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WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 20TH, 2017

75 CENTS



JUDGE HEARS CASE OF MISSING MAN

BY AMAJAH L KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

The case of Jean Rony Jean Charles took center stage yesterday as proceedings got underway yesterday in the Supreme Court, with his attorney Fred Smith saying that his client's deportation was unlawful and unjust.

The hearing before Mr. Justice Gregory Hilton was prompted by a Writ of Habeas Corpus filed by Mr. Smith and Rights Bahamas on behalf of Jean Rony's family.

In his submission Mr. Smith argued that documents filed by the Department of Immigration on December 8th does not lawfully justify the arrest or detention of the applicant (Jean Rony).

■ See **JUDGE HEARS** / page 2...

Haitian Detainees Freed

BY AMAJAH L KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

A Supreme Court Judge has freed and granted bail to eight adults and three children who had been detained at the Carmichael Road Detention Center.

They, along with four people

released unconditionally last week, bring the total to 15 individuals who have been freed from The Detention Center this month.

These include Kediesha Bent-John and her daughter Chitara John, Gerna Jean-Tinord and her daughter Gemma Joseph, Verante Mocomber and her daughter Claudia Norcin, Emmanuel Simeon, Michelot Merilien, Anselet Curry, Mirlene Corvil,

Earl Burton and Fanel Gassant.

Attorney Fred Smith, President of Rights Bahamas, who represented all 15, and Attorney Damian Gomez and their juniors, argued that all had been detained unlawfully and told the court that there is no law requiring people to prove they have status or to produce documents on demand.

The Supreme Court had

ordered the Department of Immigration to justify its detention of the applicants. However, they failed to respond in all cases, including the case of Jean Rony Jean-Charles, the missing detainee who immigration officials claim they deported to Haiti. However the Haitian authorities say they have no record of him.

■ See **DETAINEES FREED** / page 2...

Renewed Focus On Marital Rape

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
Journal Staff Writer

Following a United Nation representative's comments on a proposed marital rape law last week, two cabinet ministers have shared their views on the matter.

The UN's special rapporteur on violence against women Dubravka Simonovic placed renewed focus on the issue as she pointed to the country's failure to criminalize marital rape.

Deputy Prime Minister Peter Turnquest and Social Services Minister Lanisha Rolle are gave their views yesterday on the issue.



► Minister of Social Services, Lanisha Rolle (**Journal file photo**)

■ See **RENEWED** / page 2...

New Procurement Bill Promised

BY ONIKE ARCHER
Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamian government is changing the way people and businesses bid for government contracts. This was revealed yesterday by Finance Minister Peter Turnquest at a press conference held in The Office of the Prime Minister at Sir Cecil Wallace-Whitfield Center.

The government has introduced the opening of the E-Tendering and Supply registry, which will connect to the new Information and Communications Technology (ICT) system. This system will align itself with the upcoming National Procurement Form under the public procurement act of 2018.

These changes are key steps under the public financial management and performance monitoring reform project. It will also provide more accountability and transparency as it relates to how transactions are conducted.

Emphasizing that the Free National Movement (FNM) is making good on their campaign promise as it relates to accountability, transparency and modernization to the country, Mr. Turnquest stated, "this initiative will lead a fundamental change in the way the govern-

ment does business.

"Today, we announce in earnest the first steps in changing how persons bid for government contracts, purchases, otherwise known as procurement."

As the government is a procurer of goods and services and spends \$1.5 billion to deliver these goods and services to The Bahamas, this new procurement process will strength the bidding process.

Early next year, a new procurement bill will be introduced for the consideration of Parliament, further explaining how this initiative will work.

Mr. Turnquest says "this bill will call for the establishment of a fully digital platform and its intended electric registry system."

The new bill will provide for the establishment for a public procurement department, a public procurement board and importantly the appointment of public review tribunal to give recourse to people who believe that there have been injustices rendered to them during the tendering process.

In addition, the government anticipates that these measure will also increase competition and accountability leading to savings passed on to tax payers.

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Haitian Detainees Freed

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mr. Justice Gregory Hilton gave Immigration one more opportunity to respond to the cases, which they must do by December 26th.

Along with the bail requirements, the persons are also required to check

in at the department of Immigration every Wednesday until they return to court on their respective dates.

