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MONDAY - DECEMBER 18TH, 2017

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Roberts Calls For Bannister's Resignation

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
 Journal Staff Writer

Former Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Bradley Roberts has called for the resignation of Minister of Works Desmond Bannister.

In a statement yesterday Mr. Roberts said that Mr. Bannister was caught red handed telling two

"bold faced lies" in his capacity as a Cabinet Minister on the Stephen Dillet repair contract and must be held immediately resign or be fired by Prime Minister Minnis.

He added that he has breached the public trust and must be held accountable.

"What with all this public talk both nationally and internationally by Dr. Minnis about fighting corruption, restoring integrity in government and leading and open,

honest and transparent government, PM Minnis must act decisively if he is to be taken seriously and not conveniently dismissed as a bag of hot air who is madly in love with the sound of his own voice and coloured photo on the front page of the local dailies.

"Already Minnis' silence on the Stephen Dillet scandal in light of public revelations reeks of a cover up at the highest level in the Minnis government. To speak at

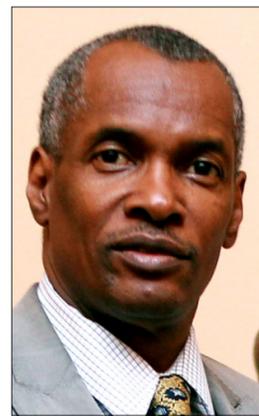
this late hour would be seen as succumbing to public pressure instead of acting in the public's interest. To remain quiet would heavily suggest that the Prime Minister has something to hide.

"For the record, Minister Bannister conceded that the contract administration was mishandled, but blamed public servants for this failure:

■ See RESIGNATION / page 2...



► Former Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Bradley Roberts (Journal file photo)



► Minister of Works Desmond Bannister (Journal file photo)

Bahamas Signs Convention For Assistance On Taxation

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
 Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Financial Services Board announced that the government has signed a multilateral convention for assistance on tax matters.

In a statement, the Board said arriving at this point has required much collaboration between the government and industry stakeholders and this multilateral approach is consistent with that taken by over 108 countries in the OECD's global forum, which addresses the risks to tax compliance posed by non-cooperative jurisdictions.

■ See TAXATION / page 2...

Cooper Says S&P Rating Doesn't Warrant Celebrations

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
 Journal Staff Writer

Exuma and Ragged Island MP Chester Cooper has said there is no need to celebrate Standard and Poors' decision to affirm The Bahamas' sovereign credit rating as stable.

In a statement the Shadow Minister for Finance said there's not much to celebrate by Standard and Poors having The Bahamas' sovereign credit rating remain at junk status. There is some relief to be had in the fact that a further downgrade has been avoided.

"It is a good sign that S&P has acknowledged the viability of Baha Mar and its contribution to

the economy with the CTFE deal just completed. Clearly, the opening of the Grand Hyatt and the SLS, with the Rosewood to come, have been a boost to The Bahamas and has made analysts and investors more bullish on The Bahamas' prospects.

"It is hoped that the government is receptive to S&P's advice and analysis on the need to focus on economic growth.

"So far, this term, the government has appointed a committee on the ease of doing business. However, it is critical that the approach is a comprehensive one inclusive of small and medium sized local businesses," said Cooper.

"The Minnis administration must take a more proactive role in actually courting foreign direct investment (FDI) and local direct investment (LDI), while ensuring Bahamian participation.

We have heard many allusions to FDI, but little in the way of solid indicators that investment is being actively courted or is on the way.

"There has been no update in Parliament or in the general public about what can be expected in terms of FDI throughout The Bahamas.

"Even without confirmation that the credit rating remains at junk, the economy remains anemic.

■ See SAYS S&P RATING / page 4...

FNM TOUTS S&P RATING

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
 Journal Staff Writer

The Free National Movement has said the stable economic outlook report from Standard & Poors (S&P) affirms that the steps the FNM is taking to stimulate investment, enhance revenue collection and reduce public spending confirms that the country is moving in the right direction.

In a statement from the party, the government added that in addition to the positive news from S&P, the Bahamas also recently avoided being blacklisted by the European Union.

■ See FNM TOUTS / page 2...



