photo by Iliana Curry, APS)**

maintenance personnel gathered around.

"We were like the new kid on the block and everyone wanted a first-hand peek. It's great that there is so much interest," said Holdom. "The new National Energy Legislation has opened up the possibility of using multiple solar technologies for the private and public sector. Whether off-grid, grid tie or grid interactive technologies are used,

there is an immediate need for people trained in renewable energy, science, math, and system programming."

The partnership between the consortium and BTVI was announced in September with BTVI President Robert W. Robertson, Ph.D., welcoming it warmly.

"We are really pleased to have someone of the background and expertise of Philip Holdom to come

into BTVI and do this," Dr. Robertson said, noting that the APS-Sustainable Energy Ltd. consortium, a Bahamian company, has a combined 50-year installation history in renewable energy with 370 MW of solar installs between The Bahamas and Europe.

"This is a trade school and this is exactly the kind of partnership that provides us with the ability to train those who want to advance their

skills and others who want to train to fill needed positions. There is a lot of growth in this area and we expect there will be a great response to the offering."

Levels of certification will range from basic solar theory and installation practices (101) to intermediate and advanced courses in renewable energy design, installation and programming (201 & 301). Courses are expected to start in the Winter term.

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# The Elusive Truce

We covered the start of this war with articles describing the battle over easement rights, the mysterious burning of a home, the blocks to rebuilding, and countless questionable court filings. This series of articles asks the needed questions and presents the arguments in full.

The battle between Lyford Cay billionaires hedge-fund billionaire Louis Moore Bacon and fashion mogul Peter Nygard seems never-ending, but not for lack of trying to end it by Peter Nygard. Back in November of 2015, Nygard extended an olive branch to Bacon to end this feud. However, Bacon refused.

Nygard said it was one of many overtures of peace to Bacon. They have all been refused. To date, the money spent on this battle is in the tens of millions if not more.

In the 2015 open letter Nygard expressed,

*"As 2015 draws to a close and we approach the holiday season, let us bring this fighting to an end and reach a global resolution under which Mr. Bacon and I will each contribute a significant and mutually agreed upon sum of money to aid the disadvantaged and better the islands. In this spirit, I am writing to invite all of you and/or your representatives to participate in a settlement conference to explore a resolution to all outstanding disputes, including legal actions, to take place as soon as possible in Nassau or wherever is most convenient."*

We are coming up on another holiday season with still no cessation to this million-dollar conflict.

Here is more of what Mr. Nygard wrote in his letter from two years ago.

*"Over the past several years, millions of dollars and countless hours have been expended by the Bahamian government, some local groups and several individuals, including myself and Louis Bacon, on disputes about property rights, environmental claims and cultural differences."*

The ridiculous thing is that millions of dollars and years later, we still don't know what Peter Nygard has done that was so wrong that Louis Bacon insists on this fight.

Nygard makes a valid point in his letter: "Whether or not there are outcomes that could justify the enormous expense, this time and effort could be put to far better use."

## 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.

And, Mr. Nygard is at least honest about something that may have been driving the fight. In his open letter he said, "if we are all being honest with ourselves—in addition to the legal issues that we all feel strongly about, this is at least partially fueled by pride and a clash of egos."

When you think about it, this makes sense. Nygard's honesty isn't the only thing that shows Mr. Nygard to be a 'stand up' guy. Listen to how he wanted Bacon and himself to refocus their energy:

*"While everyone involved, on all sides of our disputes, believes their cause is just and their position correct, I would like to suggest that we work to find a solution to our differences and contribute our time and efforts to addressing problems like poverty that are hurting people on the islands we all love so deeply."*

*"Imagine the difference we could make if just a fraction of what is being spent on this litigation were contributed to the health and welfare of the Bahamian people. That is what I would like to see happen."*

Note that despite the hundreds of thousands even millions Mr. Nygard has already given to The Bahamas, he continues to have the best interest of the Bahamian people at heart in wanting to give more.

Yet, all of this was rejected by Louis Bacon and who knows why.

Instead, Fred Smith and Bacon's other lawyers are continuing to make their millions on the court cases, wasting our precious resources and tying up our legal system as they continuously try to silence the press, taking everyone to court who dares to speak ill of Bacon in any way.

## FORMER M.P. PIERRE DUPUCH COMMENTS ON TAXES, WTO AND OUTSOURCING

Ah well, here we go again! The talk of the town is now saying things like: "Let's even the playing field ... tax them!"; "By 2019 we'll be full members of the WTO" and "Let's outsource it."

"Let's even the playing field, let's tax them," says one Minister when talking about Bahamians who rent their houses to visitors. Let's see now, a person rents his house to a visitor and makes less than \$100,000/year - is he now to pay taxes on his income? Does anyone else pay taxes on their income? The owner of the house has not been given any tax breaks like the Hotel Encouragement Act gives to hotels, but he must be taxed to "even the playing field?" I think that the Minister has this whole thing backwards.

A group or family vacationing in The Bahamas that rents a private residence is no competition to the Hotels. As a small group or family they can't afford the hotel rooms necessary to accommodate them. If you tax the homeowner, the group won't come here. They'll vacation somewhere else. So in order to "level the playing field," are we prepared to lose a whole segment of the tourist market that doesn't want to stay in a hotel?

Is it not odd that every time a Bahamian wants to make a little extra money, the taxman is sent to his door?

Our leaders should think out of the box, and encourage Bahamians to enter the industry and expand it, rather than taxing and killing it!

What people don't realize is that taxing contracts the economy, while reducing taxes and offering other incentives grows the economy.

Here's another phrase making headlines: "By 2019 we'll be full members of the WTO." That's all they say? What are the benefits? There are none, for Bahamians anyway. The doors will be opened to any and everyone! Any business that makes money will be bought out by some outsider, and the profits will leave our shores. It looks as though the Economic Hit Man is here! Our grandchildren will have nothing; they will be hired by some outside company that has a branch here.

History is a funny thing. I remember way back when the PLP was selling the idea of Independence to the Bahamian people. They said that if we became independent we could borrow at will to build an infrastructure, and we would no longer be a slave colony of England.

Fast forward to today. We borrowed the money all right, all seven billion dollars of it, and we're now broke! We're no longer Colonial slaves of the English; we're now slaves of the "Economic Hit Man" who, we understand, is calling the plays now. The government won't be able to make a single decision without him!

Every time we can't do it ourselves, we take it for granted that no other Bahamian can do it. So we "outsource it" and more money leaves the Country. Batelco was "outsourced" to an outside compa-

ny! BEC was also "outsourced" to an outside company. Need I say more?

Let's be frank about it. Most Bahamians have some kind of complex; everything North of The Bahamas is better. We can't do it so we must give it away to some outsider.

Some years ago I visited Israel. Those people have got it right. We visited a tomato farm where the tomatoes were hanging from the vines like grapes. They said that the bees pollinated the tomatoes. One in our group commented that bees did not like to pollinate tomatoes.

"Ah," said the Israeli guide, "you are correct, we found that bees don't like to pollinate tomatoes so we created our own bees." And so they did. They showed me their creation of bees that loved to pollinate tomatoes and did not sting!

You see folks, the phrase, "can't do" is not in their dictionary. They see a problem, grapple with it and solve it in such a way as to help their people. They have turned a desert into green, productive pastures.

We visited another place in Israel where "cut flowers" were grown. They sent one of their people to England to find out how it was done. He returned to Israel, opened his own business and is now the biggest cut flower producer in the hemisphere!

What would we have done? Outsourced it of course.

After all, we think we're dumb, but our only problem is that we don't think out of the box.

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E D I T O R I A L

# LOVE THAT CHILD

As this week comes to its appointed end—and therefore as so many among us prepare for a so-called 'Happy Hour' of eating, drinking and making merry — we know that many of these people will — as night follows day forget their children; which is to say that: Every loose penny spent on making merry might well be a penny not available to buy food for a hungry child.

Truly then, we must admit that: We now face of congeries of crises in both the public and private sectors all of which are connected — in one way or the other- to the continuing effects of the Great Recession of 2008.

And that is why the echoing cry remains: "Run, come witness your judgment".

And saddest of all: Some among us now hate and abuse their children.

Evidently, these hurt children will — if left to their own devices — replicate the hate bequeathed them by their elders — and so, the bloody beat will continue.

Put simply, then: Some of this nation's children are catching eternal hell!

This is so dreadfully wrong—evidently, there is every indication that the child in question might well be doomed to become that hateful person who [since they have not been shown love in their infancy, now have none for anyone as they grow into adolescence and fuller maturity.

Again, we reap as we sow!

In truth and in fact, then: Today's sin-sickened and crime-cankered Bahamas is surely no longer a sweet place for children; instead, what we have today are 'communities' which — for want of care and protection — are fast becoming factories for the production of children who hate; and they hate because they have been hurt.

And so today, it follows that:  
The hurt and abuse rained down on the heads of far too many of this nation's children remain at the top of that pile of offences against these persons; and as we know, it persists year in and year out!

But yet: We pray for this nation's children and its youth.

And so it now goes that: Whilst today's Bahamas tourist-drenched society remains a par-

adise for millions of Americans and of course, as it also remains a dream deferred for millions who can only dream of visiting; there is also that other Bahamas that is a living hell for so very many of this nation's children.

And so today, we draw attention to that plethora of annual reports coming in from The Social Services Department which — year in and year out — detail the extent to which Bahamians routinely abuse their children.

Now added to that dread mix are instances where children born to undocumented immigrants are made to suffer no end of deprivation and abuse when — for whatever reason — their parents abandon them.

Reports coming our way detail cases of youth — now entering adolescence- who have never attended school; this coming about because they have been left to the mercies of people who [while helpful with scraps of food and some meager roof over their heads] can only do so much.

And so it goes: Many of these youth — boys and girls alike — learn how to hustle and learn how to live off the proceeds of crime. And then, there is that other aspect of the matter where a small number of them flower into forms most brutal and where they vow to get rich quick or die trying.

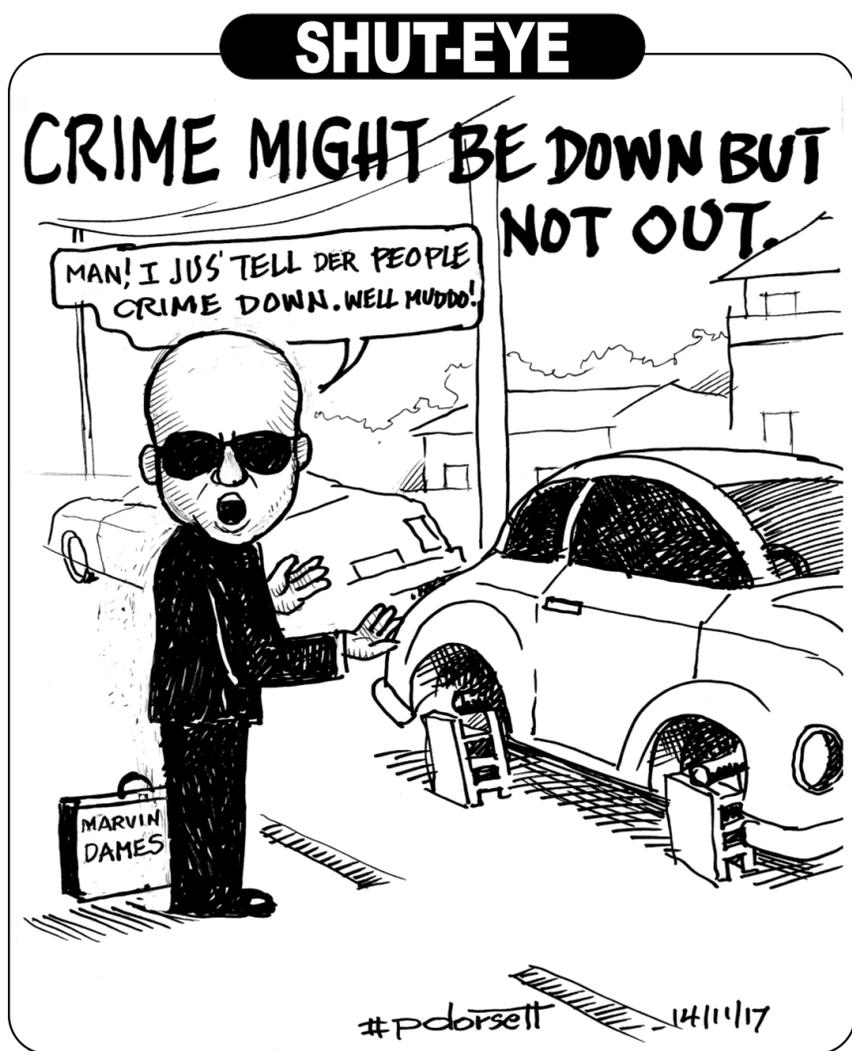
And so it goes: Many of them now die in that precious moment when they dance on what might have once been the sweet cusp of innocence recognized and respected; but which sadly morphs into a nightmare of burgeoning adolescence undermined, vitiated and therefore forfeited

Alas! This is but a fantastical dream for most of these people.

Evidently, these youth can and will only — in the fullness of time — find their way into that dread vortex of street-level crime and debauch that now consumes so much of the money and resources available for so-called 'security'.

Today Blind Blake's 'run come witness your judgment warning' echoes and resonates in a Bahamas where so much that was once solid now seems set of either going up in air or collapsing into piles of rubble and broken dreams; and hardest hit are this nation's children.

Heaven help us all!



# Minister Dames Opens Stan Patrol User Group Meeting

■ Continued from / PAGE 3...

“Their exchanges and shared experiences on the use of their larger patrol vessels was significant and the conference has continued to grow, with some 13 member countries, nine of which are represented today,” he said. The objective of that initial meeting was to subsequently transfer knowledge concerning operations, maintenance, engineering, design, logistics and customer relations between Damen vessel owners to further enhance the reliability of the Stan Patrol vessels, Minister Dames said.

“Initiator KWCARIB is one of the oldest users of this type of vessel,” he noted. “Damen – design, build, Pon Power Caterpillar – engines and powerplant – and Alphatron Marine – bridge components – supported the discussions. The intention is to hold this conference annually, alternating between the national Coastguards, Defence Forces, Navies, and now, with the addition of Montserrat to the group, Police Marine Units.”

It was not fortuitous that The Bahamas had consented to co-hosting the current event for several reasons, Minister Dames noted.

“Firstly, our newly

acquired fleet of vessels are all Damen built and are powered by Caterpillar and Alphatron Marine components; secondly, and unfortunately, during the past three years, The Bahamas has not been spared the wrath of disastrous Hurricanes Joaquin, Matthew and Irma, of which each individually caused extensive damage to some part of the archipelago, inclusive of New Providence in 2016 which suffered significant damage, including the RBDF Coral Harbour Base, resulting in the cancellation of this event at that juncture,” Minister Dames said. “Thus, the second iteration of this event was successfully hosted by Mexico instead, for which we were grateful.”

Minister Dames pointed out that, in 2015, the most impactful of those storms to The Bahamas, Joaquin, propelled the Royal Bahamas Defence Force to deploy its Container City, which is a system of Containerized Equipment and Facilities designed to self-sustain troops in a disaster area whilst they effect clean-up, provide humanitarian aid and conduct needed assessments required for recovery and rebuilding.

“This equipment was initially transported utilizing

multiple private chartered vessels at significant cost to Government; however, the following year, with the delivery and commissioning of a Damen-built roll-on/roll-off platform HMBS Lawrence Major, the Defence Force realized the capacity to mobilize this equipment, and regrettably had need to, following Hurricane Matthew – which caused extensive damage in the Central Bahamas,” he stated.

“This year, as we continuously forge the way ahead, the RBDF, along with local, regional and international partners, has deployed HMBS Lawrence Major – along with several components of the Container City to the Eastern Caribbean – providing needed humanitarian aid in cooperation with Jamaica and other CARICOM members to our brothers and sisters in Dominica, following the ravages of Hurricanes Irma and Maria,” Minister Dames said.

Minister Dames re-iterated that disaster relief and recovery is heavily dependent on the maritime environment to be facilitated, especially in small island nations, as, following hurricanes, airports are sometimes mostly inaccessible due to infrastructural damage and flood-

ing, and require assessments prior to re-establishing air traffic.

“Maritime assets close this gap by allowing for bulk transport of supplies, manpower, and other required assistance, in an effort to restore normalcy in the shortest possible time,” he said. “Utilising even the smallest of these Damen platforms, the RBDF has been able to provide assistance in the form of establishing communication hubs, and the provision of potable water and food and medical supplies to residents immediately following the passage of a hurricane.”

Minister Dames said that having the ability to deploy assets simultaneously to multiple affected areas is key to responding in the aftermath of a disastrous storm. NEMA, as well, had established storage facilities in north, central and southern Bahamas, making the required emergency relief supplies available at multiple locations for ease of transshipment, regardless of which islands are affected, he added.

“Continuing to have these maritime assets Fully Mission Capable, with the ability to respond quickly to provide needed assistance, therefore, is paramount,”

Minister Dames said. “This is achievable with a sustained and proactive approach to maintenance, training and operation, to increase longevity, functionality and utilization of these assets.”

“I am advised that Damen has offered The Bahamas a package which includes a controlled version of maintenance which will enable the RBDF through training to balance attrition of skilled personnel with the development of new technicians, who will ensure that these current assets achieve maximum service life, and beyond,” he added. “As this is our ultimate goal I can assure you that it will receive my government’s full attention.”

Minister Dames said that he was also advised that resulting from previous SPUG conferences were joint training opportunities that assist in lowering the cost for professional technical training for the operators and maintainers of these vessels to be conducted regionally.

“SPUG is a good example of how Defense, KWCARIB and the Dutch industry can help units in the region to deploy more efficiently and cost effectively in the joint fight against transnational

threats, as well as to assist in times of disaster,” he said.

Minister Dames stated that The Government of The Bahamas acknowledged the significance in being a part of those information and experience sharing sessions as beneficial to planning when it does return to “the drawing board” to design more vessels and procure equipment for our particular needs.

“I welcome you all again to The Bahamas and look forward to hearing of your individual experiences with the Stan Patrol Craft,” he said. “I believe it is important for us to engage in such forums to identify trends and common threads of challenges that we all face, and to be enlightened on how we individually and collectively solve these issues.

“Think-tanks like these, with focus group discussions play a key role in solving global issues, or at least make them known, so that solutions can be found.”

“Finally, as you are here in The Bahamas, do not allow the seriousness of your discussions to dampen the opportunity to partake of the Bahamian hospitality, which you will undoubtedly find all around you,” he added.

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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.

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 --

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

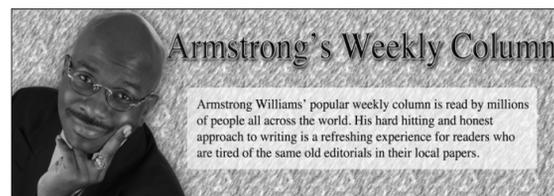
and

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



Armstrong's Weekly Column

Armstrong Williams' popular weekly column is read by millions of people all across the world. His hard hitting and honest approach to writing is a refreshing experience for readers who are tired of the same old editorials in their local papers.

# PROTECT AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN TAX REFORM

There is a lot to like in the tax reform bill winding its way through the House: pro-growth business incentives, simplification, and an international tax regime which encourages businesses to build factories and keep good jobs here in the United States. Unfortunately, House Republicans also may be on the verge of making a tragic decision impacting private investment in affordable housing that may negate all of this good work.

First the good news on housing: As Republicans in Congress look in every corner of the tax code for ways to cut taxes, they wisely have embraced the need to protect a vital national interest: encouraging public-private partnerships to build and preserve affordable rental homes through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit.

The House tax reform bill in principle tracks the same priorities as in the "Big Six" tax framework, released in September. That blueprint identifies a mere two existing business tax credits for preservation: the Research and Development Tax Credit and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, a huge message from Republicans who care about empowerment and opportunity. The unified framework stressed that these were worthy of protection as "tax incentives (that) have proven to be effective in promoting policy goals important in the American economy."

House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady's explained that his bill retains the Housing Credit so that "families, individuals, and seniors can find a safe and comfortable place to call home."

Great. Republicans inherently acknowledge the fact that there are only 12 counties in the nation where someone working full time in a minimum wage job can afford a modest one bedroom apartment. Unsurprisingly, there no areas of our great nation where someone working in a similar job could afford a two bedroom apartment for their family. This, in the ninth year of economic expansion and with unemployment at a historic low. And only one out of four poor families who are eligible for housing assistance, actually receive it.

As a matter of public policy, affordable housing is an area where we need the government to intervene to address a market lapse – it simply costs too much to develop homes at rents that low-income working families, seniors and veterans can afford. And achieving this goal through public-private partnerships, as is the case with the Housing Credit, is the most effective and efficient use of the government's resources, with the additional benefit of creating roughly 100,000 jobs each year. So, it's wonderful that conservatives have found a way to deliver this crucial assistance by accessing private capital, eliminating federal bureaucracy and embracing a federalist delivery model.

But hold the applause. Comb through the House tax

reform bill and you will discover other provisions that would cripple affordable housing. Over half of the affordable apartments that are built each year rely on financing from multifamily Housing Bonds, which are a type of private activity bond. Perversely, the House tax bill – while retaining the Housing Credit – calls for repealing private activity bonds entirely. That change alone would cut our affordable housing production in half – it would mean half as many families, individuals and seniors who could find a safe and comfortable place to call home. A hundreds of thousands fewer affordable apartments will be created.

This creates an environment where more Americans, including school age children, veterans and the elderly face eviction and homelessness. This doesn't help the economy; it hurts it. Kids don't become better students when they are plucked out of the classroom because they don't have a stable home. Seniors aren't more likely to stay out of expensive hospitals and nursing homes and veterans aren't more likely to get and keep a job when they have no place to call home.

To compound the problem, reduction in the corporate tax rate will also reduce investment in affordable housing unless adjustments are made to sustain it, since there would be fewer tax benefits for corporations who invest in affordable housing. This means that the government would still put forward the same amount of credits but leverage fewer private dollars.

According to a recent study by accounting firm Novogradac, these two changes – eliminating Housing Bonds and lowering the corporate tax rate without any offsetting adjustments – will cause us to lose out on nearly one million affordable apartments that would have been built. This impact is indefensible at a time when our nation's rental housing is becoming increasingly unaffordable, and we can't afford this setback. Lower income taxes aren't going to be sufficient to keep a low skill worker in her apartment.

There are currently 11 million low-income households – over a quarter of all renters – who spend more than half of their income in rent, and that number is expected to grow as it is. They don't just live in blue coastal states. They live in states like Indiana, Texas and North Carolina too. There are ripple effects for families and the economy when families can't afford their homes. Tax reform should be an opportunity to make these problems better – not worse.

I applaud the House Republicans for recognizing the importance of affordable housing, and I know they want our affordable housing system to work as much as I do. We can't let affordable housing be collateral damage in tax reform, and it's not too late to fix it. To truly retain the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, Congress must make sure it remains as robust a tool as it is today.