Earlier this month, two men who filed habeas corpus applications were released from custody by Immigration officials.

One of the men, Jamaican barber Ricardo Johnson was released from the Detention Centre the day after his habeas corpus application was filed in court.

The second, Regional Raymonvil, a 31-year-old born in the Bahamas to non-Bahamian parents,

was in possession of his Haitian passport and application forms when he was arrested in Grand Bahama on November 29, his affidavit claimed.

He was released from custody the same day by the Supreme Court. He too is represented by Mr. Smith.

JUDGE HEARS CASE OF MISSING MAN

Continued from / PAGE 1...

He said this case was not complicated; either the arrest was lawful or it wasn't.

Mr. Smith further charged that the documents presented by the department for a one "Jean Charles" had a conflicting birth date from the certificate provided by Jean Rony's family.

He noted that this factual issue highlighted whether the person the Immigration Department has referred to as Jean Charles was actually Jean Rony Charles.

Based on the order filed by the Immigration Department, Jean Rony was arrested during a routine status check on Fire Trail Road and was asked to produce his documents which he failed to do and was then remanded to the Detention Center.

The lawyer also argued that the respondents themselves have yet to produce a deportation order for Jean Rony's deportation; adding that they themselves admitted that his client is a Bahamian, based on a repatriation list that states his birthplace as Nassau, Bahamas.

Countering for the Crown was Gary Francis who in his opening submission said the writ was flawed, as the law requires that an affidavit being made in the third person must state why the person cannot make it them self.

He argued that the application was erroneous and defective and should be dismissed by the court.

Mr. Francis said that the Department of Immigration is unable to bring back the man in question, as he is out of their jurisdiction, and asking the government to extract this individual from a foreign country was a nearly impossible task.

He added that ultimately, the information that was provided by Jean Charles was meant to deceive officials and unfortunately led to his own deportation.

Attorney Smith then countered by saying there is no sworn affidavit by the respondents or airplane manifesto to confirm if Jean Rony was actually flown out.

The matter was adjourned for a ruling.

RBPF HOLDS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING SERVICE



Children enjoying the "candy rain" at the recent Royal Bahamas Police Force Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. (BIS Photo / Eric Rose)

Renewed Focus On Marital Rape

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"My personal belief is that no man has the right to force himself on any woman, married or not," Turnquest said.

"We do not support any form of violence towards women. That is the stance the country has taken and I am of that belief. In relation to marital rape, I've always said that it is an issue that is private and it can become public, but we want to start where marriage is sacred and marriage is private," Rolle said.

The Social Services Minister added that the issue demands a conversation with the wider community in order to get a consensus.

She added that legislation that manages people's lives must be agreed upon by the wider community.

"If we're going to legislate something like that, we must have the wide support of the community because we want to protect the privacy of individ-

uals and of marriages," Rolle said.

She added that the issue is not gender specific, as it's not just rape against women, but men as well.

"A lot of people don't know that and many times when men go and report that, they are laughed at and we have to look at this from a wider perspective. We can't look one sided," Rolle said.

The Deputy Prime Minister said he's open to having a conversation on changing the legislation.

"It's something we need to look at. There is this argument from some churches with respect to this right, but I don't share this view. I think that each of us has a right to decide for ourselves and to protect ourselves and to the extent that someone forces themselves on someone, there should be consequences," Turnquest said.

In 2009, the Ingraham administration sought to criminalize all forms of marital rape.

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Participants in the training. BIS Photos/Derek Smith

Accreditation and Internal Auditing Training Session by Standards Agencies of Bahamas and Jamaica

BY SYDNEI L. ISAACS
Bahamas Information Services

The Bahamas Bureau of Standards and Quality (BBSQ) hosted a one-day training session on the importance and benefits of accreditation and the fundamentals of internal auditing in collaboration with the Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation (JANAAC), December 18, 2017 at the Paul Farquharson Centre, Police Headquarters.

The training, for public and private stakeholders, provided an overview on the importance of accreditation and the requirements of the international standard ISO 19011-Guidelines for auditing management systems.

Minister of Labour,

Senator the Hon. Dion Foulkes in his address of the forum, stated: "The aim of this training exercise is to equip participants with an understanding of Internal Auditing based on requirements of the international standard."

He said that internal audits provide a unique opportunity for better customer satisfaction, yielding "significant consequences in advancing our national development and [helping] to further renewed partnerships with regional counterparts."