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JUNKANOO, JUST AROUND THE CORNER

► With Junkanoo just around the corner, craftsmen are focused on cutting and pasting to create costumes, new fangled or old fashioned -- as were these young students of L. W. Young Junior High School yesterday, using their own brand of styling for the holiday fanfare. (BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna)

Robertson Calls For Bannister's Resignation

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"The project did not go out to tender the way it ought to have been to tender, public to tender. The manner in which the project commenced concerned the government and the government took appropriate steps in relation to that. I am not going to mention the names of public servants except to say that the government is satisfied that we have taken appropriate action in relation to those persons who are responsible."

"It's a project where somebody exceeded his boundaries" continued Mr. Bannister "and the project actually physically started, planned and started without ministerial authority. When that happened the minister had to act and Cabinet had to act..."

"The problem with this statement is that the Prime Minister himself issued the \$4 million no bid contract to Mal Jack Construction, so why was Bannister telling a lie by using a lowly public servant as a scapegoat knowing full well that general orders prevent civil servants from defending themselves or speaking publicly on political issues? This is an act of cowardice. What was he trying to hide and cover up?"

"In telling his second unsolicited and gratuitous lie, Minister Bannister told the press that the Stephen Dillet project "started under the PLP regime. (It) started when the PLP was in power. They obviously were working on it and we were not aware of it. We came to power and met all of this going on and we had to deal with the individuals who were involved," Mr. Roberts said.

This is the latest in the back-and-forth in the controversy

over "Mal Jack" Construction after former Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Chairman Bradley Roberts claimed Sunday the contract to renovate the school was awarded to Mal Jack Construction without a proper public tendering process.

The Free National Movement (FNM), in the lead-up to the May general election and since then, has vowed to be transparent about contract awards and has committed to ensuring tendering process takes place for them.

Bahamas Signs Convention For Assistance On Taxation

Continued from / PAGE 1...

The legislative framework for implementation of the common reporting standard was initially put in place by the Bahamas in 2016 to facilitate the automatic exchange of information, with most recent amendments being made this month to reflect the change from a bilateral to multilateral approach.

Last week, Attorney general Carl Bethel said that the Government was "looking very carefully" at whether compliance with European (EU) demands will require this nation to eliminate the exchange control 'ring fencing' between the economy's domestic and 'offshore' sectors.

He explained that countries had to eradicate "preferential tax regimes", such as the Bahamas' exchange control exemptions for companies deemed non-resident, if they were to satisfy the 28-member EU's that they were a 'cooperative jurisdiction'.

FNM TOUTS S&P RATING

Continued from / PAGE 1...

While the FNM notes these positive responses by international agencies, there is much more work to be done to help reduce unemployment, revitalize Grand Bahama, and foster economic growth.

"The policy and legislative decisions that the Government has made over the past six months have changed the direction that the economy was heading in under the PLP.

"The Hubert Minnis administration is committed to arresting the deterioration of our debt and deficit levels. The Government will continue with fiscal consolidation plans, which will encourage new investment, boost our economy

and help create new jobs and commercial opportunities for Bahamians.

"For the first time in years, the policies we have enacted have led to positive acknowledgement from an international rating agency.

"For a number of years, the country watched as international credit rating agencies downgraded our credit rating because of the disastrous leadership, mismanagement and untrustworthiness of the previous administration.

The FNM has been honest and upfront about the state of the economy, and about what it will take to move the country toward greater economic stability and economic growth.

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(WOOD WORK)

Youth Minister Tours Grand Bahama's BTVI Campus

FREEPORT, Grand Bahama – Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, the Hon. Michael Pintard, on Thursday, December 14, toured Grand Bahama's campus of Bahamas Technical and

Vocational Institute (BTVI). Accompanied by Youth Coordinator, Carla Brown-Roker, the Minister was able to not only tour the facility and see students of the Fresh Start Programme par-

ticipating in various subject areas, but he had the opportunity to say a few words of encouragement with respect to each discipline. Minister Pintard sat in on a presentation during the Office

Procedure class, observed the Welding, Electrical, Wood Work and Plumbing classes, and saw a demonstration during the Food and Beverage class. The Fresh Start programme is

open to people between the ages of 17 and 25 who, after participating in the four-month course, are placed into the public and private workforce on internship. **(BIS Photos/Andrew Miller)**



(WELDING)



(PLUMBING)



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Man Killed In Police Shooting

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

A man was shot and killed by police on Friday. The incident started as police issued an APB (All Points Bulletin) for a sky blue Nissan Bluebird vehicle with two suspicious looking men, who were seen casing the Palmdale area.

Reports are that shortly after 7:00pm on Friday, officers on routine patrol spotted the vehicle in the area of Homestead Street and Minnie Street and attempted to stop it. The officers pursued the vehicle, which crashed into another vehicle on Cordeaux Avenue and Washington Street.

The passenger reportedly came from the vehicle armed with a handgun. He then allegedly pointed the gun at the officers and fired it.

The officers claimed that they were in fear for their lives and shot the suspect who died on the scene.

The driver of the vehicle was taken into custody.

A .45 Austria glock pistol along with a magazine with ammunition were recovered.

Her Majesty's Coroner visited the scene and is investigating this incident.

PM: Enterprises Bill Will Liberalize Economy

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hon. Hubert Minnis continues to tout the prospects of the passed Commercial Enterprises Bill saying the bill will ensure the ease of doing business in the country.

The Prime Minister was addressing a reception for Bahamians and friends of the Bahamas residing in Washington, Northern Virginia and Maryland on Saturday.

His comments come on the heels of the Bahamas receiving a stable outlook from credit rating agency Standard and Poor's.

Dr. Minnis said the new bill allows those major businesses that do not currently exist in the Bahamas – such as aqua-



► Prime Minister Dr. Hon. Hubert Minnis (Journal file photo)

culture and biotechnology -- to be brought into the Bahamas.

"We are stabilizing public finances and reforming government. We are ensuring the greater ease of doing business for Bahamians and foreign investors.

"I am excited at the prospect of Bahamians as well as individuals of Bahamian heritage, who are not Bahamian citizens,

but who have family ties in The Bahamas, utilizing the new Commercial Bill to invest in The Bahamas.

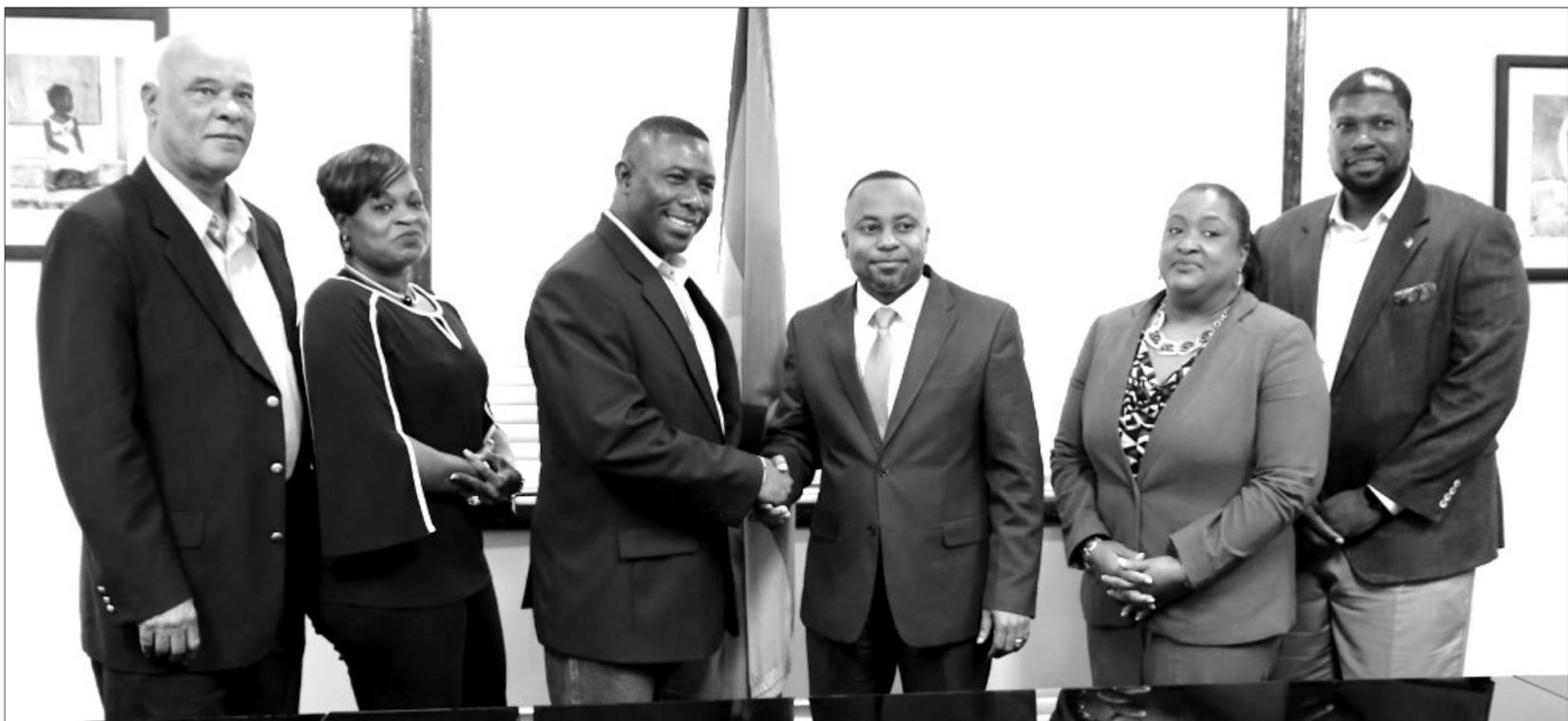
"We are committed to making The Bahamas a more fair, more just society, less burdened by violent crime and less burdened by corruption by public officials," Dr. Minnis said.

He added that the Bahamas is a highly favourable investment

regime and administration officials are cutting the red tape and too-often-long waiting times for international investment projects to be vetted and approved.

The bill was passed in the House of Assembly on November 22, 2017 and in the senate on December 4, 2017, but not without its fair share of opposition from the Bahamian public.

The Bahamas' sovereign credit rating was affirmed as BB+/B, a rating which S&P said reflects its expectation of robust political institutions to "anchor fiscal consolidation" and higher, although still low, economic growth over the next one to two years — another positive sign for The Bahamas as it avoided blacklisting from the European Union.



AGRICULTURE MINISTER VISITS GB

► Agriculture and Marine Resources Minister, the Hon. Renward Wells on, December 14, paid a courtesy call on Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister, Grand Bahama, Senator the Hon. J. Kwasi Thompson. During the visit, Minister Thompson officially welcomed Minister Wells to Grand Bahama. The visiting Minister explained the purpose of his visit was to conduct site inspections and hold preliminary meetings with the Agriculture Ministry/BAIC offices and stakeholders in Freeport. Minister Wells said they also commissioned K-9, Animal Control Unit, and two vehicles.

Accompanying the Minister during the courtesy call were: Executive Chairman, BAIC, the Hon. Miriam Emmanuel, MP; Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, the Hon. Carlton Bowleg, MP; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, Phedra Rahming; General Manager, BAIC, Troy Sampson; resident BAIC Board of Directors, Vernal Martinborough; Senior Deputy General Manager, BAIC, Debbie Strachan; Deputy General Manager, BAIC, Judith Thompson; Executive Assistant to the Chairman, BAIC, Taneko Adams; Anya Symonette, Neville Johnson, Gregory Bethel, Gregory Rahming and Andrew Burrows, BAIC; as well as Acting General Manager, BAIC Freeport, Challa Cartwright; and Arthur Hield, BAIC Freeport. (BIS Photos/Lisa Davis)

Cooper Says S&P Rating Doesn't Warrant Celebrations

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

There is little hope for the jobless and there has been nothing tangible articulated as to a plan for Grand Bahama, which is in dire straits," Mr. Cooper said

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rating was affirmed as BB+/B, a rating which S&P said reflects its expectation of robust political institutions to "anchor fiscal consolidation" and higher, although still low, economic growth over the next one to two years — another positive sign for The Bahamas as it avoided black-

listing from the European Union.

However, S&P warned that it could lower its rating over the next two years if public finances do not improve as quickly as expected, which could result from stagnant economic growth, external shocks or "weakened political commitment".

The Rough Cut

By Felix F. Bethel

“...throat, knock & teeth...”

Say what you like: We live in very dangerous times—and quite clearly, such is the tenor inherent in this day of rage and despair—

On occasion, this despair in turn leads the rankest expression—

At other times, rage can and does manifest itself—in the sordid disguise known as murder!

We live in a time and in a place where—sad to say—most commentary concerning ‘crime’ has become fixated on the dread work being done by any number of young thugs who seem intent on looting, shooting and killing as if they really and truly have nothing to live for.

In truth and in fact, then: Some Bahamians benefit from things as they are; while others must wait their turn; must fight, must struggle and otherwise they must also put their faith in the idea that a better day is on its way.

Some others focus the bulk of their attention and resources on keeping things the way they are as some fight to see the coming of that day when the legacies of slavery and colonialism are swept away.

There are all those benighted ones who are blithely unaware of the fact that, things as they are can or even should be changed.

These are the types who are bathed and washed in feelings either of superiority or inferiority based on class, race, sex, religion, and nationality; with all of these inculcated in us as children and which shape our assumptions about us and the world.

These learned attitudes and values conspire to convince us this is not only the way things are; but the way they should remain.

This is really and truly no just basis upon which we can ever build a progressive Bahamas!

This is why—try as we might—to keep alive the idea that, there is far more to the phenomenon of crime and wrong-doing than that which involves the ‘murder-count; we now must confess defeat in the face of what seems the widely held view that crime is only really-real when blood and death are

merged. Interestingly enough, this idea meshes easily and readily with that other idea and understanding that wrong-doing such as robberies, burglary and [perhaps] even rape can never be treated or understood as being as important as murder.

Whilst we do appreciate the awful finality that comes with murder; we are constrained to insist that there are any number of wrongs and hurts which routinely push some of our people—especially our youth—to the precincts of any number of dark places; environs which threaten to hurt, maim and undermine the best of their efforts at being and becoming good citizens!

One of the more striking examples of how deeply segregated today’s Bahamas has become in the past four decades since Independence and so-called Majority Rule, you need look no further than at the deep extent to which Bahamians of different means have not only totally different life chances; but to the extent to which vitally important goods germane to health, education and safety are differentially allocated in a society where there is so very much chat concerning how ‘together’ we can make a great little nation of The Bahamas.

Evidently, this and dreams like this are fated to be the stuff of which despair and challenge are made; and for sure, it also explains precisely how it arises that some Bahamians have decided that ‘enough is enough’ and thus their pell-mell flight to places like Canada, The United States, Europe and even further afield.

And then, of course, there are all those others who cannot take such a departure and thus their oft-made decisions to opt out psychologically—thus that hardy number who revel in indolence; routinely game the system and who—in time—become dependent on others for their daily bread.

I’m old school...I’ll knock you in your throat and make your teeth click!

As said by one Black Bahamian Woman concerning her child—the apple of her eye—

I’m old school...I’ll knock you in your throat



and make your teeth click!

If the truth be known—this is precisely how so very many of our demented brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers behave towards their children—thus most of the violence that now courses through today’s deeply troubled Bahamas.

And thus: The time will surely come when what is happening now will be characterized as being quite backward—and old-fashioned—that is why the fine lady—a frick’ blast from the pit of hell—located right out there under toilet hole number-2—is talking fool about beating her child—this—even as she [in her profoundest ignorance—conflates discipline with raw-savage punishment—As she said and As I shall repeat ad nauseam: ‘I’ll knock you in your throat and make your teeth click!’

So I’m watching a video of a father disciplining his daughter after she had a tantrum in Walmart! He does an excellent job and also says that he doesn’t beat her, he said he takes things away. Hey if it works for him then great, I’m old school...I’ll knock you in your throat and make your teeth click!

Anyone ever had one of these slaps? Lol! I have had and I have given, it’s the circle of life! I’ll knock you in your throat and make your teeth click

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The Bahama Journal Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

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EDITORIAL

DIGNITY & DIVINITY

Regrettably, dear brothers and sisters: That bloody beat continues in these last and evil days as so very many so-called ‘Christians’ routinely avert their eyes from the visages borne by the least, the lost and the marginalized men, women and children who live in the shadows of their malls, their stately homes and who—on occasion—might be glimpsed as they trudge through what is left of their miserably hurtful existence.

Indeed, then: As these waning days of December 2017 tick their way into their own eternity, very many of our people now eagerly anticipate the coming of their version of Christmas; we say ‘their version’ precisely because of the fact that there is a myriad of people out-there who have their own particular and peculiar take on what this season is all about or should be about.

Evidently some among us—especially the merchants [great and petty] who know that this is that time of year when they can make some big dollars; and clearly there are all those others—especially the working poor who see this time for the short vacation it provides some of them a respite from their drudge-like existence—and then, there are all those gluttons—rich and poor alike—who see this season as a time for the excessive consumption of food, drink and whatever else comes with such swinish excesses.

And yet, there remains that remnant of people who shall surely remember and recognize that, this is Advent—that time when—as we are taught and which we do believe—prophecy was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ—that same new Adam who—though reviled; though mocked; though scorned; and who though murdered [albeit sacrificially] was resurrected—thus conquering Death itself—This we believe—and thus it follows that: Christmas [Advent] is for us one of the greatest feasts of the living Church of God.

Note also that: As we all get set to celebrate Christmas [Advent], we would all be well-advised to know and recognize that this season has been perverted and that in very many ways, Christmas has become a time when rank materialism and its twin the purest worship of consumerism now

run things. And thus it now transpires that few among us take time to remember that the real reason for the season is tied up in the person of Jesus Christ-God’s own begotten Son.

Evidently, few among us care to know that whilst in prophecy—especially that of Isaiah—that there would come a time for the advent of that man who as we are told “...grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground...”

We also learn that: “... He has no stately form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him...”

The truth in the matter is that he was fated to be: despised and forsaken of men—A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief—He was despised, and we did not esteem Him—surely our griefs, He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted... Isaiah 53:3

We make this as-propheesied-point in aid of underscoring a truth which must be both recognized and respected, namely that: Christ is crucified day in and day out as so very many of our Bible-toting fellow-Bahamians routinely ignore or neglect to feed the hungry; welcome the stranger; give drink to the thirsty food to the hungry or shelter to the homeless—or for that matter—aid to bring much-needed relief and succor to the poor widow and her orphaned children!

And thus we repeat and echo the prophet’s cry—Woe be unto you!

In this regard, then—we dare insist that all who have ears to hear and eyes to see that: They who would truly celebrate the living Christ Jesus would do well by do more to emulate the example He Himself showed as He witnessed and as He healed; and as He exhorted; and as He also did when he supped and dined with both the high and mighty as He also did with the lowliest.

In other words, we should—like Him—take to heart that wisdom-knowledge which teaches that human beings are made in the Image and likeness of the Almighty; and as such—they are endowed with both dignity and divinity.

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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.

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.

What did the new Attorney General and the Minnis Administration expect when they dropped the appeal leaving the constitutional crisis unresolved?

One of the first things the Free National Movement Government did when they came to power in May of this year was to drop the appeal in the most important case of our nation's history. The new Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas allowed Save The Bays, an organization operating in The Bahamas with United States Treasury 501(c)(3) status, to dictate that their 'deemed-public' financial information cannot be discussed under parliamentary privilege, and thereby creating a constitutional crisis in our country.

Goodness knows how many other countries are ridiculing The Bahamas for its Government stopping the appeal process on a matter that upended our parliamentary constitutional practices.

Now, the Attorney General has a nerve to be surprised by Fred Smith acting as if they won, which they did since The Bahamas Government handed them the victory once they dropped the appeal, and asking to be paid their exorbitant fees.

Well, if you were foolish enough to drop the appeal, live with the consequences. Except, there is one problem with this: The Bahamian taxpayer is the one to deal with the consequences and pay the price of such a dumb move.

The Attorney General dropped the appeal in the parliamentary privilege court case and gave Save The Bays and Fred Smith all of this power to now turn around and demand almost a million dollars in attorney fees. The Attorney General is saying that those fees will have to be reduced, but that's not the way it works, is it?

Once you lose, and the court says you have to pay the other side's fees, you have to pay. What grounds does the Attorney General have for not paying what Fred Smith is demanding? Is Fred Smith going to listen to him and not charge the full amount because the new Government appeased him by dropping the appeal?

In a Nassau Guardian article discussing the matter, it stated, "the court granted STB a permanent injunction prohibiting the then education minister from disclosing or publishing any private information belonging to the group without its consent."

When will they get that Save The Bays is a United States Treasury 501(c)(3) organization. It has no private information!

Save The Bays has bamboozled everybody. It is a pseudo environmental group funded mainly by hedge-fund billionaire Louis Moore Bacon. Save The Bays' sole purpose in life seems to be to destroy fashion mogul Peter Nygard and tangentially the Progressive Liberal Party Government, at all cost.

They've put a check mark next to the box of 'getting rid of the Progressive Liberal Party Government'. They leave no stones unturned with their efforts to annihilate Peter Nygard.

Now the new Government has gotten rid of several cases against Save The Bays. Obviously, they did not think of the consequences of dropping the appeal in the parliamentary privilege case. They should have thought about the consequences and the cost. Appeasing save the bays is costing Bahamians almost a million dollars and Save The Bays thinks nothing of demanding it from their new favorite Government.

My grandmother always said, 'when you lie down with dogs you get fleas'.

The Bahamian people did not elect the Free National Movement political party to give the Bahamian people fleas. But unfortunately, it is too late.

In this matter, the Bahamian people are the biggest loser—a million times the biggest loser.

GOT NEWS?
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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 --

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

Income Tax Coming?

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
Journal Staff Writer

The government will be looking at the possibility of introducing income tax in an effort to further comply with the regulations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis revealed in the House of Assembly yesterday that the Bahamas has been saved from the threat of being blacklisted after The Bahamas was invited to the coordinating body of the (OECD) multi-lateral convention, but this comes with concerns.

"The group advised that the absence of a corporate income tax or a nominal corporate tax structure in The Bahamas is a matter of concern and the lack of substance of some legal arrangements was highlighted," Dr. Minnis said.

The Prime Minister said those issues were being looked into and a plan of action will be formulated to allow the Bahamas to remain off the OECD blacklist.

Dr. Minnis said the assistance of professionals in the financial sector was solicited in an effort to address the regulatory group's concerns.

The OECD's multi-lat-



► Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis (Journal file photo)

eral convention is a free-standing multi-lateral agreement aimed at promoting international cooperation for the better operation of tax laws.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest and Minister Of Financial Services Brent Symonette left the country for Paris, France with the purpose of signing the multilateral convention, but were invited to San Marino where they signed another regulatory convention.

"One of the areas of the European Union's (EU) Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) initiative was that of The Bahamas becoming a signatory to the OECD convention in

tax matters (MAC) and the companion multilateral competent authority agreement (MCAA)," Dr. Minnis said.

The Prime Minister stressed that despite the significant progress made to date, there's still much to be done to mitigate other pending threats to the local financial services sector.

"Following receipt of a letter on November 7th 2017, forwarded to the government from the BEPS Code of Conduct Group, advising that the country had been govern a reprieve from blacklisting by the EU until February 2018, a series of industry briefing meetings were sponsored by

the Ministers of Finance and Financial Services and the Office of the Attorney General, with the assistance of the CRS working group, senior officials and regulators, to focus on the issues listed in the letter. A letter was signed on the 11th of December 2017, and issued by the Ministry of Finance to the OECD Code of Conduct Group confirming that the

Bahamas commits to complying with the minimum standards," Dr. Minnis said.

Those minimum standards involved the prevention of the harmful nature of preferential tax regimes and a transparency framework that will apply to tax rulings, an action on treaty abuse, prevention of tax-treaty shopping, country by country reporting and

other documentation requirements to give tax administrators a global picture of where multinational enterprises profit.

Just last week, several Caribbean countries were named on the European Union's blacklist of tax havens including Barbados, Grenada, Panama, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago who are all at risk to losing access to EU funds.

'BIG BAD BRAD'



► Bradley Roberts presented Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling with a copy of his book, 'Big Bad Brad' during a Courtesy Call at Government House on Tuesday, December 12, 2017. (BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)

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