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THURSDAY - DECEMBER 21ST, 2017

75 CENTS

Exchange Control Relaxed

PM MINNIS IS JCN PERSON OF THE YEAR

The Minnis Administration will relax Exchange Control on capital transactions, namely on capital (investment) and current account (trade) transactions for small and medium-sized Bahamian businesses/enterprises (SMEs).

medium-sized Bahamian businesses/enterprises which the Prime Minister said are a "critical part" of the Bahamian economic structure, employing thousands of Bahamians.

"It is a modernization reform that Bahamian

businesspersons have been asking for, for a long time," Prime Minister Minnis said during a press conference held to announce the liberalization of Exchange Control.

■ See EXCHANGE / page 2...

Over the last sixteen years, The Jones Communications Network has recognized scores of Bahamians in its annual Person of The Year and Civil Society Awards.

This year JCN has chosen Prime Minister Doctor Hubert A. Minnis as the recipient of the prestigious award of Person of The Year for 2017.

Making the announcement, Chief Executive Officer of JCN, Wendall

Jones said, "Bahamians have all been witnesses to Dr. Minnis' unprecedented rise to the office of Prime Minister of The Bahamas, despite the detractors among his colleagues in the Opposition in December of 2016. After being deposed as Leader of the Official Opposition, five short months later, he was elected to head the government.

■ See PERSON OF THE YEAR / page 2...

The changes, which will come into effect as of February 1, 2018, are expected to assist small and medium-sized Bahamian businesses and Bahamian investors by improving the ease of doing business for Bahamians and residents.

Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis said Wednesday that the reform was "long overdue" and is part of his administration's commitment to assisting small and



► Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis (at microphone) addressing press conference at the Office of the Prime Minister, Cecil V. Wallace-Whitfield Centre, December 20, 2017 announcing the Liberalization of Exchange Control to assist small and medium-sized Bahamian businesses and Bahamian investors. Among the Cabinet Ministers present were: (from left) Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources, the Hon. Renward Wells; Senator, the Hon. Carl Bethel, Q.C., Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs; the Hon. Peter Turnquest, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance; Prime Minister Minnis; the Hon. Brent Symonette, Minister of Financial Services, Trade & Industry and Immigration; the Hon. Marvin Dames, Minister of National Security; the Hon. Frankie Campbell, Minister of Transport and Local Government; and the Hon. Darren Henfield, Minister of Foreign Affairs. **(BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay)**

FRANK SMITH'S EXTORTION CASE ADJOURNED

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
 Journal Staff Writer

The inability of the crown's key witness in the Frank Smith extortion trial to testify forced an adjournment yesterday.

A medical certificate confirmed that Barbara Hanna was unfit to testify in the high profile case for another six weeks.

Smith's lead attorney, Queen's Counsel, Damian Gomez said there'll be a point when they will ask the court to dismiss the matter if the delay is prolonged.

■ See EXTORTION / page 2...

THOUSANDS REPATRIATED FOR THE YEAR

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
 Journal Staff Writer

With just ten days until the immigration ultimatum is in affect, officers have already repatriated thousands of immigrants.

Immigration officers have been busy for the year and the work will continue straight up to December 31st.

Five to seven-thousand persons have been repatriated thus far for the year and according to commanding officer in charge of the immigration enforcement unit, Kirkland Neely, there's expected to be more before years end.

"We will have more repatriation before the year is out. Its depends on boats and how much people we pick up from here and the family islands. If they come, we have to keep the safe houses down to a minimum; so that if any flood by boat comes, we'll have spaces there for them," Neely said

He added that he has all of his officers on the lookout.

Neely said he did not have the exact nationality or gender of those repatriated thus far, but the government is footing a hefty bill for repatriation.

■ See REPATRIATED FOR THE YEAR / page 2...

Minister Ferreira Bemoans "A Deficit of Spirit"

Environment and Housing Minister Romauld S. Ferreira says the country has a national deficit of spirit "as we are not connected to the environment." The Minister made the statement as he joined the Atlantis Blue Project Foundation and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) at the Crush Theater, Atlantis, Paradise Island, to view a December 8 screening of 'Chasing Corals' -- a documentary exploring why coral reefs are not thriving in their marine habitats and instead are dying early because of climate change.

Mr. Ferreira said, "everybody in this country knows that as a nation, we have a deficit. When I say 'deficit', I mean we have a 'national deficit'. Most countries around the world also operate from the perspective of a national deficit. In our country as individuals, we have what I call 'a deficit of spirit'. When I say deficit of spirit, I mean we aren't really connected to each other, and we aren't really connected to the environment.

■ See FERREIRA / page 2...

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

Exchange Control Relaxed

Continued from / PAGE 1...

The Conference was held in the Board Room, Office of the Prime Minister, Cecil V. Wallace-Whitfield Centre. Prime Minister Minnis was accompanied by his Cabinet along with other senior Government officials including Acting Financial Secretary Marlon Johnson; Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister Jack Thompson and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Prime Minister, His Excellency, Joshua Sears.