The Minister extended a special thanks to international facilitator and sponsor of the event, CEO of JANAAC, Mrs. Sharonmae Shirley.

The training session

was moderated by BBSQ Councilman and Director of Public Health, Dr. Pearl McMillian, with submissions by CEO of JANAAC, Sharonmae Shirley; Director of the BBSQ, Dr. Renae Ferguson-Bufford; Chairman of BBSQ Council, and Sr. Manager of Health and Safety Unit, Human Resources, BTC, Pauline V. Curry; and Vice-Chairman of BBSQ Council, and CEO of the Bahamas Chamber of Employers' Confederation, Edison Sumner. Certificates were presented at the session's end.

Mrs. Shirley commented on the importance of accreditation and how it will "stimulate the demand for quality prod-

ucts and services." She also extended thanks to the Director of the BBSQ, Mrs. Renae Ferguson-Bufford for her great efforts in helping to

organize the training session.

Minister Foulkes said he trusted the outcome of the session would encourage the highest

level of standards in all areas of production and services, and align performance with requirements of the World Trade Organization.



Minister of Labour, Senator the Hon. Dion Foulkes with BBSQ Director Dr. Renae Ferguson-Bufford, left, and CEO of JANAAC, Sharonmae Shirley.

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► From L to R: Princess Burrows, Ranfurly Home Asst. Administrator, Colleen Crawford, Deirdre Roache, Alexander Roberts, Ranfurly Home Administrator, Barry Pike and John Saunders-Forsthye. Photo / Donovan Brown JCN

GOOD SAMARITANS SHARING FOR CHRISTMAS

BY ONIKE ARCHER
Journal Staff Writer

Christmas is a time for sharing, gifting those you love and for many, donating to the less fortunate. Good Samaritan Barry Pike is doing just that.

On a trip to the Ranfurly Home yesterday Mr. Pike said, "part of the Bahamas is giving and we are donating necessities. There are things that the children don't have like shampoos, tooth brushes and toothpaste. Just the necessities, stuff they don't really have."

Mr. Pike along with his fiancé Colleen Crawford and Deidre Roache, a friend, visited three different shelters before arriving to the Ranfurly Homes yesterday.

"This is our third trip today. We started at another orphanage. We went to the Nazareth Center and the Old Folk's Home and we have one more stop after this. We are going to the Humane Society. We bought 120 pounds

of dog food for the dogs," Mr. Pike told The Journal.

He said "we went to the Old Folks home today and I spent the last two weeks baking for these people and we bought packages; and we gave every single person, plus some extra packages of carrot cake muffins and trays of cookies.

"We just looked around and they really didn't have enough food for Christmas. I talked to the Reverend there and she said; "we have no food"."

After speaking with the Reverend at The Old Folk's Home, a resolved Mr. Pike, persistent to make a difference and lend a helping hand went to Super Value to purchase more groceries for the needy.

"We jumped in the car and we went to Super Value. We went in and bought Turkeys, Hams; all sorts of stuff, like \$4 hundred dollars worth of stuff.

"Well, Mr. Roberts found out what we were doing and he just saved me \$4 hundred dollars.

Mr. Roberts said, "you're not going to pay for that. Super Value is going to donate the food to The Old Folks Home. This is what Christmas is all about," Mr. Pike shared.

Mr. Pike also stated that he and his family have an awful lot and they have been very blessed in life and wants to give back.

After seeing the kids (at the orphanages), we are going to be sharing with those kids. Maybe they will have a better chance at life if we help them out.

Ms. Crawford also shared her experience with The Bahama Journal.

"We are responsible for packing all the gift bags for the beautiful kids, but there is one story that really stood out today for us.

"A little girl came up to me at the Nazareth Center and ran in my arms; I couldn't stop crying and as we were leaving a little boy ran out to the truck and said, 'Take me home with you'. It made me cry.

"These kids are so beautiful and we have a lot; so let's spread the love this Christmas," Ms. Crawford said.

Recently obtaining his Bahamian permanent residency, Mr. Pike expressed that he wanted to become part of The Bahamas more. Mr. Pike and his fiancé are both originally from Toronto, Canada.

