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# The Bahama Journal

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# Opposition Decries Transition at Immigration

**T**HE FORMER MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION Senator Fred Mitchell says he is very concerned about the manner of the transition from Mr. William Pratt, former Director of Immigration to a new Director.

"Compare and contrast what was done for the Commissioner of Police who knew where he was going and was treated to a public ceremony of handover and thanks from the Government. There has been no such treatment of Mr. Pratt. Instead the Prime Minister has damned him with faint praise.

"In doing so, the Prime Minister cast aspersions on Mr. Pratt and his tenure. At the same time, he put unrealistic expectations on Mr. Clarence Russell," said the Senator.



► Former Minister of Immigration Senator Fred Mitchell (Journal file photo)

■ See TRANSITION AT IMMIGRATION / page 2...

## 7000 IMMIGRANTS DEPORTED

BY EARYEL BOWLEG  
Journal Intern

Now that the deadline for all illegal migrants to leave The Bahamas has passed, the government is now going after employers who have illegal employees in order to send the immigrants back to their respective countries by the end of this week.

The Bahama Journal asked Michael Richard-Stirling, an Assistant Manager of a local landscaping company about how he feels about the deadline and its benefits.

"To be fair if illegal immigrants are get-

ting into the country, then it's hard to believe that 200 people could come into a country and no one knows about it. So for them to try and get this process, it's a step in the right direction. The fact that it's pretty much out of the blue, going to be hard on those who taking advantage of the illegal immigrants," said Richard-Stirling

According to the head of the Department of Immigration's Enforcement Unit, Kirklyn Neely, the Department of Immigration deported nearly 7,000 people in 2017.

■ See 7000 IMMIGRANTS / page 2...

## 22 PERSONS INDUCTED INTO JUNKANOO LEGENDS CIRCLE



► The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture and the National Junkanoo Committee held a ceremony at the British Colonial Hilton, on December 22, 2017 to induct 22 persons into the Junkanoo Legends Circle. The event was held under the patronage of Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling (front row, sixth right) and Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture the Hon. Michael Pintard (standing front row, fifth left). Also pictured with those recognized for their contributions to Junkanoo were Director of Culture Rowena Poirier Sutherland (left of Minister), and Co-Chairs of the National Junkanoo Committee Kishlane O'Brien (first row, first left) and Dr. Dwight Marshall (first row, first right). The 2017 Induction Class included: David Wilfred Thompson; Leonard "Laddy" Bain; Peter "Cheaper" Clarke, Jr.; Godfrey "Gully" Collie; Howard Bethel, Jr.; William Gregory "Big Mull" Bethel; Herbert "Herbie" Bain; Lynden "Mojo" Rahming; Kendal "K.C." Campbell; Ronald "Lugga" Cartwright, Jr.; Mrs. Emmaline Richardson; Barry Howard Herbert Wilson; Anjoun Armaly; Neville "Radio" Mitchell; Wendell Duke "Dukie" Smith; Rudolph "Billy" Burrows; Linda Christina Stubbs nee Wood; Jeffrey Rahming; Robert Andrew "Andy" Ford; Lincoln Young; Valentino A. Hanna; and Shane "Gabriel" Moncur (for Junior Junkanoo). (BIS Photo/Derek Smith)

## FNM Chairman says "Gov't Poised to Bring Prosperity This Year"

The Chairman of the governing Free National Movement, Carl Culmer says "In just seven short months, the FNM government started to right the ship and have taken positive steps in the right direction.

"Now we plan to build off of that progress. We will not lose focus and know that together we can keep taking strides to reach a better future for all citizens of The Bahamas," he said.

Recounting the challenges of the new government, Mr. Culmer said, "when the FNM Government was elected in May 2017, our country was in dire straits economically. We had suffered downgrade after downgrade, sky rocket-



► Free National Movement Chairman Carl Culmer (Journal file photo)

ing unemployment and clearly the corrupt PLP government was more focused on helping themselves than the people they serve.

■ See FNM CHAIRMAN / page 2...

# Post Office Mold Infestation Remains

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

Staff at the General Post Office not getting all they want for a conducive working environment in this new year, according to president of the Bahamas Public Services Union, Kimsley Ferguson. He says the mold problem at the East Street General Post Office has still not been corrected.

Speaking with this Journal, Mr. Ferguson said that there are a number

of issues that were anticipated to be addressed before the start of 2018; however, the East Street location is still not in satisfactory condition.

"We will not encourage our members to work under those conditions, apparently the mold remediation didn't take place and persons are still getting sick.

"We made an inspection of that premises on last week [before the new year] and we discovered that there are still a number of things that concern us that have not been addressed.

"The bathrooms are not fully functional. Persons still have buckets and garbage bins on their desk catching water; we cannot say whether the water is a result of bad plumbing or whether it's the result of rain or whatever the case may be, but there is still quite a bit of leaking taking place," Mr. Ferguson said.

Mr. Ferguson stated that while there was speculation that the staff at the Post Office would go back to regular time since at least the air conditioning had been fixed, he said that he

did not see that coming to fruition.

"They are on a shift from 8a.m - 1pm. I would have heard some speculation that they are going to work a full-time shift. I don't see that happening no time soon until such time as the working conditions in that particular location is satisfactory to the union.

"There have been considerations given to a particular location and they are seeking to actually relocate the post office.

"We want to ensure at this time,

that while they temporarily occupy East Street, we want to ensure that the conditions there are actually satisfactory and conducive to work and so these are the things that we are suggesting now," Mr. Ferguson said.

Mr. Ferguson confirmed however, that although there remains challenges that hinder proper work flow for the staff, there has been an attempt to address some of their concerns.

■ See INFESTATION REMAINS / page 2...

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# 7000 IMMIGRANTS DEPORTED

Continued from / PAGE 1...

The landscape Company tackles the issue of hiring foreign workers through asking appli-

cants for copies of passports and work permits. If they fail to produce these documents, they will not be considered an interview.

Mr. Stirling said, "It's really a problem for us,

because we let you know right off the back. We have a form and if you don't meet the criteria, you don't get hired. You don't get to speak to any of the managers."

In the past there have been cases of people wanting to get hired without the proper work permit, but they have always been stopped in their tracks when the Assistant Manager

informs of them of the steps to apply.

Michael-Stirling is originally from Jamaica and has been living in the Bahamas for many years.

Minister of Immigration Brent Symonette made it clear this week that anyone found employing illegal migrants will face a fine and criminal sentencing before the courts.

## Opposition Decries Transition at Immigration

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"One example of the thankless task during my time is the fact that the Department often could not obtain what they needed to do its job, at the same time as the country was demanding more. For example there was no transportation in the major islands including New Providence for officers and their detainees, no boats to conduct interdiction exercises, half-hearted support from other agencies, attacks from loony ton so called human rights activists, played up by the press who simply saw no distinction between the quest for a good story and the need to report faithfully on legitimate law enforcement efforts.

"In Abaco for example, the Department had to rely for surveillance and interdiction on the goodwill of private citizens to move them around on land and sea.

"Payment of overtime, purchases of weapons, the list is endless of defaults because of lack of money," said the PLP Chairman.

"I wish on behalf of the political administration in which I served to thank the outgoing Director of Immigration William Pratt for his services to the Department, to the country and for the policies which he

executed without fear or favour during the time that I had the honour to superintend at the political level the Department of Immigration.

"I took note of a letter which he wrote to the Department and the graciousness with which he commended the Department in which he spent his young years to his successor Superintendent Clarence Russell.

"I wish Mr. Pratt well in his newest endeavours, said Mr. Mitchell.

"At the same time, I wish to welcome the appointment of Clarence Russell as head of the Department. He was chosen during my tenure to succeed at the Passport Office and during that time worked with the Department of Immigration in implementing the border management sys-

tem which began with the new passport implementation. I thought that he did a creditable job there and that there is no reason to believe that he will do otherwise than a creditable job at the Department of Immigration. The PLP will do all it can to support a strict, but fair immigration policy," he said.

Senator Mitchell in his press statement said, "Immigration was one of the most challenging and unexpected jobs that I have had to execute. It is a thankless task in a country that says it wants to resolve the issues of illegal immigration, but is largely faint of heart at both the political level and at the level of the ordinary citizen. The Immigration Officers feel that thanklessness.

See IMMIGRATION / page 4...

## FNM Chairman says "Gov't Poised to Bring Prosperity This Year"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"The new FNM Government rolled up its sleeves and went to work with the goal of bringing financial stability back to the country. We are now seeing the positive results of those actions. Downgrades came to an end when Standard and Poor (S&P) elected to maintain our status because of the recent steps the FNM Government has taken. We passed the Commercial Enterprise Bill to encourage new investments in The Bahamas - Investments that will help diversify our economy while creating new higher paying jobs and long-term job security to the Bahamian worker," said the FNM Chairman.

He said "the previous PLP administration spent five years all but destroying our economy and our country through its greed, mismanagement, ineptitude and corruption.

"We knew change would not happen overnight and would take a lot of hard work. Stability was necessary so we would have a solid foundation on which to build lasting prosperity for all. With a new year, a new focus has now set in as our Government shifts from just stabilization to true prosperity.

"That means no more empty rhetoric and broken promises like what we suffered from the corrupt PLP Government. For years we watched as politicians promised change in the 'Over the Hill' communities and then ignored them and the challenges they faced. We now have a Prime Minister who grew up in those very same communities and will not forget or ignore people or promises made by the FNM Government. We will work harder each day to create an economy in those communities and across the country that will allow all Bahamians to secure a better life for themselves and their families. Education is critical to improving the opportunities and outlook for our youth and our people and we will place special emphasis on improving educational opportunities for our citizens", said Mr Culmer.

## Post Office Mold Infestation Remains

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"The air condition is in place, its functional but we have a concern about the cosmetics that should take place in order for persons to occupy the office.

"Some tiling has started in certain areas like the Post Master's Office, they're seeking to get that part of it

sort out.

Mr. Ferguson said that although there have been considerations given to a particular location, in the meantime, based on discussions with the relevant parties, it is understood that there is no sense in spending an exorbitant amount of money on the General Post Office which he calls a temporary space.

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# THREE CHARGED FOR ARMED ROBBERY



► Tiekko Moss (stripe shirt) and Janvone Rolle (plaid shirt) escorted by Central Detective Unit (CDU) TO Magistrate's Court for the robbery of Hurry Hurry Meat Mart on Poinciana Drive on New Year's Eve. **Photos: Rayvon Morrison**

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
Journal Staff Writer

## ● Robbers locked in Freezer charged

Two men were formally charged yesterday for robbing a Meat Mart on New Year's Eve.

Twenty-year old Tiekko Moss and 22 year old Janvone Rolle, both of Crooked Island Street were arraigned before Chief Magistrate Joyanne Ferguson-Pratt.

According to court documents, the two men entered Hurry Hurry Meat Mart on Poinciana Drive

shortly before 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 31, st brandishing an imitation Black 9mm Taurus P1-111. It is alleged that they robbed the Meat Mart of \$410, which was the property of Andrew Sinclair.

It is further alleged that as the men attempted to leave, an employee confronted them armed with a licensed shotgun.

The men then reportedly locked

themselves into a walk-in freezer until police officers arrived and were subsequently arrested. Police seized the imitation firearm and the stolen cash was recovered.

Moss and Rolle were also charged with one count of receiving \$410, and one count of possession of an imitation firearm.

They were not required to enter a plea and were remanded to the

Bahamas Department of Corrections until February 28th when they return for a Voluntary Bill of Indictment.

Tiako Moss is represented by Attorney Devard Francis. Janvone Rolle had no representation.

In another robbery incident, on December 2nd Jahfin Osis armed with a handgun robbed Chances Games employee Andenecia Smith

of \$1,418.57.

Osis was apprehended and Ms. Smith's money was returned.

Brought before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt, Osis was charged with one count of armed robbery and one count of possession of a firearm.

He was not required to enter a plea and his matter was also adjourned until February 28th where he too may return for a voluntary bill of indictment.

Osis had no representation.

## PLP POSITION ON MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
Journal Staff Writer

The Chairman of the Progressive Liberal Party Senator Fred Mitchell says his party is interested in saving many Bahamians from the stigmatization of their lives as a result of the use of marijuana. He has issued a statement answering a question posed on the legalization of Marijuana.

The question is :Does the PLP have a position on legalization of marijuana; or is the current administration going to at least be first guided by what CARICOM concludes?

Mr. Mitchell says "the Caricom process on marijuana which is now unfolding is one which was initiated at Caricom with the support of the Government of The Bahamas when the PLP was in power.

"We nominated Bishop Simeon Hall as our representative on the Commission. We believe that having regard to the changing attitudes toward marijuana use around The Bahamas, the region and in the United States and Canada, there needs to be a study of the issue to provide guidance from our various peoples on which direction the law should take," Mr. Mitchell said.

Further, Mr. Mitchell encourages everyone to go to the meetings and air their views on the important subject, as he indicates that 'someone' from our party will attend.

He continued, "We are particularly interested in saving so many of our young men from the continued stigmatization of their lives and work because of marijuana use, and we are interested in any possible medicinal uses.

The PLP believes in informed choices, thus our support for the Caricom wide study."

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# BTC SUPPORTS GB JUNKANOO

BY EARYEL BOWLEG  
Journal Intern

For the fifth time, BTC sponsored the annual New Year's Junkanoo parade in Grand Bahama.

BTC provided thousands of dollars in financial support to the Grand Bahama Junkanoo Committee –which were used to support numerous groups including Swingers, Classic Dancers, Showtime Superstar Rockers and Kingdom Culture.

BTC also provided Fiber capabilities for live streaming which gave thousands of Bahamians access to the parade via their smart devices.

“As our premier event for cultural expression Junkanoo is a staple of the season, giving Bahamians an opportunity to showcase their immense talent and cultural pride,” said Eldri Ferguson-Mackey, BTC Vice President of Customer Experience.

This year's parade, however, was sadly marred by the loss of one of Grand Bahama's Junkanoo giants in the person Ken

‘Motorboat’ Ferguson who passed away in late 2017, making the event a bittersweet celebration of his life and of Bahamian culture.

The community of Grand Bahama and BTC paid tribute to Junkanoo legend ‘Motorboat’ Ferguson at this year's New Year Junkanoo Parade.

Ferguson, the leader of the New Life Classic Dancers Junkanoo Group, died in September 2017 at the Rand Memorial Hospital after battling an illness over the past few years.

“Sadly, this year we lost ‘Motorboat’. He was himself an amazing talent and proved his commitment to the development of Junkanoo in Grand Bahama time and time again” said Mrs. Ferguson-Mackey. “So, this year the parade was to honour his memory and his legacy in this wonderful expression of Bahamian Culture.”

Like ‘Motorboat’, BTC has worked to make sure that the art of Junkanoo has grown and become the epitome of showmanship and performance that we have come to expect and love in our annual parades.



► **In the Shack** -- 'Shack Rats' received a visit from members of team BTC including VP of Customer Experience Eldri Ferguson as they completed last minute touch ups to their costumes ahead of the Big Parade! (Photo courtesy of BTC for Barefoot Marketing)

## Opposition Decries Transition at Immigration

Continued from / PAGE 2...

“Given all of the competing demands for money, the resources were simply not there. Immigration services provide some 50 million dollars in revenue to The Bahamas annually and so that should not be. There was scope for more revenue but every time we tried to press the issue by raising fees for those who wish to live in The Bahamas, some

selfish folk in our community went howling in protest. Of course with their new Government and the same or similar raises coming, they are silent as lambs.

“So as we say farewell to Mr. Pratt, I do not want the country and this government to put unrealistic expectations on Mr. Russell. Unless he gets the money and support, he cannot do the job which is demanded. He and the Minister will

have to work closely together.

“We wish Mr. Russell well. The PLP will lend its support when the right things are done in immigration and that for us means following the blue print which was established on 1 November 2014. Mr. Russell is very much aware of the work that was done and his Minister would do well to follow suit,” said the PLP senator.



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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 <b>COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS</b>  Tel: (242) 302-5548 Fax: (242) 302-5547 E-mail: wccdbproject@wsc.com.bs E-mail copy to: wceslie@wsc.com.bs E-mail copy to: dnairn@acojvbahamas.com E-mail copy to: mybastian@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 <b>COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS</b>
3.	Address for Completed Qualification Information Only		
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# The Rough Cut

By Felix F. Bethel

## “...sparks, blood and fire...”

What spark?! What fire?! Prescott Smith's cry has been cried for eons--and still Pharaoh reigns--and yet --since God is still in charge--Pharaoh shall heed the command--Let My people go!

K C M G - - C M G - OBE\_MBE-BEM\_\_THE RIGHT HONORABLE--THE HONORABLE--SCOOBY-TINGUM-DEM and Das Me NOW---the nigs are happy in their slave and colonial garb--the clothes have now become the skin--RULE BRITANNIA---

Prescott Smith's cry has been cried for eons--and still Pharaoh reigns. The fact remains as follows: ---The Caribbean Revolution [also known as the Haitian revolution] was squelched in the womb---strangled in the passage--and thus today's nastiest of happenings -namely the humiliation of far too many of God's children who are being abused by men and women in the Bahamas who were once upon a time their brothers and sisters---this is the irony locked in the heart of a continuing tragedy---you do not pray for transformation---You Do It!

K C M G - - C M G - OBE\_MBE-BEM\_\_THE RIGHT HONORABLE--THE HONORABLE--SCOOBY-TINGUM-DEM and Das Me NOW---the nigs are happy in their slave and colonial garb--the clothes have now become the skin--RULE BRITANNIA---THE KING GEORGE VI NEGROES---especially the hog-fattened shiny black ones are the happiest of all such bearers of the stain and stench of WHITE HATE, SPITE and their sense that NO MATTER WHAT - they are SUPERIOR to all human beings who are not WHITE-- --is still their wretched belief-foundation.

What sublime madness! This is precisely why and therefore:--- For what it's worth, today I take note that so very much can happen in a span of a thousand days!

And for what it's also worth in these hard times, take note that Jesus Christ himself ministered and made miracles in a passion-laced period of a thousand days--- and so too do I now recall that Morgan Wells - one of my grand children- was gun-blasted and bullet-riddled direct to that urn that - in the end - contained naught but the remaindered residue of a handful of dust and remaindered ashes.

And today, I also remember that fifty years ago--- THEY KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING---JUNIOR--and sadly, I also know that notwithstanding his Christian martyrdom---A Bahamas where the vast majority of

Bahamians are Baptists is still THAT BAHAMAS which continues to studiously neglect giving this great human being the recognition his legacy, sacrifice and leadership deserve---

This is what ignorance can and does do to a people who are happy to live under a so very sad penumbra of ignorance laced with hog-like stupidity!! This is so very sad!

And therefore now note [as Prescott Smith claims: --- The Pigs are the monopoly holders, the foreign investors, the foreign entities and the invisible nefarious money men who hold the true power in this country---! What spark! What fire!

Evidently, Prescott Smith's cry has been cried for eons--and still Pharaoh reigns ---the Caribbean Revolution [also known as the Haitian revolution]was squelched in the womb---strangled in the passage--and thus today's nastiest of happenings -namely the humiliation of far too many of God's children who are being abused by men and women in the Bahamas who were once upon a time their brothers and sisters---this is the irony locked in the heart of a continuing tragedy---you do not pray for transformation-- --You Do It!

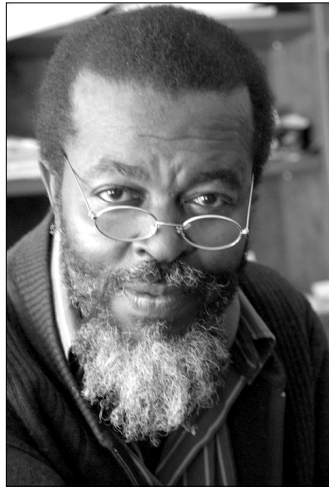
1. The Pigs are the monopoly holders, the foreign investors, the foreign entities and the invisible nefarious money men who hold the true power in this country.

2. Our government--- [Yes: - -- Our elected government!!!] are simply the house Negroes keeping the field Negroes in check for the elusive master.

3. If you were to do a critical analysis of politics in this country you would see that this hypothesis is indeed true. Deals, contracts, partnerships never truly enrich or empower the masses but rather the select few.

As Smith notes and quotes:---The pigs who were the intellectuals galvanized themselves and declared since they were the ones with the intellectual prowess and in control of the decision making, they should be entitled to more than the other animals who were just mere workers. When some of the other animals began to realize that the Pigs had placed themselves in a position of superiority they began to murmur; the Pigs reacted immediately. The Pigs gathered up all their loyal followers, the sheep, and gave them a message to spread continually to all of the animals.

When someone would voice a concern the sheep



chanted louder and drowned them out. The Pigs also turned to the dogs, who were originally the security force to protect the farm against an invasion by the humans, to now silence and squelch any dissenters or “trouble makers”. For their loyalty to the Pigs; the dogs themselves became an elite class and were rewarded handsomely. The Pigs through their actions mimicked the behavior of the very humans that the animals sought to escape.

So much for Smith and his up-to-the-moment cry and jeremiad---and on to a supremely confident ‘new’ man///Clarence Russell in his ex-policeman guise as head honcho in command of that gaggle of bulky-fit Black-HIGH\_SHUN\_LOOKING\_men and women who have the unlikely task of looking for people who look just like THEM---bulky-fit Black-HIGH\_SHUN\_LOOKING PEOPLE---Oh dear\_\_MIRROR-MIRROR MOMENTS ON THE--WAY IN----Oh dear!

As Russell recently crowed:---I was quite pleasantly surprised to observe a Brilliantly Uniformed Properly Dressed Team of Immigration Professionals on duty and fully alert, under the Astute Leadership of Senior Executive Joseph in what I deemed a "Grand Environment"--- So much so that I am inclined to move My Executive Office to that location.

HAH-HAH---move his office to the Detention Centre----HAH-HAH----HAH-HAH---move his office to the Detention Centre----HAH-HAH----! I am inclined to move My Executive Office to that location.

On this C.RUSSELL note---Prescott Smith comes to the rescue---For their loyalty to the Pigs, the dogs themselves became an elite class and were rewarded handsomely. The Pigs through their actions mimicked the behavior of the very humans that the animals sought to escape.

HAH-HAH---Russell would [if he could] move his office to the Detention Centre----HAH-HAH----HAH-HAH---move his office to the Detention Centre----HAH-HAH----!

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Wendall K. Jones Publisher/Chief Executive Officer The Bahama Journal Quo Vadis, Bahamas? Kimalay P. Jones Vice President/Operations EDITORIAL

# WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

Whilst there is so much to gain money-wise from the branding that comes with all-things-Christmas; there is no getting away from the fact that they who would rape, pillage, lie, steal and kill do so with no compunction as to whether they do so on this or that Christianity-based feast of the Church Universal; and thus, this Christmas time was no exception.

Put simply: The merriment and solemnity of this season served as naught but back-ground sound-track to the report of gun-fire and the nasty work done in recent times as human blood was so very nastily taken away by some who seem to thrive as they - the killers - linger at the mouth of their own living hellish pens.

It is against this morbid backdrop, we note: One for the money---Two for the show---Three to get ready and four to go!

This we remember as we also bring to mind some of what Dr. Hubert A. Minnis [now The Honorable Dr. Hubert A. Minnis, prime minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas] this being realized on May 10th. 2017 as Minnis and his mighty minions trounced their nemeses in the Progressive Liberal Party - as it were - horse and rider were swept away by a sea of voter anger and distress!

As we recall how things went for both Minnis and Christie: In the first things first department - as revealed on the morrow of May 10th. 2017--- The Bahamian people decided that they had had enough of Loretta Butler-Turner, Bran McCartney, Perry Gladstone Christie and all others who would pretend that they had the answer to the people's cries for the soon-coming of better days!

As we now know better than we knew then on the day before the General Election contests, Minnis was the man for that moment - and God willing - for the next four years and some five months counting.

We now see as clearly as we would do on a bright sunny day: Minnis knew how to connect with not only THE PEOPLE but also with the angst so very many of them lived with and under as they felt the bite not only of more taxes but also about the fears that were theirs as they stood in witness to the blood and carnage that accompanied the bloody demise of so very many of their sons.

Enter an apparently much-angered Minnis who could - only as he could - give voice to the pain felt by so very many not-so-ordinary-

Bahamians who had been victimized by what Minnis once described as 'murderous' scumbags!

As Dr. Minnis once declared:--- This election is about Beverly Wallace-Whitfield, the former wife of our founding father Sir Cecil Wallace-Whitfield, who was gagged, beaten, and robbed in her home--- This election, FNMs, is about the school teacher who was brutally murdered in her apartment--- [and]: This election is about the reverend who went to the ATM on a Sunday morning to get money to put in collection and was shot and killed in cold blood!

And thus it was that crime did become a major weapon in the FNM's arsenal of weapons trained on their nemeses in the once dominant Progressive Liberal Party!

**The FNM won!  
The PLP lost BIG TIME!  
The FNM and Minnis won BIG TIME!**

This much is obvious; but while this much is also quite true the fact of the matter is this: The bloody murders continue to roll in.

Indeed, then---scores are still being settled; the police are as busy as ever; the people are as distressed as ever- and thus the beat goes on in a Bahamas where distress and sorrow are now such fine bedfellows; and as a blood-drenched clutch of recent news reports have so pithily noted:---“...TWO men in their mid-twenties were arraigned in a Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with two separate murders which took place over the weekend, one of which occurred at a party on Boxing Day...”

As we can report: “Anastoyan Rolle, 26, of Malaysia Way, and Charles Whyms, 24, of East Street, each stood before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt facing murder charges stemming from incidents that occurred on December 26 and 27, respectively...”

And yet whilst these two still-young youth-men are to be presumed innocent...the fact remains that - in profile and demeanor - they are so very similar to other youth-men who - having had their day in open court - have been found guilty of murders most foul!

And invariably, their weapon of choice was THE GUN!

The sum of the matter therefore remains: What is to be done?







► For more than a decade, Bahamas Waste has partnered with the All Saints Camp in the fight to end HIV/AIDS in the Bahamas. On December 11, the company made its annual donation of grocery items to the facility as part of efforts to improve the quality of life for residents at the camp. (Photo courtesy of Ronnie Archer for Barefoot Marketing)

# BAHAMAS WASTE HELPS THE ALL SAINTS CAMP

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
Journal Staff Writer

Bahamas Waste partnered with the All Saints Camp to assist in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Each year, the staff at Bahamas Waste pools resources to make a donation.

The funds help with essentials like food supplies, toi-

letries and clothing.

Over the holiday season, the staff of Bahamas Waste returned to the All Saints Camp to present them with their annual donation of Christmas needs.

Bahamas Waste Operations Manager, Ethelyn Davis said they've developed an amazing relationship with the team at the All Saints

Camp.

"For the past 12 years, we've worked with All Saints to provide the items which they need to make the lives of their residents more comfortable," Davis said.

All Saints Camp administrator Diane Ingraham said the donation was a blessing and could not come at a better time.

"The holidays are all about gathering with those closest to you and sharing a meal and fellowship and so this donation will go a long way in ensuring that we are able to give our residents the Christmas they deserve. As a non-profit organization, we depend heavily on the kindness of corporate citizens and everyday Bahamians to do

the work we do," Ingraham said

Persons interested in assisting the All Saints Camp can contact Diane and her team 477-1275.

All contributions made are an integral part of the fight against the deadly disease helping to raise awareness and encourage more Bahamians to protect them-

selves and finally stop the spread.

The All Saints Camp was founded back in 1989 in response to the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Since then, the home has continued to provide room, board, and treatment for up to 60 persons who may otherwise not be able to receive the care.

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# Timothy Smith, 24, Named Top Rookie Producer at Better Homes and Gardens MCR Group Real Estate

Timothy Smith, 24, in his first year in real estate earned honours as rookie sales associate of the year at Better Homes and Gardens MCR Group, one of The Bahamas' leading real estate firms with offices or representatives in Nassau and on several Family Islands.

Smith did it, he said, by putting in days that began before sunrise starting with e-mails and researching the market and lasted long into the night attending functions and making connections.

Smith credits much of his success to the mentorship of one of the most successful brokers in Bahamian real estate, Mario Carey, president and founder of Better Homes and Garden MCR Group Real Estate.

"Mario took me under his wing. He has been great," said Smith. "He really wants to see your career grow and he shares the stuff he did as an up and coming young realtor. He also shows you how to get out of your comfort zone when you need to if you want to be successful."

Smith had another advantage. He grew up in a family of real estate developers

and was on site to witness the buildings go up and deals closed.

"In an age when everyone relies more and more on doing business online, Tim has an advantage in being

able to work social media and get those likes translated into sales. He doesn't slumber on his laurels but gets out there and networks the old-fashioned way, letting people know he is in real

estate and if they ever have a need, he'd be very pleased to assist them," said Carey. "It works."

Carey described Smith as a disciplined and dedicated, fast learner. "It has been a pleasure to see Tim grow and develop an amazing amount of understanding of the market along with self-confidence this past year. Tim is a very likeable person which works in his favour with clients as well as within the office. Everyone likes him and likes being around him."

"It's all about hard work and the willingness to do it," notes Smith. "Real estate isn't easy. There are more than 700 agents and brokers. A major key is differentiating yourself from the others and determining how the service you provide is different. There is only so much property and there are serious shortages in key areas like housing for millennials."

Smith believes the importance of millennials as investors and in national development is under-rated. He is the same young entrepreneur who was widely quoted from a non-partisan stance saying he believed millennials,

many of whom were voting for the first time, made the difference in the May election in The Bahamas and he hoped younger people would be appointed to boards and recognized as significant contributors to national development.

"The greatest shortage we have in housing right now is for people like me, those between 24 or 25 and up to 34 who are working hard whether in a trade or a profession and do not want to rent. They want to own and until they can afford to do that many continue to live at home," said the winning young agent. "It is an under-tapped market with incredible potential for developers to create offerings, at a starter range with amenities and activities in a community, designed for millennials. It would also help to stop the brain drain because one of the reasons Bahamians say they don't come home after college is they cannot afford the housing and they would have to move back in with family."

Which is exactly what Smith is doing while he – young and successful in two fields – continues to live out his dream of conducting business.



► Mario Carey, president and founder of Better Homes and Garden MCR Group Real Estate presents Timothy Smith with rookie sales associate award.



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