"This reform is also part of the

Government's overall vision and plan for economic stability and growth," Prime Minister Minnis added.

The announcement came after consultation with the Central Bank of The Bahamas and discussions between Cabinet.

Prime Minister Minnis said as part of the relaxation protocol, Bahamian-owned businesses will be allowed to maintain operating deposit accounts of up to \$100,000 in foreign currency at domestic, commercial banks, without prior reference to the Central Bank.

These accounts will have to be exclusively funded from revenues earned in foreign currency.

Prime Minister Minnis said Central Bank approval will continue to be required for accounts with balances of more than \$100,000 in foreign currency.

The Prime Minister explained the benefits of the relaxation in Exchange Control.

"If you have money abroad now, you can bring that money back home, deposit it in Bahamian banks maintain that foreign currency. That will have an impact on the foreign reserves.

"Bahamians generally like to touch, feel and see their money. Those monies will now be under the jurisdiction and the legal profile of the Bahamian authority as opposed to foreign jurisdictions, which you have no control of.

"Not only that, in terms of purchasing you can purchase without having the bureaucracy of any delays from the Central Bank of The Bahamas, you have the money available to you and you can utilize it.

"Bahamians have been asking for a long time to be allowed to retain their monies within The

Bahamas. There is a lot of money outside of The Bahamas.

"We are a law-abiding nation. We came into the government preaching liberalization reform and we are saying you can bring your monies back home without any penalty (and) your monies will be under Bahamian jurisdiction, Bahamian laws.

"This is an initial step of liberalization. We are going first with the business sector and we will look at the non-business sector. That is what you call liberalization, removing in stages," Prime Minister Minnis stated.

THOUSANDS REPATRIATED FOR THE YEAR

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"Haitian flight is like \$40-\$45 per flight and the Cuban flight is about \$30 per flight, but the ball park figure is over one million dollars for repatriation for the

year," Neely said.

The government has come under much scrutiny by local and international rights organizations for the treatment of detainees as well as the harsh immigration policy.

Organizations like Amnesty International have called for the government to urgently share a written human rights - based migration policy that uses detention only as a measure of last resort; and update the

screening processes to avoid the expulsion of individuals born in the Bahamas with a right to Bahamian nationality. However, there has been no response given by the Minnis administration on these matters thus far.

PM MINNIS IS JCN PERSON OF THE YEAR

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Through discipline, commitment to a cause and hard work, he was able to silence his critics in all political parties and achieved his goal to lead the political directorate of The Bahamas.

The statement from JCN said, "among CARICOM countries, Prime Ministers have generally been lawyers. In The Bahamas, our first three former Prime Ministers have fallen into that mold. By becoming Prime Minister, as a Medical Doctor, Dr. Minnis is an exception and have defied the odds."

Mr. Jones said Dr. Minnis has won the support and adulation of tens of thousands of Bahamians and given his mandate at the Polls, the people are unerringly correct when they make such a judgement at election time.

The award will be presented to the Prime Minister on Friday, 19th January, 2018.

Other Civil Society awards will be given to worthy recipients in the areas of Medicine, Business and Community Service.

FRANK SMITH'S EXTORTION CASE ADJOURNED

Continued from / PAGE 1...

When asked if there'll be any witnesses called in his client's defense, Mr. Gomez said he is confident the case won't even get that far.

"Smith is disappointed that we were unable to complete the evidence for the crown, but these things happen," Gomez said.

Smith is accused of one count each of bribery and attempted extortion, along with 13 counts of

extortion.

It is alleged that the former Public Hospitals Authority Chairman solicited \$5,000 a month from Ms. Hanna in procurement of a contract with the PHA.

Mrs. Hanna earlier this month told the court that she was awarded a \$43-plus thousand dollar contract to clean the critical care block of the Princess Margaret Hospital.

After receiving the cheque, Smith demanded she pay him

\$5,000 per month for a year, totaling \$60,000.

Mrs. Hanna claimed she made her first \$5,000 payment to Smith in April 2016 and continued said payments until April 2017.

This past May, she ended the payments, indicating that she no longer could afford it because she was behind in her NIB and VAT payments.

The case resumes on February 15th for a status report on Mrs. Hanna's health.



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PEACH STREET OFF MONTROSE AVENUE

Minister Ferreira Bemoans "A Deficit of Spirit"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"This is a travesty because the truth of the matter is that we really are. This is why it's such a pleasure to be here with all of you because somewhere inside of all of you, there is an innate sense that you are connected, which is what drives you to service," said the minister.

"I am the Minister of the Environment and Housing, and when you really look at it, our ministry is responsible for the wellbeing of our citizens."

The Nature Conservancy's Director Shenique Smith described 'Chasing Corals' as "an ocean adventure film that reveals the story of a team of photographers, scientists, and other experts who discover and try to capture one of the world's largest coral bleaching events."

Minister Ferreira encouraged Bahamians to embrace every opportunity to connect with the environment.

He explained the challenges of the Ministry of the Environment. According to the Department of Statistics, Bahamian households on average are headed by single women, who typically earn about \$17,000 or less a year, and are raising children without the added support of their children's father.

He asked how do we as a nation include these women and children to further engage in protecting their environment for

their children and themselves?

"Our challenge is how do we get the average household, the average person, the average Bahamian, to feel a greater connection to the environment, to care about it? How do we make that possible?" said Minister Ferreira.

"Because we have taken on the challenge of improving the wellbeing of the citizens of The Bahamas, we've set about three very important initiatives which most of you would be aware of.

One of them is the 'New Providence Clean Up Campaign', which is closely connected to the New Providence Landfill, which is accepting Expressions of Interest (EOI) right now to solve the chronic issues at the Landfill; the situation at Clifton Pier which warrants attention and concern and we are addressing it; and third but not least the legislative vacuum that we find ourselves in at the Ministry of the Environment."

Minister Ferreira also spoke about the Ministry's Tree Planting Initiative, as part of a global outreach to plant 25 million trees worldwide, of which The Bahamas has committed to planting 10,000 trees.

He also addressed Rotarians at the Rotary Club of West Nassau, earlier to gain their support for protection of the environment and for the ministry's programmes and initiatives.



HUMANE SOCIETY MAKES APPEAL FOR CHRISTMAS

Getting a puppy is usually at the top of most people's Christmas Wishlist, but The

Bahamas Humane Society may not be able to make that wish come true. They will be

temporarily shutting down the adoption department as of December 20th to 27th.

General Manager Inspector Percy Grant explains it is to combat a trend that occurs over the years that the society has observed.

"Due to the fact over many years of experience, we've had issues where people come to adopt a pet and right after the Christmas it's returned because the person who they thought was responsible is probably not as responsible. So, they end up bringing the animal back."

As many animals are not being adopted or sent back, this increases the need for food supplies to care for them.

"We are hoping that people remember us this year by bringing us dog food, cat food, cat litter – you know essential stuff that help us with the animals. During the Christmas, as you know, a lot of people get depressed. A lot of time they give up their animals during this time," added Grant.

The shelter has not received as much donation compared to last year and the Grant believes it is due to the change in government. Thus, people are being more conservative with their money and has dampen people's spirit.

A bulk of their donations are from their raffle tickets for their draw on December 30th at the Mall of Marathon. The prizes include a \$10,000 voucher for groceries at Super Value.

To ensure the safety of pets, the Humane Society is hoping to build a pet-friendly hurricane shelter for pet owners to take or go along with their furry friend in 2018. There was "an outcry" by the public Grant emphasized.

"We realized during these last hurricanes, where everyone in Nassau were very concern about their pets outdoors and not having shelters. Of course, they could not take their pets."

To donate, you can go online to The Bahamas Humane Society website.

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► From L to R: Philip Simon - Mobile Assist Director, Damian Blackburn - Chief ALIV Officer, Dr. Donovan Moxey - Mobile Assist President, Gershan Major - Senior ALIV Business Solutions Partner.

MOBILE ASSIST PARTNERS WITH ALIV

BY ONIKE ARCHER
Journal Staff Writer

Aliv has locked down a strategic partnership with Bahamian owned company Mobile Assist. This announcement came yesterday during a press conference held at the mobile carrier's headquarters.

Chief Aliv Officer Damian Blackburn told the media that Aliv prides itself on staying ahead of the mobile technology curve as it relates to innovations.

"Aliv's strategy in relation to innovation particularly about smart phone innovation and App's is to develop a full agenda App which will be useful to people on their daily lives," Mr. Blackburn said.

Motivating aspiring Bahamian entrepreneurs, Mr. Blackburn said, "As we develop our strategy, we are absolutely committed as a one hundred per cent owned Bahamian company to encourage Bahamian entrepreneurs to develop their ideas, to work with them in strategic partnerships and to back their ideas from the very beginning where they align with our strategy."

Costing just over \$2

million to create, Mobile Assist President, Dr. Donovan Moxey explained how this App will be beneficial to Bahamians; this after releasing it to the world no more than 12 months ago.

"The Mobile Assist App is a directory service application platform and presently it has over \$10, 400 businesses listed in the App.

"That makes up about nineteen thousand different listing categories. We believe that we're the most comprehensive mobile application directory listing in The Bahamas," Dr. Moxey stated.

Mobile App is a platform that allows small businesses and large businesses to engage with their customers in a mobile way.

Mobile Assist president also informed the media that the architecture of the app was designed by him and he has sent out for this algorithm to be patented.

GOT NEWS?
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CIBC FIRST CARIBBEAN DONATES \$15,000 TO TCI NATIONAL CANCER SOCIETY

The National Cancer Society of the Turks & Caicos Islands (TCI) recently got a major financial boost to aid in its life-saving work.

The society was presented with a cheque for \$15,000, this year's proceeds from the annual Walk for the Cure cancer awareness and fundraising campaign of CIBC First Caribbean International Bank.

Rosemary Jolly, President of the National Cancer Society, received the funds during a brief presentation ceremony at CIBC First Caribbean's Turks & Caicos Grace Bay branch.

Employees of the bank had pooled their efforts, time, and resources to host several fundraising initiatives for the campaign, including monthly bake sales from June to October. On the last Friday of each month, they baked sweet treats from scratch to sell to clients, donating the funds collected to the cause. Clients were also invited to donate through coin

bottle drives at various branches.

Jolly expressed how important support for the National Cancer Society is and what it means to them:

"The annual support from CIBC First Caribbean means giving us the ability to continue to assist cancer patients here in the Turks & Caicos. The number of people being diagnosed with cancer continues to grow, and we the Cancer Society realize that the demand on us grows as well."

"These funds are so welcome, because they allow us to continue to work and champion the cause for which we were established, which is to enhance and contribute to the wellbeing of people here in the Turks & Caicos that are facing the disease."

Larry Lawrence, Country Head for CIBC First Caribbean in TCI, shared appreciation for everyone that helped to

make the bank's campaign a success.

"We received so much support from everyone that we invited to participate in our Walk for the Cure initiatives this year.

We're extremely grateful for the immense support that we received; especially in light of the two major hurricanes we experienced recently that we're still recovering from. I'm especially proud of the unceasing efforts of our staff members who go to great lengths to ensure that this campaign is a success each year," he said.

Walk for the Cure was launched by CIBC FirstCaribbean in 2012 as a regional version of CIBC's annual Run for the Cure cancer fundraising initiative.

In ensuing years the bank has raised close to \$60,000 in Turks & Caicos and over USD \$1.3 million across the Caribbean.

All proceeds are donated to cancer charities in the countries where CIBC FirstCaribbean operates.

URCA's INAUGURAL ICT COMPETITION WINNERS REVEALED

Five lucky contestants walked away with the top prizes at the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority's (URCA) Inaugural ICT (Information and Communications Technology) Awards Ceremony held last Friday.

The flagship competition was open to students in three categories: Primary (4th to 6th Grade students), Secondary (7th to 12th Grade students) and Young Adult (individuals age 18 to 30).

The winners included: Avante Knowles for the Primary Essay Category; Thalya Maksyhung for the Primary Illustration Category; Andre Rolle for the Primary Video Category; Ryan Farquharson for the Secondary Category and Jasmine Williams for the Young Adult Category.

Prizes included: cash, tablets, smart-phones, an internship with URCA and an all-expense-paid trip to an ITU event.

Since the competition was launched in September, there were more than 180 entries submitted – 136 from New Providence and 25 from Grand Bahama, as well as, other Bahamian Islands.

In the primary category, students were asked to imagine their school without chalkboards and books and create an essay, illustration or video that captured what their school would like with technology at its core.

In the secondary category, students were asked to create a video that depicts how ICT can improve one of seven areas of national development.

These areas included: recreation, island life, disaster preparedness and recovery, education, cyber security and privacy, health and the Internet of things.

Similarly, the young adult entrants were challenged to create a concept that used ICT to improve one of the same seven areas of national development.

URCA Board Member J.P.Morgan said he was proud that the mandate of the competition was accomplished.

URCA's Corporate & Consumer Relations Manager, Mavis Johnson Collie expressed excitement regarding the overall execution and end result of the competition, expressing thanks to the panel of judges and parents of the contestants.

"They knew exactly what they were looking for and we know that this process was one that was executed with the utmost integrity for all of the participants and all of the entries."

"Thank you for allowing them to have a view of your children's and your work and I know that you will be pleased as we are with the results."

"It is said that youth is the future of every culture," he said. "It is also said that ICT is now an essential ingredient - an essential delivery, an essential path, an essential infrastructure - even for economical and national development."

"The goal with this competition was to spark the imagination and curiosity of our young people and to consider how ICT can be used to improve the nation that we all live in."

URCA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Stephen Bereaux described the response to the competition as "amazing" and "absolutely overwhelming".

"All it takes is the effort - the incentive and the encouragement to get our people especially our young people, jumping on the bandwagon and really digging deep, deep into their intellect to find amazing ways that technology can enhance our lives," he said.

"We at URCA are firm believers that a country like the Bahamas with all our islands could not exist without technology, and the most clearly visible path to a bigger and brighter future for our country, lies through the adoption and development of technology."

Organizers said although here was a lot of effort and hard work put into refining the competition to pull off its debut, it was a wonderful accomplishment that the institution looks forward to expanding in years to come.



GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS
WATER & SEWERAGE CORPORATION
WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION OF WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS – LONG ISLAND

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (GOCB) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in an amount equivalent to US\$28.5 million towards the cost of the Water Supply Improvement Project (the Project) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under this contract. Payment by CDB will be made only at the request of GOCB and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. The Financing Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than the GOCB shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

The Project is being implemented by the Water & Sewerage Corporation (WSC).

WSC now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the design and construction of the water supply infrastructure upgrade for Long Island. The works include the installation of water mains; site preparation works including an access roadway; and the construction of a booster pumping station. Provision is to be made for connections to the WSC's existing and potential customers. The distribution system is to include side streets in between the start and end point as indicated on the drawings. Bidders may bid for any individual Lot or for both Lots, as follows:

LOT NO. 1: North Long Island Lot from northern end of Salt Pond Settlement ending at Boat Harbour Drive, Gray's Settlement

The design, supply and installation of approximately 45,000 feet (13,716 m) of 4-inch C900 PVC DR 18 water main and 15,000 feet (4,572 m) of 2-inch SDR 21 PVC water mains and 200 service connections, and all associated appurtenances as shown in the preliminary drawings. Design, supply and construction of the Optional Booster Station's access road, inclusive of all utilities, water main, drainage and photovoltaic street lighting. Perform site preparation of 20feet x 20feet of land designated for the Optional Booster Station and appurtenances foot print. Design, supply and construction of the Optional Booster Station in accordance with the Employer's Requirements and preliminary drawings.

LOT NO. 2: South Long Island Lot from Turtle Cove in Stevens Settlement to the Southern end of Clarence Town Settlement

The design, supply and installation of approximately 26,000 feet (7,925m) of 4-inch C900 DR 18 water mains and 14,000 feet (4,267m) of 2-inch SDR 21 PVC water mains, and 100 service connections, and all associated appurtenances as show in the preliminary drawings.

Consideration will be limited to firms or joint ventures of firms, which are legally incorporated or otherwise organised in, and have their principal place of business in an eligible country and are either:

- more than 50% beneficially owned by a citizen or citizens and/or a bona fide resident or residents of an eligible country, or by a body corporate or bodies corporate meeting these requirements; or
- owned or controlled by the Government of an eligible country provided that it is legally and financially autonomous and operated under the commercial law of an eligible country and otherwise meets the eligibility requirements of the CDB Guidelines for Procurement (2006).

All countries are eligible.

Eligible bidders will be required to submit full qualification information with their bids establishing their eligibility to bid and qualifications to perform the contract. Bid and qualification information are to be submitted in the English Language on the prescribed forms inserted in the Bid Documents. Submissions that do not provide the information required, or do not demonstrate the prospective contractor's ability to perform satisfactorily, will not qualify and will not be considered for further evaluation.

Qualification requirements in respect of each individual Lot include, inter alia:

- an average annual construction turnover (defined as certified payments received for works in progress or completed) within the last 5 years of at least Four Million United States Dollars (USD4.0M) for Lot 1 and Two Million United States Dollars (USD2.0M) for lot 2.
- an average annual design of works turnover (defined as certified payments received for works in progress or completed) within the last 5 years of at least Three Hundred and Sixty Thousand United States Dollars (USD360,000) for Lot 1 and Two hundred and Seventy Thousand United States Dollars (USD270,000) for Lot 2.
- a demonstrable cash flow (including access to credit) of Seven Hundred and Forty Thousand United States dollars (USD740,000) for Lot 1 and Five Hundred and Forty Thousand United States Dollars (USD540,000) for Lot 2.
- experience as a contractor/sub-contractor in the construction of at least two (2) assignments of a nature, scope and complexity comparable to the proposed project activity within the last ten (10) years (to comply with this requirement, works quoted should be at least 80 percent complete).
- experience as a designer of at least two (2) assignments of a nature, scope and complexity comparable to the proposed project activity within the last ten (10) years (to comply with this requirement, works quoted should be at least 80 percent complete).

Bidding Documents may be obtained by eligible bidders from the first address below, as of Thursday December 21, 2017 at 10:00 hrs Bahamas time, for a non-refundable fee equivalent to Fifty United States Dollars (USD50.00) for each Lot. Requests may be made by written application including email. Written applications must be clearly marked: **"Request for Bidding Documents for the Design & Construction of Water Supply Systems – Long Island" along with the relevant Lot Number(s)**. Written requests must also include the name, address and contact information of the bidder for which

Bidding Documents are being requested. Payment should be by wire transfer, bank draft or bank guaranteed cheque made payable to: **Water & Sewerage Corporation**.

Information to pay by wire transfer can be obtained from the first address below.

Applicants who request that documents be forwarded to them must submit an account number from a local courier agent that accepts freight collect charges. Documents will be promptly dispatched, but under no circumstance will GOCB or WSC or their authorised agent be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so transmitted.