Ranfurly Homes Administrator, Alexander Roberts expressed his gratitude for the donation Mr. Pike has given saying,

"On my arrival on the property this morning, I was told that Mr. Barry Pike and his family had made a considerable donation to the children in terms of Christmas Gifts.

"I want to say on behalf of the children, in particular, and the board and the staff in general, how grateful we are for this act of kindness. I'm sure it will go a long way to bring joy in the

hearts of the children," Mr. Roberts told The Bahama Journal.

During the Christmas season, The Ranfurly Home generally receives individual gifts for the children from private people.

Moreover, annually, it costs an excess of \$5 hundred thousand dollars a year to run the orphanage. An annual raffle is conducted which raise between \$70 to \$120 thousand dollars a year. The orphanage also receives a government grant in the amount of \$102 thousand dollars.

Mr. Roberts is hopeful for an additional \$300 thousand dollars from the generosity from individuals and corporations at home and abroad.

The Ranfurly Home caters to high school age children as young as eleven to over eighteen years.

"As long as they are in high school, they have a home here," Mr. Roberts said.

MINISTER INTERVENES IN GAMING BOARD LAYOFFS

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
Journal Staff Writer

The Minister of Labour Dion Foulkes has arranged a meeting with Gaming Board executives to hear the concerns of laid off workers.

After a lengthy meeting with the Bahamas Public Services Union (BPSU) on Monday, Mr. Foulkes said he understands their concerns and will meet with the Gaming Board today.

"The BPSU has five major concerns that I intend to raise with the Gaming Board board members; I've requested an urgent meeting with them," Foulkes said.

The challenge with today's meeting is that a few of the board members are off the island, but the minister said still he is hoping to push forward so that the concerns can be heard.

The minister said hopefully after the meeting, a further update could be given on the particulars.

The BPSU raised concerns on behalf of their members several weeks ago.

Earlier in the month Gaming Board Chairman Kenyatta Gibson noted severe overstaffing coupled with the need to ensure the future viability of the board as an effective regulator were the reasons behind the layoffs of 30 gaming employees.

Feed The 5,000 Benefit Many

BY EARYEL BOWLEG
Journal Intern

Some 350 persons were the recipients yesterday in the Bahamas Feeding Network and AML Foods Limited 2nd Annual Feed 5,000 campaign in New Providence and Grand Bahama.

The food was distributed in the parking lot of Solomon's at Yamacraw.

Hunger is said to be a silent struggle for many in The Bahamas. It's estimated that one in six Bahamians are chronically hungry. The packages included food a family would need to make a Christmas dinner.

"At AML, one of the areas of advocacy for us is helping to eliminate hunger and having a relationship with Bahamas Feeding Network we realize that there are so many people in our community

who don't have the basic necessities just to have a meal every day. So, we definitely felt that as an organization in the food industry, it's basically our responsibility to help," said President of Marketing Renee Bastian.

Last year's drive was a success with raising \$64,000. This year drive is proving to be one as well, according to Executive Director of Bahamas Feeding Network Phillip Smith.

"This year we have raised \$83,000. We will distribute about 2,100 parcels of food. We'll do that between Nassau and Grand Bahama. A total of some 64 organizations make up The Bahamas Feeding Network. These organization consists of churches, feeding centers, and soup kitchens," explained Smith.

The extra hands came

from charities affiliated with the organizations in partnership. For one participant, Lily-Mae Gaydem, helping during this time of the year means a lot.

"Seeing that I'm retired person, I do whatever I can help around. When I first retired, I just put on jeans and a polo shirt tennis and walk through the short ends. But I can't do too much walking now

because I had to get a pacemaker. I had to slow down. But, I just love it," explained Gaydem.

Gaydem added that typically one person would pick up food for a group of people the neighbourhood they live in.

Throughout the year, there are other food drives the Food Networking Services has. This one in particular was 6 weeks in the making.

GOT NEWS?
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Failed In Their First Duty To The Nation

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

The Attorney General of the new Minnis Administration proudly talked about the moves they made that ended up appeasing Save The Bays with respect to some of their cases against the Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

In a constitutional matter deciding our country's ability to make use of its parliamentary system—a system that has been in place since our founding—this new Government dropped the appeal. In doing so, they granted Save The Bays the win, which upended our parliamentary democracy.

First of all who does that?

And it appears they couldn't wait to do it. The new Government was elected in May of 2017 and a month later, in June of 2017, they had already dropped the appeal—no thought, no discussion, no nothing! Did they not think that parliamentary scholars would want to weigh in on such a decision impacting the constitutional rights of The Bahamas?

Then, they throw their Registrar General's Department under the bus cancelling the request to Save The Bays to prove that they are truly a non-profit operating as they should, as all nonprofits in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas had to do.

The Registrar General's department requested some one hundred non-profit organizations, including Save The Bays, to submit documents to the department for compliance with international laws and requirements and the Bahamas' new Companies (Non-Profit Organizations) Regulations of 2014. This is what the Registrar General's Department explained about its requests to all nonprofits:

"The law allows the Registrar General

THE CLIFTON REVIEW

By P. J. Malone

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

to request documents including those that detail the organization's purpose, objective, and activities. It also provides for the identification of persons who control or direct the activities of the organization and any financial records that show the source of the gross annual income of the organization, explain the transactions within and outside The Bahamas and that show that the funds of the organization have been used in a manner consistent with its objective and activities."

Why would the Attorney General and the Minnis Administration reject the opportunity to do due diligence on an organization that has United States Treasury Department 501(c)(3) status and yet engages in political action and reportedly has millions of dollars funneled through it from a foreign entity?

Does the Government of The Bahamas realize how bad this looks? Do they realize that they have failed in their first duty to protect the Bahamas by choosing to appease an organization with representatives who engage in behavior that is nefarious and unpatriotic?

Who chooses such an organization over the wellbeing of its nation that they are sworn to serve?

But what we are really curious about is how the Attorney General intends to get Save The Bays to reduce the fees of almost 1 million dollars that the Bahamian taxpayers now have to pay because of the Attorney General's foolish decision to drop the appeal in the parliamentary privilege case.

If successful, implications 'gone to bed'. 'Nuff said'.

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E D I T O R I A L

REALLY-REAL DEALS

We are pursuing the exact same policy of the colonial government of 1957, of the UBP of 1963 of the PLP in its decades in power. We have a system of round ups, crackdowns: whatever you want to call them. All Governments have failed to excise the problem by dealing with it in that way. The Hon. Frederick A. Mitchell.

Dearly beloved, note well the above captioned Fred Mitchell-authored quotation: This, then, is the real issue which is not being dealt with in a time when they who are making the plays should - if they are honest - cue the Bahamian people in on the really-real deal.

In the meantime, take note of Mitchell's poignant conclusion: The migrant population from Haiti remains here and remains stable despite the best efforts of every Government and every Director of Immigration. There is no reason to believe that this Government will be any more successful with this policy.

It is also that other fact which matters so very much---that once upon a time migrant population is making a large contribution not only to any number of Bahamian-owned businesses; but also to the wider community where they play a large role in providing services to any and everybody in need of such.

But yet, the politically inspired games continue.

This is such a mighty waste of both time and money- and what's more:- They who are 'only doing' what they consider 'their jobs' are waking to discover that they are dancing on the thinnest of ice-floes

Here we are quite certain that a candid Fred Mitchell - if pressed - would also admit that such games are played by both the current administration and its Loyal Opposition.

As a rueful and perfectly candid Mitchell once confessed as we repeat:---"...We are pursuing the exact same policy of the colonial government of 1957, of the UBP of 1963 of the PLP in its decades in power. We have a system of round ups, crackdowns: whatever you want to call them.

As he goes on to note:---"All Governments have failed to excise the problem by dealing with it in that way. When he said "this government"—the reference made then had to do with how the Progressive Liberal Party [whilst in office treated with the so-called 'Haitian' problem in and to The Bahamas.

Now Attorney Fred Smith, QC enters the arena! He is surely an extraordinary human

rights advocate if ever there was another one such on God's green earth!

So say what you like; do what you like - The Haitian people are here to stay; [And] For that matter, we should all be honest enough to admit that: Their work and toil now provide the worker -basis for any number of phenomenally successful service-oriented businesses---And as the attentive public would realize by now, much of what Mitchell said now echoes much of what a nemesis of his Attorney Fred Smith, QC is now both saying, confirming and litigating--- as part and parcel of a long day's work in the Office!

Smith notes that: On November 1, 2014, armed officers from the Immigration Department and The Royal Bahamas Defense Force began descending on sleeping communities in the dead of night, terrorizing residents and rounding up people indiscriminately, Bahamian and foreigner alike.

What followed were more aggressive round-ups and swift deportations, including the expulsion of minors - born here to migrant parents - who have a right to be registered as Bahamian citizens.

The beat was the same as it always has been from the late nineteen-fifties to this fateful time in the year 2017---which even as it slouches to its own fated denouement--- and thus We. Too, await the decision of the court as regards one of Smith's clients who is purportedly a man who knows no other country but The Bahamas and who - as Smith claims-is currently being denied rights that are - by birth-right - his to have respected and provided on time!

Time will tell [and clearly also]: We too shall see what comes with Time as it speaks concerning that matter of the much bally-hooed Smith inspired call for a writ of Habeas Corpus! The state authority must - as Smith claims-let the world know and see the body of that man who as it were-has been disappeared.

We too wait for that great day!
The sum of the matter now beckons:---All concerned on all sides of these deeply challenging issues and challenges would be well-advised to concede ground when and however they might; thus being able to move on with their larger contribution to human flourishing in these islands.

We can choose to work together - in love and in unity - to achieve the common good.



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 Thomas Dunlop, Divorced,
of 109 Anchorage Drive, Bethany Beach, DE 19930, United States of America

and

Sally Cannon, Divorced,
of 209 Belmont Circle, Townsend, DE 19734, 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 14th day of December, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages

A Future To Believe In

Eneas Files By Godfrey Eneas

Between the year 2000 to 2015, according to a report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), The Bahamas had no future. Statistically, the economic data showed where The Bahamas was in a state of decline.

The report stated that Tourism, the engine of our economy, was not growing. It was losing ground to our Caribbean neighbours like Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. Tourism officials were in fear of Cuba emerging as a major competitor. The criticism of our Tourism strategy centered around the fact that The Bahamian product had lost its luster; it was no longer compelling.

In conjunction with the tourism downturn was the

contraction of the Financial Services Sector. Offshore banking and tax havens had become pariah jurisdictions to the member countries of the OECD. Their citizens were escaping paying taxes and the OECD was out to crush those jurisdictions. The Bahamas was one of them. Hundreds of high-paying jobs are being lost.

Since World War II, it

was these two pillars that The Bahamian economy was built. They became a model for the rest of the region and, in effect, transformed the Caribbean from agricultural-based economy which were rooted in slavery to one of the most popular tourism destinations in the world. It created a standard of living in The Bahamas that was comparable, in middle class terms, to any developed country. It was a middle class fueled by upward mobility based on the development of a college educated middle class.

Professionals in the Bahamas comprised doctors, lawyers, accountants, academics, clergymen and educators. The economy was able to absorb these types of professionals, thereby off-setting the brain drain which was being experienced throughout the region.

There was a downside to this evolution as an underclass emerged. The Bahamian workforce became service oriented – hotel workers, maids, waiters, bartenders and waitresses. Hard core tradesmen like masons, carpenters, electricians, mechanics became scarce, so the void was filled with immigrants from Haiti, Jamaica and other CARICOM countries as well as from India, Latin America and China.

A stumbling economy led to a burgeoning cadre of unemployed people – some with skills and many unskilled. For the first time in fifty years, the terms like “the marginalized”, “people falling through the cracks” and “the haves and have-nots” had meaning and became a significant socio-economic grouping with specific characteristics.

It is this grouping that needs a “future to believe in.” It has been estimated that there may be as many as 30-40,000 Bahamians who are unemployed. Poverty is a major issue and its reduction or eradication depends on the economy and the manner in which it is developed to compete in a 21st Century globalized world. The post-World War II economic model is not cutting it. The new realities of the 21st Century world has created a world driven by technology; we now live in a digitized economy. Digitization has morphed into a world of artificial intelligence where robots are performing tasks which were performed by humans.

We as a people have to decide on what do we want The Bahamas to look like. During the initial decades of the 21st Century, The Bahamas had serious difficulties navigating urban living as the country has evolved from a fishing village to an urban society where 85% of the population reside between Nassau and Freeport.

Urbanism has its challenges, particularly living in a capitalistic system. Capitalism has created economic anxieties as



many Bahamians have developed a resentment for migrants who are viewed as competitors in the job market. Further, the professional class has done well representing the haves, thereby fueling envy among the marginalized have-nots. This has spawned the backdrop to criminal behaviour.

