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"JUDICIARY NO LONGER INDEPENDENT", SAYS QC

BY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Freepost based Queens Counsel Maurice Ginton says without a substantive Chief Justice appointed, the Judiciary branch no longer serves as an independent branch of government.

Mr. Ginton has joined a large number of the members of The Bahamas Bar Association who are agitating for Prime Minister Doctor Hubert Minnis to make the appointment under the constitution of the Bahamas.

Speaking on the Love 97 Radio Show "On Point", Mr. Ginton said "we do not ever want it to appear that the Chief Justice, whoever the occupant is, is in a position here when he speaks or just by his presence he is not recognized for what he is, which is head of an independent branch of government."

The Senior lawyer added, "when that person exists in an acting form, there is no such thing. It doesn't exist. The independency of the branch, as perceived, that branch of government does not exist because why isn't there a substantive Chief Justice? The argument would be because the Prime Minister doesn't want to do so yet. Well, what it does show then is the supremacy of the executive."



Freeport based Queens Counsel Maurice Ginton (Journal file photo)

"Spy Bill must not see the light," Says Rights Bahamas

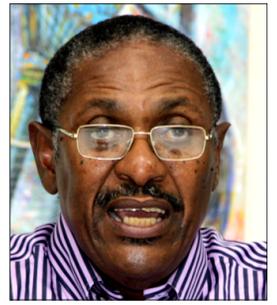
BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Reporter

Rights Bahamas once again urges the FNM government in the strongest of terms to permanently shelf its invasive and oppressive Spy Bill.

In a statement released yesterday, Rights Bahamas said, the citizens of the Bahamas, who cherish their freedom and jealousy guard their fundamental rights, do not need clandestine spy agencies invading their privacy.

The group said adequate laws already exist to achieve the stated crime fighting aims of this ill-advised legislation. "We remind the government that the granting of such wide-ranging powers, regardless of the original intent, will inevitably lead to their abuse in the hands of unscrupulous politicians."

See SAYS RIGHTS BAHAMAS on PAGE 2...



Former Minister of Works Bradley Roberts (Journal file photo)

ROBERTS LASHES GOV'T ONE YEAR RECORD

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

With the Minnis Administration's one-year anniversary on the horizon, former Minister of Works Bradley Roberts expressed some of his major concerns this weekend as he called the Prime Minister a "dishonest bafoon".

Mr. Roberts outlined in a statement issued yesterday the government's "corrupt" dealings with Oban where convicted felon Peter Kreiger signed for Satpal Dhunna earlier this year.

The former minister said that much of the public goodwill, political capital and currency given to the Minnis government were "foolishly squandered in less than one year through mixed priorities".

He also said, "Dr. Minnis promised change; prosperity; to clean up corruption; and he promised honesty, openness, transparency and accountability in government but has failed to deliver on any of those promises. He did spend literally millions of dollars on audits that failed to confirm his election campaign rhetoric about PLP corruption."

He added, "his prosecution of former PLP parliamentarians was fascism at work as the drivers of the prosecutions were not audit findings or official complaints to the police, but FNM politicians. It was essentially victor's justice and a series of political witch hunts. Criminal matters are for the Police Commissioner and the Attorney General who are constitutionally empowered to act outside of the Cabinet."

See YEAR RECORD / page 2...

HOMICIDE IN ABACO, MANY SHOOTINGS IN NASSAU

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Reporter

Investigations are ongoing into a shooting incident in Abaco that's left a man in his early 20s dead Friday night.

The victim is Perez Dames, a young man who moved to the island only a few months ago.

Police say they were called to the area of Charles Sawyer Highway after 9pm, they met Dames' lifeless body with an apparent gunshot wound to his head. A local doctor confirmed that Dames dies on the scene.

Abaco is also the scene of a late night drug bust. Police intelligence led officers to execute a search warrant on a home in a government subdivision.

Inside, they found a package containing suspected marijuana along with an electric scale and \$200 in cash. A female occupant of that home was arrested.

See MANY SHOOTINGS IN NASSAU on PAGE 2...

NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER UNDERSCORES NEW THREATS

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

"We are safer today than we were yesterday, but the threats of tomorrow are different", said National Security Minister Marvin Dames.

In an address at the CEO Network conference, Mr. Dames mentioned that illegal arms trafficking generates approximately \$1 billion annually, cocaine generates an estimated \$85 billion and human trafficking an estimated \$23 billion annually.

See NEW THREATS / page 3...



National Security Minister Marvin Dames (Journal file photo)



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HOMICIDE IN ABACO, MANY SHOOTINGS IN NASSAU

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

In other crime news, Police in the capital are asking members of the public, to come forth with any information they may have in solving two armed robberies, which occurred Saturday.

In the first incident, shortly after 8am, a male was sitting in his vehicle just in front of his home on Denver Street, when he was approached by three men, one armed with a firearm, who robbed him of cash before running away.

In the second incident, shortly after 11am, a man armed with a firearm, entered a restaurant on Cox Way off East Street, held employees at bay and robbed the restaurant of an undetermined amount of cash, before fleeing on foot.

Also in the capital, police are investigating two shootings which has left five males with injuries.

In the first incident, according to reports, shortly after 11pm Saturday, a group of males were standing outside a residence on Jumbey Street off Windsor Place, when they were approached by a male armed with a firearm who opened fire on them, shooting four of them before running away.

The victims were transported to hospital and are listed in serious but stable condition.

In the second incident, shortly before 3am Sunday, a man was walking on Augusta Street, when he was approached by a male armed with a firearm, who shot him before running away.

The victim was transported to hospital, and he is also listed in serious but stable condition. Investigations into all of these matters are ongoing.

“JUDICIARY NO LONGER INDEPENDENT”, SAYS QC

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mr. Grinton said, “when it comes to the Chief Justice, he must not only be in a position to give direction; but he must also be in a position to put in motion even a plan for his own succession. He must also be able without communicating it orally to those judges that are beneath him that he is

here for a purpose.”

That purpose, according to Mr. Grinton, is to serve as the head of the Judiciary branch.

He also said that Prime Minister Minnis should be consulting with experienced members of the Judiciary Branch to make an educated decision as to who the next Chief Justice should be.

He added, “rather using Judiciary to enhance their own profile, they bring something to the judiciary. Most people go into the judiciary just to enhance their CV’s. That should never be.”

Senior Justice, Stephen Issacs was appointed some months ago as Acting Chief Justice after Sir Hartman Longley was appointed

President of the Court of Appeal. He succeeded Dame Anita Allen who reached the mandatory retirement age.

Mr. Grinton said, “we just would be happy to see the Prime Minister discharge the function on him and not to continue to give the impression that somehow, this is within his prerogative to do or not to do.”

ROBERTS LASHES GOV'T ONE YEAR RECORD

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mr. Roberts criticized the white paper initiative for saving over-the-hill as the FNM’s plan to gentrify the area, while having the public pay for it.

He said, “It’s a scheme for FNM cronies and some others to snatch up valuable inner-city land for pennies and rebuild new communities that their group will own and control with rents. The poor will be summarily displaced wholesale.”

The former PLP Minister said, “I concur with the Opposition Leader that one year later, “the firings continue unabated; unemployment has increased; there is no relief for the poor; there is no plan for Grand Bahama and the Family Islands; no action in the inner cities as promised and no free university education as promised. Sadly, millions are being spent with private auditing firms to conduct what are essentially political witch hunts but to date, none of these audits have discovered, uncovered or confirmed the lies of corruption and malfeasance told by the FNM on the campaign trail.”

The former PLP Minister asked the Prime Minister to show his receipts and give the Bahamian people answers.

“Spy Bill must not see the light,” Says Rights Bahamas

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

“Already, we saw with the former PLP government how easy it can be to rape the privacy of ordinary citizens, as for example in the Save The Bays stolen email scandal – which the FNM should note ended with the Bahamas being placed under Precautionary Measures by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

“Rights Bahamas wishes to remind the FNM that their predecessors tried to bring a similar Bill, only to be halted in their tracks by vocal opposition from NGOs and human rights organisations, who rightly saw the powers afforded by the Bill as unconstitutional.

“Without in any way compromising on our total rejection to the Bill as a whole, Rights Bahamas must register its particular alarm over the fact that although the FNM had promised to remove some of the most egregious provisions in the legislation, no new draft has been circulated for public consultation.

“The most terrifying powers granted by the Bill – which we must assume still stand – include: the ability for the authorities to be issued an interception warrant on such amorphous and ill-defined grounds as suspicion of threats to “public order”, “public morality” and “public health”, said the statement.

The Activist group said these terms are so broad as to be utterly meaningless and therefore sufficiently pliable to fit virtually any meaning a government might choose.

“This is the perfect recipe for corruption and abuse; in no time at all, politicians of all stripes would be using these provisions to spy on their political rivals and intimidate civil society into silence.

“Additionally, the Bill would allow the authorities to go into any Bahamian home or office to, for example, intercept an arriving letter.

“They would also be allowed to install interception devices (i.e. spy software) in people’s homes.

“To do this, the authorities do not even need to specify

whether other investigative procedures had first been tried but failed.

“Essentially, these powers would not have to be used as a last resort, and could be applied on a whim with negligible oversight,” said the group.

They claim, “In addition, the Minister of National Security would be able to empower anyone to use certain devices for a period of up to 30 days to listen and record private conversations, without first receiving permission from a judge.

“This is a gross violation of due process and the rule of law. It violates the constitution and places the Bahamas firmly on the path to dictatorship and a Big Brother State.

“Simply put, this Bill must never see the light of day,” said the statement.

Rights Bahamas pledges to use every means at its disposal, including the courts and its extensive network of international human rights partners, to fight this anti-democratic, repressive legislation to the bitter end.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STEPS UP VACCINATIONS

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Reporter

The Department of Public Health offered vaccinations in the Marathon Mall this weekend.

Nurse Joyanne Cartwright, a nurse at the Gambier Clinic, told the Journal why it is important for children to keep up-to-date with their shots.

She said, "some people feel that it makes you sick or that there is some conspiracy behind it, but I just want everyone to know that if we do not vaccinate, we will have a huge problem on our hands, especially as a small country."

She added, "the reason we are so healthy right now is

because the majority of people do vaccinate, and it's those vaccinated children vaccinated adults that are keeping the non-vaccinated people safe."

She encouraged those on the fence about vaccinations to come out, ask questions, and conduct personal research before making a decision.

Nurses stationed at public clinics across the capital offered an array of vaccinations last Saturday ranging from regular flu shots to the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV).

HPV has been a point of concern in recent years as it causes a number of ailments, and vaccinations are offered between the ages of 9-25.

Nurse Cartwright said, "HPV is a virus that can cause all sorts of cancers – cervical cancer, vulvar cancer, anal cancer, genital warts."

She added, "It's pretty much something that we give people before they're sexually active, and while they're sexually active in their prime to prevent these things from happening."

She also said that the HPV vaccination is a series of three shots where patients receive the second two months after the first and the third 4 months after the second.

Nurse Cartwright encourages all members of the public to take advantage of the public clinics as they offer all vaccinations free of charge.

BISHOP HALL COMMENDS POLICE

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Reporter

The police are getting high marks from a Baptist Bishop, Reverend Doctor Simeon Hall Pastor who has applauded the police for the reduction in murders so far this year.

He said, "I commend the Minister of National Security The Honorable Marvin Dames and the Commissioner of Police Mr. Anthony Ferguson for this significant step in leading the way in fighting this national demon of criminality."

Bishop Hall thinks that the recent announcement that there has been a "downward trending" with murders, declining by 45%, is to be commended.

He also called on the Community to embrace this progress by not harboring criminals or participating in lawlessness.

"I was privileged to have served the last National Crime Commissioner under the then Minister Orville "Tommy" Turnquest," Bishop Hall said.

After a year's work, Bishop Hall says, the Commissioners learnt far more than we were able to affect meaningful change.

He said, "Crime is a national phenomenon and The Bahamas should stop using it for political advancements.

"We should be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime. We pray this decline continues," said Dr. Hall.

NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER UNDERSCORES NEW THREATS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

He said, "The Bahamas does not manufacture illegal arms nor cocaine, however, the strategic geo-political location makes the country ideal for the trans-shipment of these illegal acts.

"The demand of illegal narcotics has resulted in a surge in the number and types of small arms and heavy weapons in the region.

"As a result of this, the trafficking of all these items are all related, and pose significant implications for national and global threats.

"In addition, The Bahamas, has been plagued by cyber-crimes. These activities are one of the biggest challenges in the 21st century," said the Mount Moriah MP.

Globally, it is estimated that cybercrimes costs approximately \$600 billion dollars annually. To date, it is considered more profitable than the global illegal trade of all drugs combined.

The Minister also spoke about The Bahamas making a ground breaking steps by introducing the anti-corruption legislation.

He said it was ground-breaking, because it provides

law enforcement with the necessary intelligence capacity to investigate corrupt Parliamentarians and public officials and avoid political interference.

The Minister said, "education is key to keeping us safer tomorrow than we are today and as a result the government has committed all law enforcement agencies in The Bahamas to vigorously pursue professional development training at all levels and ranks.

"Providing law enforcement agencies with a plethora of education and professional development opportunities."

Mr. Dames said, "it is our intent to establish new policies and practices to further bridge the gap between law enforcement and academia.

"To prepare The Bahamas globally for the 21st century, it is important that we educate and train our officers from recruitment to retirement."

Mr. Dames assured the Conference that by 2020 it is expected that 80 percent of all countries will have cybersecurity policies and it is expected that 30 percent will have cabinet or government level positions solely focused on cybersecurity.



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One Eleuthera Foundation celebrates 7th Annual Earth Day

On Saturday, April 21st, at the Centre for Training & Innovation (CTI), Rock Sound, One Eleuthera Foundation (OEF) and its partners staged, its 7th Annual Earth Day Fest under the theme "Plastic Free Paradise".

The week leading up to Earth Day was filled with an explosion of related activities beginning April 17th. These included a Preservatives Workshop, Bag Making Workshop and a night of Art Explosion that consisted of a Recycled Glass Workshop and an exciting Paint and Sip event.

The Preservatives Workshop was facilitated by Tonija Burrows from Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation (BAIC) and Tamara Thompson from Green Castle Packing House on Tuesday April 17th. Participants in the workshop were members from the local community and students from Preston H. Albury High School. Partakers were able to learn about making preservatives at home. During the class they made tomato and mango juice with ginger, butter and pizza sauce.

"Preservation is a passion, I enjoy doing it. I love

preservation because you can make your own food and you can make it healthy because you know what ingredients are used. It was great to see young people involved in the workshop. I love to see young people making a difference", stated Tonija Burrows, workshop facilitator.

The Paint 'n' Sip event was a fun and relaxed Wednesday evening affair where participants gathered at the Eleuthera Arts & Cultural Center (EACC) to unleash their inner artists. Using vibrant paint under the encouraging eye of Will Simmons and colourful recycled glass under the engaging direction of Shorlette Francis, beautiful pieces were created while unwinding in good company.

A 2-day Bag Making Workshop was facilitated by Martha Smith on Wednesday the 18th and Thursday the 19th of April. The ladies who attended learned all about the process of tie dying, transforming various fabrics, t-shirts and bags into colourful, functional masterpieces which they were able to take home.

On April 19th the Rotary Club of Eleuthera hosted an Earth Hour reception where

Rotarians, OEF board members and community patrons enjoyed an evening of "Mix & Mingling". The guest speaker for the night was Christopher Binns who, along with his wife Lisa, owns a rustic gourmet restaurant in Jamaica called Stush in the Bush. Mr Binns urged the enthralled audience "to recognize that the ground beneath your feet is holy ground and it is our ground. We can't go no place else. Where you start is by respecting, protecting, and nourishing your land and your space."

The Earth Day Art Competition engaged the participation of several primary schools. These included Rock Sound Primary, Tarpum Bay Primary, Emma E. Cooper Primary and Governor's Harbour Primary Schools. Students were encouraged to create art pieces featuring plastic or recyclable materials. Many creative pieces were presented for display and judging. The top 3 winners were announced during the Earth Day Fest event. Additionally, the public took part by selecting a winner for the People's Choice Award which was also announced during the Fest.



► (L-R) Administrator Gregory Knowles, Mrs. Knowles, Deacon Chitan Thompson, Shaun Ingraham CEO of OEF, Clifford Butch Scavella, Alfred Sears Chairman of OEF Board.

Notably, all winners were from Rock Sound Primary School. 1st Place: Brandon Smith, 2nd Place: Gia Morley, 3rd Place: Natalia Sands, People's Choice Award went to both, Brandon Smith and Gia Morley of Rock Sound Primary.

The main event, Earth Day Fest, promoted environmental sustainability, Bahamian culture, partnership, economic development and community involvement. There were demonstrations and educational booths that covered things like recycling, lionfish invasion, conch conservation,

aquaponics, plastic pollution, native produce and preserves, native plants, and art and craft made using natural and recyclable materials. Kids' activities included a Kiddie Corner which was managed by Rotaract Club of Eleuthera and volunteers. A petting zoo was also on site managed by Edrin Symonette. Demos of the Fire Engine and Ambulance were facilitated by South Eleuthera Emergency Partners (SEEP) in addition to a story time session where children were read to by volunteers of a reading program.

"I loved the petting zoo

and the primary school art competition. It was a nice family atmosphere", said a satisfied spectator.

Capturing the crowd's attention were performances by the Freedom Marching Band, Space 2 Create Rake n' Scrape group, a reusable bag fashion show by Empress Verda, Junkanoo rush out by the National Junior Junkanoo Champions of Tarpum Bay Primary and rounding out the night was the Royal Bahamas Defense Force Pop Band who serenaded the crowd with sweet Bahamian music.

■ See ONE ELEUTHERA / page 7...



LOCAL DOCTOR HONORED FOR SERVING COMMUNITY

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

In an effort to prove that there is still good individuals left in the world, Minister of State for Grand Bahama J. Kwasi Thompson honored a local doctor for his 22 years of giving back to the community.

Dr. Malik Kavala is best known for serving lunch to the elderly in Grand Bahama.

He came to The Bahamas some 30 years ago and was employed by the government to help build health care services.

Dr. Kavala has since managed to build a

clinic in Eight Mile Rock and is making major strides within his community.

Parliamentary Secretary of Social Services and Urban Development, Vaughn Miller brought remarks on behalf of the Minister, Lanisha Rolle saying that the Department of Social Services is mandated to ensure that all Bahamians have a right to a good quality of life.

He also added that the vision statement of the department speaks to creating a society for all ages through empowerment, protection, inclusion, cultural sensitivity and team social building using all social partners.

Officers Graduate After Grueling Training

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Reporter

A grueling training program that starts bright and early at 4:45 each morning and is paid off for 80 police and customs officers.

On Friday morning these officers graduated from the Police Training College's School of professional development.

For two weeks, the group soaked up classroom instructions, presentations, physical fitness, control tactics and firearm certification and according to national commandant of training, Dr. Chaswell Hanna, in less than perfect accommodations.

Lauding the graduates, Police Commissioner Anthony Ferguson stressed the need for police officers

with leadership and management skills.

He said, "for officers interested in leadership roles, there has never been a better time for you to be consider going back to school for degrees and certifications in law enforcement."

"These courses were also designed to equip each of you with the skills you must have in order to be effective in your current role and to prepare you for advancement."

"I am happy to have learned from my commandant that you have all achieved the learning objective in all of your courses and are ready to apply them and I shall certainly be watching."

The training courses are in keeping with priority five

of commissioner's 2018 Policing Plan – the professionalization of service.

"My policing plan for 2018 priority 5 is the professionalization of service. This will involve giving all officers the opportunity to develop themselves intellectually while promoting health and wellness."

"The physical aspect of your training is not by accident but rather a deliberate move to ensure that all officers are physically fit to execute their duties," Commissioner Ferguson said.

The two-week training including an inspector's leadership course, the US Coast Guard small boat operators course one, security and intelligence branch course and constable development course.

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'LOOK WHAT WE COME TO'

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.

"Bizarre and absolutely scary." That's how one of our Queen's Counsels described the recent passage of the Criminal Evidence (Witness Anonymity) Amendment Bill 2018. Another QC called it "dumb or dangerous".

In its introduction in the House of Assembly, Minister of Works Desmond Bannister admitted that it is likely unconstitutional and may be struck down by the courts.

QC Damian Gomez and former Minister of State for Legal Affairs asserted this when the Nassau Guardian asked him for comment:

"We have a real problem here with this. This seems bizarre. You do something that you know to be wrong and then say, 'oh, you can always challenge it in the court'? That's irresponsible. You can't hide behind public policy."

In his comments about the passing of the Amendment, QC Wayne Munroe said it was "dumb and dangerous". Munroe also declared the following:

"What they are saying is we know that the constitution is the supreme law. As the government and the legislature, we are going to pass a law that we think very well may be contrary to the supreme law; so we are going to break the supreme law and we are going to do it publically."

The challenge isn't just that the Members of Parliament passed an amendment that they know to be unconstitutional. The challenge is also that in addition to ignoring the rights of any accused to a fair trial, they are creating more problems.

To explain this point, Munroe's example is worth repeating:

Let's say somebody is screened from me and has his voice changed so I don't know who it is. This could be somebody who has borne a grudge against me all his life but I won't know that. I can't put anything of

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.

that nature to the witness. Let's assume it's a homicide. My case is I didn't kill the person, somebody else did and the witness is that person who actually did the killing. I can't see him or her. Or you may have had a vibe with me all your life that is well documented. You may have lied on me before in a way that I can prove. But I don't know who you are so I have no way of bringing that to the attention of the tribunal of fact.

Could you imagine if the anonymous witness is my friend wife or sweetheart and I don't know that? These people are just ridiculous. Dumbness is being elevated to an art in this country.

Is this the hornet's nest the Parliament of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas is seeking to create?

Are our representatives so mindless, so obtuse that they go along with an obviously flawed idea and not think about what they are doing or its consequences?

Our representatives are required to be thinking individuals who assess what is in the best interest of our country and its citizens and not go along with their party's program.

They want to act like they are addressing crime. Well you don't solve one problem by creating another especially one that conflicts with the constitution. That just makes you look dumb.

They make us look so foolish. Look what we come to, ay?

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Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

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E D I T O R I A L

HURT & HATE

Read carefully and upon doing so, inwardly digest the full import of what the United Nations says about the rights due children.

And thus, let it be known that:-- Children have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, physically or mentally. Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them. In terms of discipline, the Convention does not specify what forms of punishment parents should use. However, any form of discipline involving violence is unacceptable.

Note also that:-- There are ways to discipline children that are effective in helping children learn about family and social expectations for their behavior - ones that are non-violent, are appropriate to the child's level of development and take the best interests of the child into consideration. In most countries, laws already define what sorts of punishments are considered excessive or abusive. It is up to each government to review these laws in light of the Convention.

We would also remind that:-- You shall reap as you have sown; and thus it follows that when adult women and men hurt and hate their brood, they should pretend no surprise when - as their offspring mature - they dish out a bounty of hurt and hate on their parents' heads.

And just perhaps, this provides some of the explanation for the growing incidence of elder abuse in today's 'Nassau Gone Funky Bahamas.

Put simply, then, elder abuse is but the other face of child abuses as meted out by men and women upon the innocent heads of babes, boys and girls alike. The Bahamas, like many nations in the Western Hemisphere, is under the rubric of Christianity due to the ubiquitous presence of the church.

Like the United States of America, most Bahamians say that they trust in the God of Judeo-Christianity.

And yet:-- Notwithstanding the sheer dominance of evangelical and mainline churches, it is deeply troubling that children are being systematically abused in this country at an alarming rate.

Tragically, then [and perhaps also ironically,

too]:-- Much of the abuse of children heaped upon these tenderly young people is done by people who believe that they do so under a rubric of faith-based sanction!

In truth, then:-- One of the key problems bedeviling today's so-called 'modern' Bahamas has to do with the extent to which vestiges of both slavery and colonialism continue to inflict, affect and infect the social behavior of far too many of our people.

Evidently, these relics can be grouped under labels ranging from the merely ridiculous - as in the case of lawyers and their sisal wigs - to the down-right wicked as in those cases where children are routinely subjected to the tender mercies of some errant parent or caregiver intent on not sparing the rod,

And thus, far too many Bahamians and any number of their equally befuddled 'Christian' peers continue to cuss, cuff and whip their children.

In this regard, then, let there remain no doubt about what this portends for the peace, order and good governance in today's Bahamas.

For our part, we are absolutely convinced that when children are hurt; when they are abused and for sure, when they internalize both hate and hurt, the day comes when they do as they have been taught.

Indeed, no day passes when as hordes of feral youth hit the streets, the violence in them find expression as they brutalize each other.

As interesting and as consequential has to do with what violence expressed does to that element in the crowd which is obliged to witness this mess.

One of the sadder realities which continues to blight this deeply challenged land has to do with the extent to which so very many children are routinely subjected to horrors unspeakable.

Sad to say, much of the hurt inflicted upon these young and tender ones comes packaged in with a porridge of words purporting to give biblical sanction to what is really and truly, offences against both innocence and human dignity.

And sadder still, much of the violence done children is meted out in a number of state-provided schools.

We say:-- Stop the Violence!

PM REVEALS PLANS FOR ANDROSIANS

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis, on Friday visited Andros where he shared plans to set up an office there, as well as what the government has in store for young Androsians.

"For young people we would be establishing an entrepreneurship programme [with] five million dollars a year put aside for young people in The Bahamas.

"Five million dollars a year over the next five years, that's 25 million dollars and Andros will get its share of that," Minnis said.

He also mentioned his personal commitment to address the cry of young Androsians to have a home

of their own.

"One of the things we would do is identify land within Andros. We would establish proper subdivisions with all the infrastructure after which we would ensure that our young people have access to affordable land so that they can build their various homes," he said.

Dr. Minnis also acknowledged the fact that the family islands deserve the same facilities and education opportunities as those in New Providence.

"I recognize that we could not provide doctors and nursing personnel for every island, but each deserve proper facilities just like New Providence," Minnis said.

"We had embarked on a

programme here in Andros, the Telemedicine programme which was well established within our clinic.

"Unfortunately, the programme had subsequently broken down, but we [will] establish that again, so that you would have adequate health facilities and be seen appropriately by health specialists in New Providence, without you having to travel to New Providence."

A key plank of the FNM's election campaign was the promise to provide free education for family islanders attending The University of The Bahamas, in New Providence, to lessen the expense on their parents.

The Prime Minister said apart from Andros, offices are also being established in



► Prime Minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis

Exuma and North Eleuthera. Dr. Minnis said he plans

to visit each of the islands quarterly, ensuring that his

commitments to the Family Islands are kept.



PUBLIC NOTICE

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL PLANNING

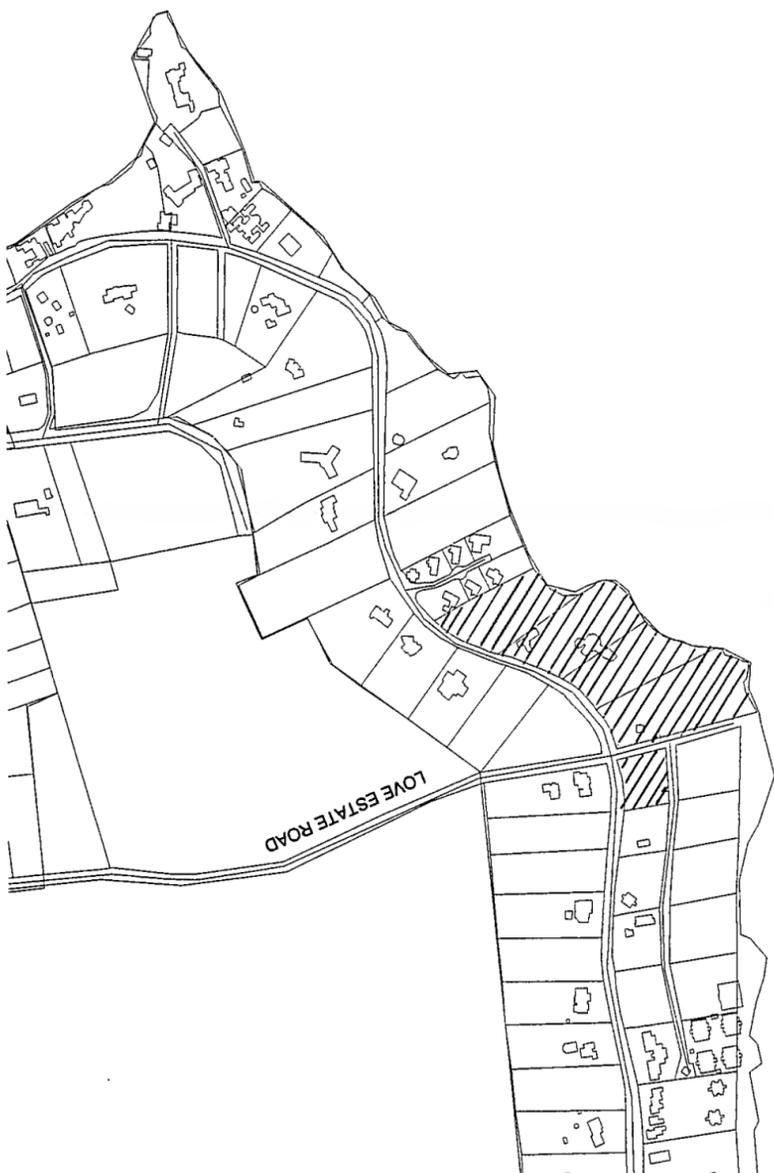
The public is hereby notified that the Town Planning Committee is considering a preliminary application (PSA/55/2018) on behalf of Hucknall Limited and Argon Limited to permit multi-family residential land use on Lots 6,7,8,9 and 10A in Love Estates.

The subject lots are situated on the northern side of West Bay Street and immediately east of Garden of Eden.

The file for the proposed change of land use is available for viewing in the Department of Physical Planning at the Aventura Plaza, John F. Kennedy Drive. Interested persons and organisations are invited to provide written comments to the Acting Director of Physical Planning within twenty-one (21) days of the date of this notice.

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

Signed
Charles B. Zonicle
Acting Director of Physical Planning



One Eleuthera Foundation celebrates 7th Annual Earth Day

Continued from / PAGE 4...

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22nd worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection. This year's global theme, is 'End Plastic Pollution'. This is a timely message as the Ministry of Environment and Housing very recently announced their efforts to eliminate single use plastics and Styrofoam containers for food and beverage in The Bahamas by 2020 thanks to the advocacy of Bahamas Plastic Movement.

We all can make changes in our daily lives to work towards a plastic free paradise by utilizing the 4R's. We can refuse disposable plastic such as straws and plastic bags whenever and wherever possible. We can reduce our

plastic footprints by cutting down on the consumption of goods that contain excess plastic packaging. We can reuse durable, non-toxic straws, utensil and containers. We can also recycle what we are unable to refuse, reduce or reuse.

Earth Day Fest is not only used as a time to promote environmental sustainability, it also marks the anniversary of One Eleuthera Foundation's launch 6 years ago. The festive event creates a fun filled family atmosphere of education and awareness for all ages.

Chairman of OEF's board Alfred Sears, noted that "the OEF template represents what I call a third pathway. A third sector where communities can build schools, establish banks, resource centers,

emergency services and cultural centers. All of these things have already been done by One Eleuthera Foundation."

During Earth Day Fest's opening ceremony, OEF's CEO Shaun Ingraham highlighted the importance of protecting our planet. He further urged the crowd to sign the Save Lighthouse Point petition. He noted that "OEF and our partners want to work together to create a sustainable development for lighthouse point but we can't do it without your help. If we lose our natural and cultural assets we will not have an identity as a people. Protecting our natural resources will help us to grow our economy and will help us to ensure the future of our children."