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# The Bahama Journal

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THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 9TH, 2017

75 CENTS

# Works Minister Apologizes For Audit

BY MACUSHLA PINDER AND LICEC BASTIAN  
*Journal Staff Writers*

**M**inister of Public Works, Desmond Bannister made a

public apology to Leader of the Opposition, Philip Davis after his reputation and integrity came under attack after a leaked copy of Ernst and Young's audited report of Bahamas Power and Light (BPL) became public.

Mr. Bannister in a communication in the House of

Assembly yesterday said, "I know him [Philip Davis] to be an honourable man, and would not wish to see his reputation besmirched.

In the report, according to the Member of Parliament for Cat Island, Rum Cay and San Salvador, Mr. Davis, he was accused of a conflict of

interest.

As reported in the Tribune, "the audit also revealed one company said to be owned by the brother of Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Leader Philip "Brave" Davis received lucrative contracts from BEC even though the business was not the pre-

ferred bidder in the tender process".

The article continued, "The company, AL D's Construction and Roofing, received two contracts for a higher value than the recommended bidder.

"The audit found while two BEC executives wanted to award these contracts to two different companies, Mr. Leslie Miller (then Chairman of BEC) wrote to the officials directing them that BEC's board had requested the contracts be given to AL D's Construction & Roofing instead".



► Minister of Public Works, Desmond Bannister (Journal file photo)



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

■ See WORKS MINISTER / page 2...

## PRIME MINISTER ATTENDS VIEWING FOR THE LATE PARLIAMENTARIAN MR. CALVIN JOHNSON



► Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis attended the Viewing and signed the Book of Condolence for the Late Parliamentarian Mr. Calvin Johnson on Wednesday morning, November 8, at Butler's Funeral Home & Crematorium. A State-Recognized Funeral will be held for Mr. Johnson at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, West Hill Street on Thursday, November 9, at 10:00 a.m. (BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay)

## BPL Employees Exonerated

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
*Journal Staff Writer*

Bahamas Power and Light (BPL) employees who, because of the nature of their jobs, were investigated, have been exonerated and their names are back in good standing, according to Minister of Public Works Desmond Bannister.

The employees, whose names were mentioned in a report completed by Ernst and Young to investigate the financial state at the corporation were exonerated of any wrong doings.

■ See EMPLOYEES EXONERATED on PAGE 2...

## Pensions Act Amendments "To Retool Public Service"

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
*Journal Staff Writer*

National Security Minister Marvin Dames says the government has taken a step to revitalise and retool the public service and introduce a serious succession planning model and set the public service on a path to creativity, innovation and productivity.

The Minister's remarks came during a debate in the House of Assembly yesterday to amend section 5 of the Pensions Act to allow a Commissioner of Police to not have to serve 40 years before receiving pension.

Many political observers believe that the amendment is mainly to facilitate the removal of former Commissioner of Police Ellison Greenslade from the Royal Bahamas

Police Force and to accommodate his recent appointment as High Commissioner of the Bahamas to the Court of Saint James in London.

He added that there should be a cadre of officers to fill top posts and when persons remain in top positions for too long, they run the risk of becoming complacent and begin to lose the true purpose which is the advancement of the organisation and not themselves.

"This debate should be elevated to one where we begin to discuss how we can encourage the younger generation and prepare themselves for future leadership. This, the people's government will stop the brain drain," Dames said.

■ See PENSIONS ACT AMENDMENTS / page 2...

## Bowe: "Build Economy On Positives"

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
*Journal Staff Writer*

Former Chairman of the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce Employers' Confederation, Gowon Bowe is optimistic about the growth of the country's economy despite there still being a high unemployment rate, saying that he believes that the future of The Bahamas can be built upon past positives.

"We see the slow decline in the unemployment numbers, although it's very, very high, which means persons are starting to get some employment back. We have to make sure that is not a temporary [thing] and that it's sustained.

"I believe that there is this

sense of optimism that certainly amongst the population that things can happen. We see positive signs in terms of the touristic development taking place in New Providence, but there are also developments in the islands that are now having attention focused on them.

"I believe that when we look at the future of the Bahamas, I think we should underscore the positives that we can build upon.

"So, while there is going to be the ever-changing environment of tourism and financial services, we have to give that sense of optimism that says that there are some of the positive factors that can actually contribute to a resurgence of the Bahamian economy," Mr.

Bowe stated.

He also stated that growing the economy must be stimulated by a belief in the power to create and effect change in the economy.

"Economics is a game of sentiment. It is he who feels it knows it, and when you are talking about growing economies, that is usually spurred by confidence.

"It is very difficult in tough times to convince a population that the way to come out of malaise or sort of lethargic growth is by consumption and by investment and by actually taking a chance on how you grow the economy," Mr. Bowe said.

■ See WORKS MINISTER / page 2...

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# Pensions Act Amendments “To Retool Public Service”

Continued from / PAGE 1...

The Minister said in the past, a number of senior public officers who were on the verge of retirement, were given extensions to continue to serve in their posts. He also point-

ed out that there are instances where individuals were called out of retirement to serve in high-level positions which could have been adequately and effectively filled by competent and qualified civil servants who still have years of service to offer.

He said that not allowing young persons to fill roles, causes them to stay in or move to other countries where they can find value for their skill.

“Other countries around the world are able to benefit from the expertise

of our Bahamian sons and daughters. When employers here tell them that they are too young, employers from other nations tell them that they are hired. When some employers here tell them that they will have to wait for another 10 years, employers

from other nations tell them that they are the best person for the job. And while as a nation we have told them to sit small until your name is called, employers from other nations told them to take the position and run with it,” Dames said.

# Works Minister Apologizes For Audit

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Continuing his apology, Mr. Bannister stated: “The report makes an allegation in relation to the leader of the opposition. I wish to confirm that the allegation is incorrect.

“It is based on incomplete records at BPL, and I wish to

say unequivocally that there is no evidence whatsoever that the leader of the opposition did anything wrong,” Mr. Bannister said.

Mr. Bannister went on to provide the report and a letter that the then Deputy Prime Minister Davis would have received concerning contract to his [Davis’] brother.

“I wish to table Volumes 1 and 2 of the report, together with a letter from Permanent Secretary Higgs which completely exonerates the leader of the opposition,” Mr. Bannister said.

In his response, Mr. Davis said that when he became aware of the contract, he immediately summoned

BEC’s then chairman and the Permanent Secretary.

“I called them in and I said look, my brother is not to be awarded any contracts in my ministry or any of the agencies of which falls in my portfolio.

“If any of the other Ministers wish to deal with him that’s fine, but he is not

to get anything from my ministry or from any of the agencies that fall in my portfolio.

“The Chairman took the position and said, ‘look your brother ought not to be disqualified from bidding on projects, and if he succeeds in being awarded the contract, because he’s your brother, in any event this is BPL.’” said Mr. Davis.

The PLP leader said he sensed the reluctance of the Chairman and therefore instructed the Permanent Secretary to write a letter to both the board and BEC to immediately cancel the contract that may have been issued to his brother.

Mr. Davis who had stated that he had already put the matter into the hands of his lawyers, once he learned of

the allegations in the article, accepted Mr. Bannister’s apology.

“This morning’s proceeding is an example and an illustration of the maturity of the relationship and also of how this Parliament ought to be conducting itself.

“I hold him (Bannister) responsible, not that he had anything to do with what eventually occurred, but it falls in his ministry.

“I thanked him when he raised the matter with me and I pointed him to the response to it, which he kindly followed the lead and was able to determine there was nothing to the allegations.

“I do accept the apology for your office,” Mr. Davis told the Minister.



**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 Jarvis, Single,  
of 49 Thompson Lane, Shipley BD17 7LX, United Kingdom

and

Cheryl Louise McMahon, Single,  
of 33 Western Fold, Bradford BD6 2BU, United Kingdom

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 --

Mark Thomas Niekamp, Divorced,  
of 1918 Autumn Sage Dr., Dacula, GA 30019, United States of America

and

Shelly Marie Scordato, Divorced,  
of 1918 Autumn Sage Dr., Dacula, GA 30019, 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 --

James Donald Wobith, Single,  
of 809 East Klingsley #20, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, United States of America

and

Alia Grace Wesala, Single,  
of 809 East Klingsley #20, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, 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 --

Jose Antonio Kato Kobashigawa, Single,  
of 14 Halycon Street, Point Cook Victoria 3030, Australia

and

Chandelle Elizabeth Macklin, Single,  
of 14 Halycon Street, Point Cook Victoria 3030, 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 3rd day of November, 2017.



Registrar of Marriages

## BPL Employees Exonerated

Continued from / PAGE 1...

This was revealed by Minister of Public Works, Desmond Bannister in a communication to the House of Assembly yesterday. He publicly thanked the employees.

“There are a number of BPL employees who, by virtue of their jobs had to be investigated.

“I am pleased to say that though their names were mentioned in the report, most of them were subsequently exonerated of any wrongdoing whatsoever.

“They continue to be highly valued team members at BPL. In this respect I wish to expressly thank: Mrs. Cecile Greene, Ms. Ene Maura, Ms. Garnell Sheppard, Ms. Chrislyn Dean and Mr. Kevin Bowleg,” Mr. Bannister said.

“BPL values their service, and we look forward to many years of continued productivity and goodwill,” he stated.

Ernst and Young conducted a forensic audit on the BPL confirming that the corporation’s theft scandal which involved a total of some 41 fraudulent cheques that were issued to 13 fictitious vendors totaling over \$1.8 million.

The report by Ernst and Young on BPL was tabled in the House yesterday.

## Bowe: “Build Economy On Positives”

Continued from / PAGE 1...

He further stated that there must be a willingness to take risks in order to generate a return.

“While there is risk to every capital investment, the only way you will make a return is by taking risk, zero risk, zero return,” Mr. Bowe said.

Mr. Bowe who is the Chief Financial Officer at Fidelity Bank stated that although there may be challenges to the growth of the economy, it’s because of the focus which needs to be redirected.

“When you look at it, we have a number of challenges in front of us and our focus needs to not be on the negatives and those elements that are saying why it is a tough time.

“Our focus needs to be redirected to how to overcome this environment that we are in,” he said.

Mr. Bowe noted that in order for the country to retain status of

being the ‘jewels of the Caribbean,’ Bahamians must speak up.

“Ultimately, I believe that there needs to be those brave voices that come forward and say that we as a country should not talk ourselves down, but talk ourselves up.

“If we are to remain the jewel of the Caribbean, then we have to act like the prince and princess of the Caribbean and we have to have that exuberance.

“I would say there are certainly headwinds and challenges, but I would say that if we are collective in our thinking and we are willing to work together, pool resources and actually look at the positive aspects, then we will have an opportunity to actually have a resurgence in the economy,” Mr. Bowe said.

Mr. Bowe’s comments came when he appeared as a guest on a JCN Roundtable discussion on the economic prospects of The Bahamas.

## F.E. STEVENS ACADEMY -- COURTESY CALL



► Students and teachers of F.E. Stevens Academy, Calabash Bay, Andros called upon Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling, Governor General, at Government House on Friday, November 3, 2017. (BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)

# Firearm Owners Warned

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
Journal Staff Writer

Persons that own registered firearms are strongly urged to renew their licenses should they plan to use their weapons legally.

The Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) is urging members of the firearm community to ensure their firearm licenses are up to date.

In a Press Conference yesterday, Officer in Charge of Firearms, Assistant Superintendent Stacey Bowe-Curry gave the warning at the commencement of renewal season.

"Today, we are here to advise all our license holders, the renewal season has started. It began on November 1st and will run until January 13th 2018, before late fees are incurred." Ms. Bowe-Curry said.

For persons who have been delinquent in renewing their license, Ms. Bowe-Curry detailed the procedures one needs to follow in order to update their license.

She said, "If you have not licensed your firearms for a number of years, the procedure is to take your firearm to the police armory and have it stored there for safe

keeping." Additionally, she stated that those who desire to relinquish the ownership of their firearm(s) through the process of selling, must have a valid registration accompanying the purchase.

In an instance of the death of a firearm owner, Ms. Bowe-Curry explained the process of deceased family members owning a firearm. "If a member of your family has a licensed firearm and the person has died, the firearm is not automatically yours. You have to apply for that firearm."

To be clear, Ms. Bowe-Curry emphasized that own-

ership of firearms does not have a transferrable relationship to the next kin.

Shotguns, rifles and special licensed revolvers are the type of firearms Bahamians are permitted to own and license.

Although it is legal to purchase a firearm off the internet, there are certain specifications the RBPF must inspect before purchase.

"Persons can also purchase firearms off line, but the procedure is, they have to bring in the exact firearm they want to purchase and we look at the specs of it and then we will determine whether that person can

bring in that particular firearm.

"Anyone can apply for a firearm license, once a thorough investigation has been conducted; even though there is no special training requirement beforehand. Furthermore, firearms are solely used for hunting purposes.

"Should you encounter a trespasser on your property and you feel endangered, by law, once your firearm's license is up to date, you may use it for protection without any penalty," said the officer.

There have been recorded incidences where firearms have been used in a criminal

manner as a result of it being stolen out of the owner's possession.

Central Detective Unit (CDU) Chief Superintendent Solomon Cash, expanded on the importance of securing one's weapon. He said, "it is important that firearms are well protected and locked away in your safes at home.

"We have incidences where firearms were stolen from home and were later used in the commission of crimes on the street," he stated.

To be eligible for a firearm license, you must be a Bahamian and 18 years old.

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# Better Communities Reduce Crime

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
Journal Staff Writer

"We actually don't have a crime problem, but we have a neglect problem," were the words Minister of National Security Marvin Dames as he opened his address in a Meet the Minister breakfast held at the British Colonial Hilton yesterday.

Speaking to a room filled with professionals from various backgrounds, Mr. Dames said, "many would ask the question, 'what's the police doing about crime?' and one of my responses would be, what's happening around us is a manifestation of the neglect over decades in this country.

According to Police Statistics, overall crime is down; arm robberies, robberies, rape, burglary, house break-ins and business break-ins are all down significantly, Mr. Dames indicated.

However, unfortunately, what plagues this country and

this region is the problem of murdering your brother and sister.

Mr. Dames said, "what we continue to be plagued with in this country and I dare say too, even within the developed world, is this problem of young men, young black men in particular killing each other.

"Today, we've been seeing that now, for a little more than a decade; a continued upward spiral of the homicide rates in this country," said the Minister.

He told the audience, "many of us sitting in this room, many of us sitting on the outside are a part of that problem, or responsible for what we're seeing here today."

Mr. Dames spent 23 years on the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) and has witnessed the rise in criminal activity in the country, which has now become an epidemic.

Paraphrasing Pastor Tony

Evans, Mr. Dames said, "If we have messed up parents, messed up parents will contribute to messed up children."

He continued, "If we have messed up parents in a home with messed up children, then it means that we have a messed up home and if we have a messed up home and that home is in a community, then that translates into a messed up community.

"So, if we have messed up communities and they are part of a messed up nation, then it result in a messed up nation.

"Many years ago, Bahamian children were raised by the community, not by their parents alone.

"One may think of the African Proverb, it takes a village to raise a child"; noting that it takes an entire community to raise a child and that child, or children have the best ability to become healthy adults if the entire community

takes an active role in contributing to the rearing of the child.

"Seemingly, such principles have left the communities of The Bahamas," said the Minister.

As it relates to addressing and fixing the nation's crime problem, Mr. Dames implored the audience to search deeper within themselves to truly analyze the crime situation, instead of searching for a cause or persons to place the blame.

"For many years now, we have neglected one of our principle responsibilities in this country, which is, the rearing of our children.

"We have abdicated our responsibilities and have transferred that responsibility on to the schools, streets, churches, the government and everywhere else. When things don't go right, we tend to point the finger instead of looking into the mirror at ourselves," he said.



► Minister of National Security Marvin Dames (Journal file photo)

## COURTESY CALLS AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE



► Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling, Governor General, welcomed the Christian International Global Network and International Gathering of the Saints in a courtesy call at Government House on Wednesday, November 1, 2017. (BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)



► Teacher and students of Bahamas Elite Sports Academy called upon Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling at Government House on Wednesday, November 1, 2017. (BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)

## "DIVISION IS THE BIGGEST ECONOMIC CHALLENGE," SAYS FORMER MP

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
Journal Staff Writer

Former Member of Parliament Lester Turnquest sees division as the biggest challenge to growing the Bahamas' stagnant economy.

Mr. Turnquest, appearing as a guest on the

Radio Love 97 afternoon show, "On Point", said the template for a successful country and a successful jurisdiction is the ability to mobilize your entire population to get things done.

He said countries like China have done it and believes that if the Bahamas has the leadership then it can too.

"When I look at Singapore, I see a country

where Muslim, Buddhist, Atheist and Christians are all able to exist peacefully. They had a leader who demanded that they all work as one to make the country better.

"I don't know when, or if we will ever get to that point. I believe what we need is passion and commitment to tackle these things. We don't need pomposity or arrogance, we just need hard

workers," Mr. Turnquest said.

An Economist by profession, he says, in an economy that's stagnant, law firms and accountant firms experience downturns, an issue that he said colleagues of his have complained about.

Mr. Turnquest said that the Bahamian economy will not improve based on what is currently happening in the financial services sector.



# Innovators of Modern Technology Coming to The Bahamas for Tech Summit

**FREEPORT, Grand Bahama** – Combining the beauty of The Bahamas (with its sun, sand and sea), with some of the world's most informative, ingenious and well-versed individuals in the world of modern technology -- the Grand Bahama Technology Summit is set for November 9-10, 2017 in Freeport, Grand Bahama.

For a historic few days, Silicon Valley tech wizards on the cutting edge of their craft are expected to deliver first-hand to Bahamians information on what's new, what's trending, and what the future will look like in the world of technology.

Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Senator the Hon. Kwasi Thompson whose office is full-force behind the preparation and hosting of the GB Technology Summit said, recently: "If you are a major international tech company, we want you in Grand Bahama; if you are a Bahamian and want to set up a tech company, we want you in Grand Bahama."

There will be an impressive list of speakers headlining this first Summit -- from Google, Hewlett Packard and Microsoft to name a few.

One such speaker is Microsoft's Xerxes Beharry, a Trinidadian who has always been passionate about technology. At the age of 16, he ran his own busi-

ness customizing databases for local insurance agents. This early endeavor influenced his decision to pursue higher education at Florida Institute of Technology. There he earned his Master's in Computer Engineering before being hired by Microsoft as a Program Manager. During the past six years at Microsoft, he has had the opportunity

to work on iconic products such as MSN Messenger, Windows, and most recently, HoloLens -- the world's first self-contained holographic computer. He holds two US patents for his contributions in HoloLens and Windows.

From Hewlett Packard, Michael Johnston is a Solution Architect for Large Public Venues at Aruba/HPE and is a global expert in Very High Density Wi-Fi deploy-

ments and indoor Location Based Services for sporting arenas and stadiums, with several seating over 100,000 guests. Michael has unique experience in supporting the design and deployment of Wireless Service Provider networks, including some of the largest and most successful city-wide/municipal wireless networks supporting Intelligent Traffic Management Systems and

SCADA Telemetry systems. Michael has over 18 years of wireless communication expertise built upon a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management and his U.S. Air Force experience maintaining airborne electronic warfare systems.

There will be a host of other top-ranked speakers at this year's Tech Summit, including Dr. Donovan Moxey, of CBI Mobile

(Bah.) Ltd in Nassau, Bahamas; Dr. Jeff Schlossar, of SoniTrack Systems Inc.; Aisha Bowe, of STEMBoard and formerly NASA, a Bahamian working in Washington, DC; Dr. Gadrin Higgs, a Grand Bahamian, formerly of LinkedIn, working in Silicon Valley; and Larone Burrows, a Grand Bahamian Inventor working in Silicon Valley.



▶ A final planning session at the Office of the Prime Minister, Grand Bahama, before the summit's opening on Thursday.

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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

# Government Welcomes Open and Honest Debate on National Issues

The Government of The Bahamas welcomes open and honest debate from all quarters, including those concerned with civil society, citizen safety and human rights, Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis stated recently.

Prime Minister Minnis said the best debates, however, are those that are free of scare tactics and extreme positions that do not take into account "the necessary, and multiple roles of government" which, the Prime Minister said, always require balance and prudence.

Prime Minister Minnis said in the Speech From The Throne (read by Her Excellency, Dame Marguerite Pindling, DCMG, during the Opening of Parliament in May) his Administration pledged to listen to the voices, aspirations, dreams, hopes and desires of the Bahamian people. The Prime Minister said those sentiments are true today, as they were then.

"On May 10, 2017, the Bahamian people spoke loudly, clearly and resolutely in the Ballot Boxes and gave the Free National Movement an overwhelming vote of confidence to restore this nation to the core values of self-discipline, industry, loyalty, unity, good governance and an abiding respect for Christian values and the Rule of Law.

"The mandate given to my government on May 10, 2017 is a mandate for change. This is a time for the

accelerated development of all our people, in all spheres of national life. This is a time for the people. This is indeed the people's time.

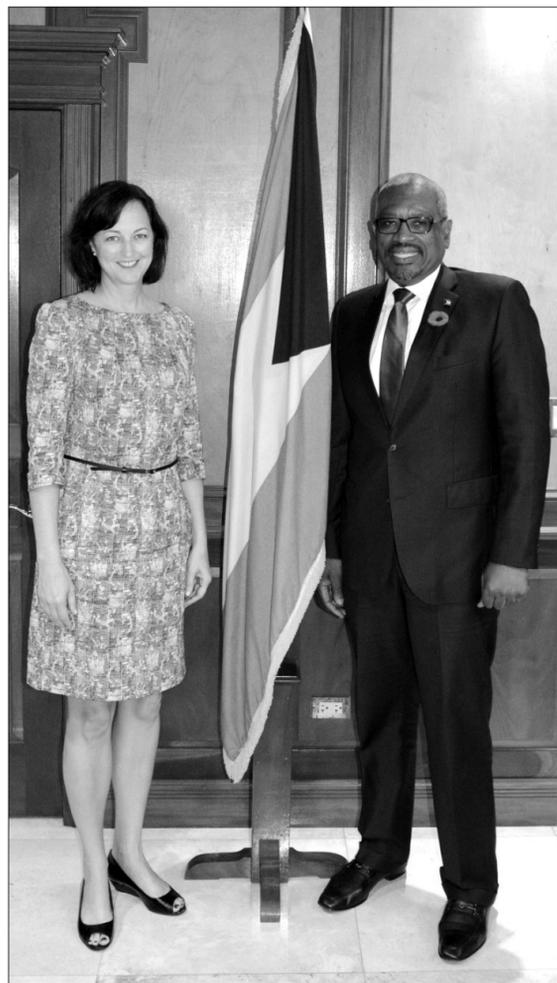
"My government has therefore pledged to listen to the voice, aspirations, dreams, hopes and desires of our people. My Government is well aware that the world has changed significantly, thus the policies of my Government will not be drawn from the experiences of the past, but must be formed in the sunlight of contemporary realities."

Prime Minister Minnis said he found some of the recent discussion on immigration very curious following his Communication to the House of Assembly on various immigration matters.

"Let me state yet again, that a government must be guided by balanced and prudent politics. This government will continue, from now until the end of the year, to interdict and repatriate individuals here illegally. This means individuals from all countries. We will continue to enforce the rule of law. In our repatriation efforts we will be humane and just.

"It is disturbing that some who claim to be concerned about human rights and the rule of law, seem to want to suspend the rule of law when it pertains to certain immigration matters.

"We must be a nation of laws, not of personal fancies and extreme positions," Prime Minister Minnis added.



## US CHARGE D'AFFAIRES PAYS FAREWELL COURTESY CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER

► US Embassy Charge d'Affaires, Ms. Lisa Johnson paid a Farewell Courtesy Call on Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at Cabinet Office, Churchill Building, Rawson Square. (BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay)