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THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 30TH, 2017

75 CENTS

"I'M BEING USED," SAYS COURT WITNESS

BY ONIKE ARCHER
Journal Staff Writer

THE WOMAN who is the prosecution's lead witness in the extortion case against a former Member of Parliament told

the Court "I don't want to be here, I feel like I'm being used." Mrs. Barbara Hanna, owner of Magic Touch Cleaning Services gave this shocking testimony in the first day of the extortion trial of former Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Senator and chairman of Public

Hospital Authority (PHA) Frank Smith.

The trial opened yesterday morning at Magistrates Court with Mrs Hanna the woman who he is alleged to have extorted money from.

Queens Counsel J.D Knight, who was flown in from Jamaica to represent

Mr. Smith, asked Mrs. Hanna what was the reason behind her complaint to Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt stating she felt used.

"In your mind, who do you think is using you?" Mr. Knight asked the witness. Mrs. Hanna replied, "Well,

as far as I am concerned, I can't say who exactly, but I feel like I am being used."

She continued, "I'm not the one who called the police, the police called me; I feel like I'm being taken advantage of."

■ See I'M BEING USED / page 6...



▶ Retired Anglican Archbishop Drexel Gomez (Journal file photo)

Archbishop Condemns Bill • A threat to Bahamians

BY LICEA BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Retired Anglican Archbishop Drexel Gomez, is on the side of those who agree the Commercial Enterprise Bill needs to be rethought, a suggestion he hopes the government gives serious consideration.

Weighing in on the Commercial Enterprises Bill, while appearing as a guest on Love 97's evening talk show "On Point", Archbishop Gomez expressed three major concerns – the first that while the government is aware of the need for an economic policy, he had hoped it would have come up with one before now.

"Although the Prime Minister is saying that as a result of this bill, the economy is going to be supercharged, and the middle class is going to be benefiting and improving, I don't see anything in this bill that gives me comfort to believe that coming into the country with \$250,000 is going to do anything to build up the middle class.

"Even if you have a significant volume of people coming in bringing in around \$250,000 - \$300,000, businesses of that size can only employ a few people," Archbishop Gomez said.

■ See CONDEMNS BILL / page 2...

SYMONETTE DEFENDS COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE BILL

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
Journal Staff Writer

The leader of the official opposition is being criticized for what a senior cabinet minister calls regressive comments concerning the Commercial Enterprises bill.

Progressive Liberal Party leader Philip Davis recently forewarned foreign investors about the bill, charging that it is fundamentally flawed, fundamentally wrong and fundamentally ill conceived; vowing to repeal the legislation if his party regains control of the government.

Financial Services and Immigration Minister Brent Symonette said he believes that kind of thinking sends the message that the PLP is against persons coming here to set up businesses.

"The PLP by their moves has taken the Bahamas back and I question their motives, because obviously they don't want Bahamians to succeed if they themselves as operatives cannot succeed," Symonette said.

The bill has not just been criticized by the official opposition, but also the private sector as well as former Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham who said he advises the government to rethink the bill before pushing ahead.

Both Mr. Symonette and Deputy Prime Minister Peter Turnquest have responded with "everyone's entitled to their opinion".

■ See SYMONETTE / page 2...

RONNIE BUTLER PRAISED IN MEMORIAL SERVICE



▶ Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis (right), Leader of the Opposition Philip Davis (centre), and Speaker of the House of Assembly Halson Moultrie (left) are pictured in attendance at the Memorial Service for 'Godfather of Bahamian Music,' Prince Ronald "Ronnie" Butler, MBE at William Johnson Auditorium of the Church of God, Joe Farrington Road, Wednesday, November 29, 2017. Seated behind are Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Michael Pintard (behind the Prime Minister), and political figures Bradley Roberts and Alfred Sears among persons from all walks of life who came to pay their respects to the popular Bahamian music icon. (BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay)

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
Journal Staff Writer

Scores of Bahamians, including political leaders, musicians and other community notables attended a memorial service yesterday in honour of musical legend Ronnie Butler.

Butler has been described as a pio-

neer and an excellent musician, but Ronnie Butler Jr said "he was simply dad."

"When I let go of who I thought he should have been and accepted who he was, I found that the parts of us that were the same began to flourish. And all of a sudden I discovered a father, my father who was proud and fond of

my accomplishments curious and longing for my happiness," Butler said.

He added that he has many fond memories with his dad and remembers his dad telling them that he loves them.

■ See RONNIE BUTLER PRAISED / page 7...

EU outlines sanctions for tax havens

Jurisdictions like the Bahamas designated as tax havens by the European Union could face financial sanctions, the European Commission has said.

In an article by Andrew Rettman in Brussel Today, it is reported that the list of potential penalties included withholding of tax revenues collected by EU states that were due to blacklisted entities, freezing EU development funds, and blocking of loans from the European

Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Pierre Moscovici, the EU taxation commissioner, said in Brussels on Tuesday (28 November).

"We're going to make EU funding conditional on good tax criteria," he said.

Moscovici spoke to MEPs ahead of a decision by EU finance ministers, expected next Tuesday, on which coun-

tries and protectorates to name and shame as tax avoidance black spots.

"I hope the list is a serious one. It's up to member states. Their reputation is at stake. The commission won't be able to go along with a list that isn't serious," he said.

He also said Tuesday's decision will not be the EU's last word on the matter.

■ See EU OUTLINES SANCTIONS / page 3...

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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 --

Michael James Raughton, Single,
of 1435 Midland Way, Lawrenceville GA 30043, United States of America

and

Sylvia Shawn Brown, Single,
of 1435 Midland Way, Lawrenceville GA 30043, United States of America

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

Dated this 27th day of November, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Christopher Adam Wiclaw, Single,
of 3725 Santa Anita Rd., SW Albuquerque, NM 87105, United States of America

and

Deborah Kathleen Ulibarri-Oldham, Divorced,
of 3725 Santa Anita Rd., SW Albuquerque, NM 87105, United States of America

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

Dated this 27th day of 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 --

David Wayne Graham, Divorced,
of 3651 Thornhill Dr., Elgin IL 60124, United States of America

and

Carina Margareta Massani, Divorced,
of 3651 Thornhill Dr., Elgin IL 60124, United States of America

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

Dated this 27th day of 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 --

Matthew Allen Clem, Single,
of 10245 Fairmount Rd., Newbury, Ohio 44065, United States of America

and

Kimberly Kaye Mekara, Divorced,
of 10245 Fairmount Rd., Newbury, Ohio 44065, 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 22nd 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 --

Jared Clint Waters, Single,
of 3918 Pfeiffer Ct., Midland MI 48640, United States of America

and

Nicole Lynn Klein, Single,
of 3918 Pfeiffer Ct., Midland MI 48640, 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 22nd 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 --

Timothy Alan Larke, Single,
of 26 Temby Court, Greenwith South 5125, Australia

and

Brooke Kathryn Staggard, Single,
of 26 Temby Court, Greenwith, South 5125, 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 24th 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 --

William James Hunt, Single,
of 18776 Avon Street, Detroit, MI 48219, United States of America

and

Diane Reed, Divorced,
of 18776 Avon Street, Detroit, MI 48219, 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 22nd day of November, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages

Archbishop Condemns Bill

Continued from / PAGE 1...

During the show, Archbishop Gomez criticized the bill as a threat to Bahamian entrepreneurship, suggesting that a separate bill be created for Bahamians.

"The bill as I see it, although they claim that Bahamians are entitled to the same benefits as the foreigners coming in, that's really not true.

"The foreigners coming in with \$250,000, many Bahamians right now have ideas they would like to put into operation, they don't have the capital, they cannot even get \$100,000 to start.

"So, if the government wishes to help Bahamian entrepreneurs, they need to perhaps have a separate bill where they are going to set out a frame work and provide some form of capital to make a real drive for entrepreneurship," Archbishop Gomez said.

As for his thoughts on the

immigration policy, Archbishop Gomez referred to it as deplorable and that the government would be allowing foreigners to enter the country without discretion.

"It really is allowing the foreigner to come in carte blanche.

"A Bahamian seeking to get a work permit for someone has to go through a process. If they say the Bahamian employer who is seeking to employ someone under the scheme, if he is granted permission to be part of this scheme, that Bahamian would have the same approach.

"I think the Bahamians should have priority over the foreigner, as far as immigration goes and I think the immigration aspect of it is deplorable.

"It is backward thinking, and it does not fit in with anyway of thinking that I know of in the whole world," Archbishop Gomez said.

SYMONETTE DEFENDS COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE BILL

Continued from / PAGE 1...

One of the major concerns being debated is the bill's \$250,000 threshold, which is said by critics to be too low for potential investors to receive economic concessions.

Mr. Symonette argued that a lot of the target businesses do not require a big set up; like call centers.

"Due to our immigration policy, one of the leading hotel companies in the Caribbean did not set up their headquarters here because of immigration and other political issues they went to another country. Some businesses like call centers only require a bank of computers, rented space and human beings. So when you talk about \$250,000, that's why the limit is at that. It's not like you're building a building or bringing in cranes for containers. It is you are bringing in people to do business and with a lot of the businesses. Nowadays they are done on computer. So I don't think we have to be scared about the amount," Symonette said.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Turnquest told reporters recently that the government will look to see if the lingering concerns have all been addressed or whether amendments ought to be made.

The bill was passed in the house of assembly last week.

EU outlines sanctions for tax havens

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"There's going to be a constant process of updating the list," Moscovici said.

Oxfam, an international NGO, said earlier on Tuesday that, according to the EU's own criteria, there should be four EU states - Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, and the Netherlands - on the blacklist, as well as 35 other jurisdictions.

But EU states are to be

automatically excluded from the list, with Oxfam saying that that amounted to "whitewashing" European complicity in tax dodging.

Moscovici said that "as a citizen", he "sympathises" with Oxfam's approach.

But he claimed that the NGO's listing of the EU four used criteria "far beyond" what had been agreed for the blacklist and had failed to take into account "commitments undertaken [for tax

reforms] as part of this process".

Speaking at a European Parliament hearing on the issue on Tuesday, the EU commissioner also said he had no mandate to punish countries such as Ireland for having a near-zero corporate tax rate.

"We [the Commission] have no competence on tax rates," he said.

"Whatever my personal preference may be, I'm not

going to propose a minimum corporate tax. I don't want to wave a red flag at people in issues that are far beyond my competence," he said.

Some MEPs, such as German green Sven Giegold, attacked EU member states at Tuesday's hearing for obstructing or diluting EU laws on greater tax transparency.

"If we draw a conclusion, it's a blockade," Giegold

said.

But Moscovici said that view was too "pessimistic" and that, in his dealings EU finance ministers there was genuine will to crack down on tax abuse.

BREXIT, NOT SINGAPORE

He said his private talks with two successive British finance ministers also indicated that the UK would "not become a huge Singapore or offshore tax haven just near our borders" after it left the EU in 2019.

The tax haven blacklist and the EU parliament hearing came after the latest revelations on tax dodging by the world's wealthiest companies and individuals.

The so-called Paradise Papers leak, publicised by the ICIJ, a Washington-based group of investigative journalists, exposed how law firm Appleby helped US tech giant Apple, former German chancellor Gerhard

Schroeder, and the British Queen, among others, to conceal their wealth from tax authorities.

The list also included the EBRD itself as well as Belgian, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, Lithuanian, and Slovenian state entities.

Jan Strozyk, a German journalist who worked with the ICIJ, told MEPs the involvement of people such as Schroeder risked normalising the practice in people's eyes.

"People will say in future: 'If even Mr Schroeder is using offshore companies in the British Virgin Islands then why shouldn't I?'," he said.

Kristof Clerix, a Belgian journalist with the ICIJ, said it was "ironic" that Danish and Dutch state entities dealing with development aid for poor countries used shell firms to avoid paying taxes on projects in the same jurisdictions in the third world that they were supposed to be helping.



► Moscovici: 'I hope the list is a serious one. It's up to member states. Their reputation is at stake' (Photo: European Commission)

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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 --

Fred Anthony D'Amico, Widowed,
of 1396 Delwood Drive, Jamison, PA 1929, United States of America

and

Linda L Murray, Widowed,
of 605 Woodhollow Drive, Malyern, NJ 08053, United States of America

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

Dated this 27th day of November, 2017.

[Signature]
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 --

Michael Anthony Grana, Single,
of 2980 Wheatfield Farms Drive, O'Fallon Missouri, United States of America

and

Donna Marie Drysdale, Divorced,
of 2980 Wheatfield Farms Drive, O'Fallon Missouri, 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 24th day of November, 2017.

[Signature]
Registrar of Marriages



ALIV Announces Strategic Partnership with Apple and launches iPhone X

ALIV was proud to have announced its strategic partnership with Apple Incorporated as well as the official launch of the much-anticipated iPhone X in time for the Christmas holidays.

According to Chief ALIV Officer Damian Blackburn, ALIV will offer the iPhone X, the future of the smartphone, starting on December 15, 2017. Customers will be able to pre-order the iPhone X immediately at www.bealiv.com. The announcement was made at ALIV Headquarters during a press conference Monday (November 27).

The strategic partnership according to Mr. Blackburn

is one that will allow ALIV customers to stay on the cutting edge of technology especially when it relates to the latest in Apple iPhone products.

