

STANDARD SERVICES SUPPLIES LTD.
 Shirley & Church Street
 Phone: 322-4635



Shop at STANDARD SERVICES where you could get **20% OFF** Houseware, linen, lamps and draperies, and much, much more

The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

DEAN & ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS
 "Meeting Your Needs Efficiently and Professionally"



BUILDINGS (COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL)
 LIFE - GROUP - MEDICAL - ANNUITIES - LIABILITY - MARINE - HOMEOWNERS - AUTO

Tel: (242)-356-0986 Fax: (242)-356-0987
 Deal's Plaza, Mackey Street
 P.O. Box CB-15952 Nassau, Bahamas
 8:30am - 4:30pm

VOL. 30 - NO. 147

WEDNESDAY - MAY 9TH, 2018

75 CENTS

PM LAUNCHES DELIVERY UNIT

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

P rime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis can now monitor government agencies and readily access all that information he needs, be it education, statistics, crime, health or otherwise, as a result of the launch of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (PMDU) in the Office of the Prime Minister.

The whole idea of the PMDU is to establish a management mechanism that essentially underscores accountability, transparency and results delivery throughout the country.

At a press conference to launch the initiative, Dr. Minnis was joined by Marie-Claude Bibeau, Canada's Minister of International Development, and a delegation along with her, and Florencia Hirt a representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), that is funding the project.

The six key priorities — the Over-the-Hill rejuvenation project, land reform, energy reform and infrastructure, ease of doing business, safety and security, Dr. Minnis said this is all in keeping with his government's commitment to be accountable and transparent.

"To achieve this, deliberate and strategic steps, must be taken to ascertain the needs of Bahamian citizens and the trends of key indicators affecting their everyday lives.



► Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis addresses the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit Launch press conference at the Office of the Prime Minister, May 8, 2018. Also seated at the table, from left: Minister of Health Duane Sands, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Carl Bethel, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest, IDB Country Representative Florencia Attademo-Hirt, Canada's Minister of International Development Marie-Claude Bibeau, and Chief Operating Officer/PMDU Viana Gardiner. (BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay)

BCCEC ASSESSING GOV'T PERFORMANCE

BY TIA THOMPSON

The Chief Executive Officer of Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers' Confederation Edison says he is unable to give the Minnis administration a grade on performance after a year in office.

Mr. Sumner was responding to the questions at a press conference Monday when he said, "we are still assessing. We know that there are a number of policies and programs that have been implemented, mainly programs carried on from the previous (PLP) government."

Mr. Sumner spoke of initiatives already being taken. "Understanding that as a new government, they took some time to get their feet wet. We've seen some measures taken, some initiatives being implemented; many of which the chamber has spoken to," he said.

Some Bahamians are asking the question, what has the FNM government done so far. Sumner outlined some of the things, he said that the governing party has done and been working on. "Issues relative to looking at some initiatives the government has in place for reviewing tax infrastructure for the country, public procurement and financial sectors put in place, they are advancing that from the previous governing party and that is something we can applaud them for.

■ See BCCEC ASSESSING GOV'T on PAGE 3...

BPL SYSTEM NEEDS UPDATING, SAYS UNION LEADER

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

After a much anticipated meeting last week between Bahamas Power and Light (BPL) executives and Bahamas Electrical Workers Union (BEWU) representatives, BEWU President, Paul Maynard said, they are still working things out now that there is dialogue between the parties involved.

Mr. Maynard stressed the need for the company's system to be updated, and that



► Bahamas Electrical Workers Union (BEWU) President, Paul Maynard

he said is no easy fix.

"Our system is antiquated it needs to be upgraded. We haven't had a protection audit from 1990, and they

fixed the problem back then and now it's out of whack again.

■ See SYSTEM NEEDS / page 2...

"BAHAMAS LAGGING IN RETAINING NURSES"

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

When it comes to how the government should tackle the country's chronic nursing shortage, Nurses Union Secretary General, Julian Mullings says initiatives and ideas have been presented, but up to this point, nothing has come to fruition.

Responding to a statement made by Health Minister, Dr. Duane Sands on the shortage of nurses in the country, Mr. Mullings said that more than 15 years ago the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) said that various countries should

begin initiatives in recruitment and retention of nurses. However, The Bahamas is lagging behind.

"Several countries have begun their initiatives and are reaping the rewards for their efforts.

"Initiatives were presented, and ideas were presented to the Ministry of Health on several occasions. To-date the Ministry of Health cannot state what they have done to correct this anomaly in this regard," Mr. Mullings said.

During a recent press conference, Mr. Mullings stated that the country will continue to have a shortage of nurses in the country because no ini-

tiative has been put in place to retain them.

"What initiative has been put in place for The Bahamas to correct the nursing shortage in our country?"

"The response made by our minister is a slap in the face. Just to say we will employ additional contract workers, that's a slap in the face to this profession and to our very own people in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

"You see recruitment companies coming over to The Bahamas recruiting our young minds. Offering them funds, better employment conditions, benefits. The

nurse who remains cannot obtain an opportunity for additional studies. They're being denied, because they don't have their confirmation letter. They are being denied their basic pay because their confirmation has not been regularized. So, nurses are reacting, they are leaving the country," Mr. Mullings said.

When asked what it would take to keep the nurse in the country, Mr. Mullings suggested that the reintroduction of the bonded system could still work.

"Initiatives have been presented but we have yet to initiate a recruitment and

retention project for The Bahamas. It can be reversed. But if we continue to put our head in the sand and think it will go away. We are going to wake up with a bigger problem in years to come.

"We must create a Recruitment and Retention Project Office that will address and encourage young Bahamians to come into the nursing profession.

It has been done before and it still can be done.

"Bond your students, give them bonded scholarships. It worked before and it can still be done now," Mr. Mullings said.

Nurses are demanding Dr. Sands meets them at the negotiating table to air their grievances. In the meantime, they've applied for a strike poll.

Let Your Advertising Dollar Go A LONG WAY....

Advertise In The Bahama Journal
 Call Our Sales Team At: 356-9071-3



LOVE CASH N'GO

CASH N'GO 322-CASH (2274) simplycashngo.com

STAY WITH THE FOLKS YOU KNOW.

- PAY BILLS • SEND MONEY
- PURCHASE AIRLINE TICKETS
- PAY INSURANCE
- VISA PAYMENTS



BPL SYSTEM NEEDS UPDATING, SAYS UNION LEADER

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"It needs to be fixed, simple. And that's the problem, and this [isn't] an easy fix either," he said.

"The public believes you can just go out there and buy a whole protection system [but] they have to come in here, audit it, know what it needs to do and it's going to cause at least 15 million dollars to fix it, it's not as simple as apples and oranges.

"It took us a long while to get into this foolishness and it's going to take us some time to get out," he added.

Mr. Maynard said they're waiting on an auditor to assess the system, but that there's no guarantee this will be anytime soon.

"They say they [have to] bring someone to do an audit, but then he now has to fix it, so you're looking at next year maybe, and that's if the turnaround time is good.

"You're looking at January/ February which isn't a big deal, because it's the winter time but you understand what I'm saying."

The union president also pointed to Sunday's power outage as a result of the outdated system.

"Lightning [struck] the 132 KB transmission line, and this is exactly what I was saying, and see everyone around town making noise saying, I said that I will turn the light off but I further stated that we don't have to do anything, we could sit back and it'll happen," he said.



Prime Minister's Delivery Unit Chief Operating Officer, Mrs. Viana Gardiner conducts a tour of the new unit at the Office of the Prime Minister, May 8, 2018. (BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay)

PM LAUNCHES DELIVERY UNIT

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"Today, with the launch of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (PMDU), we are one step closer to achieving, or enhancing, our collective performance in respect of all of these objectives," Dr. Minnis said.

According to Dr. Minnis, the PMDU will follow international, best practices as a guide in delivering meaningful and long-lasting results that affect Bahamians; the way in which the United Kingdom and Canada do in delivering meaningful and long-lasting results to its citizens.

"The Delivery Unit and this methodology helped the British government to achieve 80 per cent of its targets to provide improved outcomes for its citizens. We are fortunate to have Delivery Associates, the firm subsequently formed by Sir Michael,

assisting us in setting up the PMDU," Dr. Minnis said.

The government has partnered with the IDB, which in turn has made available the Public Financial Management – performance monitoring reform loan facility. IDB representative Mrs. Hirt said that The Bahamas is the first to implement the unit in the Caribbean.

"The PMF is about a more effective and efficient private sector and it's about accountability and transparency.

"Government performance monitoring has been a challenge across the region and I don't only mean the Caribbean, [but] Latin America and the Caribbean.

"And it certainly has been a challenge for some of our Delivery Partners, like Canada and the UK. So, the Delivery Unit is specifically

designed to strengthen the management capacity of the public sector to monitor priority projects and programmes more effectively.

"I want to congratulate The Bahamas again. This is the first Delivery Unit being set up in the Caribbean," Mrs. Hirt said.

Also involved in today's launch is Canada's Minister of International Development Marie-Claude Bibeau, shared her country's approach to results and delivery.

"The goal of the initiative is to make sure that the government stays on track to achieve its commitments, at the end of the day a result and delivery approach makes everything explicit.

"So players know what the goal is, and what they have to do to get there; adopting a result and delivery approach has been a positive experi-

ence for Canada.

"It is my sincere hope that The Bahamas would find as much value in this approach as we have. And as we are a friend of the Caribbean, with rich historical ties, and a longstanding friendship through organizations such as La Francophonie and the Commonwealth, I hope you know that you can count on Canada to assist in anyway we can as you embark on this new initiative," Mrs. Bibeau said.

According to Viana Gardiner, PMDU's Chief Operating Officer, the public will have access to tracking and monitoring the delivery units progress.

Chief delivery officers have already been identified in some government agencies that are connected to the key priorities.

The PMDU is expected to come on stream in the next three months.

Soldanza
NOW AVAILABLE
THE GOOD NATURAL SNACK!

Soldanza
Cassava Chips
Cream & Onion

Soldanza
Plantain Chips
Lightly Salted

Soldanza
Ripe Plantain Chips
Naturally Sweet

Soldanza
Cassava Chips
Original

milobutler
RESPECT, QUALITY AND VALUE GUARANTEED.

(242) 677-6380
PEACH STREET OFF MONTROSE AVENUE

Taste Perfection...

Join us for
Mother's Day Brunch

Crusoe's RESTAURANT

Comfort Suites Paradise Island
Sunday, May 13th, 2018
12 noon - 4:30p.m.

"Live Entertainment"

Kids Eat Free Promotion meals available
on Crusoe's a-la-carte kids menu
Regular Crusoe's menu also available

"Ask about our Amazing Mother's Day Menu"

For Reservations
Dial: 363 - 3680 Ext. 6376 or 6404



▶ Ziad teaming up with executives during the opening of Pirate's Cove Zipline and Water Park in Grand Bahama from left to right are: Ziad Hidmi, Donna Mackey and the Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis, Prime Minister of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Ziad Hidmi, Owner of Admiral Cruises Committed to The Bahamas

• One of the Top Producers of Day Trippers to Grand Bahama and Bimini

PLANTATION, Florida – Ziad Hidmi, owner of Admiral Cruises has been selling cruise packages to The Bahamas for more than thirty years, and has no plans of stopping anytime soon. In fact, the New Jerusalem native is one of the top producers of cruise business to Grand Bahama and Bimini Islands.

A master interior designer and decorator, Ziad said he first visited Grand Bahama Island, via Sea Escape, after moving to Miami more than thirty years ago. He said, "I immediately fell in love with the island and its people and decided that I wanted to further promote and sell it".

In 1988, Ziad opened a travel agency in Sunny Isles, Florida and committed to sell The Bahamas exclusively. He did so first via Sea Escape, then Imperial Majesty to Nassau, Discovery Cruise Lines, The Cat and now through Balearia Caribbean, FRS Caribbean, Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line and Celebration Cruise Lines.

According to Ziad, despite environmental setbacks deriving from storms in the Caribbean in 2017, he sent 28,000 persons to Grand Bahama, 26,500 to Bimini and 3,800 two-day cruisers. Based on current trends and bookings, he projects that 2018 will far exceed previous years'



▶ Wrapped travel bus promotes Grand Bahama Island eco tour and Balearia Caribbean Cruise Line.

bookings.

"The passion, loyalty and commitment Ziad has for The Bahamas is incredible," said Donna Mackey, Senior Sales Manager for the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation.

"We are indeed grateful to him and his team, for their relentless vigor and determination to promote our country, but more importantly, to improve our economy in so doing," she said.

Ziad recently completed a film shoot in Grand Bahama that captured some of the island's most alluring tours and sought-after activities. He also teamed up with the owners and operators of Balearia Caribbean Cruise Line and Grand Bahama's

Pirate's Cove Zipline and Water Park, one of the island's newest and popular tourist attractions to jumpstart its marketing and promotions in Florida. They recently wrapped two buses promoting the ship and the beautiful waters of The Bahamas and are in the process of wrapping a third bus, featuring Grand Bahama's eco-tours. "These initiatives are proving beneficial for us," he said.

"We have already seen a 60% increase in business for the first three months in 2018 and based on these current trends and bookings, we project that our year-end numbers will far exceed bookings in previous years," he said.

BCCEC ASSESSING GOV'T PERFORMANCE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"We like the way the issuing of government contracts is progressing. The government initiated the citizen security and injustice program continuing from previous administration... and forward movements on the national apprentice program."

He said, "we are looking forward to seeing draft of the budget before it is presented to Parliament. We'll see how much of the recommendations were put into budget. Once those things have been put into the budget, then

we'll know that the government is serious about moving things forward."

Sumner continued, "this is not an easy country to run, it is indeed a difficult one.

As far as actual governance is concerned, we know that the government, just like any other government has met with a number of challenges. Some still being worked through, like environmental issues. I wouldn't stand at this point and give the government a grade. It's a complex thing. I'll simply say the chamber is working with the government on a number of things," said Mr. Sumner.

For Mom

GUESS

LAND
LEATHER CRAFTSMANSHIP EST 1969

RIONI

kipling

Brass & Leather

THE LUGGAGE STORE

T.: 322-3806

SPOTLIGHT ON BAIN GRANTS TOWN

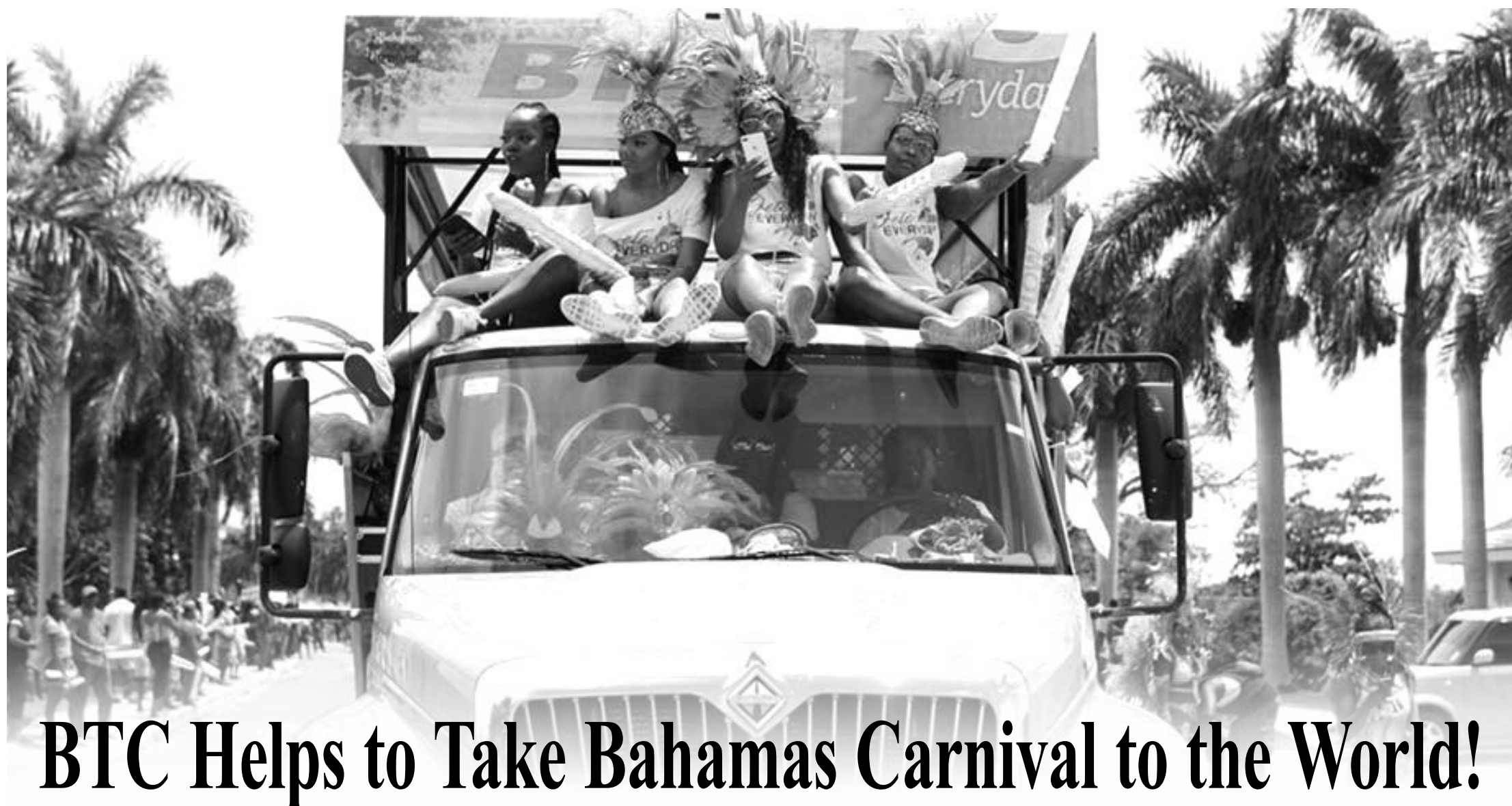
**THURSAYS 7:30 P.M.
SATURDAYS 9:00 A.M.**

LOVE 97

HOST; REV. DR. C. B. MOSS

THE MOST UNIQUE SHOW ON RADIO

DON'T MISS IT



BTC Helps to Take Bahamas Carnival to the World!

BTC was the proud title sponsor for last weekend's awesome Bahamas Carnival experience. Thousands flocked to the thrilling three-day event which featured numerous local and regional acts including DMAC, Wendi, Dyson Knight, Destra Garcia and Machel Montano. And, for the first time in Bahamas Carnival history, DJ Khaled mounted the stage for a power pact performance.

BTC also sponsored five carnival groups including Bahamas Masqueraders, Enigma, Xtasy, Reckless Pirates and Euphoria. All groups showed up feathered, bejewelled and

with a kaleidoscope of colour.

BTC's Vice President for Marketing & Sales, Marcian Cash said, "This year's Bahamas Carnival was definitely an experience and we were grateful to be the title sponsor for this year's event. We are pleased with the significant amount of exposure this event garnered."

BTC will continue to support the furtherance of culture in the country. Later this year, the company will continue its sponsorship of the Junkanoo in New Providence and in several Family Islands.



Fidelity Bank Apprenticeship Program

Across The Fidelity Group, we are driven by a clear purpose – making a positive difference in the lives of our colleagues so they can make a positive difference in the lives of customers and in the communities we serve! Therefore, in keeping with our guiding principles, and in support of our continued growth, we are seeking to attract PHDs to join our team. Job applicants who are Passionate, Highly Motivated & Driven to Succeed and wish to become Banking and Finance Apprentices should apply.

What can Participants in our Apprenticeship Program expect and what will they be doing?

We have a reputation for being a training bank. So naturally, we will be providing great personal and professional development with the opportunity to advance to supervisory and managerial positions in an accelerated program.

We will help participants to develop an in-depth knowledge of our products, services and processes; enhancing their communication, leadership, and people skills.

Our Apprenticeship Program is comprised as follows:

- One year in Deposit Administration, Business Development, and Customer Service
- One year in Loan Administration and Lending
- One year in Operations, Compliance, and Special Projects

To service our customers while being trained, coached and mentored requires that participants in our Apprenticeship Program can work flexible hours in any of our branches in New Providence, Freeport or Marsh Harbour, and are available to work on Saturdays as required. Fidelity offers Saturday Banking at most of its branches.

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:

- Ability to persevere and commit to a three (3) year program
- Ability to learn quickly in a fast paced environment
- Ability to receive constructive feedback
- Giving "EXTRA", with a passion for providing exceptional customer service
- Professional in demeanor, deportment, and dress
- High ethical standards in your work and personal life
- A passion for sales and solicitation in a strong sales culture

Additionally participants will need to possess either of the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree with a GPA of 3.0 or above or
- An Associate's Degree with a GPA of 3.0 or above, and four (4) BGCSEs with a 'C' grade or above or
- A High School Diploma with a GPA of 2.8 or above, and four (4) BGCSEs with a 'C' grade or above and five (5) years working experience in any capacity

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



PLEASE SUBMIT RESUME AND TRANSCRIPT BEFORE: April 20th, 2018

HUMAN RESOURCES

Re: Apprentice Program
51 Frederick Street | P.O. Box N-4853 | Nassau | F: 328.1108
careers@fidelitybahamas.com

A HODGEPODGE OF INCOHERENCE

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.

Once again, Richard Coulson is spouting off in his favorite daily, but this time in a mixed up and confusing sounding letter to the editor.

He appears to be trying to castigate fashion mogul Peter Nygard while degrading Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) leaders for enjoying Nygard's hospitality when thanking him for his contributions to Bahamian youth.

In that letter, Coulson also talks about political contributions and environmental offences; he attacks several PLP members and makes reference to "attempts to resurrect the PLP by citing its past virtues".

He ends his letter with attempting to make the point that he is non-partisan, and that he criticizes Dr. Minnis when necessary for "his rash unsubstantiated claims about the financial costs of PLP corruption".

It's all quite confusing, actually.

It's unclear what the point of Coulson's letter is other than to cast aspersions on Peter Nygard and attack him for a supposed smear campaign.

The only thing Coulson has succeeded in doing is to sound more like a roving idle mind than like an individual with any coherent or sensible views on a subject.

There are two challenges to any point he appears to be trying to make:

First of all, Coulson himself is participating in a smear campaign without citing the facts. It is obvious he is attempting to smear Peter Nygard and others. He states that Nygard was engaged in a "libelous and malicious campaign" and describes his character as "mendacious".

In a previous article, Coulson attacked Mr. Nygard when a young man wrote how "Peter Nygard and his family have been a blessing to The Bahamas". In his article, Coulson denigrated Mr. Nygard's family, called another writer "star-struck", who was writing about Nygard's contributions to Stem Cell research, and belittled Nygard's contributions calling it "hype".

THE CLIFTON REVIEW

By P. J. Malone

The Clifton Review is a bi-weekly column that examines the question of the Clifton project along with the evolution of the war between two billionaires, the links to unsavory characters, the use of the courts for personal agendas, the involvement of the Government opposition party (the FNM), and the attacks on the Government of The Bahamas.

Coulson went on to attack Nygard's "brawny arm", his home, and individuals associating with Peter Nygard. Then his attacks on Nygard appeared petty, cruel, and almost borne from jealousy. In another article he criticized Nygard for "pretty girls admiring his bronzed torso." I don't know about you but sounds like jealousy to me.

Even now though, there appears to be no logic to Coulson's attacks.

Secondly, this supposedly objective man, as Coulson describes himself, is not pointing to the smear campaign that Save The Bays has launched against Peter Nygard even though there is sufficient evidence of the efforts to smear Peter Nygard.

All Coulson needed to do is look back at all of Save The Bays' full page advertisements in his favorite daily excoriating Nygard; and he only need review Save The Bays' numerous attacks against Peter Nygard for doing the same things they themselves have been accused of doing.

Coulson writes as if he is in possession of all of the facts to which he speaks. But in essence, there are missing facts along with a bunch of really confusing statements—more of a hodgepodge of a mess.

If Coulson wants to be taken seriously, we'd advise conducting more research, including more facts, writing more objectively about everyone involved, and most importantly, arguing more logically, and presenting his statements more coherently.

Otherwise, it will always be seen as the disjointed ramblings of an idle mind.

The Bahama Journal Is An Independent Newspaper - Published Week Days
By The Communicators & Associates In Affiliation With Jones Communications Ltd.
East St. North - P.O. Box N-8610
Telephone: 242-325-3082 - Fax: 242 -356-7256

Wendall K. Jones
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer



The Bahama Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Kimaley P. Jones
Vice President Operations

E D I T O R I A L

GRAND RHETORIC

- 0. This FNM government has led the country back to economic growth.
- 1. Our national security team is having success in the crime fight.
- 2. We are transforming the electricity network.
- 3. We are leading a revival of Over-the-Hill communities.
- 4. We will lead the recovery of Grand Bahama.
- 5. We will bring new opportunities to the Family Islands.

"Our opponents suffered a mighty defeat on May 10th, 2017--The Bahamian people saw that their rule was all about self-interest. The people's resources and money was being wasted by a party that was leading our Bahamas down the path to ruin. Dr. Minnis said his administration has led the country back to economic growth, underscoring initiatives like the planned Over-the-Hill revival scheme and the revamped bread-basket items as evidence of the government's commitment to social transformation in tandem with economic development.

As presented and formulated, we cannot and will not agree with this rhetorically exaggerated characterization of how the politics of this country has been conducted by either the Free National Movement or by the Progressive Liberal Party.

And for sure, we cannot and will not accept – as fact – any proposition which claims that:-- The PLP craves power for the sake of power.

Time marches on.

And for sure, as event follows event in that political world where both major parties now spar and do their politically-motivated antics and shenanigans; there is now that dawning sense where many Bahamians are tiring of what some see as an endless set of rhetorical battles between these leaders and party faithful.

And now the biggest FNM claim of all:-- We are

cleaning up corruption in government; [and then]:- With flourish gone to bed, the word in the wind crows:-- We are embarked on one of the most ambitious social transformation efforts in our nation's history.

As far as grand rhetoric is concerned--these claims are just so marvellous!

In the meantime, doctors and nurses are restive and the smell of strike action is in the air!

This is precisely why we would suggest that:-- When the history of these times is remembered, we seriously suspect that – as this or that scribe pens her report – the record would show that this was a very strange time in the life and times of the Bahamian people.

Indeed, we do suspect that the scribe in question might well discover that, this was a time when the 2017 General Election Campaign did not just end with the Free National Movement's great victory, but that the FNM politically charged effort continued well into the year 2018.

And thus, today even as we continue to wish the new administration, we must confess that we are somewhat discomfited by suggestions made by this nation's prime minister as he chided any and all who would criticize him publicly.

If credit is to be given to any and all who made it possible for the Free National Movement to take the reins of government on May 10th, 2017, some of that winning stuff must be given to the leadership of the Progressive Liberal Party.

For many politicians on either the prowl for public adulation or for the support of the masses, their use of exaggerated rhetoric is par for the course; and thus much of that "hot-air" rhetoric that sometimes gushes out, like nobody's business.

With this in mind, then, we would suggest that surely Dr. Hubert A. Minnis is quite guilty of doing the exaggeration thing when he claims that:-- "...The PLP craves power for the sake of power..."

In truth, then, there is evidence galore to show that when it comes to power that is really-real, most of that capacity is rooted in the private sector; and thus, we respectfully suggest that neither the PLP nor its political opposite, FNM should be labelled as cravers of power for the sake of power.

And clearly, the real record would show that neither party has a monopoly on the affection of either the crowd or our social and moneyed elites.

Majority Rule in The Bahamas

BY PIERRE V. L. DUPUCH

When Hitler came to power he used a secret weapon called Goebbels. Goebbels was Hitler's Minister of Propaganda who believed that if a lie was repeated often enough people would start believing it. And it did wonders for him. He destroyed Germany and killed six-million Jews.

The PLP had its own Goebbels. The lie of Majority Rule has been repeated often and now is believed. But, thank God, the young people of this country

are now using the two phrases that keep Democracy alive, "why" and "how come".

The PLP's Goebbels would have us believe that Majority Rule was racially based and only achieved on Jan 10, 1967. That was a lie.

If Majority Rule should be based on race, how come Barack Obama became the President of the United States? After all, white people are the Majority in the United States. So race based Majority Rule does not work. Furthermore, it is discriminatory.

If Majority Rule were based on gender, then women should be the Majority to Rule because women are the majority gender in The Bahamas. So that theory does not work. It would also be discriminatory. And any form of discrimination is wrong.

So let us try religion. The majority of people in The Bahamas are Baptist. If religion is used as a criterion, the Majority to rule should be Baptist. This does not work either. It is also discriminatory.

So following the

Bahamian Goebbels' logic, we must conclude that we should be ruled by Black, Bahamian, Baptist Women.

Following this theory, that would be our conclusion.

Foolish, discriminatory and just plain dumb.

So let's try something else. Let's try "Bahamian". It's not discriminatory and it is universal. Now that fits!!! Bahamian.

So when did the Bahamian vote become "universal"? The answer is simple. It became universally Bahamian in November of 1962 when women were

allowed to vote. It was the first time the **MAJORITY OF BAHAMIANS** ruled in The Bahamas.

In November of 1962, the Majority of Bahamians voted and overwhelmingly the Majority of them voted for the UBP!! So, if the truth be told, the first Majority Rule government in The Bahamas was the UBP.

On January 10th, 1967, the same "universal Bahamian" voter voted for the PLP, making them the SECOND Majority Rule Government in The Bahamas.

Is that hard to understand? Why do people have to lie? Thank God the young Bahamian people are asking questions. Keep it up. You may discover a few more lies that have been repeated often and are now being taken to be "truths".

But there is hope. Today we have two fresh leaders, one PLP Philip "Brave" Davis and the other FNM Dr. Hubert Minnis. It is my sincere hope that this new day will bring less propaganda and more sunshine for the Bahamian people. We'll see. Both men are capable.



Island Roots Heritage Festival Closes Out Another Successful Year

ABACO - Attendees of the 13th Annual Island Roots Heritage Festival (IRHF) quickly learned that even the rain won't stop the show in Green Turtle Cay. Hundreds of tourists and locals filled the settlement from May 4-5 to celebrate the shared Loyalist heritage between the residents of Key West, Florida and New Plymouth, Green Turtle Cay, Abaco.

Attendees were treated to a full day of activities including a vibrant speaker series on various topics including the history of Green Turtle Cay (GTC), the impact of hurricanes on the Abacos and The Bahamas DNA Project.

During the speaker series, other lively activities took place like the plaiting of the maypole, conch cracking, conch horn contests and various cultural shows.

Every night closed with a mini concert headlined by some of The Bahamas' hottest music artists including Bodine and the New Entry Band.

When festivalgoers weren't immersing themselves in the vibrant GTC culture, they could be seen patronizing a variety of vendors at the IRHF.

Paulette Mortimer, a Nassauvian and owner of Third Eye Artwork and Collectables, said she enjoys coming to the IRHF to show off her artwork.

"It's vacation and work. It helps me relax and unplug from the city



life. It also gives me a way to be more creative. The profit I receive isn't always monetary but it's more mental and spiritual. I just come to show my work, just to keep doing it because this is my passion," she said.

Gwendolyn Laing, owner of La Shays Boutique located in Freeport, Port Lucaya, said the reaction to her products has always been good.

"This is our fourth or fifth time at the IRHF. We come from Freeport every year here and it's really nice. Not only to sell but to relax, just to get away from home so we bring our craft to sell at the same time. The reaction has been pretty good, the locals and the tourists that attend like the stuff and we've been having pretty good sales so it's pretty good," she said.

Visitors could be seen sampling all the delectable Bahamian food onsite, enjoying the cultural displays and when they got tired, even hanging out in golf carts.

First-time visitors, Roxanne and Joseph Ravalli from San Diego, California, said the IRHF was enjoyable.

"The IRHF was a blast, it was a lot of fun. I like the fact that everything that is on sale is handmade. They make it sell. I've purchased the hat that's on my head and the bracelet that's on my wrist, it's great," Roxanne said.

Joseph said his favourite thing was the food.

"I've had about eight or ten different things. I had grouper, conch salad, conch fritters; the potato salad is not like any other potato

salad I've ever had. It's really different and good. The coleslaw wasn't like KFC coleslaw, it was even better to me," he said.

According to Roxanne, "This tastes like home to me."

Myra Ravalli from Greenbrier, Arkansas, also a first-time visitor, said she enjoyed the IRHF because of the cultural aspect.

"I love the IRHF, everyone has been just great. I listened to the ceremony earlier and learned quite a bit of stuff about the island and the sisterhood with the Florida Keys and everything was awesome. I'm sorry I missed out on the heritage demonstration yesterday, but I'm excited to hear about the hurricanes and how they impacted the islands. We booked this vacation and I didn't know about the heritage festival and

then I learned about it after I had booked. I was happy because we prefer a more cultural experience than a touristy or commercialized experience and that's what attracted us to this island and that's why we're enjoying the festival," she said.

Manager of the Abaco Tourist Office, Wynsome Ferguson, said this year's festival has made a tremendous economic impact.

"IRHF is important to the community of GTC because of the huge economic impact the festival brings to hundreds of people on the island. Whether it's the boaters or the hotels and rental homes, the island is totally booked. We have people who had to stay on the mainland of Treasure Cay and as far as Marsh Harbour," she said.





HAITI'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAKES COURTESY CALL ON MINISTER SYMONETTE

► Minister of Financial Services, Trade & Industry and Immigration, Brent Symonette, left, received Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Haiti, Antonio Rodrigue in a courtesy call at the Ministry, May 8, 2018. **(BIS Photo/Derek Smith)**

Eneas Files By Godfrey Eneas

We Became an Inward Looking People Part 2: 21st Century Realities

During the latter part of the 20th century, two very important events took place. These two events would dramatically alter the political and economic landscape of the world.

Politically, the Cold War was a state of geopolitical tension after World War II between powers in the Eastern Bloc and powers in the Western Bloc between 1947-1991. The symbolism of its ending were the demolition of the Berlin Wall in November 1989, Mikhail Gorbachev's declaration that the Soviet Union would no longer use its military to subdue the satellite states of the Warsaw Pact in 1988, and the reunification of Germany. The words of President Ronald Reagan still echoes—"Mr Gorbachev tear down that wall".

Economic, the World Trade Organization (WTO) came into existence in 1994 when it replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The WTO ushered in a new era of rules and regulations for global trade. Becoming a member for most countries was not an option; it was a necessity. Only The Bahamas felt otherwise, hence its observer status gives it the distinction of being the only country in the hemisphere that is not a WTO member.

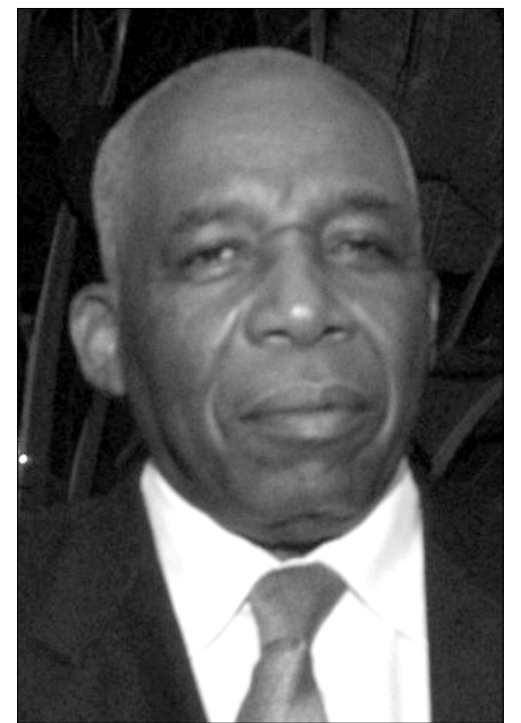
The collapse of the Cold War and the coming of being of the WTO were pivotal events in creating a globalized world. Globalization became the watch word of the 20th century. With Information and Communications Technology (ICT), a digital world came into being with the introduction of cyber, the personal computer, the cellular phone and internet as key instruments in the age of globalization.

The socio-economics and the geopolitics of a 21st century globalized world will be very different world from the 20th century where the economic development model centered around the dismantling of colonialism and the Soviet Union resulting in bridging the gap between developed and developing countries. The socio-economic development paradigm would shift to the new realities of the 21st century.

The 21st century would be a period driven by technology.

Technology has always been the lynchpin driven the various industrial revolutions beginning in the first Industrial Revolution in the 18th century when the mechanical loom was introduced in 1784. Mankind is about to enter its fifth Industrial Revolution. The Bahamas is still essentially in the third Industrial Revolution.

This stems from the fact that we have had a service-driven economy orientate around tourism and financial services. The Bahamian economy has been a residual economy based on the disposable income of principally Americans either for vacation travel or wealth accumulation. An introvert approach became the hallmark of our business model as business came to us



in the form of visitor arrivals (tourism) and tax avoiders (financial services).

During the second half of the 20th century, an economic model based on services proved to be successful. The Bahamian economy was transformed from agricultural and marine resources economy. Economic transformation for developing countries was orientated around industrialization.

With economic transformation, job creation was prolific in both arms of the services sectors as well as construction. The Bahamianization policy enabled many Bahamians to enter the professional, executive and management spheres of corporate Bahamas in tourism (hotels) and financial services (off-shore banks).

This scenario led to a Bahamian only or Bahamian first attitude when it came to employment opportunities. The Bahamas has become an inward looking society as the global economy was shifting to trade liberalization and greater openness.

The globalization era highlighted the inadequacies of the Bahamian economy. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) stated in a report that "The Bahamas was the only Caribbean nation to suffer a decline in per capita GDP this century... It went on to say that "real per capita GDP in The Bahamas had declined by an average of 0.4 % between 2000-2015." Regional per capita income, on the other hand, had risen on average by 1.2% over the same period.

The Bahamas has not done well during these globalization times nor has it come to grips with the economic development realities of the 21st century. The Bahamas is still mired in the 20th century economics.

Trading on the global market via technological driven initiatives is the way forward. A technological platform has to be created if the Bahamian economy is to expand and establish new revenue streams.



PUBLIC NOTICE

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL PLANNING

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

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

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

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

Signed
Charles B. Zonicle
Acting Director of Physical Planning