With the influx of migrants, many of them illegal and from Haiti, cultural conflicts have reared its head. Haitian immigrants tend to live in enclaves; West Indians or CARICOM nationals integrate causing great assimilation. The cultural divide is widening.

As a country becomes ethnically heterogenous, there is a tendency for classism to develop. The Bahamas has become a class-centered society. It is reflected in where you live, the schools one's children attend, the organizations in which one holds membership, and yes, even one's political affiliation. Then there is the professional, college education class vis-à-vis the non-college educated.

The globalization era has ushered in the technology revolution. One of the technological advancements has been the Internet. It is the Internet via social media which has changed the manner in which we communicate and how we source out information. In today's world, the cell phone, social media and the computer are the mechanisms which influence our thinking as they are the primary vehicles of information.

The Church as the chief moralizing institution, has seen its importance in society diminished as materialism has become the order of the day. Some say our country has lost its moral compass as secularism has become the focus as more and more Bahamians have become “supermarket” Christians, as cherry picking and choosing the principles which are acceptable to them.

The economic downturn and the re-engineering of our society is due to the new realities of the 21st Century and how they have transformed The Bahamas into a new society. In all of these challenges, Bahamians will have to fashion the type of Bahamian in which they seek to live. External influences will play its part; however, we Bahamians have to create “a future to believe in.”



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 --

Semuel Klimovskii, Divorced,
of 20-72, Narymskaya Str., Novosibirsk, 630132, Russian Federation

and

Diana Lider, Divorced,
of 20-72, Narymskaya Str., Novosibirsk, 630132, 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 14th 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 --

Richard Lee Jones II, Single,
of 13659 Joyce Dr., Warren MI 48088, United States of America

and

Adrienne Marie Couwlier, Divorced,
of 13659 Joyce Dr., Warren MI 48088, 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 14th 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 --

Timothy Darrell Anderson, Divorced,
of 7713 W. Ranken Ave, St. Louis, MO 63117, United States of America

and

Krystle Lynn Gaehle-Rapp, Divorced,
of 7713 W. Ranken Ave, St. Louis, MO 63117, 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 14th 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 --

Ryan Christopher Chen, Single,
of Suite 504-489 Interurban Way, Vancouver, BC, V5X 0C7, Canada

and

Flora Jacqueline Phung, Single,
of Suite 504-489 Interurban Way, Vancouver, BC, V5X 0C7, 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 14th day of December, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages

PM Minnis 'Reaches Out' to Bahamian Diaspora in U.S. Capital, Surrounding States

BY MATT MAURA
Bahamas Information Services

WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S.A. – Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis met with “significant numbers” of the Bahamian Diaspora residing in the Washington, D.C., and surrounding areas over the December 15-16 weekend, advising them of his Administration’s plans to create a 21st Century Bahamas.

The Prime Minister said his Administration has embarked upon a programme of reform and transformation that includes innovative thinking about the role of government in order to create new and innovative partnerships for national development.

Prime Minister Minnis encouraged the gathering at the St. Regis on Saturday to not only consider the new investment opportunities that will become available in The Bahamas as a result of his Administration’s new economic strategy, but to also “consider lending your talents and resources in areas such as youth development, volunteerism and community service.”

“The global Bahamian Diaspora is a major talent and investment pool the country must tap into. God has blessed The Bahamas with many gifts. As a people, we have always been blessed with an abundance

of talent way beyond our relatively small population. This includes the Bahamian Diaspora, which is a major talent and investment pool that The Bahamas must tap into.

“Like other countries that have successfully done so, my Government will cultivate and utilize the energy of the Bahamian Diaspora. We have made a commitment to utilizing the gifts and resourcefulness of the Bahamian Diaspora around the world.

“It is my government’s intention to help create a global network of Bahamians to help boost national development and to create a 21st Century Bahamas,” Prime Minister Minnis added.

Prime Minister Minnis, who addressed a reception for Bahamians residing in

the Washington D.C., Virginia and Maryland areas; Friends of The Bahamas and individuals of Bahamian heritage who are not Bahamian citizens, but who have family ties to The Bahamas, said his Administration will specifically target members of the Diaspora living within the United States of America – particularly areas such as Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

“Through history and geography, The Bahamas enjoys a special bond with the people of the United States of America, including residents of Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia,” Prime Minister Minnis said.