"Our goal at ALIV is to always provide our customers with the latest smartphones and technology and that is what we are doing here today. We know this is a busy retail season and we also know that these phones are in high demand all over the world and The Bahamas won't be left out. We want everyone to be on the cutting edge. Our goal is to always meet and surpass expectations and we believe this partnership with Apple will

allow us to do just that."

Chief Aliv Solutions Architect Dwayne Davis explained the iPhone X's key features which sets it above the rest when it comes to the smart phone.

"What we're doing now is running pure network tests. What I like about the phone was that over the weekend as we were preparing it after Apple cleared it, in setting it up all I had to do was take any iPhone from 6 to 7, place it close to it and it automatically transferred everything. The phone was set up in less than 15 minutes. We also talked about the facial recognition, if I was to look at the phone and swipe up it opens

automatically, the phone is faster than the traditional iPhone, it has an all glass casing and it uses a standing charger. The technology in it is overall better and as you can see, it's already Aliv."

Aliv launched the iPhone8 and iPhone8+ in all of its stores on Black Friday, November 24. These phones and many more will be available on the ALIV website, all ALIV stores throughout the country and from ALIV's concierge service – so for customers who

are not able to come to ALIV, or concierge service will go to them.

ALIV has the best package deals so all Bahamians are encouraged to take advantage of the latest deals and offers which can be found on all ALIV social media pages, all newspapers, in ALIV stores as well as online.

ABOUT ALIV

ALIV is igniting the cellular revolution in The

Bahamas and is reinventing how consumers interact with their mobile devices. A true digital lifestyle partner, the ALIV network is built on next generation LTE technology to ensure an unsurpassed consumer experience. With groundbreaking consumer plans, a laser focus on exemplary customer care, ALIV is determined to deliver a never before seen experience for the people of The Bahamas. This is the start of your new day!

ALIV Donates Blood Van

• ALIV Partners With Friends Of The Blood Bank Foundation

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Through its three-year partnership, ALIV, the newest mobile network revealed its plans during this Christmas season, to donate a blood van to the Friends of the Blood Bank (FOTB), which will allow the foundation ease of access when hosting blood drives.

Bianca Bethel-Sawyer, ALIV's Events, Sponsorship and Community Manager, during a press conference, said that ALIV was happy that they could partner with FOTB and give back during the holiday season.

"We're here to announce, again our partnership with Friends of the Blood Bank, I would have met Mr. Christie about a year ago, when ALIV was still NEWCO, 2015-2016 and we had an original conversation of the needs of the Friends of the Blood Bank.

"One thing he would have advised me on is that it was difficult at the time for his organization to go to blood drives because they were in need of a blood van, and from that time to now, I am happy to announce today that the blood van is now ready to be revealed at the end of this week," Mrs. Bethel-Sawyer stated.

As a major sponsor of the FOTB, Mrs. Bethel-Sawyer said that it was through the partnership and sponsorship funds that the company is able to give back.

"ALIV is a major sponsor of the blood van. Our partnership with Mr. Christie and the Friends of the Blood Bank is that we have a three-year partnership with him; where \$10,000 of our sponsorship funds has been allocated to the mobile blood van and Friends of the Blood Bank.

"This would allow easy access of the equipment needed to get blood," Mrs. Bethel-Sawyer said.

"Additionally, we also power all of their major blood drives they have throughout the year. ALIV will definitely be on site. We encourage members of the public to come on out and take advantage. It is the giving season and you give blood this holiday season to save a life," she said.

Grateful for the donation, President of the FOTB, Basil Christie said that the

blood van was something that the foundation needed desperately.

"Transport of this equipment and these beds has been cumbersome and sometimes difficult. We couldn't hold certain blood drives because we couldn't get the equipment there.

"We seriously believe that this getting blood saves lives. So it was easy for us to partner with ALIV. It coincides with what we do; we get the blood to save lives.

"Getting the equipment to them, we needed this van. And our partners, ALIV, for the year now, they have partnered with us. They provided major contribution for securing this van, to be able to take equipment and supplies to these sites to collect blood, that have been very crucial, and we are so grateful for this.

Mr. Christie stated that the foundation was set up to assist the blood banks of the hospitals, as there was need for blood, but persons were not coming in to donate.

"The Friends of the Blood Bank was set up because the need for blood at the Princess Margaret Hospital's blood bank and Doctors Hospital were great and we weren't getting sufficient blood.

"With people not being able to find parking at the hospital and you know, they hesitate to go to the hospital.

"So, what the Friends of the Blood Bank Foundation does is, we set up blood drives throughout the country. We go to the site, to the offices, to civic groups, the Rotary, the Masons; we go to them to get blood donations," Mr. Christie said.

FOTB BLOOD DRIVE

On Saturday, Friends of the Blood Bank will host a blood drive at the Nassau Underwriters office in the Harbour Bay Shopping Center between the hours of 10am - 3pm.

"We are co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of Southeast Nassau and the Rotaract Club of Southwest Nassau.

"We'll have the blood van or blood mobile from Doctors Hospital, as well as the staff from the Princess Margaret Hospital's blood bank. We'll be setup specifically in the Nassau Underwriters office which will be open on Saturday just for this purpose," Mr. Christie said.

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The Rough Cut

By Felix F. Bethel

“...cries of pain...”

As I now know//and this too/ is going//down as Africans//suffer... Europe has outsourced the dirty work of border control to Libyan militias. In doing so, it has turned African migrants into commodities to be captured, sold, and traded like slaves.

Well, golly/miss/molly:---What a time we live in!!! what a fakkin' time-gadjammmit—it is a time of fakkin; signs and wonders—and it is a wonderment of the highest order to learn that some of Africa's children are today being bought-sold-abused as their forbears had suffered so very many years ago//and so, I repeat: What a time we live in!!! what a fakkin' time-gadjammmit—it is a time of fakkin; signs and wonders—

The detention-industrial complex that has taken hold in war-torn Libya is not purely the result of a breakdown in order or the work of militias run amok in a state of anarchy. Visits to five different detention centers and interviews with dozens of Libyan militia leaders, government officials, migrants, and local NGO officials indicate that it is the consequence of hundreds of millions of dollars in pledged and anticipated support from European nations as they try to stem the flow of unwanted migrants toward their shores.

Regardless of their immigration status, they are hunted down by militias loyal to Libya's U.N.-backed government, caged in overcrowded prisons, and sold on open markets that human rights advocates have likened to slave auctions. They have been tortured, raped, and killed abuses that are sometimes broadcast online by the abusers themselves as they attempt to extract ransoms from migrants families.

What a time we live in!!! what a fakkin time-gadjammmit it is a time of fakkin; signs and wonders and it is a wonderment of the highest order to learn that some of Africa's children are today being bought-sold-abused as their forbears had suffered so very many years ago//and so, I repeat: What a time we live in!!! what a fakkin' time-gadjammmit—it is a time of fakkin; signs and wonders—Europe has outsourced the dirty work of border control to Libyan militias. In doing so, it has turned African migrants into commodities to be captured, sold, and traded like slaves.

Cries of pain echoed through the barren, warehouse-like facility, where

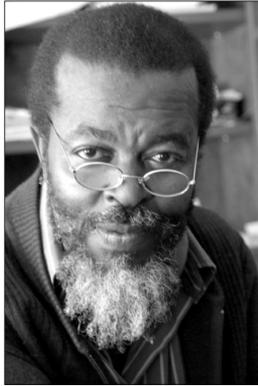
more than 100 half-starved migrants were locked away in crowded cells.

The guard forced the migrants to kneel and began barking orders in Arabic, a language that few of the once-hopeful souls who had traveled to Libya from sub-Saharan Africa spoke. A gaunt, elderly man in ripped jeans and a tattered T-shirt failed to comply. The guard, wearing a crisp new uniform emblazoned with the insignia of Libya's anti-illegal immigration police division, raised his wooden club and brought it down hard on the man's back, driving him face down into the ground with the first blow.

It was early May, three weeks after the staff at the Triq al-Sikka migrant detention center in the Libyan capital of Tripoli had received human rights training from the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The guard struck the elderly man again on the back and clubbed the back of his legs. Then he moved methodically down the line of kneeling migrants, beating each man as if he were responsible for his fellow prisoner's infraction. Cries of pain echoed through the barren, warehouse-like facility, where more than 100 half-starved migrants were locked away in crowded cells. Some had been there for months, enduring regular beatings and surviving on a few handfuls of macaroni and a single packet of juice each day. Others had recently been rounded up off the streets in raids targeting black African migrants.

The detention-industrial complex that has taken hold in war-torn Libya is not purely the result of a breakdown in order or the work of militias run amok in a state of anarchy. Visits to five different detention centers and interviews with dozens of Libyan militia leaders, government officials, migrants, and local NGO officials indicate that it is the consequence of hundreds of millions of dollars in pledged and anticipated support from European nations as they try to stem the flow of unwanted migrants toward their shores.

Soon after the beatings began, other guards at the facility noticed my presence and quickly ushered me into a waiting area outside the well-appointed office of Col. Mohamed Beshr, the urbane head of Libya's anti-illegal immigration police. Beshr is a key player in recent joint EU-Libyan efforts to halt migration to Europe, includ-



ing intercepting migrants at sea and detaining them on land. He has welcomed high-level European diplomats and U.N. representatives to the Triq al-Sikka facility, and his office is filled with certificates from workshops run by IOM, the European Union, and Britain's development agency. Yet Beshr seemed frustrated by my questions about the abuses openly taking place at the detention center he oversaw. To hear him tell it, his European partners cared about only one thing, even if they wouldn't say it: preventing migrants from showing up on Italy's shores

Migrants have become a commodity to be captured, sold, traded, and leveraged. Regardless of their immigration status, they are hunted down by militias loyal to Libya's U.N.-backed government, caged in overcrowded prisons, and sold on open markets that human rights advocates have likened to slave auctions. They have been tortured, raped, and killed abuses that are sometimes broadcast online by the abusers themselves as they attempt to extract ransoms from migrants families. Europe has outsourced the dirty work of border control to Libyan militias. In doing so, it has turned African migrants into commodities to be captured, sold, and traded like slaves.

Cries of pain echoed through the barren, warehouse-like facility, where more than 100 half-starved migrants were locked away in crowded cells---Well, golly/miss/molly:---What a time we live in!!! what a fakkin' time-gadjammmit—it is a time of fakkin; and wonders—and it is a wonderment of the highest order to learn that some of Africa's children are today being bought-sold-abused as their forbears had suffered so very many years ago//and so, I repeat: What a time we live in!!! what a fakkin' time-gadjammmit—it is a time of fakkin; signs and wonders.

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The Bahama Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimaley P. Jones
Vice President/Operations

EDITORIAL

GENDER EQUALITY NOW!

We wish – on this 11/29/2017 – to go on record as being in total agreement with any and all efforts currently in train to guarantee [by way of certain statutory means] gender equality in the Bahamas and therefore 'justice' for men AND women!

And so it now goes: Let it also be known that we are four-square and on the level in our fullest support of any and all efforts made by all who would work to end all forms of gender-based discriminations against any of God's precious children.

Such discriminations are an abomination to all that is good, true and beautiful; and thus we suggest that, on the contrary, then: When women are treated as if they were not deserving of equal treatment under law, we cry shame! But even now, we do recall that sad time when they who should have done more to lead in this effort did otherwise.

In this regard, we recall as follows concerning Dr. Minnis: Evidently, nonplussed by criticisms aimed his way as regards what some regard as flip-flopping on the issue, FNM Leader played the political game--And he and his party won!

Indeed, then, whilst we continue to look askance at what surely appears as if it was nothing more and nothing else other than 'politics' which was being played by then man on the move (as in Roc with Doc-Minnis).

These so-called politics were once upon a time differentially encapsulated and interpreted by those who would retain office and by those who wished to roll them out!

As one key player once lamented: "...You never know in politics whether this is coming from principled philosophical differences or where there are political forces at work to which we are not aware..." Former prime minister, the Rt. Hon. Perry Gladstone.

Au contraire, Minnis – then at the peak of his game – framed the issue at hand this way- "...Forty-one years of marginalization of children that cannot and should not be tolerated... are not required."

Today the fact that matters is this: The Free National Movement – as led by Dr. Minnis won and the Progressive Liberal Party – as led by the Rt. Hon. Perry G. Christie-lost!

And thus as always—winners gloat and losers lick their wounds!

That was then; this is now and thus: When all is said and done [and for sure!]: That fine day shall come when such would be the state of affairs amongst the peoples of the world where all of God's children are afforded equality of treatment under the law.

Gender equality is at the very heart of human rights and United Nations values. A fundamental principle of the United Nations Charter adopted by world leaders in 1945 is "equal rights of men and women", and protecting and promoting women's human rights is the responsibility of all States.

Sadly, that is not the full state of affairs in today's deeply divided and confused Bahamas—now a place where practically everyone is prepared to row about everything and thus: Where there should be agreement [as in the case of The Church and its religious adepts] confusion, ill-will and vainglory abound.

Sadder still, we are joined in this sorry state by any number of backward thinking peoples around the world who continue to deny rights to all men and all women and all children and for sure, who also do immeasurable harm to the Earth itself.

The sum of the matter remains that: We are in the fullest support of any and all efforts aimed at showing men that it is their responsibility to hold themselves and others accountable for actions and words that puts women's respect, protection and freedom at risk.

On occasion, then, there are situations in this country; in this region and around the world where – AS A DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATIONS – deaths related to pregnancy and childbirth are needlessly high, and women are prevented from making deeply personal choices in their private lives.

This state of affairs is totally unacceptable!

And thus, we join our efforts with those of all others who now work toward the realization of women's empowerment and gender equality—protecting the rights and improving the lives of women and girls on the ground.

We are all for principle, the fundamentals and thus we urge all and sundry to do likewise.



THE BAHAMAS

Sun, Sand, Sea and

The Bahama Journal

NO BETTER READING

SHUT-EYE

DOC NEED A NOSE JOB?



#pdorsett23-11-17

PM Minnis Says Zorba's Owners Show Confidence in GB's Economy

BY ANDREW COAKLEY
Bahamas Information Services

FREEPORT, Grand Bahama -- Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis noted Friday that it is unusual for a restaurant to retain all of its employees during a time of recession and economic hard times, and that the owners of Zorba's Restaurant must be commended for not only maintaining the employment status quo, but also expanding

their business and making a significant contribution to the economy of Grand Bahama.

"What is being demonstrated is the confidence that the owners of this business have in the Bahamian economy," added Prime Minister Minnis. "Under ordinary circumstances, if a restaurant or business suffers from something as devastating as a fire, in many instances that business would close especially knowing the economy of the entire

country was experiencing great difficulty.

"But Nick and Noelle, not only remained opened, they renovated and expanded. That demonstrates true confidence in this society."

The Prime Minister's remarks came during the re-opening ceremony of Zorba's Restaurant and the launch of Zsa Zsa Mojito Bar in Port Lucaya Marketplace on Friday, November 24, 2017. Also attending the event were

Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Senator the Hon. Kwasi Thompson and Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, the Hon. Michael Pintard.

The event was a celebration of commitment, tenacity and faith in Grand Bahama. Like many businesses in Grand Bahama, Zorba's Restaurant and Agave Restaurant both suffered damage from recent hurricanes as well as the effects of the

downturn in the Grand Bahamian economy. In addition, two months ago Zorba's Restaurant was damaged by fire, forcing part of the restaurant to close.

In the midst of all of these trials, owners of Zorba's and Agave Restaurant did not let go any of their 100 staff members. This, according to the Prime Minister, says a lot about the owners of the restaurants.

"We, the government did

all we could during these times to try and stimulate business in the Marketplace area, and the Prime Minister's office here in Grand Bahama held certain events in this Marketplace to help keep the businesses afloat," said Prime Minister Minnis.

"Earlier today we launched an entrepreneurship program for young people, who will be given monies to start their respective businesses; and it is our hope that as those businesses grow, they will employ more people who in turn will have money to further support the Grand Bahama economy."

As far as the re-opening of the Grand Lucaya resort is concerned, Prime Minister Minnis told the audience that they are even closer to a resolution and the sale of that hotel, during which time the resort would be renovated and re-opened.

"So, Grand Bahama is on the move," said Prime Minister Minnis. "We will continue to work to stimulate the economy of Grand Bahama."

Continuing, he said: "So, again, I want to congratulate the owners of these restaurants and thank them for their confidence in the Bahamian economy. I am certain that just as God blessed them in their business during hard times, God will continue to bless them and their staff in this new venture."

"I'M BEING USED," SAYS COURT WITNESS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

According to Mrs. Hanna, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Paul Rolle contacted her on several occasions to come in and give a statement against Mr. Smith. Mrs. Hanna said she tried to ignore the calls, but they kept coming in.

"After getting a few calls, I became frustrated and upset. I kept telling the police that I was busy, but the calls would not stop.

"I didn't go for days, but after several attempts to get me, eventually I had to go in.

"I finally went in to give my statement to Assistant Commissioner Paul Rolle," Mrs. Hanna told the court.

After obtaining her initial statement, Mrs. Hanna said she was then sent to another policeman, Superintendent Ellsworth Johnson to speak further on the matter.

Back in early 2016, Mrs. Hanna put

forth her bid in the tender process and was awarded the contract to clean the critical care block at Princess Margaret Hospital.

Her contract was awarded in the amount of \$43, 350.89; she was expected to commence work in March.

After receiving the cheque for said amount, Mrs. Hanna told the court she was then demanded by Mr. Smith that she had to pay him \$5 thousand per month for the one year, totaling sixty thousand dollars; this was unbeknownst to her.

Referencing the monthly payment demands, Mrs Hanna said she asked Mr. Smith, "Do you know that paying this to you will affect my operation?" To which Mr. Smith replied, "Yes, I know."

Mrs. Hanna continued, "Why didn't you tell me that so I could've added that to my total cost for the bid?"

According to Mrs. Hanna, Mr. Smith replied by telling her there was nothing further he could do because the contract was already paid to her and at that time, Mrs. Hanna had already cashed the cheque.

Mrs. Hanna made her first five thousand dollars payment to Mr. Smith in April 2016 and continued said payments until April 2017.

In May of this year, Mrs. Hanna did not continue with the payments, indicating that she no longer could afford it, because she was behind in her NIB and VAT payments.

Mrs. Hanna told the court, she went to Mr. Smith and informed him she could not maintain the payments, to which Mrs. Hanna told the court, Mr. Smith offered her some paperwork, she thought would alleviate her problem, only to find out the paperwork was for her to apply for a loan.

She never filled out the paperwork, revealing to the court that she

was struggling financially at this point.

However, it was revealed in court that Mrs. Hanna requested additionally monies from Mr. Smith in the sum between twenty and twenty-five thousand dollars to assist her with materials for her cleaning services; after she cashed her contract cheque of \$43, 350.89; to which apparently, Mr. Smith loaned her the additional money.

When asked by K.D Knight Queen's Counsel (from Jamaica), if she recalls requesting a loan in June 2016, she admitted that she did. Her reason was because she needed more help with obtaining materials to aid her cleaning services.

Mr. Smith is also being represented by Attorney Damien Gomez, Q.C and Philip McKenzie.

Court is adjourned until today at 11:15 where she will be further cross examined by the defense.

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THE GOVERNOR GENERAL WELCOMES STUDENTS AND STAFF OF BLACK POINT ALL-AGE SCHOOL



Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling, Governor-General, welcomed students and staff of Black Point All-Age School, Exuma, at Government House on Tuesday, November 28, 2017. (BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)

RONNIE BUTLER PRAISED IN MEMORIAL SERVICE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"Sitting on the couch laughing and screaming till 2am at bad Kung Fu movies. Leaving each other voice notes of dirty lyrics for new songs. Watching CNN endlessly. And him teasing me, giving me that look when I go for another plate of food, then telling me to fix him one because he cant stand to see people eat and he's not eating," Butler Jr said.

Ronnie Jr said his dad ensured that they followed what they were passionate about and when the radio was off. He did his best to become a better person.

A number of friends and former politicians gave heartfelt tributes in the William Johnson auditorium Joe Farrington Road.

Former MP Alfred Sears said Butler's example showed that as the Bahamas welcomes guests and foreign investment, they should always be given priority and incentives to realize the full potential of the Bahamian creative imagination and intellect.

Long time friend, Fred Ferguson said he will continue the work Butler started in

ensuring that musicians are properly recognized and accepted in the country.

"I will not stop till a scholarship fund for the purposes of cultural studies in the name of the godfather of Bahamian Music Ronnie Butler, is established at the University of the Bahamas. This will be something that will be able to live and breathe so that the name of Ronnie Butler will never be forgotten," Ferguson said.

Former MP Leslie Miller shared many fond memories he and Butler shared, stating that in years past, they would talk over how underappreciated artists were and recount the former days when artists were praised in clubs and bars.

The memorial was attended by local artists, politicians and fans

Plans are now in the works for a memorial concert in his honor.

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



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 --

Joseph Roberto Tamburri, Single,
of 3842 Gunning Drive, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2G 6L6, United States of America

and

Tania Lea Byrne, Single,
of 3842 Gunning Drive, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2G 6L6, 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 23rd 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 --

Javier Benjamin Beiza Ayala, Single,
of Sipas (mujer) #2738, Calama, Chile

and

Maria Soledad Sepúlveda Segovia, Single,
of Sipas (mujer) #2738, Calama, Chile

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

Dated this 24th 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 --

James Albert Baugh, Single,
of 604 10th St SE, Orange City, LA 51041, United States of America

and

Halley Jade Glanz, Single,
of 604 10th St SE, Orange City, LA 51041, United States of America

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

Dated this 27th day of 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 --

Phillip James Small, Divorced,
of 76 KB Timms Drive, Eden NSW 2551, Australia

and

Wendy Mayes, Divorced,
of 7 Fink Crescent, Calwell ACT 2905, 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 24th 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 --

Barry Lawrence Stuart, Divorced,
of 1991 US Highway 22, Bound Brook, NJ 08805, United States of America

and

Katherine Mary Taylor, Divorced,
of 83 Morton Street, Bridgewater, NJ 08807, 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 28th day of November, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages