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# The Bahama Journal

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# Cracks Down On Hackers

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

Two weeks after a fatal crash off Mastic Point Andros, killing all on board including the pilot, Bahamas Civil Aviation Authority (BCAA) said that it is clamping down on 'hacking';

an illegal practice that persons with private license pilots find themselves involved in. Addressing the media during a press conference that addressed the investigations into the fatal Andros crash, BCCA Director, Captain Charles Beneby said that policies are in review in an effort to have new legislation enacted. "The BCAA is reviewing its policies

and procedures for the purpose of enacting or causing to be enacted new legislation and regulations where necessary to further tighten control of the industry. "Our role is to oversee and regulate all matters relating to aviation activities in the country. "A private pilot is not authorized to fly for hire. Any attempt to do so is

illegal and any attempt by a member of the public to engage such services makes that person complicit in an illegal act. "It is now our charge at the BCAA to clamp down and to eliminate any possibility of such an occurrence where possible. ■ See **DOWN ON HACKERS** / page 7...

## Police Call for Gun Court

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
 Journal Staff Writer

Assistant Commissioner of Police Clayton Fernander is calling for the creation of a gun court. Speaking with our team yesterday, Fernander said this would help with a swifter court process for those caught with illegal firearms. "Take the high-powered weapon that was taken off of the street over the weekend, that should go to the Supreme Court for stiffer penalties. Now we know the government is looking at ways such as the bail act and other stiffer penalties; but I would look at a gun Court so that they can swiftly move through the system," ACP Fernander said. He added that if a culprit is caught with a gun, it should not take two to three years to try them. "I believe with a gun court these matters will move swiftly through the system," ACP Fernander said. Yesterday he led an elite team through the Bain and Grants town area and found a quantity of cocaine, marijuana and an assault weapon. Fernander said they were acting on intelligence and encouraged the public to continue to work with them to better the communities. "All is not lost; we want to continue to express to the public not to let these criminals try to tie you in with them. Weed them out; assist the police in weeding these criminals out of the community so that you will be able to move safely through the community and your kids can play and have no problem," Fernander said. He added that he believes their latest crime strategies have struck fear in the hearts of criminals and asked that the public continue to pray for the police's guidance and protection. For the first 31 days of the year officers have taken 11 unlicensed weapons off the street.

## GOVERNOR GENERAL HOSTS DINNER IN HONOUR OF RETIRED PRESIDENT OF COURT OF APPEAL DAME ANITA ALLEN



► Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling welcomed guests to a Dinner in Honour of Dame Anita Allen, President of the Court of Appeal (Retired) on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at Government House. Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon Hubert Minnis and Mrs. Minnis attended. In group photo, the Governor General is seated, centre, with the Prime Minister, Dr. Minnis at centre left and Dame Anita Allen, centre right. Also pictured seated from left: Minister of State in the Ministry of Legal Affairs Elsworth Johnson, President of the Court of Appeal Sir Hartman Longley, Mrs. Patricia Minnis, Algernon Allen at third right, Mrs. Ann Marie Davis and Leader of the Opposition Philip Davis. Legal community friends stand behind. The Governor General is also pictured giving her welcome to the dinner guests. (BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna)

## Sustainable Nassau Action Plan launched

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
 Journal Staff Writer

A preliminary investment of some \$7 million will be pumped into a Sustainable Nassau Action plan, a project that focuses on bridging contrasting communities such as the Over the Hill community with Downtown. Addressing the issue yesterday in the auditorium of the University of The Bahamas during the launch and Ideathon of the Sustainable Nassau Action plan was Local

Government Minister Frankie Campbell. Mr. Campbell informed that his ministry will be working closely with Office of The Prime Minister to bring such endeavour to fruition all while focusing on the needs of Bahamians. Mr. Campbell stated that heavily structured governments have often proven themselves too slow and too bureaucratic to adapt and take advantage of innovations.



► Minister of Transport and Local Government, the Hon. Frankie Campbell delivering the keynote address at the launch of the Sustainable Nassau Project. The event was held on February 1, 2018 at the Harry C. Moore Library of the University of The Bahamas. (BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)

■ See **SUSTAINABLE** / page 2...

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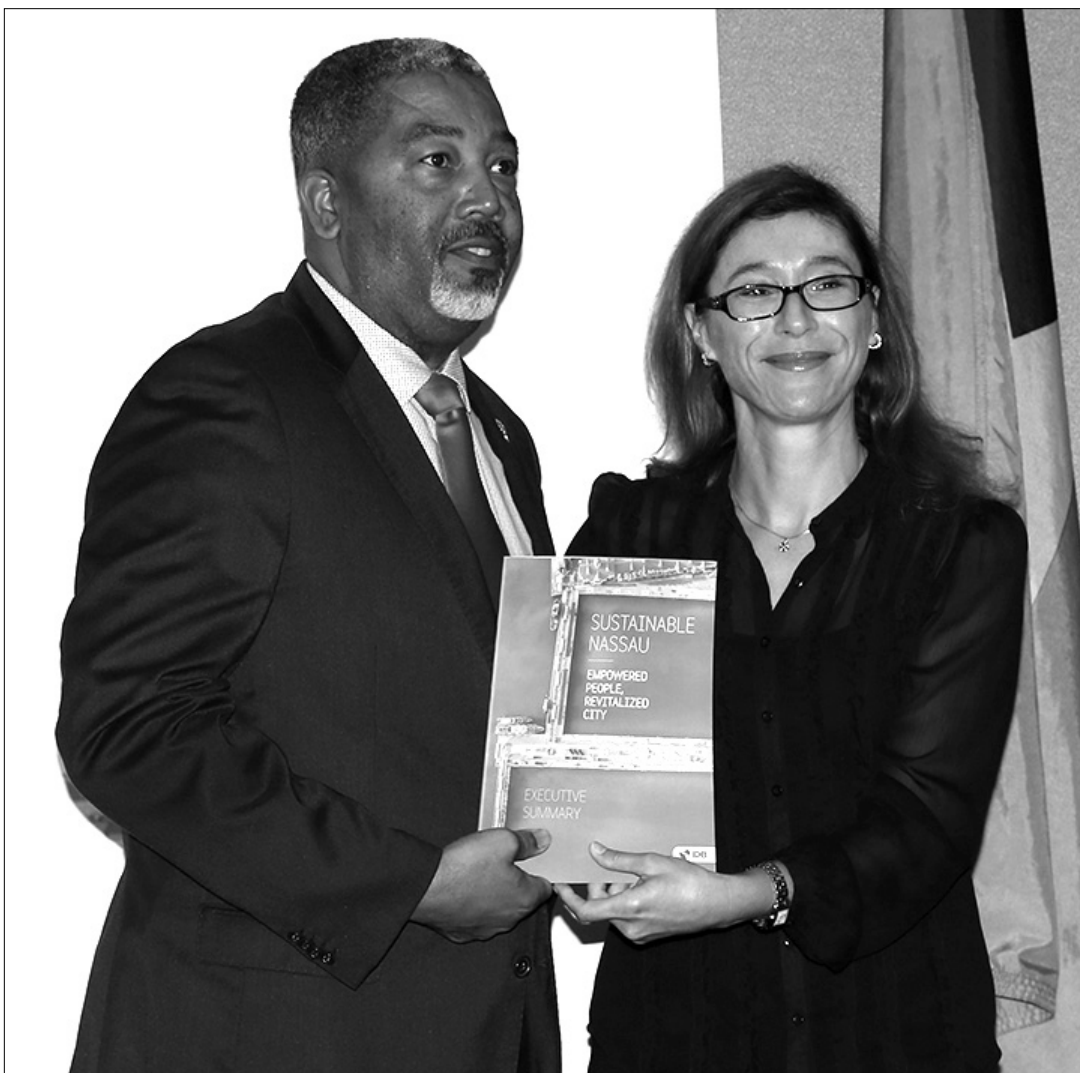
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# Sustainable Nassau Action Plan launched



► Country Representative for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Mrs. Florencia Attademo-Hirt presents a brochure to Minister of Transport and Local Government, the Hon. Frankie Campbell. **(BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)**

Continued from / PAGE 1...

“If we are to be successful in making drastic improvements to the quality of life of our citizens and residents, we must empower our people to part of this process of change.

“The communities that are most impacted must have the greatest say and ownership of the prescribed solutions to their problems. The only way to make this happen is through new, more localized governance models,” the Local Minister said.

Mr. Campbell further indicated that legislation is being drafted to create an agency tasked with managing the development of the Over the Hill communities.

Meantime, the Inter-

American Development Bank (IDB) plays a vital role in getting this Sustainable project off the ground.

IDB Chief Housing & Urban Development division representative Tatiana Lizon offered details pertaining to the project while focusing on emphasizing the importance of urban development in small coastal cities such as Nassau.

Ms. Lizon stated, “an important component of the action plan for Sustainable Nassau includes actions in restoring and protecting coastal ecosystems, improving disaster planning and preparedness and adapting greener infrastructure, housing and improving water supply.”

In addition, the IDB will be introducing an Urban Planning concept to assist with this action plan.

The IDB’s Housing and Urban Development Division lead specialist, Gilberto Chona, shared some key points IDB will be focusing on.

Focusing on how to make the Bahamas and Bahamians

more sustainable, Mr. Chona revealed a model IDB used to assess their way forward.

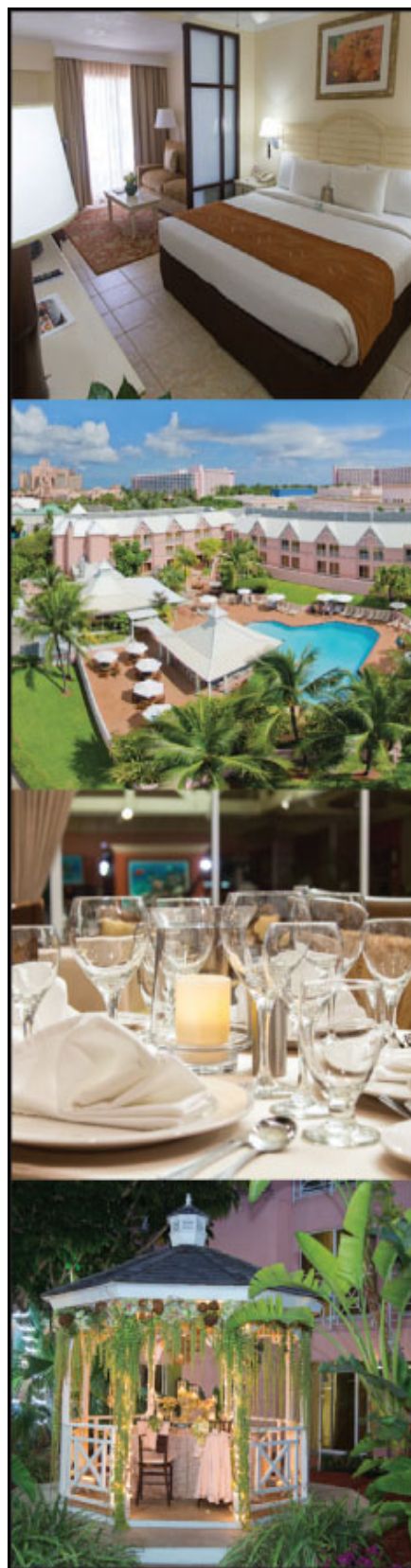
“We introduced an Urban Planning Concept that basically looks at two areas of the city; Downtown waterfront with possibilities to improve mobility, accessibility, the quality of the space and the possibility of creating economic and employment opportunities.

“And the Over the Hill, the South part of the area in which we identify an interesting, practical and vital opportunities for Urban upgrade,” he said.

Moreover, Mr. Chona explored the priorities of the Sustainable Nassau Action Plan, like mobility, sanitation, and households at risk to natural disasters and how to better remedy solid waste.

The action plan project hopes to foster more neighbourhood communities as it will also look at creating more community spaces with parks.

The Sustainable Nassau Action plan’s total investment will amount to \$450 million.



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# ABACO MAN CHARGED WITH ARSON

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

Abaco Police have confirmed that a 42-year-old resident of The Mudd was arraigned in Magistrate’s Court in Marsh Harbour on charges of arson.

The accused, Alfred Albury, was charged before Magistrate Ancella Evans on 10 counts of arson in connection to the fire in the Shanty Town in Marsh Harbour on Sunday.

Albury who was not required to enter a plea, was remanded to the Bahamas Department of Corrections until March 15 when he returns for trial.

### In Other Crime News:

Police in the nation’s second city, Grand Bahama took three males into custody after they were found in possession of an illegal firearm and ammunition.

According to the police, shortly before 5pm Wednesday afternoon, officers of the Rapid Response Unit, while in the area of East Sunrise Highway near a business establishment took three males into custody. They were allegedly found in possession of a black 9mm pistol with two rounds of ammunition.

The men are expected to be arraigned before the Magistrate’s Court later this week.

# Blockchain technology has the potential to revolutionise the way business is done in The Bahamas

BY LLONELLA GILBERT

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance the Hon. Peter Turnquest said that Blockchain technology has the potential to revolutionise the way business is done in The Bahamas.

During the “Understanding Blockchain Technology Applications: What You Need to Know” workshop hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) at Baha Mar Convention Centre, Wednesday, January 31, 2018, the DPM added that Blockchain technology has the ability to propel the country in a really dramatic way from where it is today in terms of technology and the way business is done as well as the ease of doing business.

The workshop was facilitated by Chris Jagers and Natalie Smolenski from the Learning Machine Lab at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

DPM Turnquest explained that with the Assistance of the IDB, he and several colleague Ministers toured the MIT Lab last year and saw the potential that the technology has for The

Bahamas.

“When a lot of people think of Blockchains, they think about cryptocurrency. That is just one aspect of it. That is something we are doing some research into to see how we will be able to capitalise on it.

“More importantly than that is the way we can use this technology to improve the quality and efficiency of our daily lives.”

He gave the illustration of the Government potentially using the technology to create electronic records that are “indisputable”, which would then lead to a system where records could be produced that individuals could carry around in the form of an electronic passport that they can take to any bank where they want to open an account.

“If we had this electronic ID card if you will, you could walk into the bank, present your ID with your access code, they could look at your records, verify who you are via your information and away you go in minutes. That is what we are talking about it.”

As it stands now, he said it takes weeks or months for Bahamians and six to eight months for foreign nationals

to open a bank account, which is “a very inefficient and frustrating process.”

The DPM also noted that the Government is looking at how Blockchain technology can be useful in producing a proper land registry, employing it with companies registering with the government.

“There are a whole host of opportunities that exist as a result of this technology and we want to explore it all and take our country to the cutting edge.”

IDB Country Representative, The Bahamas, Florencia Attademo-Hirt explained that emerging technologies like Blockchain have been making waves all over the world in recent years.

She said, “Very simply put, Blockchain is a digital technology able to store and transport valuable information and assets securely.

“Blockchains were first used to record transactions of digital money (cryptocurrencies), but since those early days, there have been other uses and applications of this technology.”

Mrs. Attademo-Hirt noted that Blockchain technology has the ability to manage a large amount of data accurately allowing for it to not



► Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance the Hon. Peter K. Turnquest opens “Understanding Blockchain Technology Applications: What You Need to Know” workshop hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) at Baha Mar Convention Centre, Wednesday, January 31, 2018. (BIS Photo/Derek Smith)

be tampered or altered, and could be either very transparent or confidential.

“In The Bahamas, we think we can apply blockchain to a number of areas beyond cryptocurrencies or even the Financial Sector.”

She said one of the goals of the workshop was to convince stakeholders as well as get their feedback on the usefulness of Blockchain Technology in The Bahamas in the area of sovereign citizen security and justice, in particular the information that is being handled by the

justice system.

Another goal was to see if the technology could be used for education and training in the sense of keeping records and diplomas available and making them easily accessible to their owner of the records, employers and learning institutions.

Mrs. Attademo-Hirt said they really also want to establish how useful it would be for land title registration.

“We would really like you to give us your ideas even if you feel like Blockchain might not work

for The Bahamas, if you feel that it is not the solution, if you are afraid of using the technology, if you fear people need to be trained in a way that they will not be able to.

“We will like to hear all of your thoughts and your feedback to make sure that whatever investment that we do moving forward using this or other technologies, it is relevant to your country, helps improves lives in your country and helps Bahamians have a better prospect for their future,” Mrs. Attademo-Hirt said.

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# OMNI Financial Partners With IDB

• **\$1 MILLION LOAN TO  
EXPAND BAHAMIAN SMES**

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

The OMNI Financial Group Limited was recently granted a \$1 million contingent recovery loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) which the group says will allow for Bahamian Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) to have access to finances through loans, the provisions of its new product.

Having been granted the funds in December 2017, IDB through IDB's Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), Representative for IDB, Florencia Hirt acknowledged that this is the first time that the investment company has invested such a sum in the Bahamas.

"To us this is evidence of our evolving partnership. It's also evidence of the maturity the OMNI Financial Group has accomplished, in the last five years," Ms. Hirt said.

She acknowledged that the IDB supports the OMNI Group for its role in pushing SME's.

"We are focused at the IDB group on creating activities for the private

sector to play a stronger role in the development of The Bahamas.

"We believe in a more innovative private sector and risk-taking sector that can do business in a more efficient and effective way", Ms. Hirt said.

As for the OMNI Financial Group, Chief Executive Officer Harvey Morris said he was grateful for the IDB's support and that the group, which has partnered with IDB since 2013 will use the funds for small and medium businesses.

"The IDB has worked with us and has encouraged us to find innovative ways to provide financial services for the on and under bank sector in the community service.

"Today, I am indeed pleased that we have been able to take that to the point where we can be able to take that to the point where we can be signing a loan

agreement for a million dollars", Mr. Morris said.

This will be the first financial technology enabled option of its kind available to Bahamian business owners.

It will facilitate SME's access to capital, thus leveraging commercial relationships with large corporates. It will also incentivize large corporations to enter into commercial relationships with SME's, especially those located in the Family Islands.

Both OMNI and the IDB saw the need to provide alternative financing options for smaller companies in The Bahamas, specifically those involved in manufacturing, processing, agriculture and other cottage industries.

OMNI will work with the Bahamas Agriculture and Industrial Corporation (BAIC) in the initial phase of the program.

## Amnesty Int'l says Gov't must enforce Court Order

Amnesty International says The Bahamian government must immediately implement the decision of its Supreme Court ordering the return of Jean-Rony Jean Charles, a Bahamian-born man of Haitian descent who was unlawfully expelled to Haiti last November, and stop discriminatory practices against people of Haitian descent.

Bahamian immigration officials detained Jean-Rony Jean Charles in early September 2017 and later told his lawyer that he had been expelled from the Bahamas to Haiti. The decision issued on 26 January by a Supreme Court judge found that Jean-Rony had been "deprived of his personal liberty, unlawfully arrested and detained/falsefully imprisoned" and then "unlawfully expelled" in breach of various rights guaranteed under the constitution.

"This judgement sets an important precedent for the Bahamas and sends a clear message to the wider region about states' obligations to guarantee the right to nationality and non-discrimination in line with international law," said Erika Guevara Rosas, Americas Director at Amnesty International.

"The Bahamian authorities must align deportation processes with international standards, which include screening processes to avoid expulsion of individuals born in the Bahamas. We have repeatedly sought to engage with the Bahamian authorities to constructively dialogue about their human rights challenges, and remain willing to do so."

On 11 October 2017, the Bahamian Prime Minister announced that migrants with an alleged irregular status in the Bahamas would have until 31 December 2017 to regularize their status or face aggressive pursuit and deportation. In the wake of these announcements, media reports suggest that immigration authorities began to stop, search, and conduct raids in pursuit of people perceived as migrants with irregular migratory status, the majority of them Haitians or of Haitian descent.

Amnesty International says it has received reports from the Bahamas about the existence of persistent administrative hurdles that prevent Bahamian individuals born to foreign parents from accessing their identity documents and proving their Bahamian nationality. National NGOs report that this practice seems to disproportionately affect Bahamian-born people of Haitian descent.

In the Caribbean, Haitian migrants and their descendant face high levels of discrimination, in particular in accessing their right to nationality. In September 2013, the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic issued judgement 168-13 that retroactively and arbitrarily deprived tens of thousands of Dominican-born individual of Haitian descent of their Dominican nationality.

In 2014, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights condemned the Dominican state for human rights violations suffered by Dominicans of Haitian descent and Haitians as a result of illegal deportations, denial of identity documents and arbitrary deprivation of nationality, including the 2013 Constitutional Court judgement among others. The regional Court reiterated its jurisprudence developed in a previous judgement against the Dominican Republic in 2005 ruling that the migration status of parents is not a legitimate ground for denying Dominican nationality to their children born in the Dominican Republic.



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# PETER NYGARD GIVES AWAY MILLIONS

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.

If we were multi-millionaires, would we give away the millions of dollars fashion mogul Peter Nygard is known to do? Here's the story that explains why he does it:

*As a boy, I had a friend whose parents owned a restaurant. One day I went with him to the restaurant. There were so many delicious smells. My friend put two slices of bread in the toaster. I was so hungry; I just knew one of those slices was for me. When the slices were done, my friend buttered the first piece of toast and began eating it. I stood there trying to be patient, but my mouth was watering waiting for my toast. Then, he took the second slice out of the toaster. He buttered it. He took a bite, and then ate the whole thing. I was so disappointed. I never forgot that moment. I told myself, 'Peter, if you ever have an opportunity to share your toast, you share your toast!' (Peter Nygard)*

Since 2001, over a million dollars have been donated to the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation. Some of the funds were used for a mobile mammography unit and tumor bank. Peter Nygard has fashion shows with cancer survivors as models and donates ticket proceeds. He has given tens of thousands to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. And twenty million has been given to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation over 10 years.

Why so much emphasis on breast cancer? Peter Nygard's mother, Hilka Nygard, was a breast cancer survivor. That is why he is committed to helping in any way that he can to continue the fight against breast cancer.

While Peter Nygard's charity of choice relates to breast cancer awareness and eradication, we all know he doesn't stop there: He has

## 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.

given several million in donations to sports in The Bahamas over thirteen years; and donations to religious organizations and underprivileged youth in The Bahamas total about one million over 10 years as well as arts and culture in The Bahamas, including Junkanoo.

Peter Nygard has also donated to various environmental causes and more than one million to various causes in Winnipeg, Canada over the years.

This total alone is over twenty-five million dollars. This doesn't include the millions he spends on medical treatment for a number of individuals not just in Canada but in The Bahamas as well. Carlos Mackey and others in The Bahamas will attest to that.

We know that Peter Nygard came from humble beginnings, became a millionaire and believes in giving back. Yet, there are other millionaires out there that started with nothing and became rich but don't give away millions like Peter Nygard. So how do you explain it?

Peter Nygard is said to have a lot of empathy for others and it shows.

In a world filled with so much hatred and terrorism, it is good to see someone who cares about others to such an extent that he is prepared to give away millions to help others.

If we were in his shoes, would we be prepared to give away our millions?

Would we be prepared to share our toast? It's certainly something to think about.

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E D I T O R I A L

# POLICING 'THE' POLICE!

As promises go time and time again; those of us with some experience with word games know that there is truth galore in a proverb which avers that promises are comforts to fools.

And we suggest that-- As police killings of civilians inch on and on; and indeed, as more and more police officers find themselves enmeshed not only in now - familiar narratives as to how - in a crunch - this or that police officer perceived that his life was being endangered--and thus how and when--as the familiar narrative reports: Said police officer [since he was so deeply concerned with self-preservation] shot some dead.

In this regard, then, note that: The most recent police-involved killing took place on Plantol Street off East Street on Friday, prompting an angry confrontation between police officers and residents. Videos connected to the incidents circulated on social media.

Mr. Dames said: "I don't wish to speak directly to the incident only to say that there is a process any time that there is a police-involved shooting, [there is a process that takes place]. The coroner is immediately notified and in most instances the coroner is invited to the scene to assess the scene and then go away. The matters (are) then thoroughly investigated and put before the coroner where a determination is made as to whether there is culpability or not."

Information extant indicates that: National Security Minister Marvin Dames has declined to address the latest fatal shooting by police.

Interestingly, the minister in question insists that such matters are "thoroughly investigated" and put before the coroner.

But surely, the minister must have misspoken himself when he 'insists' that such matters are thoroughly investigated.

As The Hon. Marvin Dames recently claimed:- There is a process any time that there is a police-involved shooting, [there is a process that takes place]. The coroner is immediately notified and in most instances the coroner is invited to the scene to assess the scene and then go away. The matters (are) then thoroughly investigated and put before the coroner where a determination is made as to whether there is culpability or not."

The facts say otherwise; indeed, there is facts out-there which clearly prove that --and to the

contrary of the minister's blithely pleasant remarks--the coroner is not called!

In this regard, then, we take no comfort in promises made to the effect that: THE GOVERNMENT would implement administrative or legislative fixes to ensure inquests take place as the law demands.

We wonder!

This we do against a decadent social background where as we now know there were 28 outstanding killings for which an inquest must be held. Since then, there have been four more killings.

In truth, then: One of the more puzzling conundrums to be faced in this life has to do with it a question that is - as they say - old as the hills!

That puzzler is tied up in this man-made knot: To whom is assigned the duty of policing the police?

This we frame as we do against a backdrop where: There have been nine police-involved killings in the past three months, including four this month and where we know that there were 11 such killings last year!

Something or the other is dreadfully wrong with this picture!

And clearly, therefore, who among us is wise enough to figure out what is to be done in instances where --- since they are 'only' human -- they lie, steal, loot, rape, kill and commit any number of outrages against their brothers and sisters in the wider community?

Put otherwise-- Is it really either feasible or plausibly pleasant for the police to investigate the police in a time and in a place where - as popular lore would advise - practically everyone has a price.

In this regard, we hear-say that there are people out-there who can be persuaded for a price previously determined to turn a blind eye on this or that 'neighborly' offence against this or that 'unlucky' target.

Evidently, therefore, one of the key questions now arising in today's deeply challenged Bahamas has to do with the management of people in the service of the state who decide - for whatever infernal reason - to yield to the scintillating temptation to do the wrong instead of doing what is true, right and fully decent.

## Letter to the Editor MR. SPEAKER, YOU'RE WRONG

I am stunned that the Speaker of the House of Assembly Halston Moultrie has allowed his partisan politics to compromise his integrity as we once knew him or as he purported to be.

I am not a legal mind and do not pretend to be one neither do I have any academic qualifications, but will challenge anyone who I believe is not acting in the best interest of the Bahamian people.

Mr. Moultrie, showed his heavy hand and exerted his position by putting his politi-

cal finger on the scale. Rational, which is one of the most important ingredients needed to effectively perform as speaker has gone to lunch.

Moultrie has disappointed many of us who have known him over these many years. He used to be a man of principle, but I guess power gets one a little tipsy.

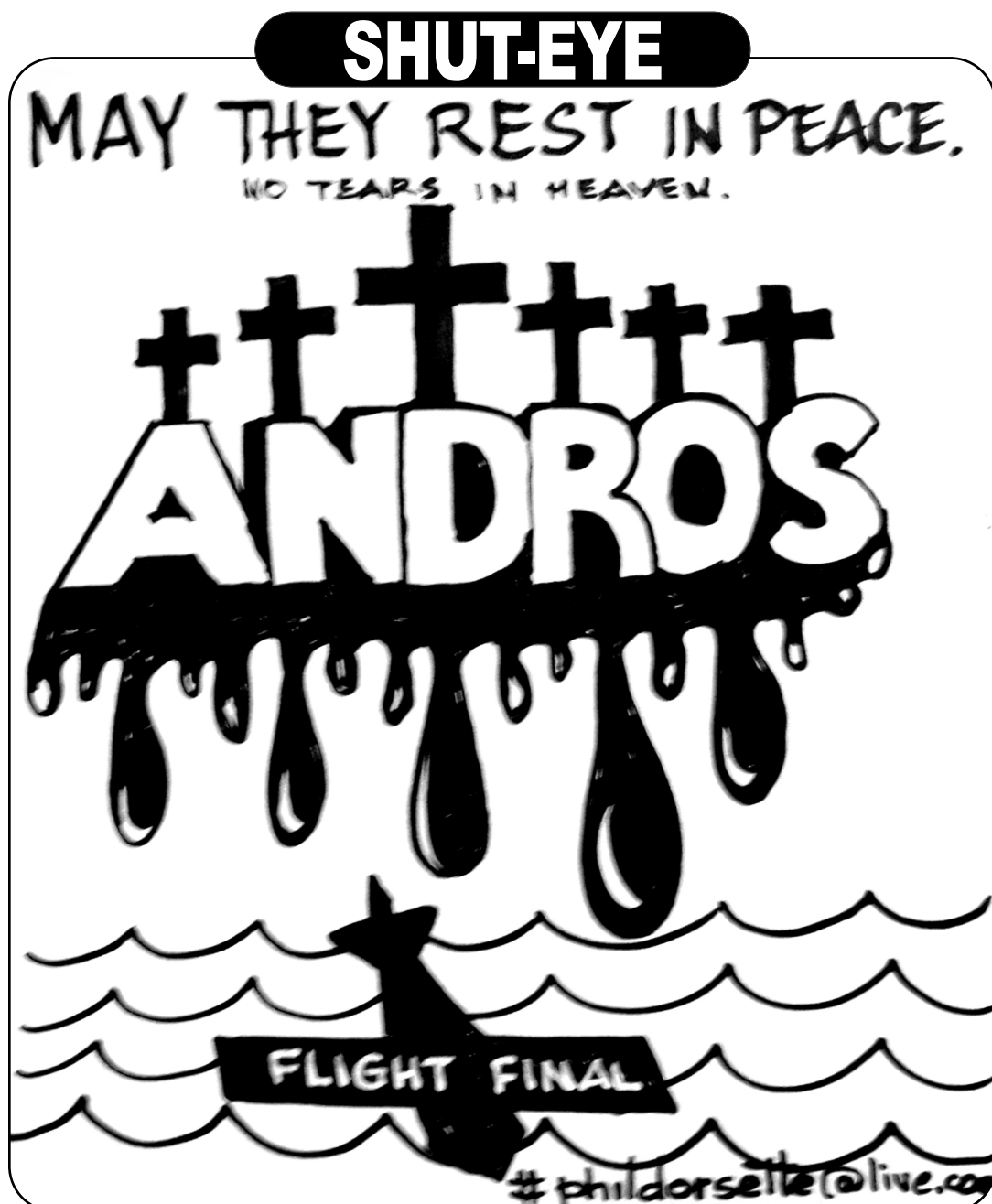
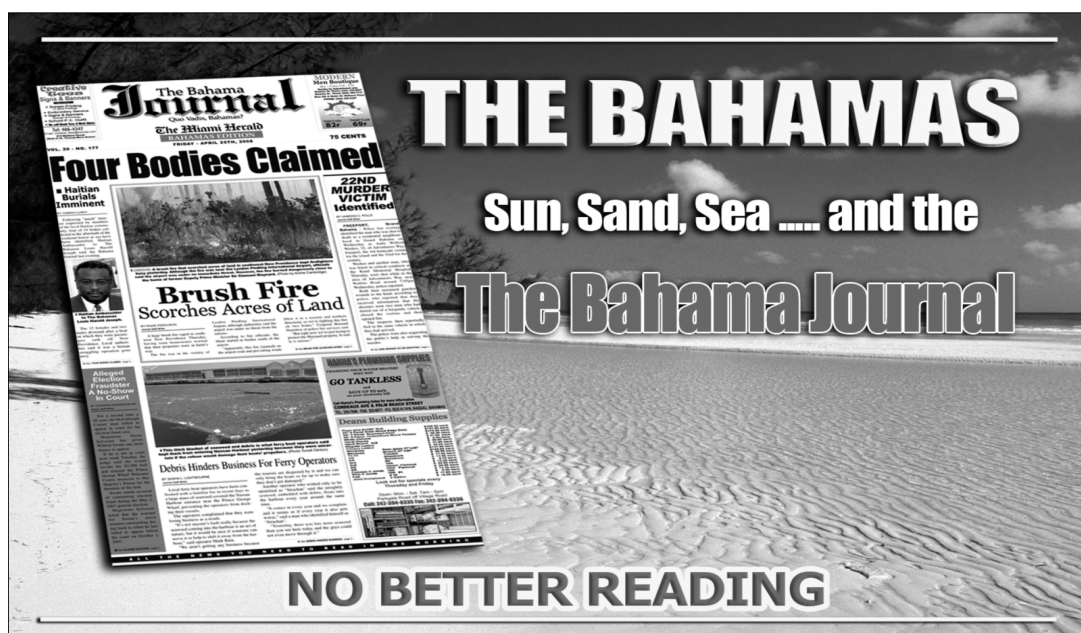
I warn him, please don't be anyone's fool. Politics have a way of devouring us. When they are finished with him, they will swallow him up too. Then what?

Now I say this directly to the speaker as speaker, "You desperately need to gather the courage, sit in the House of Assembly, fully dressed in wig and gown, and honestly say that you erred in the ruling concerning Glenis Hanna-Martin.

Either you are part of the solutions or you are part of the problem.

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# New Incentives for Bed and Breakfast Resorts

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
Journal Staff Writer

The Prime Minister Doctor Hubert Minnis is encouraging more Bahamians to take advantage of the multi-million dollar industry of bed and breakfasts (B&B) properties.

Speaking at the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation

power breakfast yesterday Dr. Minnis spoke about some of the incentives that will come from owning a B&B.

For instance, if all the food items used at the B&B are 100 per cent Bahamian, there will be some form of tax reduction.

"This will help facilitate locals in food production matters. Once that is working efficiently, individuals will prob-

ably announce that they would like to expand to lunch items and if those lunch items are 100% Bahamian they will be further incentivized; but if one thing on that plate is foreign you will lose it," Dr. Minnis said.

On Monday in his national address he branded an extremely low housing programme as added encourage-

ment to open B&B's.

No details were shared on the price, size or location of these properties.

However, the Prime minister did say that first time home buyers will be given two years to build.

The housing program will be implemented in both New Providence and the family islands.

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# Cracks Down On Hackers

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"We will crack down on illegal operators," Capt. Beneby said.

As for how they intend to bring the practice of 'hacking' under control, Capt. Beneby said that they BCAA has already begun its surveillance with the team on the ground and the introduction of CCTV.

"The Safety Oversight Department is now charged with increasing its surveillance of the General Aviation areas, including the Fix Base Operators.

"We will introduce new video capture capabilities. My team members will be on the ramp every day, early morning until night.

"If an operator is engaged in that practice and we have strong information that they are, they will be caught," Capt. Beneby confirmed.

According to Capt. Beneby, although the issue of 'hacking' is a long-standing practice, no one has been prosecuted, but that he said will change.

"The law allows me the authority to join with other government agencies to fine and seize aircrafts and even to imprison persons who engage in such practices," Capt. Beneby said.

The penalty for air hacking has been increased from \$1,500 to \$10,000; the aircraft seized and up to two years jail time.

## GOVERNOR GENERAL HOSTS DINNER IN HONOUR OF RETIRED PRESIDENT OF COURT OF APPEAL DAME ANITA ALLEN



► Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling welcomed guests to a Dinner in Honour of Dame Anita Allen, President of the Court of Appeal (Retired) on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at Government House. Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon Hubert Minnis and Mrs. Minnis attended. In group photo, the Governor General is seated, centre, with the Prime Minister, Dr. Minnis at centre left and Dame Anita Allen, centre right. Also pictured seated from left: Minister of State in the Ministry of Legal Affairs Elsworth Johnson, President of the Court of Appeal Sir Hartman Longley, Mrs. Patricia Minnis, Algernon Allen at third right, Mrs. Ann Marie Davis and Leader of the Opposition Philip Davis. Legal community friends stand behind. The Governor General is also pictured giving her welcome to the dinner guests. (BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna)

# Shantytown Committee Formed

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY  
Journal Staff Writer

The devastating fire in The Mud in Marsh Harbour, Abaco, on Sunday that left

170 residents homeless has resulted in the formation of a new government regulatory committee.

An inter-ministry committee was formed to remediate

the issues of unregulated developments.

North Abaco Member of Parliament and Minister of Foreign Affairs Darren Henfield said, "recognizing

the clear and present danger that these unregulated developments pose to the safety and well-being for those who live in them and the broader Bahamian society, as well as

Sunday's near catastrophic event last Sunday morning, the cabinet of the Bahamas approved the formation of a select cabinet committee to remediate the issue of this blight on our national landscape."

Mr. Henfield added that the committee would produce a comprehensive report with recommendations, to have undocumented communities like the Mud removed from the Bahamian landscape in an orderly well considered and humane manner.

The committee is led by Labour Minister Dion Foulkes and includes the Ministry of Housing and Environment, Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of National Security, the Office of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The North Abaco MP said as these communities present a myriad of complexities, including that of health and

social. They are taking steps to ensure that The Mud and other such communities are adjusted through systematic means.

"The impacted area of The Mud will be cleaned and secured to prevent any rebuilding therein. Aerial photography by drone will be employed to determine existing structures, so that any new structures can be immediately recognized and addressed. A comprehensive assessment of the boundaries will be undertaken to ascertain ownership," Mr. Henfield said.

He added that he would like to thank those who helped fight Sunday's blaze as well as those now assisting residents.

He named the temporary shelter at the Church of God Marsh Harbour, the Department of Local Government, the local disaster management team, the RBDF and RBPF, Abaco voluntary fire services, the Department of Social Services and the Red Cross.

## FIRES TO BE EXTINGUISHED BY WEEKEND

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
Journal Staff Writer

The Minister of Environment and Housing, Romauld Ferreira yesterday said he anticipates that the Landfill fires will be extinguished by weekend.

Mr. Ferreira provided this update while speaking in The House of Assembly.

"Once the needed resources are provided and the equipment is functioning as planned, it is anticipated that the fire will be fully extinguished by the end of the week," the minister declared.

He also indicated the household waste section has also been extinguished, although containment was a challenge due to limited firefighting resources coupled with high winds.

He said "The Royal Bahamas

Police Force and the Department of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) team will continue to wet and cover as a part of the strategy to remediate the remaining issues at the site."

Moreover, there is a need for updated and modern firefighting equipment to effectively combat these fires from the onset.

Mr. Ferreira detailed the following needs for extinguishing the fire: "Mobile and stationary fire equipment with sufficient fire hoses, adequate mobile and stationary lighting, D8 Payloaders, fill trucks and landfill compactors, adequate cover material and transportation for staff to properly cover carry out surveillance.

Mr. Ferreira said, "As the government continues to shunt resources to the landfill to deal with this vexing

problem, my ministry is implementing focus on continuing and to finish off the long term strategy to fully resolve this issue at the landfill."

The Minister is putting forth a request for proposal (RFP) for potential investors and management services relating to the deconstruction, remediation and operation of the New Providence Sanitary Landfill during February 5th through the 9th.

He explained that the successful applicant will be required to pay a non-refundable registration fee of ten thousand dollars and will be expected to submit proposals to the tenders' board at the Ministry of Finance by March 31st, at which point the proposals will be scrutinized by the RFP evaluation team and a preferred bidder will be selected in May.

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