“Over the years, many Bahamians have attended university or worked and resided in the Metropolitan

Washington area as well as throughout the surrounding states. Indeed, many Bahamians, including a number of you here this evening, have served in an impressive array of professional capacities. This includes positions in medicine, international organizations headquartered in Washington, D.C., academia and other fields.

“I invite you to consider lending your talents and resources in areas such as youth development, volunteerism and community service. It is my fervent hope that this New Year will be one of new possibilities,” Prime Minister Minnis added.

Prime Minister Minnis told the grouping that his Administration has launched, and will continue to launch, ambitious pro-

grammes for educational reform and social development and intervention in The Bahamas, including in traditional urban neighbourhoods. (The recently launched Phase One of the Over-the-Hill Community Development Partnership Initiative being one such example.)

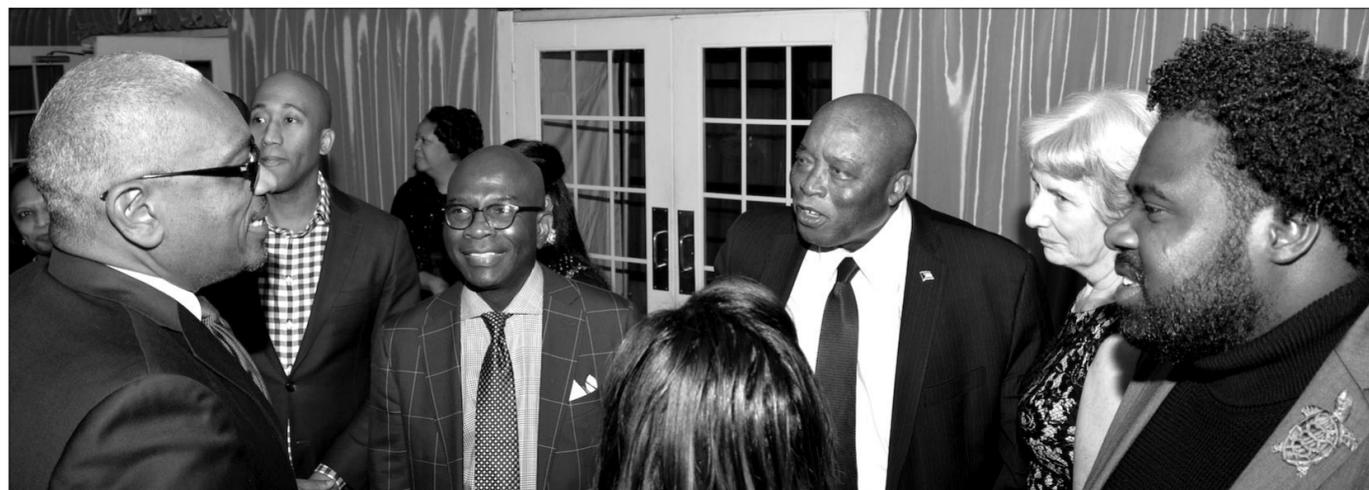
The Prime Minister said the government – working with its Foreign Missions – will begin creating a database of Bahamians overseas that the country can tap into as potential investors, consultants and philanthropists.

“For example, if there is a domestic Bahamian consultant available in a given field, we should seek to locate a Bahamian overseas instead of first using a non-Bahamian consultant.”

Prime Minister Minnis

announced that his Administration is also giving consideration to the establishment of an overseas council of the Bahamian Diaspora. The Council will utilize social media and a dedicated website to help produce a database and platform for communications for Bahamians overseas.

“Such an overseas council may also promote investment and job opportunities for Bahamians wishing to return to and/or work in The Bahamas,” Prime Minister Minnis said. “The Council will also promote ways that Bahamians overseas can network and help with educational and community-minded projects that will benefit The Bahamas – especially young Bahamians.”



► Prime Minister Minnis chats with Bahamians who are resident in the Washington, D.C. and surrounding area at a Reception at the St. Regis in the capital on Saturday, evening, December 16, 2017. He paused for group photo with the Bahamas Ambassador to Washington, D.C., His Excellency Sidney Collie (right) and his wife, Mavis Collie. (Photos/Yontalay Bowe, OPM Media Services)

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