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# The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

**VOL. 30 - NO. 137****WEDNESDAY - APRIL 25TH, 2018****75 CENTS**

# Local Gov't By 2020 For NP?

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
*Journal Staff Writer*

**B**y 2020 Local government could possibly be implemented in New Providence. According to Minister of Local Government Frankie Campbell, this is dependent on what a committee comes up with once they complete their scrutiny of local government throughout the Family Islands.

Speaking with media before heading into Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, Mr. Campbell said, "some time ago, the Cabinet of The Bahamas approved the formation of a committee that will look into matters related to the implementation of local government in New Providence.

"On Wednesday past I had the privilege to meet with that committee. The committee is chaired by Senator Renard Henford.

"The committee is made up of a cross section of individuals from varying backgrounds. They were given the mandate to consider the legislation that exists to consider the practices that are going on in the Family Islands now and to see how effective and efficient they are before we move into considering local government in New Providence," Mr. Campbell said.

The Minister added that besides the committee's excitement to work on this project, he is satisfied that the committee has already began work in this process.

"We will get a timely report from the committee; as a matter of fact they have committed to give a progress report by the end of August.

"And so, I want the Bahamian people to know that we are committed to keeping that promise and we are assuring that we are very much ahead of time, because the next local government election is scheduled for 2020 and we are working to be ahead of time to make sure that we can deliver on that," Mr. Campbell said.

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## DISTRIBUTION OF 610 REPAIR CHEQUES FOR ROOFS IN GB



► RECEIVING PAYMENT – The Ministry of Works continued with cheque distribution for roof repairs on Monday, April 23. It is expected that some 610 cheques will be issued this week. (BIS Photo/Lisa Davis)

## PM Minnis: Role of the Church perhaps more critical "in our lifetime"

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY

The role of the Church is perhaps more critical "in our lifetime" than at any other point. As a result, the Church must uphold holiness at all times, Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis said Monday.

"Today we live in a world where so many standards are compromised. Many persons prefer shortcuts or the easy way out," Prime Minister Minnis said. "There is no substitute or compromise."

Addressing the Opening Session of the 36th Annual General Assembly of the Voice of Deliverance Ministries held at Voice of Deliverance, Deliverance Way, Malcolm Allotment, Prime Minister

Minnis said the General Assembly's Theme of "Upholding the Legacy of Holiness, Building on a Solid Foundation," was both appropriate and timely.

"We must find the formula to return to those practices which made us Christians in our homes and neighbourhoods," Prime Minister Minnis said.

"We somehow seemed closer before we built neighbourhood walls and fences. We just seemed closer when we sat on the porch and knew our neighbours. I recall when it was possible to ask the neighbour for a piece of onion or some tomato paste. We were closer. We cared and shared."

■ See "IN OUR LIFETIME" / page 7...

## DPM Refutes Claim Of Our Lucaya Sale Collapse

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
*Journal Staff Writer*

Debunking claims by former Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Chairman, Bradley Roberts that the sale of Grand Lucaya Resort, in Grand Bahama has been a constant on again off again,

Deputy Prime Minister Peter Turnquest said it was all a false claim.

In a recent statement, Mr. Roberts suggested that the sale of the resort had collapsed. However, Mr. Turnquest described the former Works Minister's commentary to being

"incredibly mischievous, and it is disingenuous".

"The deal continues to be moving forward. There are some final details that are being completed as we speak, and we certainly expect to have a completed agreement within in short order," Mr. Turnquest said.

The Member of Parliament for East Grand Bahama, acknowledged that while there has been several times that the government said the sale is near completion, he stated that these types of negotiations are complicated.

"They are further complicated by the financial nature of them."

■ See DPM REFUTES / page 4...

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# DISTRIBUTION OF 610 REPAIR CHEQUES FOR ROOFS IN GB

BY ROBYN ADDERLEY

**FREEPOR**t, Grand Bahama – Six hundred and ten more residents of Grand Bahama are now better prepared to repair their roofs as a part of the government's national repair programme.

With a steady flow, those armed with the necessary identification, lined up on Monday, April 23, to receive their much anticipated assistance for roof repairs with the hurricane season fast approaching.

Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Iram Lewis, said in addition to the 125 cheques previously distributed, they are in possession of 610 for those who were in tiers 2, 3 and 4.

Describing the day as a "great" one, Mr. Lewis added that people can now have their roofs repaired and ready for the hurricane season. He added that because of the large number of cheques being distributed, people should only come to collect if they have been contacted.

He said, "We are presently compiling a fifth list that we're sending into Nassau around the first part of May. As soon as that list arrives in Nassau, they will also be processed and brought to Grand Bahama and we



► **ASSISTANCE IS HERE** – Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, the Hon. Michael Pintard, on Monday, April 23, urged contractors to assist where possible and urged those residents who have already received assistance for repairs, to decline further assistance so that others may be helped. Shown from left outside of the cheque for roof repairs distribution centre are Rev. Frederick McAlpine, Member of Parliament for Pineridge Constituency; Minister Pintard, Member of Parliament for Marco City; and Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Works and Member of Parliament for Central Grand Bahama, Iram Lewis. (BIS Photo/Lisa Davis)

expect that everyone will have their cheques in hand prior to the commencement of the hurricane season.

"It means a lot to the people of Grand Bahama because it's been long coming and when you drive around

town, you still see a lot of tarp on roofs and a lot of homes [that] are still damaged as a result of leaks. We are just pleased that at this time, the government is able to assist the constituents from East Grand Bahama all

the way to West, and some of the smaller cays."

Targeting residents with roofing leaks, Mr. Lewis said it is important that they are stopped and the homes are saved. He urged the residents to

ensure that their homes are repaired properly and comply with building codes.

"And by all means, please get your insurance because based on what I've found out in a short period of time, there is no way the government can sustain such a programme. It is a heavy burden on the government, but again we are about people and we are going to do our best to ensure that relief is given at this time."

Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture and Member of Parliament for Marco City, the Hon. Michael Pintard added that there are a number of people being assisted independently, either by the Member of Parliament, or various churches. There are certain individuals being helped by two or three organizations. "We are asking residents who have gotten the supplies that they need to decline to accept additional supplies from some of the non-governmental organizations, churches or the government, so that somebody else can get assistance."

While there are not enough resources to help everyone, they can be "stretched" if those affected only accept their fair share of assistance.

■ See DISTRIBUTION OF 610 / page 4...

## "NEWBOLD ASSURES GOVERNMENT IS WORKING"

### Local Gov't By 2020 For NP?

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

"The committee is a non-partisan committee thus Mr. Henfield heading the committee. The opposition was invited to add a member to the committee and I think the opposition nominated former Member of Parliament Philip Smith," Mr. Campbell said.

The committee is comprised of individuals such as Cephas Cooper, Vice Chairman, Dr. Nicola Virgil Rolle, Dr. Nicolette Bethel, Ed Fields, Brett Lashley, Dianne Holowesko Dunkley, Valentino Brown and Roderick Pinder.

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mr. Newbold also reiterated that the government is focused on improving the way they govern themselves, and explained how they are doing so.

"One of the ways is to put some legislation in place, so some bills have been tabled in the past; a bill to establish the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Financial Transactions Reporting Amendment bill, the Proceeds of Crime Bill, a bill to amend the Criminal Evidence Witness Anonymity Amendment Bill, the Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information Act, all of them passed," he

said.

"What's still on the table and will be passed, a bill to provide for the office of the Ombudsman, a bill to provide for the establishment of the Integrity Commission; there will be some other bills that will be introduced as time goes on, and we say that we are eleven months in now, but those are the bills that have been laid on the table and that have been passed," he added.

Mr. Newbold also mentioned that the Prime Minister is moving right along with the Over the Hill Redevelopment Initiative; one of the ways he said, the government is keeping their promise to the people.

Next Wednesday, May 2,

2018 a town meeting will be held at the C.R. Walker Senior High School, where the Prime Minister and members of his team will present the white paper on the creation of an economic empowerment zone to restore the over the hill community.

"This white paper will outline the tax incentives and nuances of how that program will work to provide economic relief to the inner city," he said.

"What will also be discussed during that town meeting are some of the targeted programs and initiatives to improve the lives of all residents Over the Hill and certainly for some of those areas that are troubled by any num-

ber of things."

Mr. Newbold said that the government's message is simple, and they will continue to push this message moving forward.

"The message of this government has been, always has been and will continue to be that the government is committed to rooting out corruption, leveling the playing field so that the quality of life for as many Bahamians as possible can be improved."

"That's been the message from Prime Minister Minnis when he was Leader of the Opposition on the campaign trail before and after. That's always been the message and that is not going to change," he said.

GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS  
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
THE PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING  
REFORM PROJECT (PFM/PMR)  
POSITION AVAILABLE: OPERATIONS MANAGER

Title: Operations Manager

This notice is placed on behalf of The Ministry of Finance to provide background information regarding the PFM/PMR Project to enable interested persons who meet the stated criteria to determine their eligibility and offer their services under the requirements of the project. The Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (GoB) has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) under loan #3340/OC-BH to fund the contract cost.

**SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION**  
PFM/PMR will improve Public Sector Financial Management and Performance Monitoring capabilities via four Components; Performance Monitoring, National Statistics, Public Financial Management and Public Procurement. Component 1 is to strengthen the management capacity of the public sector to monitor priority projects and programs more efficiently and effectively. The Consultant will support the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (PMDU).

**FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**  
Reporting to the (COO), the operations manager will set up an implementation plan for the structure and development of the PMDU, provide feedback on the process changes required to facilitate the work flow redesigns required for the introduction of a center of government model. They will assist with the sensitization of Ministers, Senior Public Servants, Ministries, and, when applicable, the public, on the benefits of the new process flows and how to make the desired changes. The consultant will also be responsible for drafting the PMDU's policies and procedures, management of the staff and directing the work of the unit with the initial assistance of the Advisory Firm (training). Inter alia, the Consultant will:

- Familiarize themselves with existing literature on Delivery Units and Center of Government, The Bahamas National Development Plan, the current administration's priorities.
- Manage the PMDU's participation in coordination and monitoring meetings with Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and technical teams from Ministries with the aim of identifying and unblocking potential obstacles
- Support Ministries preparing Delivery Strategies and/or Implementation Plans for priority projects by providing draft formats and guidance on project planning, resource management, methodological issues, performance indicators, verification, process identification for key projects, budgets, and stakeholder mapping
- Coordinate with the Ministry of Finance to ensure adequate resource allocation to top priorities, proactively identifying and offering solutions for financing gaps
- Prepare a contextual risk analysis for each top priority
- Prepare a draft reporting format and proposed protocol for coordinating and monitoring Government's top priorities
- Prepare a draft strategy for vertical coordination with local governments to achieve top priorities at territorial level
- Oversee Priority Managers providing support in line ministries, unblocking obstacles that could prevent priority goal achievement
- Lead internal meetings of the PMDU, as applicable and contribute to monitoring meetings by preparing specific questions for the meeting's chair to identify and solve bottlenecks
- Coordinate training and guidance to staff in charge of coordination with specific sectors or priorities regarding delivery methodological, and the specific work program with its sector or sectors
- Contribute to the design and implementation of a website and other mechanisms for reporting the government's progress to Bahamian citizens in achieving top priorities
- In coordination with the COO, prepare a succession plan for leadership of the PMDU

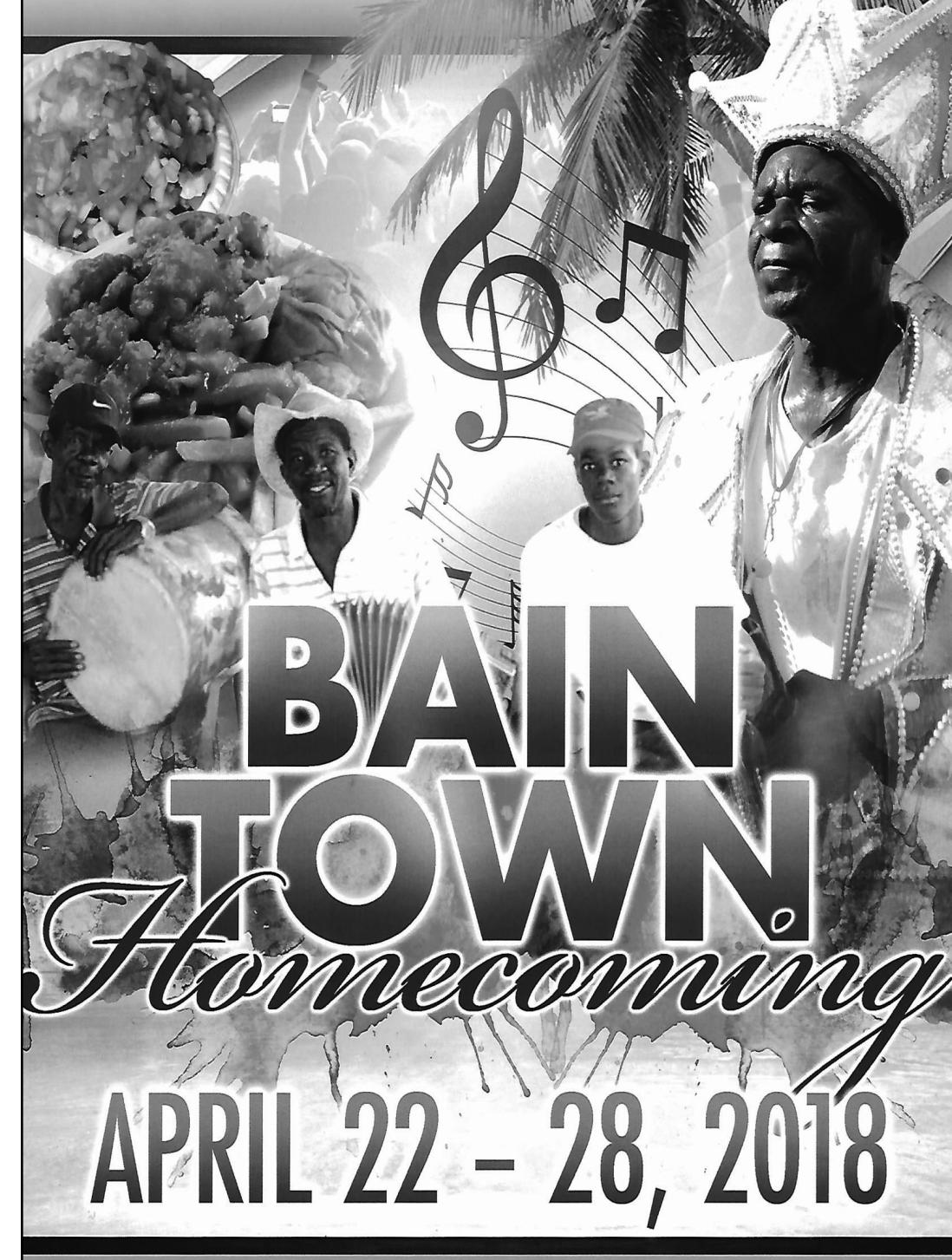
#### EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Master's in Business Administration, Public Policy, Economics, Statistics or other similar disciplines required
- At least ten years of relevant experience in implementing complex projects or programs (in the public or private sector) with experiences in leadership
- Public Sector experience particularly leading the implementation of public policies in ministries is highly valued with knowledge on Regional public management and/or international Center of Government a plus
- Certification in Project Management is required

#### SELECTION PROCESS

Selection is in accordance with the Qualifications of National Individual Consultants method procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: Policies for the selection and contracting of consultants financed by the Inter-American Bank (Document GN-2350-9). Note that the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas has the authority to reject any and all proposals without an explanation. CVs must be delivered with the subject line: Operations Manager by e-mail by 5:00pm on April 25th 2018 to

Tonya Adderley, Project Manager  
Public Financial Management/Performance Monitoring Reform Project  
E-mail: pfmpr@bahamas.gov.bs



# Employment opportunities to be highlighted during Maritime Week scheduled for May 6-11

BY BETTY VEDRINE

Minister of Transport and Local Government, the Hon. Frankie Campbell announced that the Bahamas Maritime Association would hold its first Bi-Annual Maritime Week, May 6 to 11. During the week of activities, the public will be made aware of career opportunities in the maritime industry. The Minister made the announcement at the Ministry of Transport on Monday.

"The focus of this maritime week is to raise national awareness of the employment opportunities that exist within the maritime sector to expand the career choice for our young persons beyond traditional sectors favoured by Bahamians," said Minister Campbell.

He said that there are various facets to the shipping industry that the public may not be aware of. He is optimistic that Bahamians would use this opportunity to acquaint themselves with the wide range of opportunities available in the industry.

"When you think of shipping, one may consider the ship structure and equipment onboard but there are numerous auxiliary services ranging from naval architecture,hipping finance, maritime law, agency services, training, hotel services just to name a few," he said. We believe that The Bahamas has the capacity to produce a competent and qualified workforce to compete at the global level for shipboard jobs. Achieving employment within the sector would

not only boost the nation's profile but also attract investment, which will generate economic benefits for the country.

Chairperson of BMA, Ms. J. Denise Lewis-Johnson, said that the week would feature a cross section of activities, and that the public is invited to participate in all of the public events.

"We will commence the week with a church service at St. Matthews Church on Sunday, 6th May and there will also be a Public Education Forum at the University of the Bahamas on Tuesday, 8th May. Daily assemblies will be held at numerous schools. We will take primary and high school students on tour of cruise ships," she said. The students will have lunch aboard the Disney Cruise

Ship, The Enchantment of the Seas, and two other ships. There will also be appearances on talk shows and board

members will meet with industry partners to discuss improving the product.

Director of BMA, Mr. Cardio

Cox said that the events for Maritime week will also be mirrored in a few of the Family Islands.

## ROAD TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT GRANTS ENTREPRENEURSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

BY LEAH COOPER  
*Journal Staff Writer*

Members of the Road Traffic Board greeted a packed room inside of the Thomas A. Robinson Stadium yesterday where Bahamians were waiting patiently in moving one step closer to owning their own business.

The Department hosted their quarterly public sitting accommodating about 132 applicants, many of which expressed interest in owning car rental companies.

Deputy Chairman of the Road Traffic Authority Brandace Duncanson said: "During this public sitting, we've basically been focusing on addressing new applications. Through this process, we're hoping to stimulate the economy by empowering Bahamians to be entrepreneurs and get into the business."

She added, "Also, what we try to do is have an idea of how many existing plates are out there that are inactive and recall those plates, then reissue those to persons that would put them to use. Persons have a 90 day period in which they must have their car on the island licensed, registered, and active. If not, we would recall the plates that were unused."

A few applicants share with our news

team their plans for their businesses.

Troy McNeil said that he intends to name his business after his mother that died some two years ago.

Allen McDonald said that he decided to open his business "to serve people that are having problems with their vehicles."

Accountant Antonja Bain said that her interview went well yesterday.

The Freeport native expressed that she wanted to accommodate the needs of those in Grand Bahama.

She said, "Freeport people really don't like to rent the Japanese vehicles. So, I'm doing 5 US [cars], and I'm waiting on four more."

She added, "I noticed that it's a very lucrative industry. I noticed that they don't really advertise it's really just word of mouth and based on trust. So, I figured that I'll tap into that market, and it's not really that much overhead that they have to deal with as it relates to the expenses for the company."

The board consisting of seven members will later meet to discuss among themselves to make a final decision.

Applicants will then receive letter which indicate whether they have been approved or denied.

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- A High School Diploma with a GPA of 2.8 or above , and four (4) BGCSEs with a 'C' grade or above and five (5) years working experience in any capacity

Participants will be assessed on a quarterly basis and must meet all the requirements of the program to be retained in the Apprenticeship Program. Come Grow With Us! Because at Fidelity "We're Good For You!"

PLEASE SUBMIT RESUME AND TRANSCRIPT BEFORE: April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Re: Apprentice Program

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# National Arts Festival Opens in New Providence

BY SYDNEI L. ISAACS

Participants and supporters made their way today to the E. Clement Bethel National Arts Festival 2018

in New Providence to witness some of the talent The Bahamas has to offer. The festival takes place in the capital for two weeks at Church of God Auditorium,

Joe Farrington Road, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day.

After adjudication in New Providence, the festival will return to the Family Islands to review expansive creative

talent there.

The festival is open to amateur Bahamians of all ages (unless the category is specified) who can showcase artistic abilities in categories such as dance, music, drama while they compete for different awards.

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 marked the second day of the

festival where students from different schools, both government and private, competed in every age category.

First graders from Queen's College sang familiar Bahamian tunes such as "Oh My Andros" by Elon Moxey and "Church Out Crab Crawling" by Eddie Minnis and Ronnie Butler in

unison.

The 'big kids' from C.R. Walker High School gave the audience a treat by performing popular oldies like "Chain Gang" by Sam Cooke -- and brought it right back to the present day with "All About that Bass" by Meghan Trainor, all in acapella.



► Students from Uriah McPhee honoured The Bahamas's African heritage with folk dancing, while adorned in African face painting and head scarves. (BIS Photos/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr.)



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► **CHECKING IN** – While staff at the Ministry of Works and NEMA distributed cheques for hurricane roof repairs on Monday, April 23, the Members of Parliament present checked in on how it was going. From left are: Ministry of Works Parliamentary Secretary and Member of Parliament for Central Grand Bahama, Iram Lewis; Rev. Frederick McAlpine, Member of Parliament for Pineridge Constituency; and Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, and Member of Parliament for Marco City, the Hon. Michael Pintard. (BIS Photo/Lisa Davis)

## DISTRIBUTION OF 610 REPAIR CHEQUES FOR ROOFS IN GB

■ Continued from / PAGE 2...

Turning his attention to contractors, the Minister said that there are a number of them who have consistently gotten contracts from government whether under this or the previous administration. "We're asking that where possible, help particularly the senior citizens. There are a number of single women with children living in very tough conditions. We're asking if you can assist by at a minimum, giving a reasonable figure for the work that you're doing, but secondly, where you are able to volunteer some time, to do so in order to help."

"It is really a difficult time for a number of families, and we're asking persons to just really have a conscience and offer some assistance."

The Minister said that when contacting a contractor, check with the Ministry of Works, which is familiar with contractors and whether or not they are reliable.

"We will not deceive you, we will tell you up front that we have a historical difficulty with a particular contractor if we have on record where they have started jobs, collected the payment and have done nothing else. Far too many horror stories

exist where persons have paid, borrowed money in some cases, only to find that the work has not been done satisfactorily."

Minister Pintard concluded by saying that government is there to make sure that the repairs are done. He said they should ensure that their homes are sealed first, whether it is the roof, doors or windows. These, he continued, should be sealed before any additional work is done inside.

Also present was Rev. Frederick McAlpine, member of Parliament for Pineridge Constituency, who said when receiving the funds, residents should be responsible and repair their roofs, and not pretend as if it's "Christmas".

"The government has done this. They have held up their end of the bargain. Please, we don't want you to come back and say you didn't get, or your roof isn't repaired. We have a list, we know who got their roof repaired (cheque) and so don't call us out so we have to call you out. We know who you are, we know what we did and we did it in good faith."

All the government is asking, he said, is that the money is used for what it is intended, and that is to repair their roofs.

The deadline for the programme was Friday, April 20, 2018.

## DPM Refutes Claim Of Our Lucaya Sale Collapse

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

"We want to make sure we get the best deal possible for the Bahamian people, and that takes a bit of effort and a bit of back and forth of negotiation."

"We believe that we have the deal almost complete; we've pretty much agreed on certainly all of the big ticket items; it's just a matter now of putting the agreements together and for everybody to agree for a date to sign off," Mr. Turnquest said.

When asked by reporters yesterday if Mr. Roberts remarks were political mischief, Mr. Turnquest said that he believed it to be so.

"It is. It is also harmful to what we are trying to accomplish."

"The world is changing, The Bahamas is changing. It

is becoming more and more competitive, regulations are becoming more and more stringent making it that much more difficult and causing us to have to change the way we do business; the way we look at business."

"These comments, by someone who is trying to hold on to the relic of the past is just unfortunate," Mr. Turnquest said.

He added that with The Bahamas being in a competitive market, working together should be the only option.

"One of the things we have to remember is that we are trying to attract foreign direct investment, which is a very competitive business these days because we all have the same assets more or less, sun, sand sea, friendly people and the same basic

culture."

"So, when we start making these kinds of statements, alarming statements it is not helpful to what we are trying to do in terms of [how] to grow our economy, grow opportunities for Bahamians, both in terms of careers as well as entrepreneurial opportunities and it is unfortunate, because again we all have the same goal or we should all have the same goal," Mr. Turnquest said.

When asked about a timeline for the completion on the sale of the resort, Mr. Turnquest said giving a deadline was not feasible.

"Some things are out of our control and I don't want to give the impression that it is going to be tomorrow when I don't control that pen," Mr. Turnquest said.

# IS THIS WHY WE SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO PARLIAMENT?

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 members of the Government of The Bahamas abdicate their responsibilities, then who is left to properly govern our country?

If it was an easy job, then anybody could do it. However, it is not an easy job. Yet, anybody who accepts the role to govern the Commonwealth of The Bahamas is expected to do whatever is required to ensure that our country continues to develop and grow, and to ensure that all of its citizens' best interests are considered when making decisions.

So to hear a Member of Parliament acknowledge that what is being proposed may not be constitutional, to see bills passed that are not in everyone's best interest, and to hear solutions proposed that are not logical, it all means that our representatives don't care about the best interests of all Bahamians, don't know how to govern our country, or are too lazy or lack the smarts to come up with solutions that work for everyone.

It is most disconcerting to hear of the statements that were made in The Bahamas Parliament when the Criminal Evidence (Witness Anonymity) Amendment Bill 2018 was being proposed.

In a Nassau Guardian article it explained that when Minister of Works Desmond Bannister spoke to lead the debate on the bill, he admitted that the courts might strike it down because a change to the Act may be viewed as unconstitutional.

The constitutional reference is apparently to Article 20 (e): "Every person who is charged with a criminal offense shall be afforded facilities to examine in person or by his legal representative the witnesses called by the prosecution before the court."

So why in the world would the Parliament of The Bahamas waste time debating a bill that they know to be unconstitutional?

Here's what the Nassau Guardian article, "Lawyer prepared to challenge witness anonymity law", presents:

Bannister continued, "So a very legitimate

## 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.

*question that we may ask is whether the making of such an order would constitute a constitutional infringement.*

*"Some may argue that the courts will strike this amendment down as unconstitutional as it relates to Supreme Court trials, since, as the triers of fact, jurors are entitled to see the demeanor of a witness, and to judge their reactions as they answer questions.*

*"The government takes the position that we have a duty to do our best to protect witnesses who are brave enough to come forward to give evidence against murderers, drug dealers, human traffickers and other despicable criminals who would otherwise get away.*

*"At the end of the day we take the position that we will do our duty in this place, and then listen as the courts make their determination."*

Well, that's not good enough. That is not why representatives are sent to Parliament.

We didn't send representatives to Parliament to pass laws with weak foundations. We didn't send representatives to Parliament to abdicate their responsibilities and have the courts govern us in their stead.

We elected a government to represent an entire nation and solve the difficult problems not to ask the courts to do it.

If these Members of Parliament find it too difficult to do their jobs then they should say so and allow the people of The Bahamas to elect a Government that won't find it so difficult.

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The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

## EDITORIAL

# CONJECTURE VS. FACTS

The people's money is the people's money; it is not your own!

Justice Cheryl Grant-Thompson

As we note – albeit as tangent to a wider discussion of law, policy, fact and conjecture:-- FORMER College of The Bahamas employee Chimeka Gibbs was sentenced to 15 years in prison by a Supreme Court judge yesterday for stealing over \$700,000 from the tertiary institution over a seven-year period.

One of the more interesting aspects of governance in these times has to do with that hugely important disjunction between how the executive branch of government now functions and how and why the judiciary oft-times now finds itself in apparent opposition to its co-equal partner, namely the Executive, as it is led by the Prime Minister.

Some sense of the extent to which this apparent disjunction can be gleaned not only from the yeoman's work done by Attorney Fred Smith and his colleagues, but also in the high-quality work now being done by any number of Justices working at the Supreme Court level, in particular.

This type of work can be directly and properly juxtaposed to some of what can only be described as a species of high-level conjecture-laden corruption-packed prime-ministerial pontifications; as currently being driven by the Nation's Chief, the Hon. Rd. Hubert A. Minnis!

The disjunction is clear as one set of conclusions is based on law and fact whilst the other is deeply grounded in supposition larded in speculation and thus goo-filled with exaggeration and the sheerest of garments all apparently stitched together with prejudice and lies.

One very clear example of this genre comes packaged in with statements recently made by prime minister to the effect [as he explained]:-- "I was very, very conservative when I said corruption in The Bahamas is probably \$200m, which was below the world's figures]. If you want the true figure, [if The Bahamas' GDP is \$10bn, if you look at the lower limit because we are a religious nation so [let's put ourselves at the lower level]:--You are talking about \$500m. Prime Minister, the Hon. Rd. Hubert A. Minnis.

Wow! Corruption in The Bahamas is PROBABLY \$200m!

And like even more of Wow!  
Corruption in The Bahamas is PROBABLY \$500m!

This is just not good enough; you cannot and should not build law and policy on a foundation ridged with said probabilities.

Dearly beloved, read, weep and shudder as you try to imagine the depth, scope and wide reach achieved when IF cavorts with conjecture; and thus, marvel at the ribald extent to which imagined charges of rampant corruption can and does lead to ill-conceived law and policy.

In this regard, then, note with us that:-- Here of late, there has been talk and chat galore as note is taken of not only the extent to which white collar criminals are --at long last--being detected, charged and convicted on being found guilty of any number of wrong-doings; and thus, any number of these well-to-do crooks are now being locked up!

Whilst this is good as effort is made to demonstrate how the law-- as such-- is no respecter of any and all who have run afoul of the law, we are nonetheless a tad chagrined as report after guesstimated corruption-based report is being launched and piled onto a very large of eerily similar corruption-tinctured narratives now being tossed hither, thither and yon!

We are not impressed; and clearly we cry shame on any and all who would lead the people down what we see as a very dangerous path laced with prejudice and pontifications all grounded in a mire of conjecture.

Quite frankly, [therefore]: We are not impressed by any of these reports precisely because very many of these so-called corruption-tinted narratives are little more than scare stories which -- if taken seriously-- would have us all wallow in a mire of conjecture as regards the so-called 'real' basis for the lifestyles enjoyed by some of our nouveaux-rich compatriots.

And therefore, the sum of the matter remains that no matter the level of governance---whether at the level of family, firm, Church, State or Civil Society, policy should be grounded in fact; in law--whether germane to Caesar or Christ---and in a just world, too, action should be guided with a sense of justice and fair-play for all.

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NO BETTER READING

