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# The Bahama Journal

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75 CENTS

# New British Prosecutor In Smith's Trial



▶ Frank Smith (Journal file photo)

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

The prosecution in the high-profile Frank Smith extortion trial has added London based Queen's Counsel Edward Jenkins to take the lead in the

case. Appearing before Chief Magistrate Joyanne Ferguson-Pratt, the former prosecutor, Anthony Delaney attempted to make an application for submission and suggested the "house-keeping" matters that arose warranted a private hearing. However, counsel for the

defense, Keith Knight, QC said that he was "not aware of any reason" why the matter could not be public. Magistrate Ferguson-Pratt said that she was unaware of what the prosecution wanted to present. To that, Mr. Knight suggested that what needed to be said should be heard in public, and he

noted that if it were documents to be served or additional information, he had not received any and saw no reason for it to be in chamber. Mr. Delaney then proceeded to introduce an addition to the prosecution team.

■ See BRITISH PROSECUTOR / page 2...

## NOTHING NEW WITH HAITI, SAYS MITCHELL

The Chairman of the Progressive Liberal Party Senator Fred Mitchell says, "It appears that the Free National Movement and the Prime Minister who leads their party, has finally caught on to the need for there to be international contact and exposure. "They came to office with shocking ignorance of the ways the world, but now are flying into international meetings apace with large delegations which they criticised while in Opposition. "The Caricom meeting is amongst the most important in our international engagements. The relationship with Haiti is also an important one. We hope the FNM finally gets it," said Mr. Mitchell. He said "the meeting produced a communique which broke no new ground since the PLP had already agreed to all that was announced. They merely continued the policy of the PLP.

## PM BACK FROM HAITI

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
 Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis is back from his four day trip to Haiti for the 29th inter-sessional CARICOM meeting. Regional leaders discussed how to build climate resilient communities, considering the millions of dollars of damage the region has sustained from natural disasters. During his stay, the Prime Minister spoke to the Haitian President on a number of issues. One of the most important was that of Haitian migration to the Bahamas. The two leaders spoke on the need to develop a maritime agreement between the two countries for maritime border control and to encourage closer collaboration between national, regional and international law enforcement institutions, including information sharing for greater effectiveness in combating illegal immigration, illicit trafficking in narcotics, the smuggling of migrants, and transnational organized crime. They also expressed their determination to undertake joint initiatives that could contribute to reducing the flow of migration to the Bahamas. Both Prime Minister Minnis and Haitian President Jovenel Moise communicated a determination to find effective solutions to resolve the identification problem of Haitian nationals in the Bahamas. The resolve was that the government of Haiti would establish a centre of delivery and collection of identification of documents at the embassy of Haiti here in Nassau. Their two day meeting addressed other areas such as trade, private sector collaboration, as well as information sharing of best practices and training opportunities in the area of tourism.

## FIRST LADIES, MRS. MOISE AND MRS. MINNIS HAVE MEETING AND EXCHANGE GIFTS



▶ PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- Wife of the President of the Republic of Haiti, Mrs. Martine Moise (right), and wife of the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Mrs. Patricia Minnis held a formal meeting on Monday at the Marriott in Port-au-Prince. Following the meeting, the First Ladies exchanged gifts. Mrs. Minnis traveled to Haiti to accompany Prime Minister Hubert Minnis to the 29th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which began at the Marriott on Monday morning, February 26, 2018. (Photo/Yontalay Bowe, OPM Media Services)



▶ Chairman of the Progressive Liberal Party Senator Fred Mitchell (Journal file photo)

"What is of interest to us is the promise in the communique to do the following: "Expressed their determination to address the migratory situation and to undertake joint initiatives that could contribute to reducing the flow of migration to The Bahamas". The Senator asked what will this mean in practice and when does the Government believe that the modalities of this will be announced and executed?

"Given the obvious lapses in the past weeks of the defences of our waters, what new initiatives will the government foster and announce to ensure that the migratory flows are contained?" said Mr. Mitchell.

# Four Car Collision Ends In Tragedy

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

A man was killed in a traffic accident yesterday after a female attempted to avoid a hit and run incident in the area of East Street and Malcom Road.

Superintendent of Police, Craig Stubbs, shortly before 1pm a female driver attempted to evade a Ford van she had struck on Winder's Terrace and Malcom Road, but collided with a Honda vehicle that resulted in the death of the male driver. CSP Stubbs, told reporters on the scene that

four vehicles were involved in the traffic mishap. The initial report revealed that a female driver exiting Winder's Terrace, collided with a Ford van that was traveling west on Malcom Road. That driver continued traveling west, exiting on to East Street, colliding with the Honda vehicle.

"On impact the Honda collided with a truck that was traveling north on East Street," CSP Stubbs said. CSP Stubbs said that EMS were called to the scene. However, the male driver had succumbed to his injuries. "The female driver of the Nissan vehicle was trans-

ported to PMH where at press time she was undergoing further medical treatment," CSP Stubbs said. According to police, there were only minor injuries to the driver of the Ford truck, who complained of pains to his legs, and opted to seek further medical attention on his own.

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▶ Seated from left to right: Anna Martin, vice chair of GGYA's management council; chairman of GGYA's Board of Trustees, John Bethell Jr; new chairman of GGYA's Management Council, Archdeacon James Palacios; Rosamund Roberts, secretary to GGYA's Board of Trustees; national executive director, Denise Mortimer. Standing are GGYA Management Council member, Jarenda Rahming; council secretary, Portia Sweeting; GGYA's incoming assistant director, Jacquetta Maycock; assistant public relations officer, Dr Sophia Rolle and Terez Rolle, Gold Award holder and unit leader at C.V. Bethel Senior School.

# ARCHDEACON PALACIOS IS GGYA NEW CHAIRMAN

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
Journal Staff Writer

Anglican Archdeacon James Palacios is the new Management Council Chairman for the Governor General Youth Award (GGYA). The body is responsible the day-to-day operations of the program.

The chairmanship was announced yesterday during a press conference held at the Anglican Diocesan Office.

Father Palacios spoke to the importance of GGYA in the community as well as being a part of the empowerment organization.

"I am delighted to be a part of this great international organization and this is on par with anything in our country as far as youth empowerment is concerned.

"But, I am also cognizant of the fact that it needs to reach into more

of the areas where you have at risk kids, especially boys. We will want to have an outreach again, building on what has happened in the past and some new things.

"Ultimately, we are dealing here with the empowerment of our youth," the Archdeacon said.

Since its re-inception in 1987, GGYA has attracted more than 10,000 young men and women between the ages 14 and 25, who have learned the value of teamwork; how to make a difference in their communities; to develop new skills that will carry with them through life and along the way discover their own strengths.

Boasting that there has been no GGYA member incarcerated for the first 27 years of its service, Father Palacios explained the role he would like to see the gov-

ernment take in the community.

"I urge the government to have more guidance counselors, more probation officers, more chaplains, more attendance officers, so that we could really reach some of the at risk kids.

"We say we don't have money for that, but the truth is, it takes about \$20,000 a year to house a prisoner. Now we have a choice to make," Archdeacon Palacios said.

"If you pay someone \$50,000 to be a social worker or an attendance officer or guidance counselor, you don't have to be a genius to see that if that person by his or her effort prevents two or three persons from going to prison, then you are already making money a part from the social fallout.

"It costs over \$3,000 to deliver a baby at PMH. If

we could get some people to prevent some of these young ladies from becoming pregnant, a part from the fallout, we are doing a great work and I hope that we could get a cadre of youngsters who could help youngsters," Mr. Palacios stated.

Archdeacon also noted that if GGYA works alongside other existing youth programmes, church-based and other organizations, that would be an extension of GGYA's community outreach.

"It is when we connect young people with young people under the capable guidance of adults, then we could turn the tide and have a better Bahamas," the Anglican Archdeacon stated.

Archdeacon Palacios takes up his new appointment after former Management Council Chairman Jack Thompson resigned recently.

## New British Prosecutor In Smith's Trial

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mr. Jenkins will now lead the team as it pushes ahead with its case against the former Public Hospital Authority Chairman.

After his introduction, Mr. Jenkins who noted that as he was "very late" in the case, attempted to make an of submission. He told the court that coming into the case, he asked for "various matters to be investigated" which resulted in new evidence.

To this, Mr. Knight responded that on December 1st during a part of Barbara Hanna's testimony where she admitted that she had turned over all documents to the police regarding the case, there was a discussion on absence of disclosure, and argued that "at this late stage when cross examination is perhaps less than a day away," they are being told about additional information.

Opposing the application, Mr. Knight argued that it was an abuse of the process and that it violated the entire structure of cross examination.

To this Chief Magistrate Ferguson-Pratt suggested that what the prosecution had could benefit the defense team.

The trial was then adjourned for an hour for the prosecution to disclose to the defense.

Upon reconvening, the prosecution informed the court that the defense needed time to review the documents and asked for the trial to be adjourned to Wednesday.

Magistrate Ferguson-Pratt expressed her views on the lateness of prosecution's information and told both parties that she had cleared her court schedule to give her full attention to the trial.

She stated that the "court was gravely handicapped" and granted the adjournment.

Smith's case resumes following a six-week break after the virtual complainant Barbara Hanna fell ill late last year.

Smith stands accused of 13 counts of extortion, one count of attempted extortion and one count of bribery. He pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

The trial resumes on Wednesday at 10:30am.

## TWO MEN ARRAIGNED FOR MURDER

BY AMAJHL KNOWLES  
Journal Staff Writer

Two men have been formally charged for their alleged involvement in two recent homicides.

In the first case, 18-year-old Deante Pinder appeared before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson Pratt yesterday on two counts of murder and one count of attempted murder.

The particulars are that on February 16th, Pinder concerned with others caused the deaths of Rashad Bethel and D'Shorn Symonette and on the same date attempted to cause the death of Roland Brown.

Pinder was not required

to enter a plea and was remanded to the Bahamas Department of corrections until April 18th where the prosecution will proceed with a Voluntary Bill of Indictment.

25-year-old Steven Voltaire also appeared before Chief Magistrate Pratt. It is alleged that on February 15th, Voltaire by means of unlawful harm caused the death of Matthew Mortimer.

He was not required to enter a plea and he was remanded to the Bahamas Department of Corrections until April 18th where the prosecution will proceed with a VBI.

Both men were represented by Murrio Ducille.




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► Culture and Youth in the Park, taking place Saturdays, is a part of a wider initiative that the Ministry is embarking on to support creative and cultural artists in The Bahamas as it seeks to uplift the various neighbourhoods throughout The Bahamas. **(BIS Photos/Eric Rose)**

# Culture and Youth in the Park at Centreville

BY ERIC ROSE

Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, the Hon. Michael Pintard addressed the Centreville community at 'Culture and Youth in the Park' on Father Marshall Cooper Park, Saturday. Member of Parliament for Centreville, and Chairman of the Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation, Reece Chipman brought remarks.



The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture's 'Culture and Youth in the Park' is a part of community outreach, and a way to encourage and recognize the youth and culturally-minded persons throughout The Bahamas.

Superstars brought Junkanoo in a big way, Carifta Bahamas 2018 mascot "Iggy" the Iguana greeted the youngsters, and Junior Miss Galaxy Bahamas, Maleah Gabrielle Miller performed a vocal selection for the happy young crowds. 'Limbo and Fire

King,' Leroy "Sweet Boy Leroy" Butler wowed the crowds.

## CRASH WRECKAGE GOES TO THE US

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
Journal Staff Writer

Accident investigators have shipped the recovered failed Aztec plane wreckage to the United States for further investigations.

On Sunday the aircraft was recovered from waters adjacent to the previous search location by a salvage team with assistance from specialist divers of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force.

Chief Accident Investigator in the Air Accident Department Delvin Major said they are working swiftly.

"If we don't get to it right away, we'll lose valuable evidence because it deteriorates quickly once out the water and in the air.

"We are making every effort to get over to meet the boat when it arrives and I have the team already in place. The NTSD, the manufacturer of the aircraft, and the manufacturer of the engines and a few other

metal specialists who will be joining us," Major said.

All major components and parts of the aircraft were recovered, which means investigators will now have a full understanding of what happened. However there is no telling as to the exact date that report will be completed.

"Once they run their initial on sight investigation, they have to go back and do their analysis and write a report to send me their findings and in the past that has taken some two to three months to get the report back,

"Once I've gotten everyone's report, then I will combine it with mine and then the final will come out.

"Most of these investigations can take up to a year; sometimes longer, but it all depends on how soon the manufacturers and specialists can give me their report, because once I get theirs, my report can take about 30 days," Major said.



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# Minister Thompson: 'Grand Bahamians must be prepared to create own successes'

BY ANDREW COAKLEY

**FREEPORT, Grand Bahama** -- Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Senator the Hon. Kwasi Thompson says that a hopeful outlook for Grand Bahama is based not just on direct foreign investment, but on local investments by Grand Bahamians like Curtis and Glennett Fowler, owners and operators of FowlCo Marine and Logistics Management.

The new Logistics Company, which is 100 percent Bahamian-owned, held its official opening on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at the facility on Grand Bahamian Way. The investment totals some \$1.6 million.

In his remarks, the Minister of State for Grand Bahama noted that FowlCo is a testament to self-sufficient Bahamians who put in the labor, skills, finances and innovation to create something substantial.

"We should commend and congratulate them for it," said Minister Thompson. "I look forward to this company's growth and the jobs it has and which it will create locally.

"Grand Bahamians must be prepared to create our own success.



► **LOOKS AT OPERATION** – Mr. Juan Sancho Ovejero, Managing Director of Blue Parrot Offshore (right) explains to Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest and Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Senator Kwasi Thompson his company's role in the operation of the newly established FowlCo Marine and Logistics Management, during a tour of the facility located on Grand Bahamian Way, following opening ceremonies on Saturday, February 24, 2018. **BIS Photo/Andrew Miller**

Innovative entrepreneurship is the solution to the downturn in our economy. As such, the government has committed to creating an environment conducive to the creation and growth of Small Businesses, by way of provisions for funding, training programs and business mentorship.

"We want to make it increasingly easier for Bahamians to maximize their potential for business ownership and long-term careers in various industries."

Minister Thompson noted that by virtue of Grand Bahama's deep waters, cli-

mate, proximity to the United States and open geographical path to the rest of the world, the maritime industry has long proven to be a perfect fit. He said that the government intends to capitalize on those benefits to ensure that Grand Bahama maintains its status as a major maritime and industrial hub in the region.

"FowlCo has already, notably, employed 16 Bahamians and will provide services to the Grand Bahama community including customs brokerage, port agency & husbandry, dry dock logistics and facilitation of special

projects," said Minister Thompson. "Your expertise and experience is much appreciated.

"I wish to commend FowlCo, because in addition to these services, one of the company's major goals is to develop and facilitate a training model and institute that will allow Bahamians an opportunity to engage in certified training and decrease the skills gap that currently exists in the industry.

"This is an issue that the government has prioritized as we seek to facilitate more technical training to ensure that Bahamians are skilled and are equipped to pursue

long-term employment opportunities, especially considering several new businesses are slated to be birthed in Grand Bahama this year and in the coming few years."

Also bringing remarks during the opening ceremony for the new marine and logistics management company was Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest, who noted what the Fowlers have been able to accomplish, will bode well for the future of Grand Bahama and the entire Bahamas.

He noted that the establishment of the new company represents what the Government of The

Bahamas is trying to create throughout the country – upwardly, mobile, intelligent Bahamians, who have a vision for the future of the country.

"We will do our part to help give our citizens the most advantageous position that we can in order for them to be successful," said Minister Turnquest. "All around us, we see success in this industry and people are doing well, and we celebrate that. The economic impact on the country from this industry has been significant.

It is time now though, for us as Bahamians to take more of an active stake in this industry.

"I am proud of those who have done so already and who have shown tremendous success in providing service to the industry. But there is more room and so we welcome this addition today in the opening of this new company."

The Deputy Prime Minister reminded Grand Bahamians to continue to focus on the good things that are taking place in the country. He said that there is enough negative talk both locally and internationally, but he noted that as long as Grand Bahamians maintain a positive attitude and mindset and work together, great things can be accomplished.

## YEP LAUNCHES NEW MOBILE APP

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
Journal Staff Writer

Making history as the first youth organization in The Bahamas to launch its very own mobile app, the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) will now make communicating with the public more accessible.

The announcement was made yesterday during a press conference YEP held at the British Colonial Hilton Hotel.

YEP's Director Mark Palmer said, "we are excited about this new App because it has a lot of things on one application. You can put this on your mobile devices as well as your laptops.

"It allows us to share our (YEP's) curriculum, our news and our events with our community. Now, we have quite a diverse community; it's not just students. We also have volunteer teams, the directors, school counselors, alumni and parents," Mr. Palmer informed the Bahama Journal.

"The students can RSVP to events and also the management team can take attendance, which is very useful.

"It also has a chat module where you can set up a chat room either individually with someone or you can specifically communicate with a group; counselors, etc.

"We also have sign-up sheets, codes for practice and all our Social Media. So you are immediately connected with Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and our website. We're really excited because it brings our community, which is quite diverse, together and it will make us much more effective in the years to come," the Director added.

YEP organization only has a few private sponsors, as their main source of funding primarily comes from the Ministry of Education, JS Johnson and Ministry of Social Services.

After extensive research to find an App that bear no financial burden on the youth organization, YEP found Australian-based App Company called 'Team App' which they have part-

nered with to create YEP's App.

In addition to having up to 1200 high school students from private and public schools working with YEP over the last six years, YEP is now branching into the primary school level.

Board of Director Member, Dr. Novia Carter says "the Youth Empowerment Program is extremely excited to launch for students who are enrolled in the grade five and six program.

"This program seeks to create youth villages. We are extremely excited now that we are moving from the high school population; we're now in the primary schools. What we intend to develop is a 12 week program for fifth and sixth graders that seeks to do just that, 'empower younger children'," Dr. Carter emphasized.

YEP's intention to streamline this new partnership between high schoolers and primary school students by using the older students to 'buddy' up with the students from primary school when practicing different activities.

Having involvement with YEP before becoming a Senator, Jamal Moss said, "My role inside this program is really to assist with the young people who are unattached and have a hard beginning in life.

"I look at my personal background and how I grew up. I made a promise to myself.

"I said if I was to achieve my goal in getting involved in the high level of politics, which I am now, I would do more that I can to assist those young people to know that there is no dead end to where you are at. There is always an avenue to get out. So, I use my time and position to guide young people and give hope to those young people," said Senator Moss.

Celebrating its sixth year, YEP plans a host of activities beginning next month.

YEP also organizes fund raising events to help finance their community initiatives and college trips. They will travel to Canada at the end of March.

# SUCCESSFUL Strategic Moves

The 2018 series salutes fashion mogul Peter Nygard'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.

In this 2018 series saluting fashion mogul Peter Nygard's fifty years of success, we have discovered a number of strategies and steps that he took to take his business from 800 thousand dollars to 800 million dol-

lars. In taking an inside look at his success, we have outlined several related factors and continue to share our discoveries.

When Peter Nygard was 16 years old, he spent the summer working at the same factory as his mom. Workers were given salt tablets so that they wouldn't faint from the heat. He swore he would never let his mom work that way again.

In 1974, Peter Nygard was the first to institute air conditioned sewing rooms in his Winnipeg facilities in Canada. The NYGÅRD Winnipeg facilities were models that the Canadian Government held up for manufacturing companies to follow in the setup of their factories.

These facilities were the first to go from cutting fabric manually to using a computerized cutting machine. Gerber cutting machines were purchased for both NYGÅRD's Inkster and Notre Dame facilities in Winnipeg. This Gerber cutting machine is calibrated to use 100% of the fabric by inputting information into a computer, which identifies the best way to use the fabric before cutting. Canadian Government officials came to tour the Inkster facility to view its technological implementations.

Besides Nygard's technological improvements, he made other strategic moves. In the late '80s early '90s, he recognized that there was a move among many major retailers to start shifting from polyester products.

Being the king of Polyester, this created a dilemma for him: He had a very loyal customer base and he did not want to lose

## 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.

them by making such dramatic shifts in product.

Nygaard decided to open his own retail stores so he could continue to meet the needs of his customers and also balance any loss of product placement space within department stores. He explained to his department store partners that the focus of these stores was not to compete with them, but to act like a test tube for new product ideas and discover more about their customers and their desires.

Nygaard ensured that he did not compete with them with store locations and pricing and was able to develop a long-lasting trusted relationship with all of his retail partners as a result. To date, NYGÅRD has almost two hundred retail stores all over Canada as well as one in Nassau, Bahamas and another in Times Square in New York.

One of the strategies that Nygard has instituted throughout his stores involves programs geared toward making customers feel special. It includes several VIP events that cater to their customers. While NYGÅRD is a national chain store, they operate like a small business. They know their customers in the area. Associates know customers' sizes, their likes and their dislikes, and customers know all of the Associates by name.

Nygaard also instituted kiosks in the stores to be able to order another size or colour for customers if it wasn't available in the store. This was established a number of years before others started doing it.

These various strategic moves contributed to Peter Nygard's success.

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Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones  
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### EDITORIAL

# BLACK CRAB SYNDROME

With the most recent landing of another Haitian sloop near the Royal Bahamas Defense Force base, the debate about illegal immigration rages on once again here in The Bahamas. Irritated Bahamians now mount the airwaves raging about the need to urgently arrest this problem.

There are corrupt officers in immigration who are exploiting their office and literally milking members of the Haitian community and that is wrong; thus, Bishop Simeon B. Hall now reports to the nation and to the whole wide world!

We also know as much!

And yet, despite the fact that we too can adduce evidence of a sort to corroborate this great Bahamian's allegations and assertions as regards the amount of dollars for status which routinely find their way towards any number of these police and immigration thugs in uniform, we shall do no such thing in an atmosphere redolent with the juiciest of Immigration tid-bits and slop!

And thus, we now report that:-- Said corrupted IMMIGRATION officers have been accused of soliciting thousands of dollars in bribes from migrants, according to allegations in a court filed affidavit which were echoed by a prominent religious leader yesterday.

In a sermon at Berean Evangelical Baptist Church, Bishop Simeon Hall advised members of the Haitian community against feeding on "the corruption sometimes found in the Department of Immigration."

Bishop Hall made the claim that officials are paid between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

The claim echoes the affidavit of Kediesha Bent-John, a Jamaican who was arrested along with her 11-year-old child and had been detained since December 8, 2017, at an immigration safe house for women and child migrants.

Note well also that this woman is married to a Bahamian man and that she has been actively trying to submit an application for a spousal permit; this according to her affidavit!

And yet, there is some good news:-- Mrs. Bent-John and her daughter were released last month after filing a habeas corpus application contesting the legality of her detention. Supreme Court Justice Gregory Hilton is expected to deliver his ruling on the matter later this month.

Nota bene:-- Mrs. Bent-John alleged that

while in detention at the immigration safe house on December 11 she was visited by two men who said they were asked to collect \$3,000 from her to secure her and her daughter's release.

As the good bishop recently averred:-- "I work with several Haitian churches, some pastors I have helped them to get regularized and on the other hand I have some Haitians who come and tell me how they paid officers up to \$3,000 and they were ripped off."

He continued: "I try for them to give me a name but they're afraid, because they know if they give me a name, I will report it. There are corrupt officers in immigration who are exploiting their office and literally milking members of the Haitian community and that is wrong."

This abomination and perversion of office is emblematic of the real roots of that corruption which - canker like - now infests so very many echelons in the public service.

And thus, we are convinced that cases such as those which are known by the so-called average man on the streets are also the common sense of a whole slew of now-happy-happy Bahamians who get their deserved share of the Haitian-derived plunder.

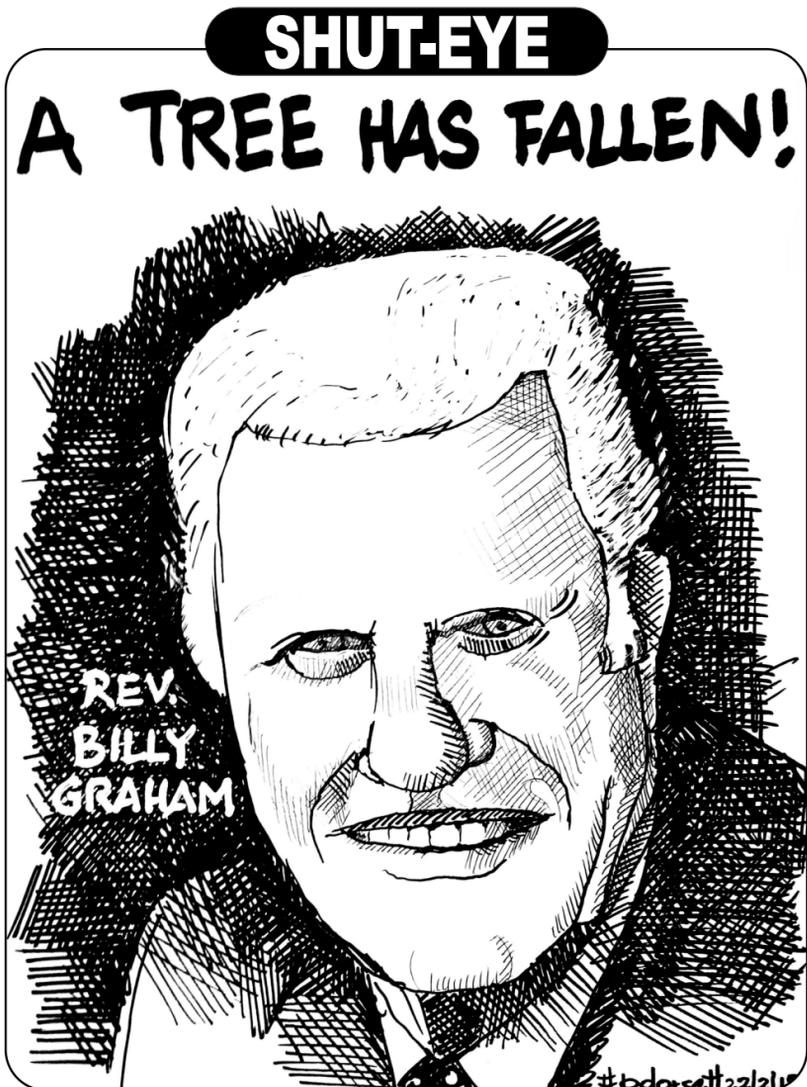
For our part, then, we reiterate our complete confidence in what our brother Bishop Simeon B. Hall suggests as being the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth as regards the thugs in uniform who rip off these unfortunate men and women.

We grieve the offences done them and the offices these plunders and pirates now hold.

But, yet we are also painfully aware that such is the high extent to which some so-called true-true Bahamians are complicit in hurting, harming and exploiting so very many of these suffering ones; and sadder still is that other reality where Bahamians of recent undocumented 'Haitian' vintage are now complicit in exploiting some who are now arriving!

Whilst this may seem strange, the truth is that this is precisely what happens when a lucky few try to distinguish themselves from people who remind them of the strangers in a strange land: Folk who - in time - become estranged from the selves which were once theirs'.

Alas! This is some of that weird stuff from which the so-called 'black crab syndrome' is constructed.



**LABOUR ON THE BLOCKS, GOLDEN GATES PARK ON SATURDAY**



► The Ministry of Labour's 'Labour on the Blocks' employment initiative took place at Golden Gates Park, Carmichael Road, on Saturday afternoon, February 24, 2018. **(BIS Photos/Kristaan Ingraham)**



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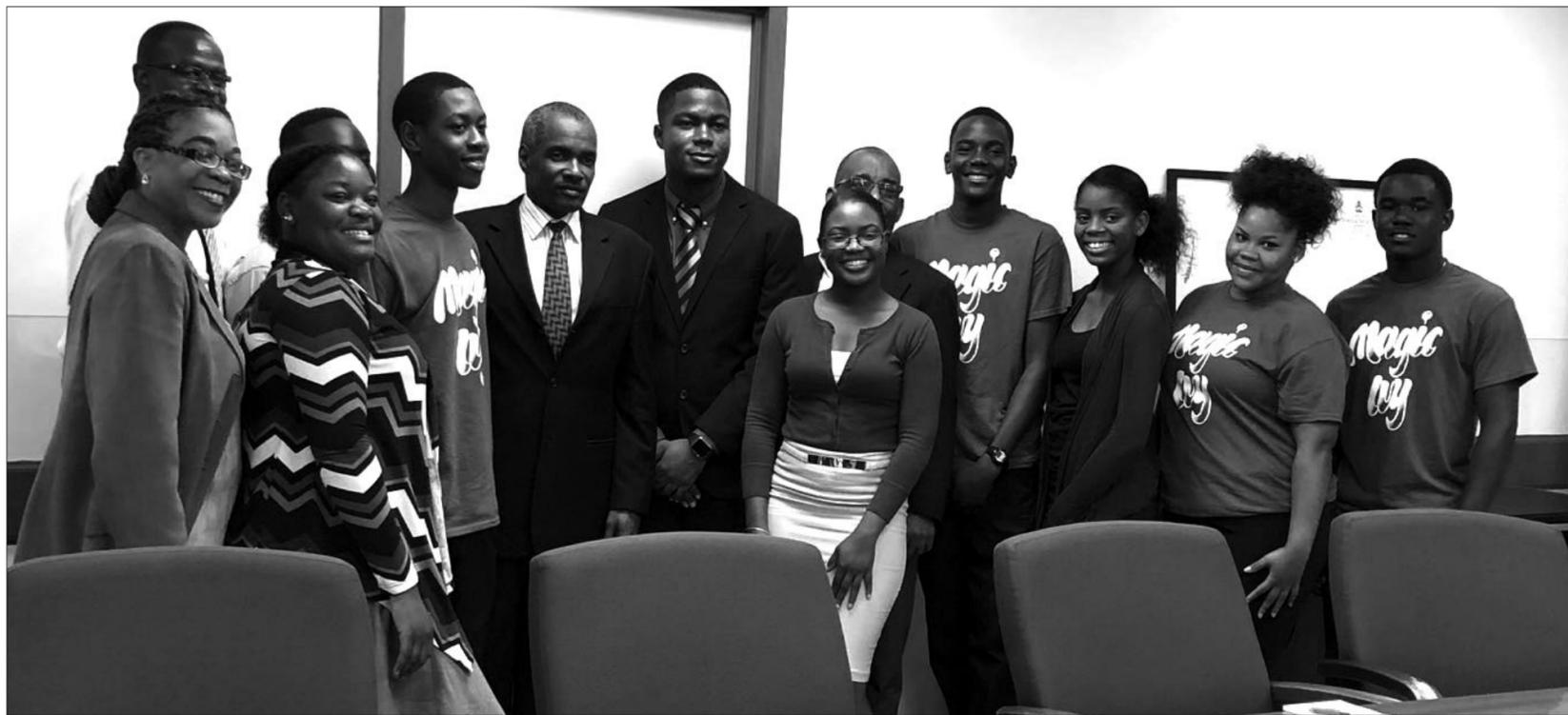
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► Magic Ivy band members are pictured along with the Hon. Desmond Bannister, Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Works (centre left). Also shown (centre right) is Christopher Curry, Head Boy, Aquinas College, representing the Youth Empowerment Programme. **BIS Photos/Kathryn Campbell**



► From left: Yonell Justilien, GHS teacher; the Hon. Marvin Dames, Minister of National Security, the Hon. Desmond Bannister, Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Works; Antoinette Thompson, Permanent Secretary and Obie Pindling, mentor; along with students of GHS.

# GHS Magic Ivy Musicians call on Acting Prime Minister

BY KATHRYN CAMPBELL

The Hon. Desmond Bannister, Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Works admonished members of Government High School's (GHS) Magic Ivy band to utilize opportunities at their institution to prepare them for any situation that life throws their way.

The students, representing grades 10, 11 and 12, along with Performing Arts educator, Yonell Justilien, called on Minister Bannister Monday, February 26, at the Ministry on JFK. Magic Ivy competed against 12 high schools in the Music Project competition held February 17 at Botanical Gardens.

A 1975 graduate of GHS, Minister Bannister, told the students that they have a "wonderful" opportunity to study at an institution that has a tradition the present students need to uphold.

He told the students that experiences prepared the students of yesterday for challenges today. He recalled that teachers gave detentions to boys who walked the streets clad in uniforms with shirts out of pants and girls whose skirts were too short had their hemlines ripped out during assembly.

He admitted that the school's campus is not what he would like it to be and committed to ensuring that there would be improvements.

Four former graduates of GHS were on hand to greet the students and give pep talks. Heading the list was the Hon. Marvin Dames, Minister of National Security, Antoinette Thompson, Permanent Secretary;

Obafemi Pindling, Lawyer and Musician and Vaughn Albury, Senior Television News Producer, Editor, Reporter, Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas.

Minister Dames, a 1982 graduate, is a former Deputy Head Boy who played the trombone, ran track, and held a leading part in the school's play 'Pearly Victorious'.

"Government High holds a special place in my heart," said Minister Dames.

"We all have a vested responsibility to ensure that our country is the best country on the face of this earth. If we're not playing our respective roles then that will not happen. No one's contribution is more important than the other person," he said.

He applauded the students for their participation and urged them to continue to reach for the stars.

Mr. Pindling, assigned mentor, told the students that they are winners despite not placing in the competition. He encouraged them to continue the traditions of the blue and white school uniform, to value and not underestimate the importance of relationships in life.

Mr. Justilien said the students will make the country proud and he wants to bring awareness of how talented they are. He advised parents that putting instruments in the hands of their children is an investment and they will reap the rewards in the future.

Shadiamon Bain and George Manson, 12th graders, shared their experiences of the competition.

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