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75 CENTS

Education Workers

Fired

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Several dozens of those 200 plus contract workers at the Ministry of Education have been terminated, while others are facing active disciplinary action, Minister of Education, Jeffery Lloyd confirmed yesterday.

Before the weekly Cabinet meeting, Minister

Lloyd told reporters said the exercise is one of fairness and equality.

"Some weeks ago, I informed you that we identified 200 plus individuals who have, in a sense, violated their employment agreement and arrangement with the Ministry of Education.

"I indicated to you that those persons were being either disciplined or terminated and I am happy to report that the disciplining process is underway and



► Minister of Education, Jeffery Lloyd (Journal file photo)

there have been some terminations and there will be more. There will be further disciplining of those who we think warrant it," Mr. Lloyd said.

■ See WORKERS FIRED / page 2...

Nurses' Chronic Issues Remain

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

With nurses returning to work yesterday following a sick out across the country on Monday, Health Minister, Dr. Duane Sands said that using such methods as tools for addressing issues is something that needs to be addressed.

"Yes, it is so that people get sick. It is also true that numbers of people can get sick, but it would be very peculiar for 200 people to get sick in the absence of some public health issue.

"And so, when we look at these tools as we evolve as a country, the question will have to be asked whether that loop hole ought to be closed," Dr. Sands said.

Dr. Sands, while speaking with reporters before Tuesday's cabinet meeting, confirmed that all but five of the nurses had returned to work.

"The fact that it appeared as if the nurses are back to work, is a wonderful thing. I will sit down at the table again and we will continue the negotiations and the discussions.

■ See CHRONIC ISSUES REMAIN / page 2...

PM AT DIASPORA - LONDON -- The government seeks to tap into the talent pool of the Bahamian Diaspora for further growth and development of The Bahamas by creation of a database into which Bahamians abroad could submit their names and areas of profession. Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon Hubert A. Minnis made the announcement during the Bahamian Diaspora reception at Royal Overseas League at Park Place, St. James's, London, after wrapping up the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in April. Stating that it is a new era of development in The Bahamas, the Prime Minister said the Government is considering an overseas council of the Bahamian Diaspora, which would utilize social media and a dedicated website. The council, he said, would promote ways that Bahamians overseas can network and help with educational and community-minded projects that will benefit The Bahamas, especially young Bahamians." The Prime Minister is pictured addressing Bahamians in London. (BIS Photo/Yontalay Bowe)



FINANCIAL LITERACY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

The Central Bank of The Bahamas in collaboration with the Clearing Banks Association yesterday launched the "Get Money Smart Bahamas" Campaign.

The idea for this initiative stemmed from a recent survey which revealed that Bahamians do not understand how to effectively manage their funds.

The Campaign aims to promote financial literacy throughout the nation.

Central Bank Governor John Rolle said, "The Central Bank believes that literacy is empowering, a critical line of defense for consumer financial protec-

tion."

He added, "we want the users of financial products and services to ask the right questions about the services that they receive, understand their legal right to be empowered to make responsible choices around savings and borrowing, and to be able to conduct their affairs safely and securely especially in the digital world."

President of Fidelity Bank and Trust Gregory Bethel spoke on behalf of the Clearing Bank Association.

He advised Bahamians to make smarter choices regarding their personal finances.

He said, "we need to come to understand that we must stop borrowing

money to buy pleasure and possessions to maintain our popularity, and only borrow money for useful purposes – to buy an asset that's going to increase in value, to consolidate all of your debt and have to a lower monthly payment, so that you are able to save or buy a small used car instead of that brand-new luxury car. We have to cut back on our spending and then we will have money available for saving and investing."

The campaign features a website highlighting monthly educational videos, blog posts, and tools that seek to enable persons to make smarter choices with their funds.

■ See CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED / page 2...

BEWU TO SETTLE DIFFERENCES AT BPL

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

Bahamas Electrical Workers Union (BEWU) President, Paul Maynard, said he is optimistic that they'll work out their issues in Thursday's sit down with Bahamas Power and Light (BPL) executives.

This after Public Works Minister, Desmond Bannister, last week admonished the union and BPL executives to settle their dif-

ferences.

Angered by management's decision to reduce BPL staff in the coming months, the BEWU went on work to rule.

The union has threatened a "dark and hot summer" for its tens of thousands of consumers.

Mr. Maynard is now promising instead that the two sides will be able to work the situation out and that there's no need for alarm.

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Education Workers Fired

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

The Education minister said that apart from termination, there will be other actions taken on those who fit into the category.

"Well it could entail letters of warning obviously, certain suspensions. It could also require that they submit to certain behavioral corrections.

"We also may require that

some of these persons who we see have the talent and the ability and for other reasons, may deserve another chance by way of some more training," Mr. Lloyd said.

He said that while those terminated violated their agreement and are being disciplined, there are those who wish to be a part of the Ministry of Education's work force.

"It is the intention of our ministry to engage as many persons, who are suitably qualified and are interested and are capable and who wish to be a part of this revolution in Education, that is now presently underway, but there are obligations that they have to fulfill.

"First of all, they have got to come to work, when they do come to work, they must

come to work on time and they must do their jobs.

"I think that is only fair. That is what the Bahamian people expect; that's what the Bahamian people deserve; that's what the Bahamian people demand.

"We are going to ensure that the Bahamian people get value for their money, and that's the only thing that we are doing," Mr. Lloyd said.

As to exactly how many persons have been terminated, Mr. Lloyd said that he could not give an exact figure, he did confirm, however, that they are across the board at the ministry.

"The exercise that is underway now is an exercise of fairness and equality; so that we for the sake of those persons and for the sake of our country get the just due that they

deserve.

"It's across the system, the Ministry of Education system, because these contract workers are in the Security Department, General Services Department and elsewhere, Mr. Lloyd said.

In March the Education Minister insisted that the government were not firing these workers but that they were "in fact firing themselves".

FINANCIAL LITERACY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

CFAL Representative Nicholas Higgs explained more of the campaign's aim.

He said, "the goal of the program is pretty much three fold. The first being is to allow Bahamians to understand where they're at currently in their finances. So, understanding 'Are you heavily in debt?', 'Are your savings low?', you may be retiring in ten years, 'Do you have enough savings?'"

He said that the second step involves being able to understand the landscape that a person may be in.

He added, "this is understanding the regulatory bodies, who do you go to for questions if you have questions about your bank fees, if you have questions about insurance, or if you think you're being scammed—who do you call?"

He explained that the third step involves options for the future regarding how an individual's decisions now can result in a financially stable tomorrow.

For more information on the campaign, the public is encouraged to visit the website at www.getmoneysmartbahamas.com or stay up-to-date with posts by following them on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Nurses' Chronic Issues Remain

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

"There is an obligatory tension that while the union may want a particular benefit for its membership, it doesn't necessarily mean that the people of The Bahamas or the government of The Bahamas has to capitulate to every single demand.

"We understand the demands can be reasonable, but demands can be unreasonable or the time line is not appropriate," Dr. Sands said.

As to chronic issues and grievances that plague that arm of the public health sector, Dr. Sands said that they are actively working on those issues.

"We have been actively involved in dealing with the chronic issues plaguing the nurses.

"The issue of mileage allowance would

have been brought up. We employed the help of the Director of Labour, we would have seen to it that some \$55,000 of outstanding mileage accrual for a group of nurses was placed on the pay sheet and the expectation was is that they should have had that money in their accounts last pay day.

"We now need to confirm whether those instructions from the Ministry of Health were carried out by the Ministry of Finance and Treasury. But certainly, if it was not on the pay sheet in April, I am advised that it will definitely be on the pay sheet in May.

"In terms of the confirmation of nurses three years, five years, ten years, we have moved aggressively to deal with these issues that have been outstanding for decades.

"The matter of the four on four off, the Public Hospitals Authority had not implemented the change in shift system and so to disadvantage the public on the basis of a conversation to me is unfortunate," Dr. Sands said.

Dr. Sands commended nurses who augmented the sick out, stating that some areas were impacted as a result of Monday's sick out.

"The senior nurses and the expatriate nurses and the graduate nurses stepped up and I want to say a collective thank you to them.

"While some services were interrupted and a number of people were inconvenienced, certainly we were able to provide essential services, [but] we recognize that its only so long that you can continue that, Dr. Sands said.

NATIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH LAUNCHED

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

The Ministry of National Security on Monday, officially launched its National Neighbourhood Watch Council (NNWC) at the Paul Farquharson Conference Centre - an initiative to oversee and promote neighbourhood watch activities throughout Bahamian communities.

Prime Minister, Dr. Hubert

Minnis, delivered the keynote address and stressed the importance of a relationship between the police and the community.

"We understand that in order for our nation to become even safer, communities must play a more active and coordinated role in crime prevention," Minnis said.

"The National Neighbourhood Watch Council is a platform to which citizens and residents

may be involved in devising and participating in activities that strengthen the security of your respective communities."

However, Dr. Minnis reminded the members of the various crime watch committee's that although their assistance is significant, their safety is more important.

"Always remember that you are not police officers, as you conduct your community patrols, we do not expect

you to engage suspects," he said.

"Your primary mission is to observe and report suspicious activities to the police in a timely fashion. Your safety and security is of vital importance."

Assistant Commissioner of Police, Stephen Dean, acknowledged the NNCW as the new wave to crime prevention in communities.

■ See NEIGHBOURHOOD / page 3...

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We hire for attitude and potential, then train for skills. So what skills and qualifications will participants need? Because our training is extensive, participants will not need any previous experience in Banking or Finance. However, to succeed in this program requires that you already possess the following attributes:

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FREEPORT Receives Three New Quay Cranes

• *Restoring to Full Terminal Operation*

The Freeport Container Port (Hutchison Ports FCP) has announced the arrival of three new Super Post Panamax Ship to Shore cranes from China.

The new equipment will bring back FCP's fleet size to 10 quay cranes and is expected to restore full terminal operations.

"We are excited about the arrival of the new quay cranes when it's been almost 2 years since the devastating effects of Hurricane Matthew. Operating at full fleet size at the quay, we will improve our overall customer service with better reliability and performance," said FCP Port Director,

Lucian Laing.

"Our capacity will go back up to 100 percent," said FCP Engineering Manager, Charles Stewart. "With that we can better, by far, accommodate the business of our customers and be able to put Bahamians back to work; and they will be able to work more consistently."

Standing at 410 feet, these ZPMC cranes represent an upgrade from the current fleet in that they are capable of remote control operation.

"These are not the conventional quay cranes where the operator sits and operates in a cab at the crane," explained Laing, FCP Port Director. "Instead it is remotely operated in an office environment."

The cranes will be three of only five in the region. The remaining two are slated for FCP's sister port in Mexico.

"Prior to the arrival of the cranes, FCP 11 engineers and 4 operators went to Oman and Shanghai for training in 2017 so that they are ready to operate the new semi-automated cranes.

The new cranes will be ready for operation in July, after a period of commissioning.

GOT NEWS?
Please call The Bahama
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SHANTYTOWN SURVEYS COMPLETED

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

Shantytown surveys are completed and the information is now in the hands of the Department of Statistics, according to Chairman of the Shantytown Committee, Labour Minister Dion Foulkes.

Mr. Foulkes who's eyeing a possible May 9th deadline to have the report in hand, said he has some preliminary results, however, only about 80 per cent.

He said moving forward, public meetings are in order.

"Our next step is to do some public meetings especially in the Carmichael Road area.

"We intend to have two Town Hall meetings, one in the shantytowns themselves and another one for the subdivisions around the shantytowns, so we can tell everybody exactly what our timetable is, [and] what the notice period is in terms of for the residents to move," Mr. Foulkes said.

A meeting is also planned with the Bahamian leaseholders of the land of the shantytowns to advise them and to have them take certain legal action.

As for the other family islands, Mr. Foulkes said Abaco in next in line.

"We intend to begin Abaco which is the fairly large areas, the Mudd and the Pigeon Pea, that will start the middle of this month," he said.

In terms of eviction notices, Mr. Foulkes said that it is a matter for the Attorney General and the Ministry of Works.

There are 16 shantytown communities in New Providence alone.

NATIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH LAUNCHED

■ Continued from / PAGE 2...

"I would go on record to say, I believe this is one of our most ambitious approaches to crime prevention ever undertaken in this country," he said.

"It is ambitious because neighbourhoods have been doing some things, in various neighbourhoods when we talk about established crime watch groups, but never before were we able to bring all the neighbourhood watch groups together in one place."

"We went out and found out where community crime watch groups existed in our community. We found over 30 in New Providence.

"We found some have

gone dormant, but we intend to resurrect all of them.

We did not just stop here; we went to Grand Bahama, where we met with powerful groups of community crime watch people, excited people," Dean said.

"I remember some of the comments said Mr. Dean, we were waiting on this. Some groups have faded away because of leadership involvement; we were not coordinated, so this is working perfectly."

Each police division has an officer who will provide logistical support to the various crime watch groups within its division.

The NNWC was an initiative outlined in the FNM's 2017 manifesto.

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PRIME MINISTER LAUNCHES NATIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COUNCIL



► **Launch at Police Headquarters on Monday** – From left: Minister of National Security Marvin Dames, Prime Minister Hubert Minnis, Minister of Foreign Affairs Darren Henfield, Minister of State in the Ministry of Legal Affairs Elsworth Johnson, and Speaker of the House of Assembly Halson Moultrie. (BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay)

Works Minister outlines Government's agenda as it moves towards a World Class Eleuthera, Spanish Wells and Harbour Island

BY KATHRYN CAMPBELL

Minister of Works, the Hon. Desmond

Bannister announced infrastructural upgrades to improve delivery of services for Eleuthera, Spanish Wells, and Harbour Island at the 6th

Eleuthera Business Outlook, April 26, 2018 at Valentine's Resort and Marina in Harbour Island.

Mr. Bannister revealed the government's plans to assist in 'creating a world class Eleuthera, Harbour Island and Spanish Wells' as the theme of the conference affirms.

Minister Bannister said it is anticipated that the initiatives will foster growth and development in the tri-island community, and the private sector will take advantage of the opportunity to invest in the growth of the local economy.

It is the intention of the Ministry of Works to provide world class, reliable energy in an environmentally friendly way at the lowest cost to consumers, thereby ensuring that consumers are satisfied with the service they obtain.

Minister Bannister advised of the urgent short-term need for additional generation capacity for Harbour Island.

"Issues of reliable electrical supply have plagued Harbour Island for more than thirty years," said Minister Bannister. "We are focused on fixing them so as to facilitate and support reliability of power supply and hence the efficiency of business operations on the Island. So I can assure you that all is not lost. Far from it. In the short term, rental generation will be brought in to shore up the shortfall for this summer.

"In the long term we will conduct a cost benefit analysis to determine the cost of upgrading the North Feeder so as to determine whether to supply generation from the Hatchet Bay Power Station. We will also look at installing solar in North Eleuthera for daytime power, and rely on traditional generation for cloudy days and nights. This option will, of course require us to run a submarine cable from the mainland to Harbour Island," he said.

Adrian Gibson, chairman of the Water and Sewerage Corporation (WSC), is currently compiling a report that will lead to changes in the way water is supplied to Family Island communities. Residents can anticipate a change in the quality of water delivered by the WSC and investment opportunities through public-private partnerships.

Proposed infrastructural projects include road reconstruction between Gregory Town and the Glass Window Bridge, within the settlement of Spanish Wells and throughout North, Central and South Eleuthera.

The following capital works by the Ministry of Works were outlined:

- **Renovation and upgrade of the former Workers House Building, Governor's Harbour**
- **Facilitation of numerous sections of road repair**
- **Construction of a new two-lane bridge to connect Spanish Wells and Russell Island**
- **Improvements to the island's school and educational system. Construction works on the North Eleuthera High School are almost completed. Preliminary works are also being carried out on the Harbour Island School.**
- **Construction of primary and secondary new school facilities and relevant ancillary buildings at Harbour Island**
- **Inspection and review of the structural repairs required for the Spanish Wells administration building; with a view to effecting the required improvements, or if necessary construct a new building**
- **Requisite engineering studies for the Glass Window Bridge so that plans for a new bridge can commence. \$2 Million has been budgeted for this.**
- **Improved docking facilities in Harbour Island. \$1.5 million has been budgeted for this**
- **\$14 million to build a new North Eleuthera airport**
- **A Project Team is being commissioned to design a new administration complex at the existing Harbour Island administration building site**

Minister Bannister described the Government's agenda for these islands as "ambitious" and urged those in attendance to consider the investment opportunities provided.

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WHY AREN'T THERE MORE VOICES?

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.

There is a grave matter facing us. We cannot allow the Parliament of The Bahamas to pass a bill—the Criminal Evidence (Witness Anonymity)—that contravenes our constitution and sit idly by and say and do nothing.

Why aren't there more voices speaking out on this bill? Why aren't more people asking questions about what Parliament is doing? They pass a bill that undermines our constitution, and we don't even question why they would do such a thing?

So why have they done this? Can we speculate?

They will tell you that they are taking measures to address crime. But here's the problem with that contention:

- People are innocent until proven guilty. So their rights should not be trampled upon.
- You don't create a new law that goes against the foundation of our laws—The Bahamas Constitution—and call it addressing crime.
- You don't abdicate your responsibility to the nation by passing a flawed bill and looking to the courts to sort it out.
- You don't attempt to solve a problem by creating another problem of such a grave nature, unless of course your actions are political.

It appears that they are trying to create an impression of addressing the problem of crime by making a move that undermines the foundation of our country, which can only set us on a path of destruction.

The Bahamian people are not stupid. They will see right through this.

Why does this create such a problem? We keep going back to QC Wayne Munroe's example because it is so relevant, and you and I both know that this can so easily happen.

Let's say somebody is screened from me

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 unsavoury 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.

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 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's wife or sweetheart and I don't know that?

Does it really make sense to take such an extreme measure as to put the power of destroying people's lives in the hands of anyone who chooses to?

Parliamentarians may feel strongly that this will work to put away criminals. Well, maybe it will work, until it doesn't!

We still don't get how so few attorneys are speaking out about this. Aren't they obligated to? According to The Bahamas Bar (Code Of Professional Conduct) Regulations, (Section 40), they are!

"The admission to and continuance in the practice of law implies on the part of the attorney a basic commitment to the concept of equal justice for all within an open, ordered and impartial system.... He should therefore lead in seeking improvements in the legal system.... His responsibilities are greater than those of a private citizen."

More attorneys need to step up and speak out on this move to breach The Constitution of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

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E D I T O R I A L

SYMBOLS & POLICY

One of the more enduring features of social life in today's deeply challenged Bahamas has to do with the extent to which politicians of all stripes routinely neglect the masses of people they purportedly 'represent'!

In this regard when we – as it were – cut to the chase, we focus attention on that extreme extent to which said politicians – especially the ones in office – go about one of their favourite programs, namely those which call for the naming and thus 'branding' of this or that public space.

Indeed, as we have noted in our journal:-- An effort is underway to name and honour some politicians by placing their names and legends throughout any number of publicly owned schools and learning academies.

What we know for sure is that such decisions usually come freighted not only with a view of pandering to the people at large; but also seems to come packaged in with a peculiar kind of contempt for the so-called 'people'.

From one perspective, perception is reality; and clearly then, when things might seem to have come to a place where troubles abound and where – interestingly enough – politicians on the make sometimes turn to the organization and orchestration of symbolically rich tableaux which distract the public from issues that do matter.

In this regard, then, we take it as being axiomatic that:--Symbols, as powerful as they can be in some respects, a distraction. They allow some of us – especially the rulers - to pretend things are better than they are!

Indeed, there are times in life when – to reverse a truism –doing nothing is far better than doing something. The point we make here follows on the heel of decisions made as regards the labelling, branding and naming of certain places on the Campus of the Government High School.

As we understand the matter at hand, the current administration is set on honouring any number of Members of Parliament and other high politically well-connected luminaries.

Sadly, this is par for the course in a land where – as night follows day – politically well-connected folks continue to arrogate honours and grand-sounding significations to themselves and their peers; and thus it continues that practically no

effort is made to involve the so-called 'people'. This is just not good enough!

And thus, we now find ourselves in a shared kind of nowhere land and time where – even as the current administration goes about some of the substantive policy issues that matter, they also seem to have made decisions concerning the way they symbolically relate to their publics.

Note well that:-- In habitual language use, symbolic politics means a publicly displayed deception or surrogate action that is used to detract from actual political reality.

Symbolic politics differs from substantial policy. As a policy of signs (terms and slogans, badges, banners and pictures, gestures, ritual acts, and political staging.

Evidently:-- Symbolic politics and substantial policy can be related to each other.

And thus we would suggest that:-- Whether reference is made to today's sudden news concerning nurses who are staging some measure of crisis-driven industrial actions or for that matter, whether the focus is on the Oban Energies fiasco; today the fact remains that the current administration is embattled.

Indeed, there now arises a sense of déjà vu redux as the public at large now routinely declare and assert their frustrations with and for the new administration!

None of this should be taken as being somehow new; indeed, the good sense we have about the matter at hand suggests that whilst – in opposition – the Free National Movement hierarchs underestimated the real nature of the challenges facing their nemeses in the Progressive Liberal party.

And for sure, then, whilst this underestimation served to buoy those in opposition and to demoralize an already deeply chastened PLP; there was no commensurate assurance given that once the FNM had won they could or would do a better job.

And thus, today's newest barrage of politics driven by symbolically potent signs and signals, particular those which seemed aimed at persuading certain sectors and sections of the so-called 'masses'!



THE BAHAMAS
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WHEN?
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NOT WANTED LOCAL BAHAMIAN
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