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THURSDAY - MAY 31ST, 2018

75 CENTS

OUTRAGE OVER VAT

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

Deputy Leader of the Progressive Liberal Party, I Chester Cooper says the government decision to raise Value Added Tax to 12 percent "is not only treacherous but is a reckless and dangerous move on the part of the government".

shamelessly announced an increase in VAT from 7.5 per cent to 12 per cent. A whopping 60 per cent. This is an outrage. "This is not economics. This is politricks and obeh economics. "We put no faith in their fiscal deficit recovery strategy. One hurricane can come along and blow a hole in that strategy. It is pie in the sky. "Imagine now how obtuse this government now seems, out of touch

with reality. "The banking system has failed Bahamians. The people in remote communities like South Andros and Acklins and Black Point have to depend on deposits in gaming houses to be able to get their money. Now it is going to cost them 5 per cent to put their own money on deposit. This is tax madness. It is unconscionable. "Let me emphatically state that the PLP does

not support any increase in taxes in this budget exercise. We will vote against them!" said Mr. Cooper. The shadow Minister of Finance opined that the proposals alone indicate the Minnis administration has no idea what it's doing. Mr. Cooper added that when VAT was first implemented, experts including the Inter-American Development Bank, IMF, Standard and

Poor's Moody's as well as Chamber of Commerce's consultants from Oxford, agreed that VAT should be implemented at 7.5 per cent with no exemptions. "What research has the government undertaken to determine that exemptions, despite the best advice from throughout the world, is the best course of action and not merely a political gimmick?



► Deputy Leader of the Progressive Liberal Party, I Chester Cooper (Journal file photo)

■ See OVER VAT / page 2...

\$2.6 BILLION BUDGET



► Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. Peter Turnquest holds the red briefcase with the 2018/2019 Budget Communication he would present in the House of Assembly today. He described the Budget as "landmark" and "transformative" in implementing the government's policy agenda and securing core fiscal objectives. Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis is right of DPM Turnquest, with Cabinet Ministers and government officials, walking to the House of Assembly. (BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna)

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

The 2018/2019 Budget Communication presented in the House of Assembly yesterday by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, K. Peter Turnquest is causing political

consternation around the Bahamas as Bahamians rebel against the government's decision to increase Value Added Tax (VAT) by 60 per cent. The rate has been moved from 7.5 per cent to 12 per cent. Justifying the increase, Mr. Turnquest said, "our govern-

ment fully appreciates the sacrifice that the sub substantial increases in the VAT rate and other taxes will represent for our citizens. But as I have repeatedly said on record, this government was elected to do what is right for the welfare of the country and not to do what is politi-

cally expedient or politically popular." In terms of fiscal performance, it was projected that the 2017/2018 GFS deficit will sit at \$310 million; an improvement of \$13 million.

■ See \$2.6 BILLION BUDGET / page 2...

Country's Bond Rating Is Junk, Says Minister

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

Making a startling announcement in the House of Assembly in a lengthy 2018/2019 Budget Communication yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, K. Peter Turnquest said that "the country's bond rating is at junk status."

In defense of his government's decision to hike the VAT rate, he charged that the Minnis administration could do as those before and present a misleading budget with under-budgeted allocations and hidden obligations, and that it could have kicked the can down the road and borrowed some more – delaying the inevitable day of reckoning.

However, according to the minister, playing such a game would have only made a bad situation worse.

■ See BOND RATING / page 3...

Baptist Leader Cites Crime As "The Worst of Times"

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT

"For us today, crime and criminal activities ensure that we live in the worst of times." These words were uttered by President of The Bahamas National Baptist Missionary and Education Convention, the Reverend Doctor William

Thompson Tuesday night at he addressed the annual session. He said that "crime stalks our land with tornadic destructiveness... Families who can afford burglar bars and security cameras willing become prisoners in their homes. "There has been an increase in the number of magistrates, judges

and courts, new legislations are added in parliament regularly, but inspite all of this, the Bahamas is still in the grips of an epidemic of crime problems." Dr. Thompson said a notion he has had for the past 25 years is for The Bahamas to collectively marshal our best minds to evaluate to analyze and to research specific

questions as to the cause of crimes. He commended the Minister of National Security and the Commodore as well as the officers of The Royal Bahamas Defense Force for all of their work in protecting our waters and combatting what he describes as a vexing problems.

He also said that any dent in crime is to be commended and saluted the authorities. The Baptist leader said "we are saddened that the murder rates seems to be escalating once again, but what is sadder is that the assault of molestation of young children seems to be more prevalent."



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OUTRAGE OVER VAT

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"The truth is, it will make VAT collection more complex and potentially affect revenues beyond what the government expects it will miss out on from those exempted items.

"The FNM is undoing progress on the most progressive tax reform in generations without understanding what it is it is doing.

"This is the same FNM that voted against VAT, claiming it would inflict pain and stress on the middle class and the poor, called it double taxation. In opposition, the now prime minister said it would remove the hope of a better life. Now there is move afoot to throw what has worked successfully out of balance," Mr. Cooper said.

Leader of the Opposition Philip Davis predicted on Sunday, in a

press statement, that the government's 2018/2019 Budget would be a "bleak outcome and a recession inducing budget".

Mr. Davis during a press conference following the budget presentation, said that what was presented reaffirmed his belief.

"There is no doubt, and it is very scary. I share the view of my colleagues that the competence of this government has to be called into account.

"I don't know who they are listening to, because clearly, I don't know if there is some textbook, academic approach to governance, but that they don't even seem to appreciate. But The Bahamas is a unique country, the fundamentals of our economy are very much unlike many others because of our demographic and no doubt the expectations of our people.

"I fear they [FNM administra-

tion] don't understand the fundamentals of our economy; that's the first step in being able to chart a course for the lives of the people," Mr. Davis said.

Mr. Cooper added that the PLP will oppose these taxes and vigorously defend the Bahamian people against the FNM whose self-interest and political survival have caused them to abandon any pretense of it being the 'people's time'.

\$2.6 BILLION BUDGET

Continued from / PAGE 1...

If all goes as planned, capital expenditure will come in at \$153 million down from the initial forecast of \$230 million.

However, recurrent revenue is said to be less buoyant, and this despite the country's real growth rate.

According to Minister Turnquest, this is pegged to sit at some \$130 million below forecast – a yield that is well below others in the region and furthermore, inadequate to the government's needs.

Moving ahead, the government forecasted that the 2018/2019 recurrent expenditure will amount to \$2,589 million, an increase of \$346 million from the budgeted amount in 2017/2018.

According to the DPM the increase includes: \$172 million in arrears that will be paid in the coming year; the \$76 million increase as a result of the adoption of full and proper budgeting for known commitments across the breadth and scope of

government expenditures; some \$19 million for the new recurrent expenditure policy initiatives; and \$89 million for additional interest payments.

He also revealed that the level of capital expenditure in 2018/2019 is set at \$299 million, up \$69 million from \$230 million in 2017/2018.

The DPM added that the demands for new investments in public infrastructure exceeds the amount that is allocated for next year and the government does not want to prioritize such investments as a means of boosting potential economic growth.

He also mentioned that the outlook for recurrent revenue in the coming fiscal year is governed to a large extent by the fiscal impact of both the revenue measures proposed in the budget as well as the impact of the rise in the rate of VAT.

The lesser revenue measures – including adjustments up and down – are estimated to produce a net gain in revenue of some \$100 million while the VAT increase should net new rev-

enue to the tune of some \$400 million.

As a result, after factoring in the growth of the economy and targeted gains from enhanced revenue collections, total recurrent revenue in 2018/2019 is estimated at a level of \$2,649 million, or 20.1 per cent of GDP.

Minister Turnquest said that is an improvement in the revenue yield of 4 full percentage points from the level of 16.1 per cent posted in 2017/2018.

He added that while still lagging behind regional norms, such a level of the revenue yield is definitely more reasonable in relation to the needs of modern governance.

The GFS deficit in 2018/2019 is therefore projected at \$237 million, some \$73 million lower than in 2017/2018.

At 1.8 per cent of GDP, the deficit will come in at the target that will be mandated in the fiscal responsibility legislation.

According to the DPM, with the decline in the size of the deficit and the ongoing



Minister of Finance, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest presents the 2018/2019 Budget Communication in the House of Assembly, May 30, 2018. (BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna)

growth of nominal GDP, the debt-to-GDP ratio is projected to fall to 56.1 per cent in 2018/2019, down from 57.2 per cent in 2017/2018.

In the outer years of 2019/2020 and 2020/2021, the growth of primary recurrent expenditure is being held to 2.5 per cent per year.

As such, this category of discretionary spending will decline from 16.8 per cent of GDP in 2018/2019 to 15.4 per cent of GDP in

2020/2021, the Minister noted.

Capital expenditure over the forecast horizon is projected to grow by 2.5 per cent per year.

Meanwhile, the projection for recurrent revenue beyond 2018/2019 assumes that the revenue yield of the tax system remains constant at its level of 20.1 per cent of GDP in 2018/2019 on the basis of these planning assumptions, the GFS

deficit in 2019/2020 is projected at \$85 million, or 0.6 per cent of GDP.

The minister said that in 2020/2021, a GFS surplus of some \$10 million is forecast, the government will readily achieve the deficit targets for those two years.

In addition, the debt-to-GDP ratio will decline steadily over the forecast period, to stand at 52.1 per cent at the end of 2020/2021.



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The Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, through the Ministry of Finance invites Tenders for the provision of OFFICE SUPPLIES for the Fiscal year 2018/19.

All interested persons/companies are invited to collect the Tender Document which includes product specifications between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; beginning May 23 2018:

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The original, along with three (3) copies of the completed proposal in English must be placed in sealed envelopes clearly marked "Tender Document for the PROVISION OF OFFICE SUPPLIES"

The successful bidder will be required to store and deliver the inventory to Government Departments on a Just-In-Time basis.

Bids must be deposited in the Tender's box bearing no identity of the bidder at the Ministry of Finance, Cecil Wallace-Whitfield Centre, West Bay Street, Nassau, Bahamas, no later than 9:30 a.m. on or before Tuesday, June 5 2018.

Bidders or their designated representatives are invited to be present for the Tender opening on Tuesday June 5 2018 when the Tenders Board meets at 10:00 a.m.

The Ministry of Finance reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

Financial Secretary

Prime Minister Calls for Sustained Partnership Between Church and State to Help the Poor



► Photos show highlights of the Bahamas Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention's 83rd Annual Session at William Thompson Auditorium on Tuesday evening. Prime Minister Hubert Minnis addresses the audience and greets the Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling, and Baptist ministers including the Convention's President Rev. Dr. William Thompson, and its Executive Secretary Rev. Dr. Delton Fernander. (BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe)

BY LINDSAY THOMPSON

Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis said that in order for the least among the people to benefit, there must be a continued partnership between the Church and State.

He was addressing the Bahamas Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention's 83rd Annual Session, held under the theme: 'Counting The Cost,' taken from Matthew 16:24.

In attendance were Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling, Governor General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, and other officials who assembled among the congregation in the William Thompson Auditorium on Tuesday evening, May 29, 2018.

In congratulating the Baptist community on its stability, the Prime Minister said that the denomination has been a witness to the message of Jesus Christ throughout its history.

He also acknowledged the positive impact the Baptist Convention, through its various ministries, has had on the lives of thousands of Bahamians over the years.

"You have also served through servant leadership and social outreach," he said. "And you know well the fundamental role of the church in the protection and respect for the dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God."

According to the Prime Minister the Baptist community has taken to heart the instruction from Matthew 25 verses 35-36: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited

me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

The Baptist community, he said, has a legacy of promoting the common good and social justice.

"The promotion of the common good and social

justice requires a sustained partnership between church and state. We must work together, and work unceasingly, to address the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable in our land.

"The greatest privilege of serving as Head of Government is the oppor-

tunity to improve the lives of my fellow-Bahamians. It is a special privilege to work daily to provide our children and young people with opportunities to dream and to realize their dreams," the Prime Minister said.

■ See PARTNERSHIP / page 4...



Bahamian On Firearm charges

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT

A 35-year-old father of two, Deolo Cordell Pratt was arraigned before Chief Magistrate Joyanne Ferguson-Pratt yesterday on three counts of the importation of ammunition and one count of conspiracy to import ammunition without possessing a fire arm certificate. The offences are alleged that have taken been committed between March and July 2016.

Pratt is a Bahamian citizen with American residency and according to his attorney was deported from the United States.

Pratt's attorney also said he resided in Jacksonville Florida for the past 17 years after marrying and attaining his green card. However he and his wife are currently separated.

Pratt pleaded not guilty to all counts and was remanded to the Bahamas Department of Corrections until August 8th.

Country's Bond Rating Is Junk, Says Minister

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"The country's bond rating is at junk status," he said.

"The reason for that is because others before us failed to act promptly and judiciously.

"But worse than the junk status, the penalty for inaction is a continued quickening crawl toward a fiscal point of no return.

"And as we have seen, when countries hit crisis mode, the path to correction is extraordinarily hard and painful."

This blow to taxpayers comes as the government still has to pay off \$360 million in arrears, which it hopes to pay off in the next three years.

"With the implementation of this three-year fiscal strategy, the mandated deficit targets will be fully met in 2018/19 and the two following years," he said.

"The end result will be a balanced budget after three years with some

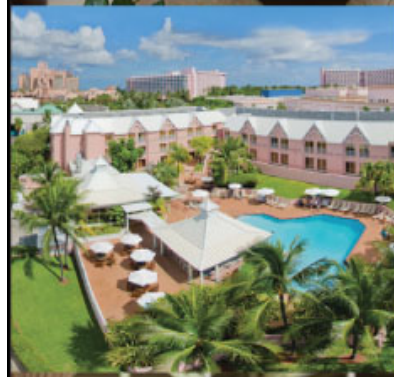
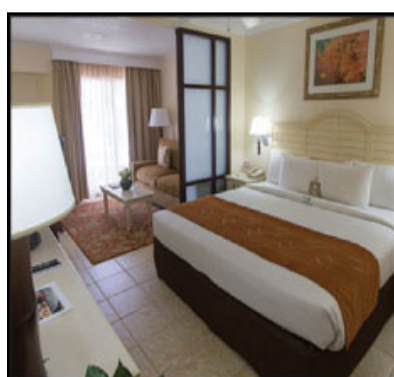
\$100 million in duty and excise tax reductions, bringing down the cost of imported goods."

The government has committed that at the end of it, it'll return the favour so to speak to taxpayers.

"We make the commitment as well that, as the hundreds of millions of old arrears and obligations are finally paid off over the next three years, the government will then give back to consumers in the form of customs duty and excise tax reductions, on the order of \$100 million, to the benefit of Bahamians throughout the country," the DPM said.

"With the implementation of this three-year fiscal strategy, the mandated deficit targets will be fully met in 2018/2019 and the two following years.

"The end result will be a balanced budget after three years with some \$100 million in duty and excise tax reductions, bringing down the cost of imported goods."



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No VAT On Breadbasket Items

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Peter Turnquest revealed during his presentation of the 2018/2019 Budget, that Value Added Tax (VAT) will be eliminated on breadbasket items, a "commitment to Bahamians".

"As for measures that that we are implementing to meet our commitments to Bahamians and provide tax relief to individuals and businesses: effective August 1, we are eliminating VAT on all breadbasket items, with the exception of sugar," Mr. Turnquest said.

With there being much talk about changing up breadbasket items, Mr. Turnquest listed several items that will no longer have VAT attached to it.

Items that VAT will be eliminated on include items such as butter, cooking oil, mayonnaise, grits, cheese, corned beef, margarine, rice, flour, bread, condensed

milk, soap, fresh milk, tomato paste, soup broths, mustard, and baby food.

"We are eliminating duties on a number of food products, including: whole salmon; frozen fish fillets; bread spreads; potato products; tofu; and prepared and preserved tomatoes," Mr. Turnquest said.

Mr. Turnquest added that VAT will also be eliminated from a number other items, including elimination of VAT on medicines and residential property insurance.

"We are eliminating duties on solar kits upon application to the Ministry of Finance," he said.

Further, the DPM said that VAT will be waived on residential electrical bills at or under \$100 and water bills at or under \$50

"For electricity customers, this would impact over 30,000 BPL households alone. For water customers, this would impact some 43,000 Water & Sewerage customers.

"This waiver will be applicable to all

licensed utilities in the country," Mr. Turnquest said.

Mr. Turnquest further revealed that customs exemptions will be increased from \$300 to \$500.

As foreshadowed, Immigration fees will increase as well as port, police record and fingerprinting fees for casino employees.

Labour certificate fees as well as real property tax on foreign owned vacant land will increase from 1.5 per cent to two per cent, while licensing fees on large commercial vehicles by \$50 for class b and class c vehicles.

The government is implementing various concessions in respect of Real property Tax, Customs duties, Excise duties, Business License fees and Stamp Tax in favour of designated Economic Empowerment Zones, beginning with the "over the hill community."

Mr. Turnquest said, "we are providing duty-free entry for goods for use in

the commercial printing industry, as well as for processing and garment manufacturing equipment without the need to apply for specific concessions as before; we are extending for 5 years the first-time homeowners Stamp tax exemption; we are extending for two years the duty exemption on materials used for the renovation, repair and upgrade of dilapidated buildings.

The Minister said, "we are reducing duties on floor tiles and fabric softener; we are extending the duty exemption to church buses 8 years old or less from the current limitation that limits the concession to buses that are 3 years old or less.

"We are providing an exemption from Business License fees for all schools that are registered with the Ministry of Education; and we are eliminating the duty on airplanes and helicopters in an effort to build an Airplane Registry Industry within the country," said Mr. Turnquest.

Prime Minister Calls for Sustained Partnership Between Church and State to Help the Poor

Continued from / PAGE 3...

He said since coming to office in May 2017 he has a new vantage point to see, more in-depth, the challenges and problems as well as possibilities for the country.

However, the work of good governance requires tough and difficult choices, he noted.

The Prime Minister also said that he is guided by a quote from the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said: "On some positions, Cowardice asks the question, 'Is it safe?' Expediency asks the question, 'Is it political?' And Vanity comes along and asks the question, 'Is it popular?' But Conscience asks the question 'Is it right?'"

He continued: "And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor political, nor popular, but

he must do it because conscience tells him it is right."

In order to restore our country and move it in the right direction, some tough choices have been made; and there are more tough choices ahead, the Prime Minister said. "But in the end we will be a more productive, healthier and more vibrant country because the hard decisions were made."

He said that his vision and commitment as Prime Minister is to help the Bahamian people, especially the young people, with the resources and opportunities they need to build a good life and a better Bahamas.

These resources include education, health care, social development and economic opportunities including jobs and opportunities to become entrepreneurs and business people, he said.



Photos show highlights of the Bahamas Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention's 83rd Annual Session at William Thompson Auditorium on Tuesday evening. Prime Minister Hubert Minnis addresses the audience and greets the Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling, and Baptist ministers including the Convention's President Rev. Dr. William Thompson, and its Executive Secretary Rev. Dr. Delton Fernander. (BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe)



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The Rough Cut

By Felix F. Bethel

“...God don't sleep...”

Police said one of the men pointed a gun at the officers.

The officers, being in fear for their lives, shot the armed man.

The man was taken to hospital where he died.

Police said they received information that the suspects were spotted in the area of McCullough Corner and proceeded there, where they encountered two men fitting the description of the suspects.

Police said one of the men pointed a gun at the officers.

The officers, being in fear for their lives, shot the armed man, police said.

The man was taken to hospital where he died.

Police said the second suspect fled.

A .40 pistol was recovered at the scene, according to police.

One woman retorted:--“I get the news from my sister. I was home in the east. My sister called me crying, saying I must hurry up come.”

“I said, ‘Hurry up come for what?’

“She said they just killed D, they just killed D.”

“My baby boy started screaming, screaming. When I reached around here, it was a lot of people in the road saying police just [shot] my child for nothing.”

“Then the next one jumped out [of the vehicle]. When they search him, they ain't find nothing.”

“I was watching them and couple of my [friends who were] down there who could see them too, [were] looking.”

“When I watched them, they searched him, then [the officer pulled] out his gun, he pushed him off and he [shot] him up.”

And then, the woman [as tears welled up in her eyes] vowed:--“If it takes [my last] cent for me to get [my] justice, I will get it with [my last] cent, and God will be on my side with this. God don't sleep. I leave it in God's hand.”

The Police shot and killed a 20-year-old man--- The shooting triggered tension in the community with some residents at the scene claiming Evans was innocent. Evans' mother, Beverly Lee, claimed police wrongfully profiled her son.

The Police shot and killed a 20-year-old man after he allegedly pointed a gun at officers on Sandy Lane, off McCullough Corner.

Relatives identified him as Deangelo Evans, a resident of Mason's Addition.

According to police, officers were responding to reports of an armed robbery at Burial Ground Corner and East Street.

Police said they received information that the suspects were spotted in the area of McCullough Corner and proceeded there, where they encountered two men fitting the description of the suspects. Police said one of the

men pointed a gun at the officers.

The officers, being in fear for their lives, shot the armed man.

The man was taken to hospital where he died.

Evans' uncle, Johnny Lee, said the young man had gone around the corner to return something to the shop for his aunt and to call his cousin because they were scheduled to go to a job where they decorate and set up for functions.

“We ain't taking this one easy,” Johnny Lee said.

Police said one of the men pointed a gun at the officers.

The officers, being in fear for their lives, shot the armed man.

The man was taken to hospital where he died.

“We ain't stopping with this. This one going straight to justice. We going full ahead with this. If it takes our last dollar, we [will] spend our last dollar. We [are] going to spend our money. We [aren't] stopping with that.”

This incident marks the eighth person shot and killed by police for the year.

According to police, officers were responding to reports of an armed robbery at Burial Ground Corner and East Street.

Police said one of the men pointed a gun at the officers.

The officers, being in fear for their lives, shot the armed men.

The man was taken to hospital where he died.

Police shot and killed a man on Independence Drive on May 19 after he reportedly opened fire on them.

“I saw it before it [went] down,” he said.

“When I [came] from out the corner, right through Sandy Lane, I was going home and I [stood] up in front of my house and I [looked] back and I saw the [police] jeep come through [the corner].

“Only one of them [came] out at first[.]

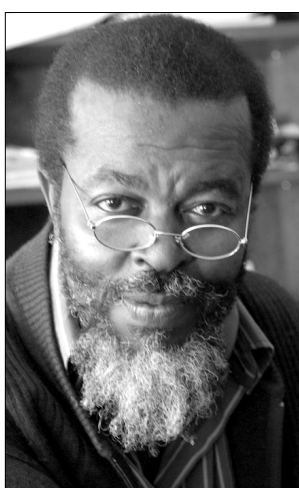
“Then the next one jumped out [of the vehicle]. When they search him, they ain't find nothing.

“I was watching them and couple of my [friends who were] down there who could see them too, [were] looking.

“When I watched them, they searched him, then [the officer pulled] out his gun, he pushed him off and he [shot] him up.”

Police yesterday shot and killed a 20-year-old man after he allegedly pointed a gun at officers on Sandy Lane, off McCullough Corner.

Relatives identified him as Deangelo Evans, a resi-



dent of Mason's Addition.

According to police, officers were responding to reports of an armed robbery at Burial Ground Corner and East Street.

The shooting triggered tension in the community with some residents at the scene claiming Evans was innocent.

Evans' mother, Beverly Lee, claimed police wrongfully profiled her son.

“If it takes [my last] cent for me to get my justice, I will get it with [my last] cent, and God will be on my side with this!

As tears welled up in her eyes she insisted:--“... God don't sleep. I leave it in God's hand...”

Lee, a mother of three, said she got the call early yesterday that her son was killed.

One man, who asked to remain anonymous, claimed he witnessed the incident.

“I saw it before it [went] down,” he said.

“When I [came] from out the corner, right through Sandy Lane, I was going home and I [stood] up in front of my house and I looked back and I saw the [police] jeep come through [the corner].

“Only one of them [came] out at first[.]

And yet, I say to you, my beloved brothers and sisters, please be reminded: --- God don't sleep!

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EDITORIAL

LABOUR--- THEN & NOW

In Sir Randol's words, "We knew that we were witnessing the birth of a new Bahamian working together with other Bahamians for a new Bahamas."

In Sir Clifford's words: "Little did I know on that Sunday morning in January 1958 that the stunning and unexpected aftermath of the general strike would pave the way for the turbulent decade of the sixties, ultimately leading to the freedom of majority rule for all Bahamians."

What we know for sure is this:--Once upon a time, great men did great things in The Bahamas; and for sure, amongst the greatest of things achieved by some of those men took place in 1958; with especial reference to the General Strike of that great year which was championed by Randol Fawkes, Lynden Pindling and Clifford Darling.

As we get set of celebrate another Labour Day, we feel constrained to suggest that: -- If we are to ever make The Bahamas the great little nation it might yet become, it is past urgent for the Bahamian people -- especially its leaders -- to be up and doing with seeing to it that, our youth are more fully aware of their country's fuller history; with especial reference to that long march -- as it were -- from Pompey to Pindling!

Evidently, it is this glorious past where struggle mixed and mingled through and through with aspiration gone to bed which --sadly-has been followed by what has become a very rough road for the labouring masses.

And thus, today, with nostalgia rife, some among us dream of the day when they might yet witness the emergence of the towering likes of Fawkes, Pindling and Darling! **Alas! That was Then---This is Now.**

And thus on this auspicious occasion: -- Let it also be known that becalmed as we are in these hard times, we are as lost as lost could be precisely because neither our churches or schools have been up to the challenge of preparing our youth for the challenges ahead; and thus today, we wallow in strife and far too many of us now suck on sorrows.

As Sir Randol records: -- "...At about 7am

January 13, 1958, Brother Pindling and I entered the Emerald Beach Hotel; rested our hands on the right shoulder of Saul Campbell, chief shop steward of the Hotel Workers Union and whispered, 'NOW!' This password re-echoed throughout the length and breadth of New Providence as our comrades performed similar ceremonies in other hotels."

This laying on of hands precipitated a general strike, one where:---Hundreds of hotel and electricity workers, garbage collectors, construction workers, longshoremen, civil servants, airline and restaurant staff walked off their jobs to the slogan "not a sweat".

As Fawkes concluded: -- Their action marked "the beginning of the end of British colonialism...white supremacy and racial discrimination."

Whilst it is true enough that this action marked the so-called beginning of the end to so much that was anathema in those long ago years, the fact remains that the workers' struggles for bread, for dignity and for respect continues.

But yet -- and thus most regrettably: It is today painfully obvious to many already in the know why today's crop of leaders --especially those who would be guides to the working masses--are themselves bereft of any real or deep understanding of the key role the labour movement and its movers and shakers played in helping in the modern 'emancipation' of the Bahamian people.

Indeed, then, it is clear that: -- These three men [and the people they led] --united in common effort for the achievement of the common were immensely successful in making a quiet revolution in a then deeply expectant Bahamas!

Sadly, this unity did not last---and as fate would have it: -- Fawkes was the man who moved the 1970 motion of no confidence in Prime Minister Pindling that precipitated a major split in the PLP and led to the formation of the Free National Movement.

And thus it follows: That 1970 Fawkes action led not only to the ascendancy of Hubert A. Ingraham in 1992; but also to Hubert A. Minnis, today's leader of the Free National Movement and prime minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

THE BAHAMAS
Sun, Sand, Sea and the
The Bahama Journal

NO BETTER READING

Clippings include: "Four Bodies Claimed", "22ND MURDER VICTIM IDENTIFIED", "Brush Fire Scorches Acres of Land", "Debris Hinders Business For Ferry Operators", "Alleged Election Fraudster: A No-Show In Court", "Haitian Burials Imminent", "Modern Men Bewildered", "GO TANKLESS", "Deans Building Supplies".



COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSES VISIT THE ELDERLY

▶ Visits to group homes and to the elderly are services provided by Community Health Nurses. These services were highlighted during the month of May, 'Nurses Month.' On their special 'Elderly Pamper Day' nurses from Community Nursing Services and the South Beach dental team, with Principal Officer Sandra Coleby, visited the elderly, provided dental cleaning & dental assessments, and manicures at Good Samaritan Home for the Aged in Yellow Elder, and A & A Comfort Care Centre in Pinewood Gardens. Shown also with some of the nurses is proprietor of Good Samaritan Home for the aged, Mr. Kendal Capron.



MINISTRY OF FINANCE

PUBLIC TREASURY DEPARTMENT

The Treasurer of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas is conducting a new vendor verification exercise to prepare for an upgrade to its digital payment processing system on **June 15**. This will affect all individuals and businesses providing goods and services to the Government.

It is very important for all vendors to participate in this verification exercise so they do not experience any discontinuation of payments. Failure to participate in the vendor verification process will result in the discontinuation of payments.

Vendors must **submit or confirm banking information and email contact information** with the Public Treasury. This must be done by completing a Vendor Verification Form, available online (Go to www.bahamas.gov.bs, go to Forms top left click on vendor verification form and download).

For the past three years, the Public Treasury has been transitioning away from the use of cheque payments and other manual processes. This year, the Treasury plans to eliminate cheque payments all together. Payments will be made by direct deposit. And as of **July 1**, **all notifications of payments will be sent by email**. This will allow vendors to receive immediate notification when payments are sent to their accounts.

Vendor Verification Process

1. Download Vendor Verification Form
2. Complete Form and Email to controlssection@bahamas.gov.bs
3. Or Fax to 397-5098

Vendor verification forms can also be obtained at the Treasury Department in New Providence, Grand Bahama and Abaco or by request via email controlssection@bahamas.gov.bs, and hand delivered at the Public Treasury, East & North Streets (opposite the Police Head-quarters, East Street)

Vendor Verification Information Required

- a) Banking Details
- b) Email Address
- c) Tax Identification Number (TIN)

For further details, please contact the Public Treasury Department at the following telephone numbers: 242-356-4219, 242-302-0534 or 242-302-0545 242-302-0525.

TREASURER, COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS



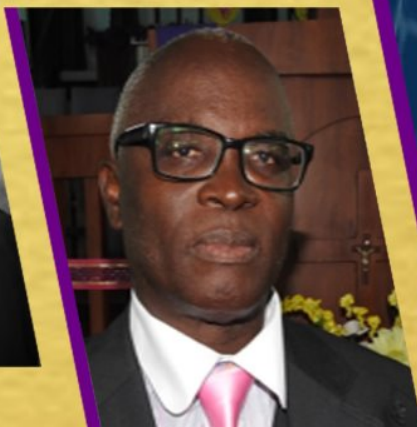
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Treasurer

SUNDAY, JUNE 3RD, 2018 AT 3:30PM

The William Thompson Auditorium, Jean Street, Gleniston Gardens

NASSAU, BAHAMAS

Industry Leaders Tapped for Bahamas Cryptocurrency Conference

FREPORT, GRAND BAHAMA - The government of The Bahamas has tapped leading industry names to provide a wealth of knowledge and insight at The Bahamas Blockchain & Cryptocurrency conference. The event slated for June 20th – 22nd, 2018 will see Grand Bahama open its doors to a thousand international investors, entrepreneurs, wealth management executives, Bahamas Government officials, and business leaders converging on the nation's second city to not only network but to gain better insight into the regulatory framework that The Bahamas will be establishing for cryptocurrencies, ICOs and exchanges.

The conference will also put a spotlight on industry professionals who continue to make waves in the Blockchain revolution. Among them is Executive Chairman of Quantex Digital Asset Exchange Bank, Manie Eagar. Since it was founded, Quantex Digital has spearheaded the work to create the world's first licensed fiat and cryptocurrency bank; as well as an exchange platform with a full suite liquidity enablement and tokenization factory.

Eagar is also the founder and Chair of the

Blockchain Association of Canada and the BC Blockchain Forum, Director of the BC Blockchain Ecosystem Consortium and boasts an impressive track record in banking (Barclays), telecommunications (Vodafone & Dimension Data), and investment management (J&J Group/Old Mutual).

In addition to leading panel discussions on the funding of cryptocurrency endeavours, Eagar will share his successes and challenges in the ever-changing crypto environment, on the second day of sessions. He will also discuss how blockchain technology has changed the way the economies grow and develop, an important factor to the growing offshore Bahamian financial sector.

Joining Eagar will be global thought leader, Anthony Di Iorio, CEO of Decentral, who will speak on 'Decentralized technologies'. Di Iorio, who has led the charge on blockchain focused software development and for the past 6 years and has personally invested heavily in blockchain and cryptocurrency companies and is listed by Forbes Magazine as one of the richest men in cryptocurrency. In 2014, his venture project 'Ethereum' raised

\$18 million, becoming the largest, completed crowd-funded project of its time. His company was recently valued at \$30 billion.

Joining the impressive collection of international speakers will be Prime Minister, Dr. the Honorable Hubert Minnis who is expected to outline his administration's commitment to creating a sustainable digital environment.

"Since the very beginning, it has been the intent of the Minnis led administration to transform Grand Bahama into a digital hub" explained Minister for Grand Bahama, Senator Kwasi Thompson. "This is just the first in a series of steps we are taking to help cement the island's reputation as a leader in innovative technologies and we have enlisted the best and brightest to help us make that vision a reality".

Individuals or companies interested in participating in the upcoming conference are encouraged to register early to secure their seat at the event by visiting the conference website at <https://blockchainbahamasconference.com/>. Information on Block Chain and cryptocurrency can be found on the event's social media platforms as well, and the Office of the Prime Minister welcomes Bahamians to attend and

join this new digital revolution.

"In the end, we hope this conference will not only position the island of Grand Bahama as the leader in the Caribbean in technology," said Thompson. "We would also like to see this event create new opportunities for Bahamians."

#BBCC INFO

In The Bahamas Government's continued progression to develop Freeport, Grand Bahama Island as the "Silicon Valley of The Caribbean", the recognized personalities in Fintech will congregate in Grand Bahama June 20 – 22, 2018 for this year's Bahamas Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Conference.

The Bahamas Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Conference will be held at The Grand Lucayan Convention Centre creating a primed environment for venture capitalist, unique entrepreneurs, local and international industry leaders to meet, and create revolutionary Fintech strides within the region. Visit website: blockchainbahamasconference.com for more info or on their Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or LinkedIn pages.



► Executive Chairman of Quantex Digital Manie Eagar is one of several international blockchain industry leaders tapped to participate in the upcoming Blockchain & Cryptocurrency conference slated for June 20-22 this year. Eagar will discuss how blockchain technology has changed the way the economies grow and develop, an important factor in the growing offshore Bahamian financial sector.



► Global thought leader, Anthony Di Iorio, CEO of Decentral, who will speak on 'Decentralized technologies'. Di Iorio who has led the charge on blockchain focused software development and for the past 6 years and has personally invested heavily in blockchain and cryptocurrency companies and is listed by Forbes Magazine as one of the richest men in cryptocurrency.

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THE BAHAMAS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOR

STRATEGY FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY DEVELOPMENT IN THE
BAHAMAS
ANATOL RODGERS HIGH SCHOOL ENERGY RETROFITS

This notice appears in local papers online and in the printed version. The official publication date of this notice is considered the date that it is posted online.

The Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Ministry of the Environment and Housing has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP), to request competitive tenders from qualified companies to provide a cost-effective solution for the Energy Efficiency Retrofit (EER) at Anatol Rodgers High School, located on the island of New Providence in The Bahamas.

The goal of the EER is to decrease annual energy demand and improve comfort through the installation of energy conservation measures (ECM) and a rooftop solar PV array. Accordingly, Bidders are expected to design, supply and install the following ECMs:

- 250 kW-DC rooftop solar PV array;
- robust exterior lighting control system;
- vacancy sensors in all classrooms, computer labs, and lounges to control lights and ceiling fans;
- louver sensor interlock at gymnasium;
- programmable thermostats throughout the school;
- low-flow lavatory aerators;
- re-zone interior lighting system at entrance;
- re-organize refrigerant lines from condensing units; and
- commissioning new systems and retro-commissioning existing ones.

The successful bidder will be required to implement the project with a design-build contract that ensures a guarantee from the General Contractor to complete ECMs at an agreed schedule and budget, and will be responsible for the performance of all subcontractors.

Bidders are requested to acknowledge receipt of this RFP by responding via box.com to minofenvironmentandhousing@bahamas.gov.bs and rford.contractor@rmi.org by 23rd May, 2018, for receipt confirmation. All subsequent information regarding this RFP, including changes made to the document, addenda, responses to questions, and any notifications will be directed only to Bidders who acknowledge receipt of the RFP.

Mandatory site visits will be conducted during the week of 11th June, 2018. Updated site visit information will be emailed only to Bidders who complete the receipt confirmation and declare intention to attend the site visit.

All bidders are expected to request clarifications by 22nd June, 2018, and final responses to requests for clarification will be issued on 29th June, 2018.

Proposals are to be delivered electronically to minofenvironmentandhousing@bahamas.gov.bs and rford.contractor@rmi.org in English, and must be received on 13th July, 2018, by 23:59 hours (Daylight Saving Time).

Proposals will be evaluated based on the strength of the company and its project proposal, project costs and employment practices.

A detailed RFP can be downloaded from the official Bahamas Government Website at www.bahamas.gov.bs from the Tender and Notice section. For additional information, Bidders can contact the Ministry of the Environment and Housing at telephone number 397-9450 or 322-6005/6 or at minofenvironmentandhousing@bahamas.gov.bs.