Submissions in sealed envelopes clearly marked **"Bid for the Design & Construction of Water Supply Systems – Long Island" along with the relevant Lot Number(s)** and must be received at the second address below not later than **16:00 hrs Bahamas time** on the 1st February, 2018. Bid opening will take place immediately after the deadline for submission at the second address below in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Qualification information **only** must be simultaneously submitted to the third address below. All bids must be accompanied by a completed Form of Bid Securing Declaration.

GOCB/WSC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected prospective bidder(s) of the grounds for GOCB/WSC action. GOCB/WSC will not defray any costs incurred by any bidder in the preparation of bids.

1.	Address for Correspondence	2.	Address for Bid Submission and Bid Opening
	The Project Coordinator Water Supply Improvement Project Water & Sewerage Corporation #38 University Drive Nassau, New Providence COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS Tel: (242) 302-5548 Fax: (242) 302-5547 E-mail: wccdbproject@wsc.com.bs E-mail copy to: wcleslie@wsc.com.bs E-mail copy to: dnaim@acojvbahamas.com E-mail copy to: mvbastian@acojvbahamas.com		The Office of the General Manager Attn: Internal Control and Compliance Division Water Supply Improvement Project Water & Sewerage Corporation #38 University Drive Nassau, New Providence COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS
3.	Address for Completed Qualification Information Only		
	Procurement Officer Caribbean Development Bank P.O. Box 408, Wildey St. Michael BARBADOS, W.I. BB 11000 Tel: (246) 431-1600 Fax: (246) 426-7269 Email: procurement@caribank.org		

The Rough Cut

By Felix F. Bethel

“...news for yinna...”

Do I have news for yinna:--- A perfectly innocent Hector Brenton Smith was shot and killed on July 9 last year while walking with his friend Lashad Thompson.... The shooting took place shortly after the store was robbed by two men, one of whom was armed with a gun, according to evidence presented in court.

I also understand [or over-stand, if you must have it that way that: “The jury also concluded that Munroe’s actions were of “reasonable legal force” because he was in fear of his life.

The unanimous verdict was handed down at 1.40 p.m. in the Coroner’s Court before Coroner William Campbell.

Family members who sat in the Victoria Gardens courtroom were visibly upset by the verdict.

Sad to say: There are out-there any number of cold-hearted blood-thirsty heathens who are happy-happy- happy to hear how some supposedly ‘armed-and- dangerous – and-not-to-be-approached – young-Black-men’ are being mowed down by certain armed, strapped-lock-and-loaded-police officers—who will kill if they ‘fear for THEIR lives---THEY WILL KILL—they are trained to do this killing stuff!

This aside, I do suspect that there are times in life when –since they are [only] human, they can –from time to time, shoot and kill perfectly innocent men, women, boys and girls—blam-BLAM-GADJAMMMMIT-BLAM!

I also suspect they are this way because they are thirsty---but not in the manner used by Jesus when He cried out for water- and when, instead of that sweet potion, they gave him a bitter mixture of gall and vinegar--- Hosanna [They shouted] and also I read—They cried: Crucify Him].

Both stories continue- and so today, this word brew speaks to the violence done by men upon other men, women and children--Hosanna [They shouted] and also I read—and They cried: Crucify Him].

In these times one of the blood-thirsty ones chirps---Many thanks to the red-stripes (cops) for expeditiously dispatching this low life hoodlum! We can avoid all the wasted money on incarceration, the courts time and the blah-blah-debate about the death penalty if red-stripes simply blow away

anyone that shoots a gun at them.

Well done & keep it up!

And back to dead-shot-dead Hector Brenton Smith---The culprits allegedly made good their escape in the same area where Smith and Thompson were walking.

Smith died on the scene of the shooting. No weapon was found--- Outside of the court, the distraught family said they would now pursue other options.

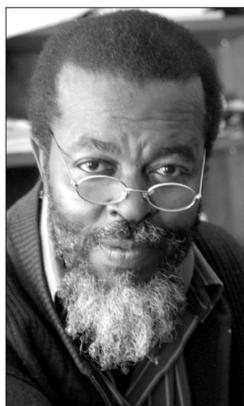
I am also pretty certain that this Christmas season is but one other sad time for any number of families – inclusive of my so-called ‘family’ – who have lost any number of loved ones to the fury of that crime-inflected whirlwind which has been with us all for far too long.

And so the fact remains: Time marches on – and the killings done by the police and their quarry continue---And as they continue, many of my people now rejoice as their taste for human blood is sated---As one true-true Bahamian person boasts:--“...Well at least murders for the period from November to now are down very significantly. And if persons want to engage the police in gun battle then may the law take its’ course. Is the number five or six that have lost the battle with police in recent gun-fights?” And then there was this conclusion to the bloody matter: “...As police disband the gangs and theft rings, persons are running scared. But yet some are desperate. Hopefully this is the bottom of the barrel and murders for 2018 will be down by more than 50%. Hopefully!

