

**STANDARD SERVICES SUPPLIES LTD.**  
 Shirley & Church Street  
 Phone: 322-4635



Shop at STANDARD SERVICES where you could get **20% OFF** Houseware, linen, lamps and draperies, and much, much more

# The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

**DEAN & ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS**  
 "Meeting Your Needs Efficiently and Professionally"



**BUILDINGS (COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL)**  
 LIFE - GROUP - MEDICAL - ANNUITIES - LIABILITY - MARINE - HOMEOWNERS - AUTO

Tel: (242)-356-0986 Fax: (242)-356-0987  
 Deal's Plaza, Mackey Street  
 P.O. Box CB-13952 Nassau, Bahamas  
 8:30am - 4:30pm

VOL. 30 - NO. 58

FRIDAY - DECEMBER 8TH, 2017

75 CENTS

## Major Drug Bust In Andros

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

A major drug seizure in Andros yesterday, leaving over 10,000 pounds of marijuana in the hands of police officials.

According to police reports, around 1pm on Wednesday Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) officers, along with US Drug Enforcement Agents (DEA), were on routine patrol in the North Andros area when they discovered a marijuana field in the area of Owens' Town.

An estimated 8,000 pounds of marijuana plants were uprooted.

One day later, yesterday, shortly after noon, DEU and DEA officers returned to a nearby area, again, in Owens' Town where they uncovered a second marijuana field.

This time, an estimated 2,300 pounds of marijuana plants were uprooted.

According to police reports, no arrests were made in the two seizures.

Investigations are ongoing.

## Passport Renewal Expedited

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

Launched in January of this year, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the new Polycarbonate E-Passport supersedes the electronic passport introduced in 2007, making room for a quick turnaround time, according to Chief Passport Officer, Clarence Russell.

See EXPEDITED / page 2...

# PLP'S DISGUSTED BY PM COMMENTS

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
 Journal Staff Writer

**T**WO PROGRESSIVE LIBERAL PARTY (PLP) Senators expressed disgust yesterday on comments made by the Prime Minister.

PLP Senators Dr. Michael

Darville and Fred Mitchell both took issue with the Prime Minister's comments when he blamed the former government for the financial services sector being in deeper trouble than anticipated.

Both Senators Darville and Mitchell in their communication in the Senate said the comments were a

shock and untrue.

The amendment to the compendium of bills tabled in the House of Assembly on Wednesday and in the Senate yesterday passed with full support from both sides.

Sen. Mitchell said when the bill was tabled on Wednesday, nothing was said by anyone about the

PLP having a problem with the bill.

"So while we are all glad saying nice things to one another, out comes this press release which is a total stab in the back, and then we're being asked to come here and be nice to the Attorney General," Mitchell said.

See PLP'S DISGUSTED / page 2...



PLP Senator, Fred Mitchell (Journal file photo)



PLP Senator, Dr. Michael Darville (Journal file photo)



## BAHA MAR ACQUISITION COMPLETED

### RECIEVES PERMANENT CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

Chow Tai Fook Enterprises Limited (CTFE) has completed the acquisition of Baha Mar, the premier integrated resort destination located on Cable Beach. CTFE is a leading global conglomerate with a diversified business portfolio, and its affiliates, are now the sole owner of Baha Mar. The Company announced yesterday that Baha Mar has received its permanent certificate of occupancy.

CTFE announced its agreement to purchase Baha Mar from Perfect Luck Investments Limited in December 2016 and committed at that time to the successful and timely phased opening and operation of Baha Mar. CTFE has since fulfilled its commitment; opening Grand Hyatt Baha Mar, Baha Mar Casino, ESPA Baha Mar, The Performing Arts & Convention Center and Royal Blue Golf Club & Course as part of phase one in April 2017. CTFE completed phase two upon the opening of SLS Baha Mar and

various restaurants in November 2017.

"Today is the culmination of our efforts to purchase and open this spectacular resort destination," said Graeme Davis, President, Baha Mar. "We have exciting plans and I am immensely proud of the progress our team has made over the last year. Baha Mar currently employs 3,500 Bahamians. We anticipate increasing the number of Bahamians employed at Baha Mar to over 5000 associates by the end of 2018. We project that Baha Mar will contribute 12% to the GDP of The Bahamas in future years. To advance our plans to grow employment and spur economic growth in The Bahamas, on November 1st, we launched Life Spectacular, a multi-million dollar marketing and advertising campaign to global audiences..

CTFE brings extensive hospitality, resort and mixed-use development experience to Baha Mar. As owners of

Rosewood Hotel Group, CTFE owns and operates some of the world's most iconic hotels and resorts.

The announcement stated that Rosewood Baha Mar is on track to open as part of phase three in Spring 2018, ushering in the grand opening of Baha Mar.

Baha Mar is a master planned integrated resort development owned by Hong Kong-based conglomerate Chow Tai Fook Enterprises Limited (CTFE). The beachfront destination includes three global brand operators – Grand Hyatt, SLS, and Rosewood – with over 2,300 rooms. Additional amenities include [40] restaurants and lounges, the largest casino in the Caribbean with over 100,000 sq. ft. of gaming space, a 200,000 sq. ft. convention center, an 18-hole Championship Jack Nicklaus Golf Course and Golf Club, the first ESPA flagship spa in the Caribbean, and over 30 luxury retail outlets.

## SENATE APPROVES Financial Bills

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
 Journal Staff Writer

The Senate yesterday passed the compendium of bills to provide for compliance by The Bahamas with international standards in financial services.

Mirroring the contributions coming out of the lower chamber, the opposition supported the bills passed in the house of assembly on Wednesday.

See FINANCIAL BILLS / page 2...

Is your family prepared for the inevitable?



**The BAF Final Expense Plan**  
 Coverage up to \$50,000\* for your final expenses.  
\*Based on eligible plan

**BAF FINANCIAL & INSURANCE (BAHAMAS) LTD.**  
 ESTABLISHED 1920

Contact us today for more information 242-461-1000  
 www.mybafolutions.com

BAF Global Group | The Bahamas | Cayman | Turks & Caicos

**Grand Prize \$10,000 cash**  
 and other instant prizes!

**CASH N' GO** **322-CASH (2274)** MoneyGram. bringing you closer. **Ria**

**Holiday Scratch & Win!**

Winner!

MoneyGram. bringing you closer. **Ria**

\*Some restrictions apply. MoneyGram, the Globe and bringing you closer are registered marks of MoneyGram. All other marks are owned by third parties.

# SENATE APPROVES Financial Bills

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Leading the opposition's contribution on the bills was Senator Dr. Michael Darville, who said the Bahamas will be standing with the major players in the international community and reaffirming its commitment to address money laundering, while fulfilling its obligations to protect the financial services sector.

"Financial crimes know no boundaries and given the realities, this administration must continue to ensure that every effort is made to show the world that we are committed to comply with global standards, in addition to properly identifying and addressing the risks involved in money laundering, terrorism financing and to establish and maintain a stronger and more robust regulatory regime and framework for our country," Darville said.

FNM Senator Raynard Henfield was equally supportive of the bills and applauded his colleagues for their bipartisan approach to protecting the country's integrity.

"I believe that our differences should end when we have to protect the Bahamas' integrity, protect the people of the Bahamas and the Bahamian economy," Henfield said.

He added that the Bahamas must learn to negotiate better.

"I urge this government to always negotiate from a position of strength with the various international bodies, or every year we will find ourselves jumping through hoops to make amendments," Henfield said.

The bills were passed ahead of a high level delegation flying off to France.

In France the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Peter Turnquest along with Financial Services Minister, Brent Symonette will attend an Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) meeting to sign the multilateral convention on mutual administrative assistance in tax matters agreement.

This happens after five Caribbean countries were named on the European Union's blacklist of tax havens. The Bahamas was not blacklisted.

The screening process for the hurricane ravaged islands like Bahamas have been put on hold action against other Caribbean countries until February 2018. The Bahamas was last blacklisted in 2000.

# Passport Renewal Expedited

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Speaking at a Rotary Club Of Southeast Nassau meeting, Mr. Russell said that long gone are the days when application, process and collection of passports take weeks, sometimes up to eight months.

"The Bahamian passport today, we are only second in the world to Switzerland, with the new technology that we have.

"In August 2015, I came here [from Freeport] on a two year contract to fix the problem [at the Passport Office]. I think we all knew that at that time it took you eight to ten months unfortunately to get a passport,

because of extreme congestion, and not so much because of equipment and personnel, but because there was no concerted effort administratively to bring things together," Mr. Russell said.

Suggesting that most persons are still in possession of the e-passport that was introduced since 2007, Mr. Russell said that the new e-passport is necessary, especially when applying for an American travel Visa.

"Most of you may have your legacy e-passport, legacy passports came into existence in December 2007.

"It's a ten year program, five years for children. Most people have the old legacy

passport. Some people took the initiative to go ahead, come to the Passport Office after they saw what was launched in January and they now have possession of the new Polycarbonate E-Passport," Mr. Russell said.

Mr. Russell further noted that although there is no deadline for obtaining the new e-passport, he indicated that if an individual's US visa expires before their old e-passport does, they will not be able to obtain a new visa.

"The US Embassy would prefer you to have the new Polycarbonate E-Passport, before they put a new visa in it. They will refuse to put it in the old one.

"We encourage persons to come and take advantage of the opportunity. You don't have to wait until your passport expires, you can call the VIP office at the Passport Office and you can make an appointment for you and your family.

"You can come down and be ushered in, in fifteen minutes; it's a twenty minutes process. Get yourself registered!

"If you are not paying the \$200 fee, you get your passport in one to two weeks maximum. If you're paying the \$200 fee, the people in the room can say to you, you can wait for the issue of your new e-passport," Mr. Russell said.

# PLP'S DISGUSTED BY PM COMMENTS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Sen. Darville rebutted the claims in the Prime Minister's release which charged that the PLP administration's lackluster and late-again approach to dealing with this very important part of the economy was

about to land the Bahamas in the very same position that caused a previous FNM administration to have to prevent the country from being blacklisted.

Sen. Darville said, "It had nothing to do with the fact that the PLP and the then Minister for Financial Services sector

dragged their feet, it had to do with what happened in the international arena that was completely out of our control. It caught the board by surprise as well as many in the financial services sector, but life goes on."

The senate has adjourned to Monday, December 18th.

## Let Your Advertising Dollar Go A LONG WAY....

Advertise In The Bahama Journal  
Call Our Sales Team At: 356-9071-3



**Soldanza**  
NOW AVAILABLE  
THE GOOD  
NATURAL SNACK!

**Cassava Chips** Cream & Onion  
**Plantain Chips** Lightly Salted  
**Ripe Plantain Chips** Naturally Sweet  
**Cassava Chips** Original

**milobutler**  
RESPECT, QUALITY AND VALUE GUARANTEED.  
(242) 677-6380  
PEACH STREET OFF MONTROSE AVENUE

**COMFORT SUITES**  
PARADISE ISLAND  
BAHAMAS

ALL THE PERKS OF COMFORT SUITES  
ALL THE PLAY OF ATLANTIS

- Free access to all pool and beach activities at neighboring Atlantis
- Complimentary full American buffet breakfast
- Kids 11 and under stay free in room with parent\*\*
- Free Wi-Fi
- Free parking
- Air conditioned Jr. suites with king size or two double beds
- Pool with swim up bar
- 32 inch flat screen televisions
- Complimentary In-Room Safe

**CRUSOE'S RESTAURANT**  
Celebrating 25 Years of Service  
GREAT FOOD! GREAT PRICES!  
Taste Perfection  
Join us for lunch & dinner at  
Comfort Suites Paradise Island  
Ext: 6376 or 6404

Maximum 4 persons per room, additional fees apply for mandatory taxes, mandatory housekeeping gratuities and utility service fees. Quoted rates are based on standard room category and subject to availability. Full American buffet is \$58 value per room per day based on double occupancy. Free Wi-Fi is \$22 value per room per day. Free parking is \$16 value per day. Cancellations must be received 72 hours prior to arrival or a 1-night penalty will apply. \*\*Kids under 11 years of age stay and eat free in room with parent - breakfast, lunch & dinner.

ComfortSuitesPI.com | (242) 363-3680 f /ComfortsuitesPI

## COURTESY CALL BY MS. EILLEN SHANIA TWAIN, COUNTRY SINGER, "YOU'RE STILL THE ONE"



► Country Singer & Songwriter, Eileen "Shania" Twain & Family paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis at the Office of the Prime Minister, December 7, 2017. Pictured are Prime Minister Minnis (centre right), Eileen Shania Twain (centre) & Family, with OPM Staff. (Photo/Yontalay Bowe, OPM Media Services)

# Disability Concerns All, Says Parliamentary Secretary

BY KATHRYN CAMPBELL  
Bahamas Information Services

Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development, Vaughn Miller has affirmed the Government's commitment to creating a Bahamas in which all citizens can partic-

ipate and benefit including persons with disabilities.

He said the Government cannot do it alone and acknowledged stakeholders including the church, NGOs, and civil society for their involvement in the delivery of services, support, policy implementation and opportunities to empower persons

with disabilities.

Mr. Miller addressed an appreciation luncheon in observance of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Friday, December 1, 2017 at the Department of Physical Planning. The theme was "Transformation Towards a Sustainable and Resilient

Society for All." International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed on December 3 annually.

Receiving awards for their outstanding work in assisting persons with disabilities were: Olly Mae Knowles, educator; Detrix Hamilton, architect; Maria Deleveaux, principal, William

Lightbourne, and Iris Adderley, consultant.

The luncheon was one of several educational and recreational events planned for the week to bring attention to the rights and challenges of persons with disabilities and highlight their achievements and talents. It was hosted by the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, and the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development.

The Parliamentary Secretary told the audience that the theme aligned with the agenda of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, which promised to 'leave no one behind'.

"To leave no one behind"

affirms that everyone benefits, but it also implies that every member of our society has a contribution to make. Indeed everyone, including persons with disabilities, has a critical role to play in national development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals," he said.

Mr. Miller said disability concerns all, as much as it affects all, and is one of the reasons why The Bahamas enacted the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities) Act in 2014, and ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2015.

■ See CONCERNS ALL / page 4...

**TWININGS™**  
OF LONDON

*Make the perfect iced tea*  
with any one of your favourite Twinings flavours!

1. Brew 1 tea bag for 3-4 minutes.
2. Transfer infused tea to a glass full of ice.
3. Add lemon and honey/sugar.
4. Mix well and you have the perfect iced tea!

DISTRIBUTED IN THE BAHAMAS BY  
**milobutler™**  
RESPECT, QUALITY AND VALUE GUARANTEED.

**(242) 677-6380**  
PEACH STREET OFF MONTROSE AVENUE

## JOB TRAINING FOR AT RISK YOUTH

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
Journal Staff Writer

With one day left before the registration process ends for the Citizen Security and Justice Programme Employment Survey, the Bahamas Department of Labour along with the Ministry of National Security are making efforts to ensure that as many at-risk, unemployed youths between the ages of 16-29 years of age are able to embrace this opportunity for both soft skills, technical skills training and job placement.

The Department of Labour says this programme will become an alternate approach to crime reduction and employability, targeted specifically towards youth that fall in the age groups stated.

The demographic of young Bahamian between the ages of 16-29 years old, who are currently unemployed and have not completed high school, is the target group.

Ms. Patricia Rolle, Department of Labour, Public Employment Services Officer stated that while the focus areas include Kemp Road, East Street, Englerston, Bain & Grants Town, Yellow Elder, Fox Hill, Nassau Village, and Centreville, persons from all areas in New Providence are eligible to apply once they meet the criteria.

The Citizen Security and Justice Programme facilitated by the Ministry of National Security in partnership with the Department of Labour is funded by a twenty million dollar loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The programme seeks to address four major pillars which include Community Crime Prevention, Employability and Training of At-Risk Youth, Improving the Efficiency of the Court System and methods of reducing the recidivism rate through a parole system.

An online survey link is now accessible to the public who wish to register and may not have the ability to physically visit the Department of Labour Offices at Rosetta Street or Robinson Road.

# JUDGE GRANTS HABEAS CORPUS

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
*Journal Staff Writer*

Supreme Court Justice Mr. Gregory Hilton yesterday granted application for a writ of Habeas Corpus in a case brought by Queen's Counsel Fred Smith against The Carmichael Detention Center and the Immigration Department.

Mr. Smith was escorted off the property of The Carmichael Detention Center on Monday after attempting to see his client, Jean Rony Jean Charles.

He says there is controversy as to whether his client Mr. Jean Charles is still in The Bahamas or was he deported to Haiti; a nation he has never visited.

"The government must now provide evidence in writing about where this body is. If the body isn't with them, they have to justify the holding of the body and what they've done with Mr. Jean Rony.

"Is Mr. Rony alive or is Mr. Rony dead? Is he in the Bahamas, is he in Haiti? Nobody has heard from him in weeks now," the lawyer

said. According to the Immigration Act; Chapter 191, any person that is detained by Immigration Officers shall be deemed to seek counsel.

"If he had been deported, there has to be a written deportation order signed by Immigration Minister Brent Symonette.

"Whenever you are served with a deportation order, everybody has a right, according to law, to appeal to the Governor General and the courts have repeatedly stated that you cannot be held pending deportation," Mr. Smith stated.

Mr. Smith told the Court that his client Jean Rony Jean Charles has been in custody since September. He was born in the Bahamas and has never travelled out of the Bahamas. His parents are Haitian and came here legally; they had papers.

According to the Queen's Counsel, Jean Rony Jean Charles also has five sisters, all of whom are Bahamian citizens.

Once becoming aware his client was detained, Mr.

Smith has attempted to see his client on three different occasions including Monday, but to no avail.

"Mr. Jean Rony Jean Charles under the constitution is entitled to apply and or to be registered as a citizen.

"Immigration does not have the right to simply pick up and hold people for a week, a month, a year or two years. This case is about getting Jean Rony Jean Charles released," Mr. Smith stated.

"The department of Immigration thinks they can just grab a hold of people; people born in The Bahamas and just hold them.

"Immigration has created this perception in the country that they are entitled to be above the law. Immigration is not above the law; they are subject to the law just like every other citizen," he said.

Moreover, Mr. Smith agrees with Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis' declarations of deporting illegal migrants, but he is not keen on the date of December 31st.

"Continue to investigate and arrest those who come

here illegally; those who are working without a work permit; those who have over stayed illegally; those who are trafficking people; Bahamians and foreigners who are employing people illegally; arrest, take them before the court, prosecute them; that is the rule of law," Mr. Smith affirmed.

Attorney Crispin Hall, junior counsel working with Smith said, "It's unfortunate that the immigration officers and the immigration department are acting above the law; they are not acting in consistency with the immigration act.

"As long as they continue to do that, we will continue to bring these habeas corpus actions; until the immigration officers follow the proper procedure. Today was a step in the right direction."

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

## Disability Concerns All, Says Parliamentary Secretary

Continued from / PAGE 3...

"This is why this Ministry continues to be deliberate in addressing the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, particularly through its Disability Affairs Division, its National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, and its technical and financial support of many of the disability organizations.

"Our recognition of the rights of persons with disabilities means they must be included, they must not be discriminated against, they must be supported and they must be given the opportunities and the means to participate equally in society," he said.

Moreover, Mr. Miller remarked that it is important to give attention to implementing measures to avoid preventable disabilities.

"Creating an environment that empowers persons with disabilities involves a commitment to investing in all people, including persons with disabilities by creating employment opportunities, affordable and accessible healthcare and social protection. "Indeed, as the old adage goes, 'when the tide rises all boats float'. A sustainable and resilient society means everyone is better prepared to take advantage of opportunities, become agents of change and can more readily embrace their civic responsibilities," said Mr. Miller.

He extended appreciation to current and past members of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities for the work given in the past three years. The present Commission's term will soon end and a new Commission will begin work within the next two weeks.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS** from Roberts Furniture

**CHRISTMAS DINNER'S ON US**  
JUST SPEND \$300

**Save 30%**  
ON ALL Bassett FURNITURE

**ENTER TO Win 4PC BEDROOM SET & OTHER PRIZES!**

**Save UP TO 25%** 

**Save 50% LINEN DEPARTMENT**

**SAVE 20% STOREWIDE • DEC 7TH - 9TH**

*Roberts Furniture*  
5th Terrace & East Avenue  
CENTREVILLE  
Phone: 322-8862  
 Join us on Facebook

\*VISIT STORE FOR COMPLETE DETAILS

**BED PILLOWS FROM \$8**



**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 --

Charles William Selwyn, Single,  
of Ridge Barn, West Chillington Lane, Coneyhurst, West Sussex, RH14 9DN, United Kingdom

and

Georgina Rose O'Shea, Single,  
of 10 Elmstead Close, Epsom, Surrey, KT19 0EA, 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 December, 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 --

Bradley James Waldoch, Single,  
of 1218 Lynrose Ln, Neenah WI 54956, United States of America

and

Maria Leslie Judnick, Single,  
of 1218 Lynrose Ln, Neenah WI 54956, 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 December, 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 --

George Vincent Sipp, Single,  
of 68 Maine Trail Medford, NJ 08055, United States of America

and

Jessica Leigh Scola, Single,  
of 68 Maine Trail Medford, NJ 08055, 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 December, 2017.

*Signature*

Registrar of Marriages

# Letter to the Editor

# PERRY CHRISTIE IS NO SCAPEGOAT

DEAR EDITOR,

Hubert A. Minnis is the Prime Minister!

FNM is the government, so they should stop complaining about the previous government and fix all of the things they say went wrong, if that is what they intend to do.

Seven months after the Bahamian people voted overwhelmingly for a change, there can be no more blaming the previous government for what the present government, under the leadership of Hubert Alexander Minnis has not done yet, or the childish missteps he has made.

It does not matter if Mr. Christie lost his seat by a landslide or not, Minnis is the PM. He cannot hold a candle to Perry Gladstone Christie in any way shape or form, regardless what anyone may think or say. Be honest, there is absolutely no comparison.

This is not the first time that the Bahamian people voted overwhelmingly many times before. In 2012 Hubert A. Ingraham, after using the party, abandoned ship and "break off running". So much for a soldier.

I applaud Mr. Christie for not being a coward and hiding to please those who would want him to disappear. Appearing to support a colleague in his hour of need is commendable, many usually abandon their friends, which is so unfortunate.

But not a dog say bow wow when a bishop and the President of The Bahamas Bar Association went to court to support and give character reference to an accused, charged and convicted with possession of having ammunition (bullets), but I guess that's ok.

Furthermore, the naked truth is Christie has much to be proud of, he saw to the implementation of VAT after collaboration with the private sector. While it may have been a bit uncomfortable for some, it took courage to bring it to

fruition, especially because it has been the vehicle for government to create a revenue stream, that was desperately needed.

Hubert Ingraham started beating the drum of the missing VAT money, knowing it to be a lie, but because it was him saying it, the gullible electorate swallowed it hook line and sinker, actually they swallowed the boat.

Minnis said that the hurricane relief money was missing only to have Turnquest confess that they were lying. But as God would have it, every single cent was accounted for.

Christie was supposed to be delusional for believing that Baha Mar would open and all of the lies associated to a fake opening but the same BAHAMA MAR that Minnis threatened to sell is here and opened.

The jury is still out on the many accusations hurled at the former prime minister. Time will soon tell how much of the noise in the market is reality or justifiable.

Say what you wish, many had jobs, today many are hollering about being fired, while highly paid foreign consultants are still employed.

Since May, the FNM government has already borrowed almost one billion dollars

The hypocrisy being express these days about the PLP and self interest must not be paying any attention to the The Minister of Investment Trade and Immigration intentions to be a one stop shop.

And any suggestion about the awarding of contracts, must not have heard about the aragonite, harbour and the city dump.

When we compare, we must be mindful that in a short time, we have witnessed the disintegration of a government, with many eye-popping incidences that would scream that the Bahamian electorate have "picked a needle without an eye!"

Time is already beginning

to tell if the spoils are already being shared, especially to the former FNM administration and its major players. So any attempt to speak disparagingly about the former administration would be highly hypocritical.

In spite of all that has been said and done to Christie since May, the shocking thing is that less than a year, even though some would play the ostrich, Minnis is deep in male cow's droppings.

Nothing could be more dangerous, if the truth be told, when a multi-millionaire being in charge of all of the investments and immigration. Failing to see this is not as bad as seeing what is happening and refusing to say so to just to keep face for politics is cowardice in the highest order.

Abhishek Tiwari said, "I respect people who are honest from the start, not cowards who hide behind lies and deceit."

So stop this unnecessary pandering, the world could see for themselves and we all know who is capable or not and who has really reach their limits in ability and who are out of their depth.

Perry Christie will have the last laugh, that is if he hasn't already burst out laughing.

These days many are afraid of talking because of the fear of being targeted, especially from recent behaviours.

For the first time the rule of law has been abandoned, human rights is severely being brought into question and fear is gradually setting in.

Finally, I am looking for anyone who would contribute to me clearing ten forty-foot containers of popcorn. There is a show going on, it is getting more interesting by the day, we cant wait for tomorrow.

Sincerely,  
Ivoine W. Ingraham

The Bahama Journal Is An Independent Newspaper - Published Week Days  
By The Communicators & Associates In Affiliation With Jones Communications Ltd.

East St. North - P.O. Box N-8610  
Telephone: 242-325-3082 - Fax: 242 -356-7256

Wendall K. Jones  
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

The Bahama Journal  
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Kimaley P. Jones  
Vice President Operations

E D I T O R I A L

# PERFECTLY PITIFUL!

"They are duplicitous and are losing the battle on crime. It is shameful." Loretta Butler-Turner.

Once upon a time, THEY who were said to be duplicitous as regards this country's high and rising incidence of crime running amok bided their time – and in time – THEY said the same of their comrades.

On occasion, they are PLP's. At other times, they are FNM's---and as most Bahamians would attest: Come ELECTION-TIME one of the two gloat whilst the other wallows in defeat.

And as the record shows: This time around the PLP's defeat looked a lot like a rout.

All we know is this: Looks can be deceiving! Indeed, then: If there is but one thing we know for sure, that one thing would concern the futility of having anyone believe that any politician – living or dead – has ever had 'the answer' as to how the high and rising incidence of crime on the hoof in today's deeply troubled Bahamas.

In truth, investigation would show that neither the Progressive Liberal Party nor the Free National Movement has ever made the difference that mattered. And clearly, too, no police commissioner – whether appointed or 'dis-appointed' – has made a difference that really and truly mattered.

In truth, investigation – however robust or however parlous – would lead to the conclusion that: Crime in the suites continues apace whilst crime on our streets ebbs and flows in tandem with the depredations of the likes of those social parasites the Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis, prime minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas once described as 'murderous' scumbags.

Alas! We are currently – as in 'like nobody's business' – struggling with a mess that has roots which go deeper than most people would dare realize.

Indeed, there is abundance galore to suggest that the carnage on our streets and throughout our islands has roots that go – without interruption – to that sadly tragic era when any number of 'narco'-criminals did their thing.

As they did what they had to do—any number of Bahamians –masses and classes- found themselves living off the proceeds of crime; this time around the cargo was cocaine and to a much lesser degree, marijuana; and thus, also the attempted

pollution, corruption and diversion of not only our political class, but also some who were highly placed in some of our churches!

In truth, then: It now seems so very long ago – as today we recall some of that blame – stuff which attaches to the stuff which comes packaged in with public discussion as to not what is responsible for the high and rising incidence of crime, but for an answer as to who should be blamed for the mess.

Our records suggest that the mavens in the hierarchy of the Progressive liberal Party would 'blame' their nemeses in the Free National Movement.

And clearly, then, that other mainstream party – The FNM – would blame the PLP!

They who would be wise should accept that this is just the way THEY do things in a land where the two major political parties play their word games every night and every day.

One egregious example of this kind of mock attack on the credibility of the other party whilst in opposition to its political nemeses can be seen in an echo-repeat which we repeat of one of Loretta Butler-Turner's now vintage attacks on the PLP.

And so we request that you read and smile since all and sundry now know how that Butler-Turner saga turned out on May 10th. 2017!

The media report to which we have alluded is as follows: Free National Movement (FNM) Deputy Leader Loretta Butler-Turner yesterday blasted National Security Minister Dr. Bernard Nottage who called for the opposition and the government to stand together against crime in the face of crime warnings from other countries.

Nottage's comments [we are told] preceded an e-mail alert on Friday by the United States Embassy in Nassau warning its citizens to be on the alert for armed robberies.

As the then mouth-piece for 'her' party, Butler-Turner grandly and scornfully proclaimed:

"When they (the U.S.) were issuing similar statements during our tenure, there was no cry by the then opposition to let's have one voice on crime. They are duplicitous and are losing the battle on crime. It is shameful."

Today the beat goes onas THEY castigate each other!

This is not shameful—in the circumstances currently prevalent: It is so perfectly pitiful!

# AOPA Thanks The Bahamas For Its On-going Commitment to General Aviation

PLANTATION, Florida – Mr. Mark Baker, President and CEO of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) recently thanked The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation (MOTA) for its ongoing commitment to general aviation (GA).

In a plaque presented to the Ministry, Mr. Baker “thanked and commended the MOTA for its ongoing commitment to general aviation and for its outstanding support and dedication in the preparation of its 2017 Fly In to The Bahamas from Tampa, Florida”.

The fly in which took place, October 29-31, into Grand Bahama following AOPA’s annual general convention in Tampa, was organized by Bahamas Flying Ambassador, Captain Mike Zidziunas and Captain Greg Rolle, pilot and Sr. Director of Sports and Vertical Markets, MOTA. Five AOPA pilots participated in the fly in.

“The Bahamas is one of the most popular destinations for general aviation pilots, and we would love to see this continue and even grow said Mr. Baker. Along with Canada

and Mexico, they represent 86 percent of annual international GA flights from the United States”.

Captain Rolle said, “The Bahamas truly enjoys its wonderful partnership and relationship with AOPA, which has proven to be, invaluable for the country. With our multiple islands chain and airports, scattered over 100,000 square miles of crystal clear water and our close proximity to the USA, pilots have found it easy, convenient and enjoyable to fly into our beautiful islands,” he said.

AOPA, which has a membership of approximately 400,000, is the largest aviation association in the world. The non-profit organization serves as political advocates for pilots, air safety, and utility and is dedicated to improving general aviation worldwide. The Bahamas was the first country to accept pilots flying into the country using BasicMed, the FAA’s new medical certification, which allows pilots flying non-commercial aircrafts weighing less than 6,000 pounds to forgo using their third class medical certifi-

cates, an initiative lobbied for by AOPA.

They are also the publishers of the AOPA Pilots Guides for The Bahamas and the Caribbean, which provides runway and navigational information, customs and immigration procedures and safety and survival tips.

#### ABOUT THE BAHAMAS

The Islands of The Bahamas have a place in the sun for everyone. Each island has its own personality and attractions for a variety of vacation styles with some of the world’s best scuba diving, fishing, sailing, boating, as well as, shopping and dining. The destination offers an easily accessible tropical getaway and provides convenience for travelers with pre-clearance through U.S. customs and immigration, and the Bahamian dollar is on par with the U.S. dollar. Do everything or do nothing, just remember It’s Better in The Bahamas. For more information call 1-800-Bahamas or visit [www.Bahamas.com](http://www.Bahamas.com). Look for The Bahamas on the web on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



► Pictured with the plaque of appreciation from left to right are: Leonard Stuart, District Manager, Vertical Markets, MOTA and Captain Greg Rolle, pilot and Sr. Director of Sports and Vertical Markets, MOTA.

# Hanna's

## Plumbing & Electrical Supplies

**We ship to the family Islands**

**We Carry:**

Toilets

Lavatories

Heaters

Tubs

DWV Fittings

Water Tanks

Faucet Repair Kits

\* Water Pumps

\* Faucets

\* Gas Fittings

\* PVC & CPVC Fittings

\* Kitchen Sinks

\* Tankless Water Heaters

**Complete line of Plumbing Supplies**

Tel: (242) 325-7846

323-1494 or 356 – 0946

Fax: (242) 323-6077

Cordeaux Ave, & Palm Beach St.

In God Almighty Whom We Trust

P. O. Box N -7416, Nassau, Bahamas



# 'Strong Women, Strong Families, Strong Communities'



► Shonel Ferguson speaks at Doris Johnson Senior High School, celebrating National Women's Week 2017.

The Department of Gender and Family Affairs, Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development hosted several activities to commemorate 'National Women's Week 2017' being observed in The Bahamas November 26 through December 9.

The activities reflect the progress of Bahamian women, celebrate their accomplishments and address social issues impacting them.

The week incorporates the annual observance of National Women's Day, November 26, with recognition of the 25th anniversary of that day. This year in The Bahamas, the observance has been extended an additional week. The theme for the week is "Strong Women. Strong Families. Strong Communities."

Among the activities were an awareness raising/report sharing session on The Bahamas' Sixth Periodic Report to Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), November 28, and a special school assembly at Doris Johnson High School, November 29.

Panelists in the CEDAW discussion were Ambassador Rhoda Jackson, Acting Permanent Secretary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Marion Bethel, The Bahamas' candidate for (CEDAW); Donna Nicolls, Bahamas Crisis Centre; and Deandra Cartwright, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The event was attended by the Director of Gender and Family Affairs, Gaynel Curry; government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations including Zonta Club of The Bahamas.

CEDAW is an international treaty adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly. Described as an international bill of rights for women, it was instituted on September 3, 1981 and has been ratified by 189 states.

In her remarks, Ms. Jackson said CEDAW is much more than a legal document to be discussed by policy makers and lawyers. She said it represents a commitment by a Government to its people, which seeks full respect for the rights and dignity of women in the country, and is therefore an instrument that belongs to the people it is intended to protect.

As The Bahamas celebrates the advances to protect women's rights in the past two decades, Ms. Jackson urged those present to remember the shortcomings that still exist and give those areas priority.

"One of the most notable inadequacies is the need for additional changes to The Bahamas' Constitution relative to gender equality. This is paramount to fulfilling the

Convention's mandate to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. As long as gender disparities exist, The Bahamas would not have lived up to the mandate the country pledged to uphold, when we signed onto CEDAW.

"I am, therefore, pleased by the presence of representatives from civil society and public sector organizations here today. Public fora of this nature should be at the helm of the engagement process. The government should strive to continue ongoing dialogue and collaboration with national and international women's organizations, schools, churches and religious groups, also, devising a plan for expansion of the role of the two latter groups. Educational campaigns that generate awareness of women's issues and also the Convention will form an integral part of combating the ills that affect women, particularly since educational campaigns in schools will target both girls and boys, who are armed with useful instructions which become extremely meaningful as they become women and men," she said.

In her overview, Ms. Marion Bethel urged civil society groups to hold the government accountable for the advancement of the optional protocol tool of the CEDAW Convention, which allows improvements in human rights.

Shonel Ferguson, MP for Fox Hill, addressed the special assembly at Doris Johnson Senior High. She told the students that they can determine the path that they want their lives to take. She reminded them that they are created to succeed, designed to win and equipped to overcome. The assembly was attended by IDB representatives, Mrs. Patricia Minnis, wife of Prime Minister Hubert Minnis; senators and education officials.



### 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 --

Samuel Evans Love, Single,  
of 47 Regina Close, Worcester, WR2 4DF, United Kingdom

and

Philippa Jane Cheshire, Single,  
of 47 Regina Close, Worcester, WR2 4DF, 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 December, 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 --

Kenneth Hamilton, Divorced,  
of 10 Lincoln St., Gateshead NE8 4EE, United Kingdom

and

Sheila Diana Knight, Widowed,  
of 10 Lincoln St., Gateshead NE8 4EE, 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 7th day of December, 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 --

Michael Cody Snare, Single,  
of 37898 Mallast, Harrison Twp, MI 48045, United States of America

and

Emily Marion Mazure, Single,  
of 37898 Mallast, Harrison Twp, MI 48045, 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 7th day of December, 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 Alan Ripley, Divorced,  
of 413 Hamilton Road, Coogee, Western 6166, Australia

and

Cynthia Mosca, Single,  
of 413 Hamilton Road, Coogee, Western 6166, 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 7th day of December, 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 John Kelly, Single,  
of 3a/725 Wellington Street, Perth, WA 6000, Australia

and

Hoi Yan Tang, Single,  
of 55 Ma Tseuk Leng, San UK Ha, 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 7th day of December, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages