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# "DEMOCRACY UNDER ASSAULT"

**T**he Member of Parliament for Exuma and Ragged Island **Chester Cooper** says "in the aftermath of what went down in the House of Assembly Wednesday, Bahamians of political persuasions can see that democracy and due process are under assault in this country." Addressing a Progressive Liberal Party Rally at Gambier House (The Sir Lynden Pindling Centre) last night, Mr. Cooper said, "the four members of the opposition went to Parliament in attempt to do something extremely straightforward – have the speaker of the House of Assembly removed for his complete lack of impartiality and flagrant abuse of the rules of the House."

"We followed the proper procedure; we sat out the suspension handed down by the speaker, even though we obviously disagreed with his ruling."

"We put the motion on the agenda and waited patiently while the prime minister tried to steal the attention away by talking about a heads of agreement signing that they plan to do next week. I shall return to this point later."

"And even still, so undemocratic is this lot, so petty, that they couldn't even see fit to contribute to the motion that the leader had moved."

"Abusing their power yet again, they amended the motion in order to make it look better for the speaker, who had disgraced himself," said the PLP Deputy Leader.

Mr Cooper said "they were so desperate to control the narrative, to assert their control, that they even tried to shut down one of their own – the member for Pineridge, **Fredrick McAlpine**."

"Even McAlpine, who took the PLP to war on the campaign trail, suggested that they were perhaps being unchristian."

## GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN GIVES \$500,000 GRANT TO THE BAHAMAS NATIONAL TRUST



Contract signing - Community-based conch management project signing took place at the Bahamas National Trust, Thursday, February 15, 2018. Seated from left: President, BNT, Janet Johnson; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. Peter Turnquest; IDB Country Representative for The Bahamas, Maria Florencia Attademo-Hirt; IDB, Executive Director Office for Croatia, Portugal, Korea, Slovenia, the UK, Tatsuya Sugiura; and Representative from the Embassy of Japan, Hideki Shinozaki. Standing from left: Executive Director, BNT, Eric Carey; Minister of the Environment and Housing the Hon. Romauld Ferreira; and Executive Director for the Caribbean, IDB, Jerry Christopher Butler; and Honorary Consul of Japan, Robert Sands. (BIS Photo/Derek Smith)

## CANADIANS ARRAIGNED FOR FRAUD

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
Journal Staff Writer

Two adult female Canadians yesterday were arraigned in Magistrate's Court on Fraud charges.

Appearing before Magistrate Samuel Mckinney, 23 year old Sydney Mills and 25 year old Natasha Stolove, both Adult Entertainers were charged with 11 counts of Fraud by False pretense.

It is alleged that after having a few drinks with one of the male hotel guests, Emiliano Alaniz at Atlantis Paradise Island Resort, the women stole the Men's room key then later racked up a number of charges on alcohol, food, Spa Services and Baby Clothing totaling over \$10,000 from January 16th to January 18th.

The women allegedly defrauded Discover Atlantis, Marina Logo Store, Atlantis Baby Store, Starbucks Café, Restaurant, Olive's, Platos Nobu, Marina Pizzeria, Cascades Bar and Grill, Sip-Sip Pool Bar, Aura Night Club and Mandara Spa.

After Alaniz returned home to Houston, Texas January 15,th he noticed a number of unrelating charges on his bill for his hotel stay. That's when he suspected the women of stealing his room key.

Mr. Alaniz contacted Central Detective Unit (CDU) to place a report and the women were subsequently arrested.

See ARRAIGNED FOR FRAUD on PAGE 3...

## Improvements For Downtown Traffic Flow

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

Plans are in the pipeline to improve the flow of traffic in downtown New Providence, according to Minister of Transport, Frankie Campbell.

To make commuting downtown Nassau more convenient and in conjunction with the Downtown Nassau Partnership, Mr. Campbell revealed that a proper bus depot will be made for bus drivers, taxi operators and passengers attempting to gain access to the downtown area.

"The government of The Bahamas is concerned about ensuring that things move more smoothly, that downtown is more accessible, that downtown becomes more user friendly."

"Downtown should become a beehive of activi-

ty first and foremost for us who live here in New Providence and then the tourist will come and enjoy for a few hours what it is that we enjoy every day," Mr. Campbell said.

With buses being the major cause for traffic congestion in the downtown area and Prince George Wharf, a terminal for taxi operators, Mr. Campbell revealed that a terminal will be erected at the old Kelly's Shipyard.

"Immediately East, South and West of the downtown area, buses [will go] to a terminal of sorts, where buses will have the opportunity to come in and drop off their passengers, those passengers will then be provided with free transportation to the downtown area."

See IMPROVEMENTS / page 2...



Member of Parliament for Exuma and Ragged Island **Chester Cooper** (Journal file photo)

## MAKE OVER FOR CITY CENTER



Minister of Tourism, **Dionisio D'Aguilar** (Journal file photo)

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

With no cost attached to any of its undertakings, the Downtown Nassau Partnership (DNP) is promising a complete makeover for the city center that will make it more attractive for tourists.

During a recent press conference to give details of the partnership, Minister of Tourism, Dionisio D'Aguilar said "from a touristic standpoint, we have two to three million cruise passengers come to our city and their first stop is the Bay Street area and Prince George dock and that is why the government has decided that that port needs a different structure, needs a different solution," Mr. D'Aguilar said.

"It is not a good first sight of our city and the government has committed, [Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Transport and Downtown Nassau Partnership] and we've come to put our heads together to create an entity, much like NAD at the Lynden Pindling Airport, to improve the customer experience when they first arrive here in Nassau," he said.

See CITY CENTER / page 2...

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# “DEMOCRACY UNDER ASSAULT”

Continued from / PAGE 1...

“He told them, after he had to create a little bit of a fuss, that they should be careful not to be seen to be bullying the opposition, or even their members on the back bench.

“He told them that what they did looks bad and it’s a reversal of their promise to have a different kind of

governance, a different kind of politics.

“Well, maybe McAlpine is just realizing it, but I could have told him that the promises of the Minnis-led FNM are often not worth the paper they’re printed on,” said Cooper.

He told PLP supporters, “what was so shameful about the entire day is that the speaker apologized when he

went back in the chair.

He was contrite and remorseful, even though the damage was already done.

At least he had the decency to apologize for attacking the leader and his wife, and Maurice Tynes and spewing personal, hateful nonsense from the chair and bringing the office to all-time low.

“My question is, where were the other apologies?”

Where were the apologies from these respected men and women who sat there listening to the speaker last Wednesday then praised him for his great moral character?

“Where were the apologies from the men who sat there while the member for MICAL talked about when it

was OK to beat or manhandle a woman?”

“Where were the apologies or the condemnation from those members of Parliament who are divorced or have foreign-born wives?”

“Where were the apologies to their constituents for wasting their time last Wednesday and not dealing with the people’s business?” asked Cooper.

# Improvements For Downtown Traffic Flow

Continued from / PAGE 1...

“This will then alleviate the congestion that is causing by all of the buses trying to find a spot downtown.

“You go to Frederick Street, there is congestion. You go to the area in front of Government Publications, there is congestion. You go to the area

just in front of the Hilton, there is congestion.

“With the participation Mr. Wallace and the Prince George Association of Cab Drivers, it took some very

passionate discussions, but it’s one thing when you are frank and forthright and when you can convey a certain degree of sincerity. Public service drivers are an integral part of the development of the downtown,” Mr. Campbell said.

“The plan is to alleviate that congestion, by having a terminal for those buses to go to, and by providing free transportation from the terminal to the downtown

area,” he said.

Mr. Campbell also pointed to the fact that the new terminal structure will also assist those who work in the downtown area and find parking a difficult process.

“That will also facilitate persons who work in the downtown area, who has this issue of parking.

“We hope to provide sufficient parking at those very terminals, that they can park their vehicles, jump on a

tram and get a free ride to their workspace with adequate security being satisfied that on their return the four tires and all of the glass are on their vehicle.

“Together we will be able to cause these things to happen,” Mr. Campbell said.

The pilot project of the unified bus system is scheduled to begin next month and is expected to collect data to determine how well a unified bus system will work.



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL PLANNING

The public is hereby notified that Site Plan Application (SPA/1/2018) on behalf of Mr. James R. Bain is being reviewed by the Department of Physical Planning for presentation to the Town Planning Committee.

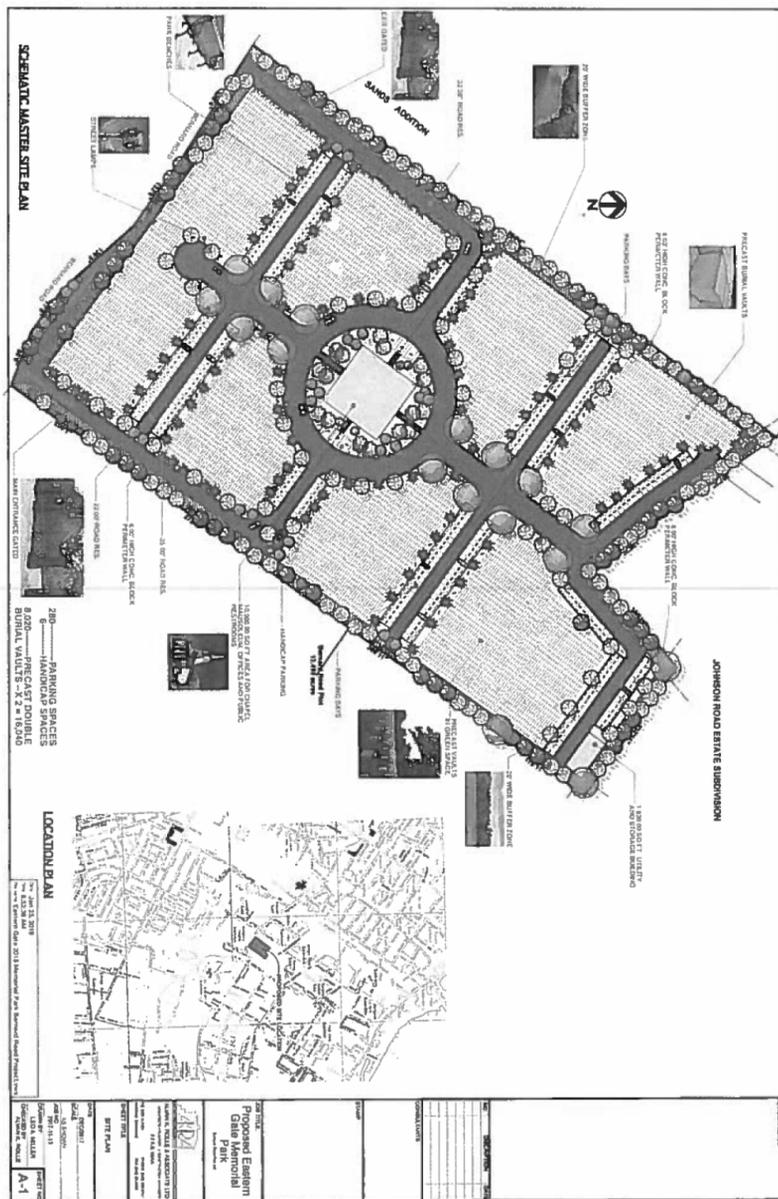
This proposed tract of land contains 13.504 acres and is situated on the northern side of Bernard Road, immediately east of Sands Addition and approximately 450 feet west of Adderley Street. The applicant wishes to develop a cemetery, construct a chapel and a mausoleum with related facilities on the property.

The preliminary site plan and file for the proposed development are available for viewing at the Department of Physical Planning, located in the Aventura Plaza on John F. Kennedy Drive during normal working hours.

Interested persons and organizations are invited to review the information on file and provide written comments to the Acting Director of Physical Planning within twenty-one (21) days of the date of this public notice.

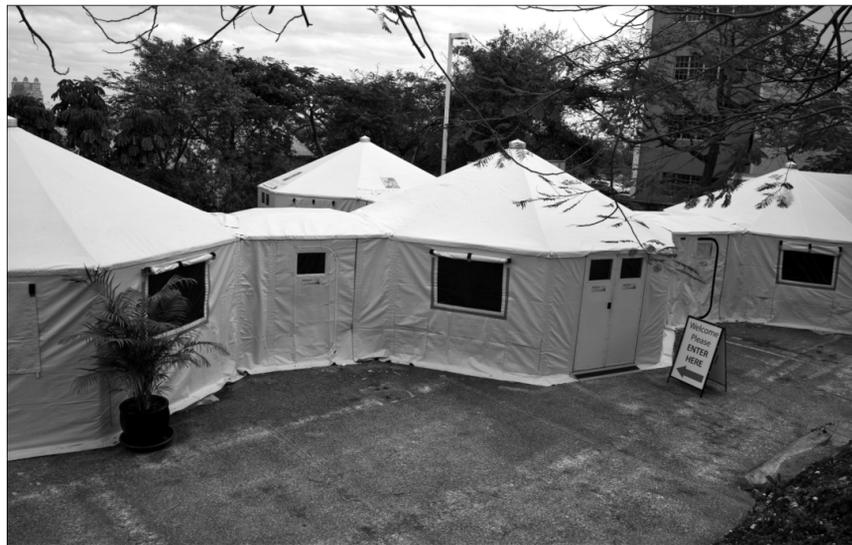
Submissions should be made via P.O. Box N-1611 Nassau, Bahamas or via Fax: (242) 328-3206. Further inquiries should be made to the Acting Director via Tel: (242) 322-7550/2 or (242) 328-3202 or CHARLESZONICLE@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS.

Signed  
Charles B. Zonicle  
Acting Director of Physical Planning



## CGI TO HOST HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS EXPOSITION

► "On Monday, February 26, 2018 between the hours of 10am – 2pm, Colonial Group International (CGI) will host an open-house business interruption exercise, showcasing its "Temporary, Portable, Post-Disaster Business Continuity Office Facility" (TPPBCOF). The event's purpose is to expose the public to the function of TPPBCOF - which will allow CGI to resume services 36 hours after any natural disaster occurs allowing clients to have access to cash, process cheques and make claims."



## MAKE OVER FOR CITY CENTER

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mr. D’Aguilar said that the port and the development of downtown will work hand in hand.

“Whatever entity takes over the port [to manage] will have to tie nicely into to Bay Street because we want to obviously get the passengers off the boat through the port where they can get on to Bay Street and begin to spend money in our country,” Mr. D’Aguilar said.

To get the improvements started, a process that has been in the work for quite some time, Mr. D’Aguilar said that it will begin with a Business Improvement District legislation that will be presented to the government within the next three weeks.

“The Business Improvement District (BID) which will hopefully provide the funding for the revitalization and refreshing of Bay Street. “That’s very important to do something different,” Mr. D’Aguilar said.

“There are three components to a successful downtown number one is parking, number

two is accommodation for people to live and number three is food and beverage and retail options, nightlife for people to enjoy,” he said.

Along with public private partnership, the Downtown Nassau Partnership will also work in conjunction with the Ministry of Transport and Local Government.

Minister of Local Government, Frankie Campbell said he is pleased to work along with the partnership and touted that the revitalization of downtown will not only benefit tourist but also Bahamians.

“This partnership really is what Local Government is intended to be. The local stakeholders will address their local challenges because they know they best what is needed.

“They will become a partner with central government who will facilitate by signing some permits, but together we will be able to cause these things to happen,” Mr. Campbell said.

The Nassau Downtown partnership is a five to ten year project.

# Florida gunman had extra ammo at school, fired for 3 minutes

● **School shooting suspect belonged to white nationalist group**

**PARKLAND, FLA.** -- The teenager accused of using a semi-automatic rifle to kill 17 people at a Florida high school confessed to carrying out one of the nation's deadliest school shootings and carried extra ammunition in his backpack, according to a sheriff's department report released Thursday.

Nikolas Cruz told investigators that he shot students in the hallways and on the grounds of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, north of Miami, the report from the Broward County Sheriff's Office said.

Cruz said he brought more loaded magazines to the school and kept them in the backpack until he got to campus.

As the gunman moved through the school, he fired into five classrooms — four on the first floor and one on the second floor, Sheriff Scott Israel said.

The shooting lasted for three minutes. The assailant then went to the third floor and dropped his AR-15 rifle and the backpack and ran out of the building, attempting to blend in with fleeing students, Israel said.

After the rampage, the suspect headed to a Walmart and bought a drink at a Subway restaurant before walking to a McDonald's. He was taken into custody about 40 minutes after leaving the McDonald's, the sheriff said.

A day after the attack, a fuller portrait emerged of the shooter, a loner who had worked at a dollar store, joined the school's ROTC program and posted photos of weapons on Instagram. At least one student said classmates joked that Cruz would "be the one to shoot up the school."

The 19-year-old orphan whose mother died last year

was charged with murder Thursday in the assault that devastated this sleepy community on the edge of the Everglades. It was the nation's deadliest school attack since a gunman targeted an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, more than five years ago.

Meanwhile, students struggled to describe the violence that ripped through their classrooms just before the school day ended.

Catarina Linden, a 16-year-old sophomore, said she was in an advanced math class Wednesday when the gunfire began.

"He shot the girl next to me," she said, adding that when she finally was able to leave the classroom, the air was foggy with gun smoke. "I stepped on so many shell casings. There were bodies on the ground, and there was blood everywhere."

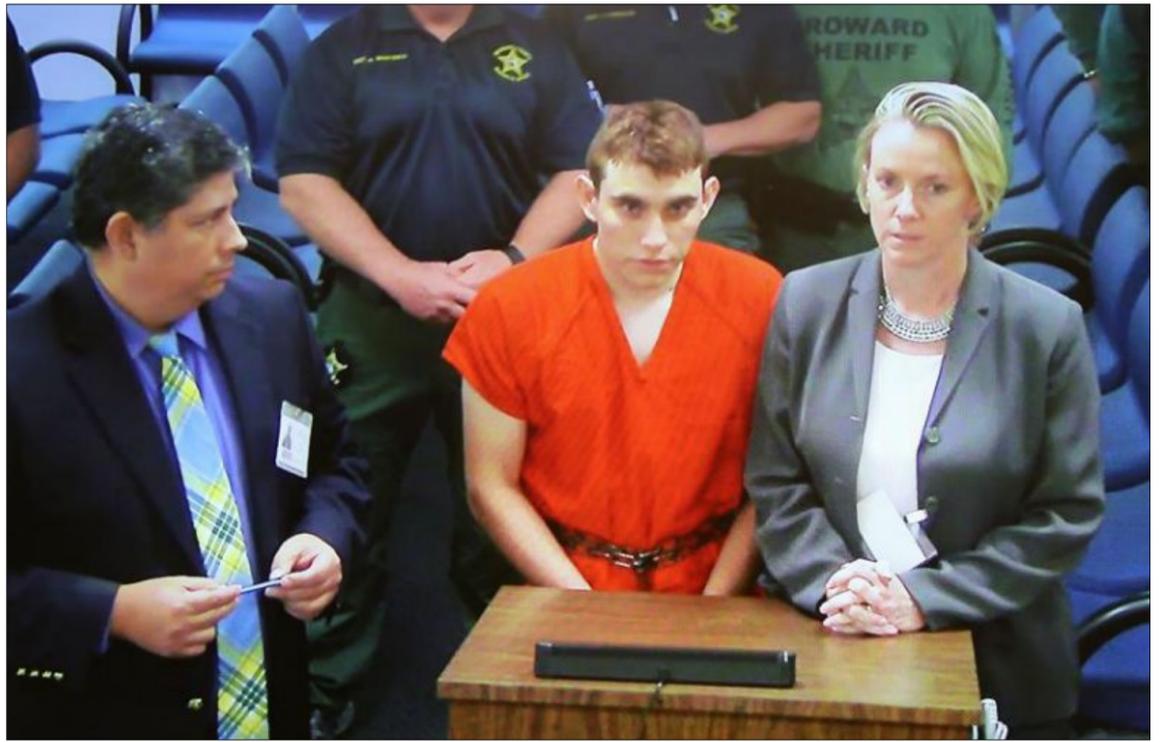
State Sen. Bill Galvano visited the high school Thursday and was allowed to go up to the third floor, where he was shown bullet holes that marked where Cruz had tried to shoot out the windows at point-blank range. But the high-impact glass did not shatter.

Authorities told Galvano that Cruz apparently wanted to shoot out the windows so he could fire on the students running away from the school. Police told Galvano that it was not that difficult to open the windows.

"Thank God he didn't," Galvano said.

Among the dead were a football coach who also worked as a security guard, a senior who planned to attend Lynn University and an athletic director who was active in his Roman Catholic church.

The last of the bodies were removed from the high school Thursday after



► Nikolas Cruz, 19, who has been charged in the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, is seen on a closed circuit TV screen during a bond hearing in Fort Lauderdale on February 15. Cruz, 19, was described as "remorseful" by one of his attorneys Thursday. Getty Images/Susan Stocker

authorities analyzed the crime scene. Thirteen wounded survivors were still hospitalized, including two in critical condition.

Authorities have not offered any specific motive, except to say that Cruz had been kicked out of the high school, which has about 3,000 students and serves an affluent suburb where the median home price is nearly \$600,000. Students who knew him described a volatile teenager whose strange behavior had caused others to end friendships with him.

Cruz was ordered held without bond at a brief court hearing. He wore an orange

jumpsuit with his hands cuffed at his waist. His attorney had her arm around Cruz during the short appearance. Afterward, she called him a "broken human being."

He was being held under a suicide watch, Executive Chief Public Defender Gordon Weekes told reporters.

Wednesday's shooting was the 17th incident of gunfire at an American school this year. Of the 17 incidents, one involved a suicide, two involved active shooters who killed students, two involved people killed in arguments and three involved people who were shot but survived. Nine involved no injuries at

all.

As the criminal case began to take shape, President Donald Trump, in an address to the nation, promised to "tackle the difficult issue of mental health," but avoided any mention of guns. Trump, who owns a private club in Palm Beach, about 40 miles from Parkland, said he planned to visit the grieving community.

He did not answer shouted questions about guns as he left the room.

Trump, who did not speak publicly immediately after the shooting, weighed in on Twitter early Thursday, calling the suspect "mentally disturbed" and stressing that

it was important to "report such instances to authorities, again and again!"

In the case of Cruz, at least one person did report him.

FBI agent Rob Lasky said the FBI investigated a 2017 YouTube comment that said "I'm going to be a professional school shooter." But the agency could not identify the person who made the comment, which was from an account using the name Nikolas Cruz. It was left on a YouTube video of a blogger and bail bondsman from Mississippi named Ben Bennight.

■ See GUNMAN HAD / page 6...

## CANADIANS ARRAIGNED FOR FRAUD

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

It was noted in court that the women were also seen enjoying themselves with two men during the time these charges were made, but the men have not been located; police are still searching for them.

Although the total amount charged to Mr. Alaniz's room was over \$10,000 the women were only responsible for \$4,588.70 of this total amount.

The defendants each have to pay \$2,294.35 or prison time.

Due to the nature of the crime, the Canadian Embassy refused to send legal counsel for the pair.

Subsequently, they received representation from Attorney Alex Dorsette who requested the court for leniency, considering that this is their first offense and have no prior offenses in this jurisdiction.

The duo pleaded guilty to all the charges.

The Magistrate gave the defendants the option of paying a little over \$2,000 or serve time.

The women were scheduled to travel today as per their round trip ticket from Toronto, Canada, instead were remanded to the Department of Immigration until tomorrow.

If all fines are not paid, they will serve up to nine months at The Bahamas Department of Corrections.

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PEACH STREET OFF MONTROSE AVENUE

# Government of Japan gives \$500,000 grant to the Bahamas National Trust

BY LLONELLA GILBERT

The Government of Japan through the Japan Special Fund Poverty Reduction Programme (JPO) has given the Bahamas National Trust (BNT) a US\$500,000 non-reimbursable grant for a community-based conch management project in the Family Islands.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance the Hon. Peter Turnquest thanked the JPO, as well as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which was instrumental in helping The Bahamas receive the grant.

The financial assistance will help to address the conservation of conch, a marine animal that is categorised as essential to the social and economic welfare and fishing sector of the country, DPM Turnquest said during the project signing ceremony at the BNT, Thursday, February 15, 2018.

He added that more importantly conch is an enduring symbol of the Bahamian cultural identity.

"Certainly many other places around enjoy conch, but I dare say that there are few if any countries for which the conch is so revered, so treasured and so lustily consumed."

He said the support for the initiative is timely and no doubt the results from the project will add value or enhance current information



► Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. Peter Turnquest brings remarks at the Community-based conch management project grant signing at the Bahamas National Trust, Thursday, February 15, 2018. (BIS Photo/Derek Smith)

on conch harvesting and conservation.

"I do believe that the stakeholders involved in advancing this initiative will ensure that appropriate measures are proposed to the Government in respect to sustainability of conch fisheries in The Bahamas."

He noted that conch is one of several endangered species to which there exist restrictions on export.

"Notwithstanding the

restrictions, which are necessary for sustainability, I do believe the persistent communication inclusive of an awareness campaign through various mediums to relevant stakeholders is paramount to among other things preventing overfishing of juvenile conch and the application of illegal fishing practices."

DPM Turnquest said that he anticipates the project will do a little more research into the by-products of conch fish-

ing.

"I hope we will be able to help Bahamians identify the true potential of this product to see how we can move from a raw material stage, to some kind of medium, to final product stage where we know the value added."

The IDB Country Representative for The Bahamas, Maria Florencia Attademo-Hirt explained that this is the first grant given in the Caribbean from the JPO.

She said the IDB affirms that the Bahamian endeavour to protect the conch must be supported.

She added the project will focus on two Family Island communities: East End and West End, Grand Bahama: "We all know that Grand Bahama is going through rough times, but we also know that Grand Bahama has incredible potential and will go back to being the incredible power that it was before."

Director, Science and Policy, BNT, Shelley Cant-Woodside said the Project has three core components: to improve conch fishermen's livelihoods, establish community based management of a marine protected area, and create a domestic market for responsibly fished conch.

It is anticipated that the Project will be able to be replicated throughout The Bahamas with modifications made for each community.

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PEACH STREET OFF MONTROSE AVENUE



## NHI Bahamas

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### NHI Authority Appoints a Managing Director

The Board of Directors of the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) announces the appointment of Mr. Graham Whitmarsh who assumes the position of Interim Managing Director effective 19th February 2018. Mr. Whitmarsh will report to the NHIA Board of Directors and lead the expanded and accelerate implementation of NHI in the Bahamas. The Board expects a permanent Bahamian Managing Director will be appointed to lead NHI within 2 to 3 years. Mr. Whitmarsh previously worked on NHI with

PricewaterhouseCoopers and is familiar with the opportunity and challenges associated with expanding and improving health care in the Bahamas.

Mr. Whitmarsh has an exceptional breadth of experience in healthcare, finance, aviation and technology at the CEO level in both the public and private sectors. Mr. Whitmarsh has held two of the most senior positions in the Government of British Columbia: Deputy Minister of Health and Deputy Minister of Finance and Secretary to Treasury Board.

Prior to his stint in the public sector, he served as a senior executive and President in the private sector both in Canada and the USA. He also served as Director of First Nations Health Authority.

Mr. Whitmarsh is a graduate of the University of Leeds, UK, and Dartmouth Royal Naval College. He has served on numerous Boards of Directors, including Public Companies, Not for Profits and Government Committees. Mr. Whitmarsh began his career as a Submarine Officer in the Royal Navy.

The Board recognizes the contributions of the NHI Implementation Team who played a pivotal role in the launching of the Primary Care phase of the NHI program.

# ATTITUDE: How Important Is It Really?

The 2018 series salutes fashion mogul Peter Nygård's Golden Jubilee detailing his rags to riches story and incredible business success over these past fifty years. The Clifton Review will take an inside look at how he did it.

A very popular saying in Bahamian culture, and likely elsewhere, is 'your attitude determines your altitude'.

Despite the risk of such a discussion getting too pedantic, a focus on attitude can be quite instructive in understanding how fashion mogul Peter Nygard took his business from 800 thousand dollars in sales to 800 million dollars in sales 50 years later.

Attitude is one of those ideas, though not clearly defined, that is pretty much understood by most people. It is commonly used, not just by teachers extolling the importance of a positive attitude with young students, but also when talking about how employees approach their jobs. In fact, "attitude" is a characteristic on many employers' performance appraisals.

Beyond thinking about attitude as either a positive or negative personality disposition, for our discussion, we are looking at attitude as the way an individual approaches a task—as dictionary.com describes "tendency or orientation, especially of the mind" towards a task.

It appears that in the case of Peter Nygard his attitude has made all the difference in the world with his success. We previously discussed how he has an uncompromising belief that 'nothing is impossible'—not surprising having grown up watching his grandfather, with one hand and no legs, climb stairs, do farm work and drive a buggy, and having heard the story of how his father chased down a bakery truck over several days to get a job.

If you have the attitude that nothing is impossible, imagine what impact that has on a business.

Think about it. If you believe that nothing is impossible, then problem-solving for you is a whole new kettle of fish.

If you need to resolve a difficult situation your business is in, as a believer 'nothing is

## THE CLIFTON REVIEW

By P. J. Malone

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

impossible', you're going to approach it differently. Instead of thinking 'I need to identify a solution that would work', you are likely to think, 'I need to identify a solution and make it work'.

What's the difference? There are several.

The difference is judging whether or not a solution will work before trying it as opposed to implementing the solution and making it work.

The difference is finding a solution dictated by the problem as opposed to finding a solution and tailor making it to resolve the problem.

The difference is finding a solution using limited thinking or finding a solution and using endless possibilities.

This attitude, this belief that 'nothing is impossible' already puts you way ahead of the competition. It opens up the possibilities of what you can do within your company and where you can take it.

Imagine if you had a number of other factors that also contributed to your ability to achieve success to the nth degree.

In researching Peter Nygard, we've learned a number of fascinating things about his overall approach to business that is, no doubt, totally responsible for his level of success in business.

Stay tuned for discovering how his approach, his attitude toward his business has made all the difference.

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Wendall K. Jones  
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

The Bahama Journal  
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Kimaley P. Jones  
Vice President/Operations

### E D I T O R I A L

# ADVICE TO MR. SPEAKER

As of this precious time in time, Halson Moultrie now understands as follows:-- "I was wrong for getting in the flesh...and out of character on Feb 7, 2018 and I said things that I should not have said. I realize now that some of my words were hurtful and some words opened the door to be construed in a way that they were not intended," MOULTRIE SAID, adding that he did not intend to attack Ann Marie Davis...

The facts, dear brother show that -- once set on that path which led to not only the slurs hurled in the direction of Philip Davis, his wife and his children, but also to a most crude homophobic rant slyly aimed at someone or the other with MIT in his name and not MOU as in the case of Halson Moultrie.

Dear brother--your aim was direct and you did hit your mark.

And thus, whilst you may now be both repentant and aghast at what you have wrought, the dark damage has been done.

And thus, we pray God's grace on you as we humbly beg that you take a much needed rest from that burden, that millstone, that impediment where you are called to be seen in the high office of Mr. Speaker.

Were you to take this advice--You would be far more credible in the eyes of your wife of your 'indigenous' wife of the thirty eight years of true-true Bahamian life in these Bahamas.

We proffer this advice in the light of some new information to the effect that:-- An apparently contrite and regret-filled Halson Moultrie remains in the post that conferred the Mr. 'Speaker' label on him!

Now that the Moultrie (Mr. Speaker) mash-up has turned out as it has, the fact remains that this man -- from a public relations perspective--is evidently damaged goods.

As a consequence, therefore, [and this after much prayerful reflection, we are of the mind that Halson Moultrie should take a rest [also known in educated circles as a sabbatical] from all those rigors that now attend him on that high perch in the Honorable House of Assembly.

Here it is most interesting to note that a fairly significant number of his colleagues decided to absent themselves from this most unfortunate imbroglio.

As reported from the House:-- Twenty-six MPs supported the FNM's affirmation of confidence in the Speaker; four voted no, seven were absent and one

abstained from the vote. Indeed, then, this so-called debate in the House was in and of itself a very sad reminder of how the Bahamian people can be ill-served by some of its representatives who presumably are answerable to them.

This Mr. Speaker should take a break from it all, rest, reflect and therefore return to home-base [in the fullness of time] rejuvenated and perhaps too-- a tad wiser for having taken such a sabbatical.

But yet and therefore:-- Notwithstanding the way things went this Wednesday past in the sad case of Mr. Speaker, Halson Moultrie -- the damage done him and the ruling Free National Movement remains.

And thus by way of both sum and conclusion, the stench remains as we recall that in the very recent past Halson did insist:--You (Philip Brave Davis) have allowed reprobates and perverts with a track record of denying and hating women to insert such a ludicrous assertion into your press release. My name might begin with an M but the first three letters are MOU no MIT. Don't mix me up. I am not a soft, powder-puff man. I am a real man."

Here we yield to an unknown scribe who recently wrote as follows:-- I watched and listened in disbelief on Wednesday, 7th February 2018, as the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Halson Moultrie, debased the Office of Speaker, the Honorable House of Assembly, the Parliamentary process and the people of the Bahamas, by using the historic Chair in which he sits to launch an emotional rant in defense of his actions. It was more than a sad performance; it was pathetic.

My criticism has nothing to do with whether the Speaker was right or wrong in expelling Members of the House; it has everything to do with his abuse of his position. The House of Assembly is no place for the Speaker, or any Member, to settle personal scores. His childish tirade was an embarrassment to the Government he represents and to us, who support that Government.

This person is absolutely correct--Halson Moultrie [apology or no apology] remains an embarrassment to Government he represents and to [all], who support that Government.

May God keep us all safe and secure in the hollow of his mighty hands.

God bless the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

**THE BAHAMAS**

Sun, Sand, Sea .... and the  
**The Bahama Journal**

**NO BETTER READING**

**SHUT-EYE**

**#phildorsett151218**

# Florida gunman had extra ammo at school, fired for 3 minutes

Continued from / PAGE 3...

In a BuzzFeed article, Bennight said he called the FBI, and agents came out to talk with him. They called him again Wednesday.

Officials were also investigating whether authorities missed other warning signs about Cruz's potentially violent nature.

He had been expelled from the school for "disciplinary reasons," according to the sheriff, who said he did not know the specifics.

One student said Cruz had been abusive to his ex-girlfriend and that his expulsion was over a fight with her new boyfriend.

Math teacher Jim Gard told the Miami Herald that

Cruz may have been identified as a potential threat before Wednesday's attack. Gard believes the school had sent out an email warning teachers that Cruz should not be allowed on campus with a backpack.

The leader of a white nationalist militia called the Republic of Florida said Cruz was a member of his

group and had participated in exercises in Tallahassee. Jordan Jereb said he had only a brief interaction with Cruz a few years ago. The group wants Florida to become its own white ethno-state.

Neither the Leon County Sheriff's Office in Tallahassee nor the Southern Poverty Law Center could confirm any link between

Cruz and the militia.

Jereb appeared to back away from his claim later Thursday. Someone posting under his name on Gab, a social media site popular with far-right extremists, complained about getting criticized over a "prank," claimed there was a "misunderstanding" and said he received "a bunch of con-

flicting information."

Cruz's mother, Lynda Cruz, died of pneumonia Nov. 1, and his father died previously, according to the arrest affidavit.

Two federal law enforcement officials said the Smith & Wesson M&P 15 .223 was purchased legally last year at Sunrise Tactical Gear in Florida.

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# BTC JA STUDENTS PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

▶ BTC recently held its fourth annual Future Leaders Conference, with over one hundred Junior Achievers participating. The event included a "Shark Tank" which challenged the achievers to create and pitch a business idea to a team of judges. Keva Bridgewater, BTC's JA Executive Advisor said, "We realize that this annual conference is beneficial to our achievers as they are able to get first-hand information from young passionate entrepreneurs that have started from the ground up." **Photos: Farreno Ferguson, BTC Public Relations**




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