Another anonymous person claims : [The ‘known’ fact] is to the effect that: “...Many people that live behind the gates despise local Bahamians to the bone and love to see them killing each other while they secretly plot to steal the country---And some also have their drugs and substance abuse problems. Only they could afford it.

And then there is this ‘profound’ insight:---The country [also] has to deal with white collar criminals and their crimes.

But then, as I get back to my version of the real world—my mind wanders back some sick-six years ago when : A seven-man jury Thursday found that Detective Corporal 1476, Kelsie Munroe, acted in "self-defense" last year when he fired that fatal shot killing 18-year-old



Brenton Smith.

Still curious why the commodore of the Defense Force was asked to stand down from patrolling the western coast of New Providence (where all the rich folks live). What exactly was going on out there? Was some type of smuggling operation going on that was supplying guns among other things to fuel crimes in the country?

A known fact is many people that live behind the gates despise local Bahamians to the bone and love to see them killing each other while they secretly plot to steal the country. And some also have their drugs and substance abuse problems. Only they could afford it.

The mothers and baby-mamas who benefit from these thugs better tell them to quit and find a decent lawful job ... The Police need to shoot every one of these thugs on first sight No need to drag the courts through these meaningless cases for them to be given bail again and let the crime cycle continue

Kill them – the blood-thirsty people now cry--- as they did a long time ago, so do they now echo: Crucify Him---pop the scumbag’s neck---kill them – the blood-thirsty ones now echo and cry--- And in justification one of the more thirsty ones brays:“...If persons want to engage the police in gun battle, then may the law take its’ course--- As police disband the gangs and theft rings, persons are running scared. But yet some are desperate. Hopefully this is the bottom of the barrel...”

Hopefully?????!!!!!! Alas! When THEY killed 18 year old Hector Brenton Smith THEY KILLED a perfectly innocent man just as THEY DID in the very long-ago years when THEY MURDERED JESUS CHRIST!

But here we find the rub—JESUS is risen—a victor from the dark domain and He lives forever with the saints to reign---Hallelujah!

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The Bahama Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimaley P. Jones
Vice President/Operations

EDITORIAL

LACED WITH DESPAIR

Information coming our way indicates as follows:---TWO men and a juvenile were very recently arraigned over allegations the first two murdered one man, robbed two others and had help evading the law concerning the murder from a criminally-minded juvenile.

And so it now goes: In short order the attentive public will be regaled with a story which – for whatever set of reasons now unknown- they will hear how on December 10th 2017, the paths of a set of killers coincided with that of their victims.

That story – in its outlines and in its basics-speaks volumes as to how a place where community was once the order of the day is in this dread times degenerating inch by blood-drenched inch; with murder most foul as its emblem and prevailing motif.

The one instance we reference has to do with allegations concerning just such a set of carnage, maiming and killings on that fateful December 10th. day on a Shirley street location Torieano Cummings, of Pyfroom Road and Keith Barr of Kemp Road, killed two men, both of them victims of lethal gun-fire.

As reported: “...It is alleged on that day in question: Barr and Cummings murdered Louines Naissance. It is further alleged that on the same date, with a handgun, the two robbed Canes Fleurescar of \$126 cash and Sintamat Joseph of a Samsung cell-phone worth \$100 and \$200 cash...”

Note also: Two of the workers were subsequently shot. The third worker was gun butted before the suspects fled on foot. One of the victims was pronounced dead on the scene while the other two men were taken to hospital and were said to be in serious condition.

Here what we know for sure is to the effect that: We take it as being axiomatic that war and struggle for power leaves in its wake not only the victorious who gloat and cluck; but in truth and in fact, such encounters also bring in their wake sorrows and sufferings galore to far too many of our people.

This is the living source – tap-root if you will – of most of the problems which seem so very problematic!

This is why – in this particularly fraught

moment- we pause to remember how it now arises that so very many Bahamians now routinely cuss each other out or why – as they rest from these self-inflicted wounding and attendant macabre horrors—and in doing that: They focus their hate and bile on far too many of our brothers and sisters in from the coldness that comes with poverty on the hoof!

And so: While any number of Bahamians might wish – as the saying goes, to fake it before they bake it- [in their heart of hearts:--They know that these are times that would test the souls of even the hardest and the most jaded.

In this regard, then, reference might not only be made to the very men and women who have been killed by police and for whom no inquest to this date has been forthcoming concerning the legality or lack thereof concerning these vitally important matters.

And of course, there are also those cases which continue to suggest that these youth are participants in a very dangerous war-like set of games where they are losing fight after fight-piled upon an even any number of other deadly quixotic games.

The trouble is that when the police kill, they can apparently do so when and if they apprehend a danger to their own lives—and so, the bloody beat continues on and on in a bloody set of street-level battles where practically nobody with an iota of good sense can safely say that: They can distinguish the good from the bad and the latter [evidently] from the worse.

And yet, there is also that other face of battles either won or lost when we pause to take into consideration of any number of men, women and children who always suffer when their boys and men are blasted either into Thy Kingdom Come or into that nether world where the walking wounded now have their space and place.

Yet again, as we ruefully confess:--- There is suffering and sorrow galore for any number of our fellow-Bahamians; with this being the case whether the matter in question is close to home or at a more distant remove from the heat inherent on that bloody battlefield out-there.

And thus, this happiest of times is now laced with despair!

SHUT-EYE

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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 --

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

COMMEMORATIVE MANGO TREE PLANTED AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE



► Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling (centre), along with Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis (centre left) and Minister of the Environment and Housing the Hon. Romauld Ferreira (centre right), planted a Mango Tree in the Gardens of Government House to commemorate the planting of the 10,000th tree by the Ministry of the Environment, as part of a national Tree Planting Initiative, Wednesday, December 20, 2017. **(BIS Photo/Derek Smith)**

MORE LAYOFFS IN THE NEW YEAR

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
Journal Staff Writer

The Minister of Labour Dion Foulkes said yesterday that 14 people will be laid off at the start of the new year.

Although he was tight-lipped as to the specifics around the layoffs, Mr. Foulkes said that the persons will be from a company in the private sector.

This news comes after almost 86 persons would have been laid off in the

month of November.

Thirty at The Bank Of The Bahamas, another 14 at Resorts World Bimini, 12 at The Gaming Board and 30 at The Department Of Inland Revenue.

The Minister said no other notification was given to him for the months of January, February and March

Minister Foulkes said he believes the fact that there has only been one notice in this regard is good news.

He added that he's optimistic 2018 will bring an expansion in the private sector -particularly at Baha Mar coupled with projects in Grand Bahama and the family islands.

That expansion, he said, will assist the government in

keeping a handle on public service hirings.

"The public service is overstaffed and one of the things we don't want to do is let go public servants as other countries have done. What we will do is try to control the employment level. For example, those persons who may retire or for other reasons leave the service, we're going to try to reduce the amount of persons employed in the public service that way, as opposed to making them redundant," Foulkes said.

He added that the government is very aware of the economic situation, but is optimistic on the turnaround.

He said they want to keep a lid on all government hiring.



**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 --

Semiuel 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



► Minister of Transport and Local Government the Hon. Frankie Campbell announced that The Bahamas secured re-election to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council for the 2018-2019 biennium, during the 30th Assembly of the Organization. He is surrounded by Members of The Bahamas Maritime Association and staff of the Ministry. **(BIS Photo/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr.)**

The Bahamas re-elected to the International Maritime Organization Council

The Bahamas secured re-election to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council for the 2018-2019 biennium, during the 30th Assembly of the Organization.

"The Bahamas re-election represents a significant achievement not only for the nation, but also regionally for the Caribbean and globally for Small Island Development States for whom The Bahamas will strive to ensure equal representation during the international meetings," Minister of Transport and Local Government the Hon. Frankie Campbell said during a press conference at the Ministry, Monday, December 18.

"Council representation enables The Bahamas to be at the forefront of the decision making on the issues that will impact all industry stakeholders, including our ship owners, and the importance of this role from the regulatory process is immeasurable," Minister Campbell added.

The IMO is the United Nations specialised agency for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of maritime pollution by ships. The IMO Council is the executive organ of the IMO and is responsible under the Assembly for supervising the work of the Organization.

The Bahamas has the world's seventh largest shipping Register with over 1,560 ships, consisting of almost 60 million gross tons. The country remains the flag of choice for cruise ships with the world's largest cruise liners flying its flag.

The Transport Minister said the process to garner support and confidence of the voting IMO member states was a Bahamian inter-agency collaborative effort undertaken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Local Government and The Bahamas Maritime Authority.

The Bahamas has served on the IMO Council from 1991 to 1995 and from 1999 to the present and will now serve through to 2019.



**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.

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Minister Pintard Tells Young Entrepreneurs Funding Could be Found to Realize a Dream

BY ROBYN ADDERLEY
 Bahamas Information Services

FREEPORT, Grand Bahama – Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, the Hon. Michael Pintard gave sound advice to participants of the Grand Bahama Micro and Small Business Economic Empowerment Entrepreneurial Incentive Programme on how to get funding.

Shortly after arriving at a recent training session at the C.A. Smith

Building, the Minister asked the 18 participants to introduce themselves and share their information on their businesses. He told them there were a number of funding options that could assist: commercial entities as well as investment firms looking to invest in small businesses.

The Minister pointed out they should not get into businesses they were not passionate about.

He noted the government intends to put

together a directory for persons to find funding; and that, moreover, if the business is the dream, one could find a network of people to make that dream happen.

Twenty-eight year old Victoria Robinson-Joseph has started working on her egg farm. Currently working from home, she hopes to move to the Grand Bahama Highway. She brought her recently hatched chicks to class for all to see. **(BIS Photo/Andrew Miller)**

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