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THURSDAY - MAY 10TH, 2018

75 CENTS

MINISTERS GRADE THEMSELVES



► Prime Minister Doctor Hubert Minnis (Journal file photo)

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

As the Free National Movement administration led by Prime Minister Doctor Hubert Minnis celebrates one year in office today, many Bahamians are offering various assessments of the performance of the government. However, the idea of giving a grade is said to be subjective and dependent on one's expectation and perception of the future. However, many in the FNM say they believe the first year has been a good one.

The new administration took office on 10th May last year after the FNM won 35 of the 39 seats in the House of Assembly, defeating the Progressive Liberal Party led by former Prime Minister Perry G.Christie.

Speaking with several Cabinet Ministers and members of parliament of the FNM, this Journal learned that many of them believe the Minnis administration is doing an exceptional job.

■ See THEMSELVES / page 2...

FNM GOV'T - "A DANGER TO THE RULE OF LAW"



► Hundreds of supporters attend PLP Rally last night at the Sir Lynden Pindling Centre, Gambier House.

Opposition Leader Philip "Brave" Davis says the Minnis administration is operating "on a platform of falsehoods, untruths, and a tissue of lies." He said the Free National Movement government "is a danger to the rule of law."

Addressing a mass rally at the Sir Lynden Pindling Centre, Gambier

House, last night, the Progressive Liberal Party leader told hundreds of supporters, "it was one year ago when Hubert Minnis and his Free National Movement rolled into power proclaiming: "It's the People's Time!"

With no plan, no policy, no vision and totally bankrupt of ideas, one year later the chorus: "If I only knew" is set-

ting in as Bahamians perish."

The MP for Cat Island said, "they have delivered no real investment and offer no new direction for the Bahamian people. They have admitted to recklessly adding to the level of joblessness.

■ See DANGER TO THE RULE / page 2...

NEW HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis told members of the House of Assembly yesterday that the Affordable Home Bill will significantly increase home ownership throughout The Bahamas, helping potentially hundreds of Bahamians to realize the long-sought dream of a home to call their own.

He said, "along with the opportunity for work, education and health care, access to affordable housing is vital for social development and human happiness and well-being," Dr. Minnis said.

The Prime Minister added that it is the mission of his government is for a new housing program that will help to foster the common good and create a more equitable and just society.

"Home ownership is good for family life and social stability. Home ownership is good for the economy, affording owners greater financial equity and social mobility," Dr. Minnis said.

Under the proposed Act, the government will provide service ready land at reduced cost.

According to Dr. Minnis, properties have already been identified for subdivision development and the sale of residential serviced lots in New Providence, Andros, Abaco, Exuma and San Salvador.

■ See OWNERSHIP / page 3...

New Group Protest Gov't Policies

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

A small group of Bahamians marched to Parliament from the southern recreation grounds yesterday demanding answers from on several so-called hot-button issues. Among them the ongoing controversy surrounding the OBAN deal.

Organizer and Director of Operation Sovereign Bahamas, Adrian Francis said, the organization is not about politics, its about a people who deserve to eat from the plate where everyone else is eating.

"We are concerned about the OBAN deal, very concerned about the OBAN deal.

"A man sat next to the leader of our country and forged a document and the police didn't go and get him, but the prime minister sat next to him and called it ceremonial," said Francis.

Chanting "Bahamians first, protect Exuma, ban OBAN and protect our jobs," the group, armed with placards, also decried jobless-

ness and urged that the government push Immigration, agriculture and land reform.

Francis said, "we realized that sports save lives and bill nations. We have a while paper on sports, natural resources and on immigration. We have some major concerns on immigration.

"We know and understand that in some schools the population of Haitians to Bahamians are way higher. People are saying from the department of immigration the ratio is 5 to 3. Can you not be concerned about that?"

Bernadette Gardiner another protester said, "I'm doing this not only for myself, but for my children. Now as a Bahamian, I am a four generation Bahamian. I want my land that was left here for me. I want my piece, no less than 10 acres."

Operation Sovereign Bahamas plans to launch an awareness campaign to educate the public on issues regarding promises that are not being kept, as well as issues with current decisions being made by government.

Gov't Quizzed on Motives over Homes Bill

The Member of Parliament for Exuma and Ragged Island I. Chester Cooper says he supports reasonable efforts to increase Bahamian home ownership. However he questioned the motives of the government over the Affordable Homes Bill before the House of Assembly.

"A home is one of the most important purchases the vast majority of people could hope to make in their lifetime.

"There are myriad reasons that home ownership is out of the reach of many Bahamians, and even more reasons, perhaps, that many Bahamians who find themselves becoming homeowners through mortgages find themselves quickly behind in their payments, or being foreclosed upon."

Speaking in the debate on the Bill yesterday, Mr. Cooper said, "non-performing mortgages are around 15 percent in this country. That's about one out of every 6 homeowners who finds it impossible to pay the mortgage.

And those are the people lucky enough to qualify for mortgages.

And, unfortunately, this government doesn't do much more than pretend to care or halfway talk plans to help."

He said, "while this bill is interesting in its intent, it seems a little fantastical when it comes to its practical application.

"This bill is to allow people who qualify for lots in government subdivisions to import building materials tax-free for a period of two years in which they must build their homes or risk losing the exemptions.

"It extends to government subdivisions in New Providence and the Family Islands.

A noble effort, but who are we fooling?
 "Most people can't qualify for the \$100,000 or so a local bank would facilitate for building a home' especially after having to qualify for the lot.

■ See ON MOTIVES OVER HOMES BILL / page 4...

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MINISTERS GRADE THEMSELVES

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Renward Wells said that the government is basically reorganizing and revolutionizing the economy of The Bahamas.

"We met a very difficult situation and we have been making the hard choices; hard decisions to get things done for and on behalf of the Bahamian people, so that we can grow the economy of The Bahamas in a way that is sustainable going forward; not no smoke and mirrors, not no pseudo economy.

"And we've been seeking at the

same time to meet the commitments that we would have made to the Bahamian people, and I think in this upcoming budget, we are going to do some of that," Mr. Wells said.

He did however add that giving a grade is based on what one wants personally and economically.

"When you ask how the government is doing amongst a populace, that's a subjective question. If you are a PLP, you would probably say an E, if you are a FNM it might be A or a B.

"If you are an independent, you can get varying views, but at the end of the day the decision that is made,

the thinking that comes is as a result of where you are personally, economically, and how you are assessing what's going on," Mr. Wells said.

Minister of Education, Jeffery Lloyd on the other hand, gave the government a B+, stating that much has been done in one year.

"By all means B+. We have come in at a time when it was extraordinarily difficult in this country and you know and every metric, every measurement out there is reflecting that we are in the right track," Mr. Lloyd said.

"We are in the market place engaging with the Bahamian people and investors now, because I'm a

part of the National Economic Council. We are very excited about doing business with this country and our administration," he added.

Health Minister, Dr. Duane Sands said that although there have been some challenges "a reasonable grade is a strong B or A-".

Minister Transport, Frankie Campbell said that as a part of the administration he would have to give an A grade.

"I'm satisfied that we have done the preparatory work. I am satisfied that mindful of what we met in place, we've done the clean up necessary to now go ahead and move this country

forward," Mr. Campbell said.

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, during a service of thanksgiving on Sunday, touted the party's success during the first year.

"The economy grew by 1.4 percent last year and is projected to grow by another 2.5 percent this year.

"There has been a significant reduction in murders and an overall drop in crime," he said.

During the service however, Dr. Minnis also encouraged the members of the party to be united and not to underestimate the Progressive Liberal Party.

FNM GOV'T - "A DANGER TO THE RULE OF LAW"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"They have flip flopped on almost every major PLP policy they opposed while in opposition.

They claimed it was the People's Time, but before ballots could be counted, they began firing Bahamians.

From BAMS to Bahamasair - they fired!
From Urban Renewal to NHI - they fired!
From Social Services to NIB - they fired!
From the hill to the valley - they fired!"

He said, "the FNM was so eager to fire, they even began firing, victimizing and abusing people hired by the PLP but who voted for the FNM!

Flexing power like a mad man, Hubert Minnis - against sound advice - began abusing that power by directing agencies of the state to arrest and detain innocent Bahamians.

BAIC is a prime example. Now Bahamian tax payers may have to pay millions of dollars to those falsely arrested.

"Drunk with power, he fired thousands of Bahamians throughout the country, including the sole breadwinners of families.

Jeffery Lloyd - the Minister for Education recently told the press he was "Happy to Report" how he fired 200 minimum wage workers in his ministry.

"In that same week, Marvin Dames, the Minister for National Security, attempted to fire [without any notice] 29 Prison Officers. Only after public outcry did he pull back.

"Now, Duane "Heartless" Sands is a real character in healthcare these days.

One day he tells us the hospitals and clinics have no meds!

"The next day he says the hospitals have no beds.

No Ventilator machines for the babies. None for the Intensive care section.

"No meds for HIV patients.

"Last week he came out to complain that bodies are piling up in the morgue.

"Also last week he faced a sickout by nurses. And, to date, the Minister has yet to have a sit down face-to-face with nurses, who have already filed a strike action with the Department of Labour.

"And just this week "heartless" Sands on national TV threatened to fire some 100 junior doctors at the hospital, telling them to work as taxi drivers and hotel maids because they

could not cut it as physicians.

Does all of this sound to you like It's The People's Time?

Does Sands appear willing to fix healthcare in the country?" asked Mr. Davis.

The PLP leader told the crowd, "the FNM Government is not serious!

"We are witnessing a disaster unfolding in healthcare - with two doctors at the helm, and no solutions in sight," he said.

Grading the Minnis administration, Mr. Davis told the PLP crowd, "f or lying - I give the FNM Government an A+ grade!

For victimizing Bahamians - they get an A+

For unethical behavior in government, the FNM will get an A+

For the Government's Failure to deliver one real investment to the country - they get an A+

For their cloud of secrecy and silence on national matters - I give them an A+

And for their failure to be honest, open and transparent to the Bahamian People - I don't

know about you - but I give them an A+.

In my assessment the Minnis-led government has been a danger to the Rule of Law.

They are unprincipled. And their exercises of cronyism and self-dealing have resulted in disaster for the Bahamian people.

The Bahamian people have quickly learned that, like in the OBAN Energies debacle, Hubert Minnis and the FNM are CORRUPT!

As for the Oban deal all I want to say is this: Who is the mystery man or woman of OBAN Energies?

There is a company called Clean Marine.

"I want to know whether the mystery man or woman is associated with Clean Marine and what Clean Marine's role might be in this Oban deal.

No lie lasts forever," said the PLP leader.

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POTTERS CAY VENDORS DISGRUNTLED

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources' officials in response to Potter's Cay Vendors Association on renovation plans, have dismissed the notion that nothing's been done to renovate Potter's Cay Dock.

However, some Potter's Cay vendors like Dwayne Bastian of Tall Boy's Conch Stand said they are taking matters into their own hands.

"We've been waiting now for seven years on the previous government, [and] the government now that is in power.

"In that seven years nothing has happened. They kept on saying that they were going to renovate the stalls, break down all the stalls and rebuild them, but as far as I'm seeing nothing has happened as yet," he said.

"My shop is in a bad state. It is not up to the mark to actually feed people from; for them to come and eat conch salad.

"These stalls are not only stalls these are restaurants and bars. So I couldn't go another day feeding people out of the state my shop was in," Bastian added.

Mr. Bastian said once the work is completed, he would have spent approximately \$30,000 to fully rebuild his stall.

However, the government has advised stall owners time and time again not to invest any significant funds into renovating stalls, but to wait for the official commencement of the renovation program instead.

Mr. Bastian is not alone in this matter. Jerry Rolle, owner of M&M's stall said the time frame the government has given is virtually impossible.

"They come with this plan that they want a board walk, and they want to put us over the sea.

"They're trying to lie to us [and] tell us that the project is going to take up to eight months. It's impossible," he said.

"You're going to trench out a harbour, pave roads, fix current hole, and build stalls in eight months' time, I would like to see that. That must be a miracle coming from heaven, because there's no company that can do all of that in eight months' time."

"I'm not going to lie, I wouldn't want my stall to

break down, not from my style, not from my view.

"If the government wants to help me, they could bring 50 carpenters, 25 on each side and stalls which need the little back piece, they can come and help.

"Help fix up these stalls by digging in their pocket, so we could repay them. But if they fix these stalls as they claim, break it down to do all this work, how much time do you think that's going to take to really fix these stalls back, because it'll be more than three years," Rolle said.

The minister last met with vendors in July 2017, where they were informed of the government's plans for the renovations at Potter's Cay. Since then, the government said those plans have not changed.

However, any changes to plans would be communicated directly to the stakeholders affected.

Meantime, the ministry said it is hopeful that once renovations are completed, stall owners and patrons will be proud of the hard work that went into reforming Potter's Cay as a culturally important market and tourist attraction.

NEW HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"Our ambitious housing program is incentive that will help to boost new construction, our second largest industry.

"Our housing program will create considerable opportunities for the construction industry and related businesses," Dr. Minnis said.

He revealed that over the past several decades, Bahamians were able to purchase homes through various Government Housing Programs and subdivisions in New Providence, Grand Bahama, and Family Islands.

However, he said that a number programs had various problems such as poor quality of construction, the padding of costs, various corrupt practices, and a lack of timeliness.

On average, the cost of an affordable government home is \$160,000 to \$180,000 a stark contrast to previous years of when a home costed \$120,000. Now the Free National Movement government proposes through an Access to Affordable Home Bill, to provide Bahamians an opportunity to purchase land at an affordable price.

The bill tabled in the House of Assembly yesterday will allow Bahamians to purchase land at a maximum of \$30,000 and will also allow certain exemptions, via the Access to Affordable Housing bill.

Minister of State in the office of the Attorney General Ellsworth Johnson said, "access to affordable housing is nothing new. This is something as economies change as countries grow, that countries around the world are having to deal with. The World Resource Institute looks at the crisis of affordable housing around the world.

"The bill seeks to provide Bahamians

with the opportunity to have access to lands provided by the government of The Bahamas. What the bill seeks to address is to provide certain areas, not just in New Providence, but throughout The Bahamas.

"The bill would authorize the Minister of Finance, to allow certain exemptions," Mr. Johnson said.

The Yamacraw Member of Parliament said, "we are going to have the drafters look at legislation to recognize the promise that was provided for, in the speech from the throne for rent to own, that's going to be done.

"At this stage, we have started, I think in a yeoman way, by placing a White Paper before the House of Assembly and inviting members of the public to look at potent land reform and this is just a part of the agenda to do that," Mr. Johnson said.

He explained, that the minister [of finance] can approve the application which can be extended.

"If the application is granted, it is for two years, and in certain circumstances the minister has the authority in extraordinary circumstances to extend the two-year period for building, and that's inclusive of bringing in items," Mr. Johnson said.

The bill targets those who the government says have served the country like teachers, nurses, and Police and Defence officers.

What's on the table is not an entirely a new idea, and Mr. Johnson, the mover of the bill, lauded former Governor General, Arthur Hanna, who at the time of being a member of parliament 35 years ago, requested \$2 million from the then Pindling-led administration to start an Urban Renewal Programme to change the lives of Kemp Road residents.

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HAYWARD REVIEWS PIONEERS DEMOLITION SITE

► Rupert Hayward, GBPA Director discuss the cleanup plans for the Pioneers Plaza, with Troy McIntosh, GBPA Manager of Building and Development, which was demolished in early March. This just the first of several such projects on the agenda for the GBPA, which has already set its sights on another abandoned property. (Photo courtesy of the GBPA for Barefoot Marketing)

Gov't Quizzed on Motives over Homes Bill

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

"Now, I'm guessing here because details aren't often well-thought out by this government, but I'm guessing these government lots are the ones the prime minister said his government would be offering to the Bahamian people for \$30,000," said Mr. Cooper.

"Help me, because I want to help my constituents and the Bahamian people to understand. That was announced and just kind of lingered there with no follow up, so I'm interested if this is what we're talking about.

"If this isn't that land that these people would potentially be building on, then where, exactly, is that land for \$30,000 a lot that the prime minister promised? And why isn't that connected to this?"

"If that is the land, then let's bottom-line this: The lot is \$30,000, the house will be, let's say 1,000 square feet at, oh, low balling \$100 per square foot for what a private contractor would charge, so we have a nice round number.

That's \$130,000 for a house and the land," said the Exuma MP.

He asked, "How many Bahamians can realistically afford that on their own through a financial institution?"

If you say the intention is to facilitate these loans through an entity like the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation, then that makes more sense. But I wonder why it would be limited to land in government subdivisions.

"Hasn't the BMC had some success in the last administration with financing low-cost homes through private developers?"

Also, who is going to buy these homes, the natural answer I suppose would be government workers.

"These would, of course, be the government workers this administration has managed not to fire in the past year, or managed not to have shaken the "security" previously associated with a Government job.

"I suppose the dream of home ownership will have to wait a little longer for those unfortunate souls.

"We have to make the imaginary leap that some undefined number of Bahamians can afford these lots and qualify for loans to build the homes.

Then, I suppose we take another imaginary leap and the minister to bring in these materials must now approve all these people, according to this bill.

"Why is the politician the one approving the permissions to get these exemptions to build?"

Shouldn't there just be a transparent process that a board or commission, or again, the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation can show you're in compliance with and you get the approval?"

"Why risk a politician holding something as important as this in his hand and making him the sole arbiter of who is approved? Many Bahamians already live in fear of being victimized by this Government.

What if, for some reason, he or she doesn't feel like approving you when your application hits their desk that day?"

"Is there any recourse in this bill that allows for an appeal?"

Who else can you go to if you've followed all the imaginary rules, yet, you are denied for some reason?"

"I don't see any provision that says you must be informed of why you've been denied, or is this Bill only intended for friend's family and FNMs," said Mr. Cooper.

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The Rough Cut

By Felix F. Bethel

“...aaron rolle screamed...”

Aaron Rolle screamed: “Who is this coming in my cell?” and then died.

Aaron Rolle is dead. Aaron Rolle was killed. Aaron Rolle is no more.

I remember Aaron Rolle. I always pray for the people who killed Aaron Rolle.

Now that Aaron Rolle is still dead; I continue to pray that his soul may find rest. Aaron Rolle was my cousin.

And as you might also remember, Morgan Wells, one of my grand-daughters was also killed some 1000+ days ago. I remember Mugs; and too, I also remember Brenton Hector Smith who was shot through the heart by a policeman who took some 44 seconds to lock, load and kill him.

Brenton Hector Smith was one of my students. Hear me:-- Aaron Rolle is dead. Aaron Rolle was killed. Aaron Rolle is no more.

I remember Aaron Rolle. I always pray for the people who killed Aaron Rolle.

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And as you might also remember, Morgan Wells, one of my grand-daughters was also killed some 1000+ days ago. I remember Mugs; and too, I also remember Brenton Hector Smith who was shot through the heart by a policeman who took some 44 seconds to lock, load and kill him.

And just the other day, I found out from the newspaper that:-- Cordero Munroe [once] said Rolle began asking to use the bathroom frequently and his groaning became louder and louder as the night progressed. Munroe said around 1am Friday, a Haitian was put in the cell with Rolle and he began to complain that Rolle “smelled funny and was puking blood.”

Cordero Munroe said a few hours later an officer came to give Rolle water and he told the officer once again that Rolle was in pain and needed to see a doctor, but the officer “did nothing.”

An hour later Munroe said Rolle screamed: “Who is this coming in my cell?” and then died.

Aaron Rolle, 20, died as a result of blunt force trauma at the Southern Police Station on February 8, hours after he was taken into custody for questioning in relation to armed robbery and escape allegations.

A pathologist report said he

died from haemorrhaging and a ruptured intestine. He also had two broken ribs, bleeding in the bowel and contusions on his lower back, shoulder blade and left clavicle.

Cordero Munroe, a fellow detainee at the Southern Police Station said that when he drew attention to the fact that Rolle was “puking blood and in extreme pain” after returning to his cell following a police interview, an officer responded: “He won’t try that shit again. He won’t try to escape from here no more.”

ALTHOUGH he complained of difficulty breathing and was vomiting blood, Aaron Rolle’s repeated pleas for medical attention were ignored by police – with one officer suggesting the prisoner would learn a lesson from his injuries – the Coroner’s Court was told yesterday.

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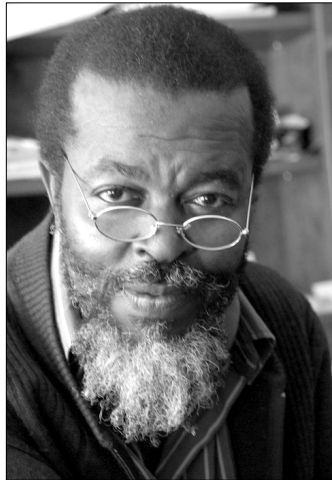
Munroe said he was taken into custody on February 7, for a traffic infraction, and was put in the holding cell next to Rolle.

He said he and Rolle along with another man who he identified as Corporal Bain, talked and socialised on Thursday night.

Munroe said Rolle was asking for advice and encouragement and said he was “tired of being in police custody and just wanted to confess and do his jail time.”

He said Rolle also expressed fear that officers would beat him for “making them look bad” when he escaped custody in October.

Munroe said Friday morning when he awoke, Rolle was not in his cell and



he assumed that Rolle had gone to court to be arraigned.

However, Munroe said Rolle returned to the cell block later that afternoon “with his head held down and looking like he was in pain.”

Munroe said he asked Rolle what was wrong and Rolle replied he was beaten and thought his ribs were broken.

He said Rolle kept complaining that he was in pain and was “breathing funny and throwing up blood.” Munroe said Rolle was having trouble speaking, so he called one of the officers on Rolle’s behalf and told him that Rolle was in pain and needed to go to the hospital.

This was the officer who, Munroe said, suggested that Rolle would learn a lesson.

Munroe said he told at least four officers that Rolle was in pain, but all of the officers ignored him except one who promised to take Rolle to the hospital, but never came back.

Cordero Munroe said Rolle began asking to use the bathroom frequently and his groaning became louder and louder as the night progressed. Munroe said around 1am Friday, a Haitian was put in the cell with Rolle and he began to complain that Rolle “smelled funny and was puking blood.”

An hour later Munroe said Rolle screamed: “Who is this coming in my cell?” and then died.

Rolle was “puking blood and in extreme pain” after returning to his cell following a police interview, an officer responded: “He won’t try that shit again. He won’t try to escape from here no more.”

Aaron Rolle screamed: “Who is this coming in my cell?” and then died.

Aaron Rolle is dead. Aaron Rolle was killed. Aaron Rolle is no more.

I remember Aaron Rolle. I always pray for the people who killed Aaron Rolle.

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Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

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E D I T O R I A L

THAT CRAZY BEAT

Once upon a time, with such an era pre-existing Barack Obama’s presidency, let it be known that:-- Iran had the technical capability to become a nuclear-weapons state, experts say. By some reckonings, Iran needed only a few months to make the required bomb fuel that, The U.S. banned the import of Iranian goods and services, and virtually all trade and investment by Americans in Iran was prohibited; Some monitoring was done because Iran is a signer of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, but the monitoring was far less intrusive than under the nuclear agreement and that:-- Extensive international sanctions, including an oil embargo and limits on Iranian banking, helped isolate and weaken Iran’s economy.

Now that Donald John Trump is the top man in the United States, Obama’s achievements are being trampled underfoot!

One savagely correct pundit describes this process as follows:-- **“...Obama’s only real legacy at this point is the presidency of Donald Trump...” Sean Davis---And that, it seems, is just the way Mr Trump wants it.**

And thus we wish to let it be known that:-- President Trump announced Tuesday that the U.S. was withdrawing from the nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers, and that it would reinstate the punitive sanctions suspended under the 2015 accord.

The sanctions cover a range of industries – from transportation and petroleum to insurance and finance – and will gradually come back into force over next six months.

It is not clear whether Mr. Trump’s decision will lead to a collapse of the agreement, which involves Iran and five other countries.

And yet, we can recount that under the Obama-led deal:-- The United States unfroze billions of dollars of impounded Iranian funds held in foreign banks and ceased application of nuclear-related sanctions; Iran’s ability to surreptitiously make nuclear weapons was eliminated or severely compromised; International experts were allowed to monitor Iran’s uranium mines and mills and centrifuge production, helping provide what experts called verifiable assurances and United Nations sanctions tied to Iran’s nuclear work were terminated, and the European Union ended an oil embargo.

Trump has struck at all of these achievements!

Indeed, then, we are witness --- Like billions of people around the world --- as to how a great country can – inch by inch- allow itself to drift into seas of chaos.

Evidently:-- That once great power is the United States where its Commander-in-Chief Donald J. Trump is currently wallowing in a miry-mess of intrigue-tinged scandal.

And yet – as his wallows – a slew of devilishly-designed decisions are being made which now threaten to further isolate his once great country from progressive thinking around the world.

In this regard, then, note that:-- France’s Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian says the Iranian nuclear deal is “not dead” despite US President Donald Trump’s decision to withdraw.

Other signatories to the nuclear accord say they remain committed to it.

The deal was agreed between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - the US, UK, France, China and Russia - plus Germany. It was struck under Mr Trump’s predecessor, Barack Obama.

Sad to say, much of what Trump has done in the past disastrous year has pivoted on how Trump and Republicans in Congress, made repealing the Affordable Care Act, which increased government regulation of health insurance markets, a central (albeit largely unsuccessful) focus of his first-year legislative agenda.

He’s re-imposed sanctions and travel restrictions on Cuba, rescinded proposed controls on power-plant emissions, fuel efficiency standards for new cars and other environmental regulations, and backed repeal of some Obama-era controls on financial institutions.

Since his inauguration, Mr Trump has taken aim at practically every one of his predecessor’s signature achievements.

Within a week of his inauguration he had pulled the US out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations.

In June he announced his intent to withdraw the US from the Paris Agreement on climate change mitigation.

He also unwound Obama-era protections for some undocumented immigrants.

And thus, that crazy beat goes on in Trump-land USA!!!

SHUT-EYE



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NO BETTER READING