

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-13952 Nassau, Bahamas
 8:30am - 4:30pm

VOL. 30 - NO. 155

TUESDAY - MAY 22ND, 2018

75 CENTS

"TOURISM NEEDS NEW PLAN"

● *Sir Baltron calls for focus on Family Islands*

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

The former Senior Policy Advisor to the government, Sir Baltron Bethel says the Bahamas must develop a national development plan to ensure the continued success of the Bahamian tourism industry.

He said, "the reality is that in many other countries, they have developed

national development plans for short term, medium term and long-term goals," he said.

"What we need to do is to be able to develop these plans, stick with the plans; now successive governments will tinker with it, but the main plan remains the same, and the sub components of it may change from government to government.

"But the end goal of achieving a certain GDP or the creation of a certain number of jobs or a certain

number of hotel rooms remain the same."

Sir Baltron made the comments this past Sunday on the Love 97 Radio programme "Jones and Company."

Appearing on the show with former Attorney General Allyson Maynard Gibson, the former Chief Negotiator for the Baha Mar project said, "Tourism still has a lot to offer in The Bahamas in terms of future growth particularly in the family islands and in parts of

Grand Bahama.

"We must do so in order to compete. We've seen phenomenal growth in The Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Mexico and in other areas and other parts of The Bahamas.

"Every country in the Caribbean and in the Americas is going hard after tourism and The Bahamas has lost some ground and we have to make that up, in terms of new product," he said.

■ See TOURISM / page 2...

"THE RIGHT STEPS ON BAHAMAR"

Former Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Allyson Maynard Gibson says the successful outcome of negotiations of the Baha Mar project is proof that the Christie Administration took the right steps at the right time for Bahamians and the Bahamas.

Responding to a series of questions yesterday, Mrs Maynard-Gibson boasted about the positive impact that the Baha Mar resort is having on the Bahamian economy.

The following are questions posed to Mrs. Maynard-Gibson who was the Cabinet Minister in the Christie Government responsible for negotiating with Chinese officials and the Contractors for the completion and opening of the multi-billion property:

■ See STEPS ON BAHAMAR on PAGE 4...

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF SUSSEX



► The Duke and Duchess are pictured in The Green Drawing Room, Windsor Castle, with (left-to-right): Back row: Master Jasper Dyer, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, Ms. Doria Ragland, His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge Middle row: Master Brian Mulroney, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, Her Majesty The Queen, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cambridge, Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte, His Royal Highness Prince George, Miss Rylan Litt, Master John Mulroney Front row: Miss Ivy Mulroney, Miss Florence van Cutsem, Miss Zalie Warren, Miss Remi Litt.

TOURISM BOOKING BOOMS

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Booking for The Bahamas has increased by 41 percent with the Expedia Group.

Senior Business Development Manager for the Caribbean Betty Julie Estrada said that at this time last year, the year over demand in growth from 2016 to 2017 was nearly 10 percent.

This year around the same time, they were at 30 percent for bookings to The Bahamas including air and hotel.

This comes as the Expedia Group meets with their hotel industry partners at the Super Club Breezes Resort to discuss initiatives on how to communicate new opportunities and new features the Expedia is offering to help them develop their businesses on their own and collectively.

Ms. Estrada said, "around this time last year, between January and March, we saw a growth of 5 percent, however for the same time period this year there has been a growth of over 40 percent."

She said that factors that has contributed to this are new properties like Baha Mar, as well as some displacements from last years' hurricane season. This 41percent increase, according to Ms. Estrada, is definitely something to be proud of.

■ See BOOKING / page 2...



NMC PARTS DEPARTMENT
 Shirley Street • 302-0130
 partsorder@nassaumotor.com
 www.acdelcobahamas.com

**ACDelco dexos¹ Engine Oil—
 Designed for your GM vehicle***

Purchase a service kit for your vehicle and get an ACDelco oil filter **FREE!** for a limited time



ACDelco[®] SYNTHETIC BLEND MOTOR OIL is formulated to improve fuel economy, engine protection and provide the performance modern engines need. ACDelco dexos¹ synthetic blend has excellent wear protection and outstanding resistance to thermal breakdown at operating temperature.

AVAILABLE NOW AT NMC PARTS DEPARTMENT, SHIRLEY STREET.

* The dexos[™] Specification and Trademarks are Exclusive to General Motors, LLC.

NMC IS THE EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR OF GENUINE ACDELCO PRECISION PARTS & SUPPLIES



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

"TOURISM NEEDS NEW PLAN"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"New Providence is an old destination and we've had some new product added, but the real jewels and the real gems are the family islands.

"In terms of what we could do with boutique tourism and eco-tourism in the family islands, and the great strategic precision that the Bahamas occupies, is its location.

"We're so close to North and South America, we are more accessible to Europe and to other parts of the world.

"So, we have these jewels in the family islands that can be developed to

meet the demands of the present-day consumer, on a grander scale than we can, I think in any other part of the Americas.

"But we must ensure that we do it in accordance with a proper plan and that all of infrastructure are in place to support it."

Recounting the negotiations and responding belatedly to some criticisms on the Baha Mar project, Sir Baltron expressed satisfaction that the project is successfully completed.

Although some felt that the negotiations with the Chinese cost the Bahamian government too much money, for instance the

access road to Baha Mar Resort, and that the government was too generous in terms of concessions, Sir Baltron said it wasn't negotiated with the Chinese, but the original developer, Mr. Sakis Izmirlan.

"Bear in mind now, here was a developer, an investor, coming with this huge investment, and we got an area which is being run down, and what Nassau Paradise Island had going for it at the time was Atlantis and there was no counterbalance to Atlantis, on New Providence," he said.

"So, the idea was to create something that was

going to be attractive. Atlantis was successful, Atlantis has features in which they were able to have magnificent landscaping. They had a setting where they would have the beach, and they would have a certain level of privacy."

"But what happened with the Cable Beach road

originally, the Cable Beach road was running right parallel, right hard against the existing hotels and in order to expand and to enhance this development it was necessary to move the road," he said.

"So, the government bore some of those expenses and the developer bore some of the expenses in

that process so that the formula which was used was a formula that the parties agreed to.

"And the end result now is that you have one of the most beautiful landscaped areas in The Bahamas, in the Cable Beach area and you couldn't get that unless you moved the road," Sir Baltron said.

TOURISM BOOKING BOOMS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

The Expedia Group has also presented a new concept for The Bahamas called the creative partnership. In this, they are working with both the private and public sector to bring the project to fruition.

The project will result in the Expedia Group sending in five travel influencers to have a what Ms. Estrada calls a "very unique and diverse experience" in the Bahamas.

Their goal is to bring The Bahamas to life with these top social travel influencers who have their own independent audiences as well as leveraging their platform and data to showcase

The Bahamas through their eye, while inviting the public to share.

Ms. Estrada says that this will bring a lot more of what The Bahamas has to offer to a greater audience.

The Project is still in the development stage with the launch date not yet determined, but Ms. Estrada says they would hope to launch in the softer Fall season, but there are still a lot of factors to be determined before doing so.

The Expedia Group offers a free revenue management solution that reaches over 75 countries, with 35 languages with access to over 590,000 properties. The Expedia Group expects for service to increase in the near future.

POLICE PROBE HOLIDAY HOMICIDE

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

A tragic start to the holiday as police were called to the scene of an apparent homicide near East Street South.

On the scene, blood soaked the ground as the victim's lifeless body lied face up, with apparent gunshot wounds to his head and body.

Officer in charge of the Central Detective Unit, Chief Superintendent, Solomon Cash said

, "shortly before 10 a.m. police received reports of gun shots occurring at this location.

"Once the officers arrived to the scene, they met the body a male who was lying in the streets.

"EMS were called in, [they] examined the body and pronounced the body lifeless on the scene."

Cash said the police are appealing to anyone with information to contact Crime Stoppers at 328 TIPS or 911/919.

Meanwhile an

overnight stabbing incident left two men hospitalized.

According to reports, shortly after 12:15a.m on Monday, two men were in the area of Rhoda's place on Douglas Road, Gambier, when they were attacked by a several men resulting in them being stabbed about the body.

The assailants fled the scene in a gray Honda Accord.

See HOMICIDE / page 3...



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 controlsection@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 controlsection@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



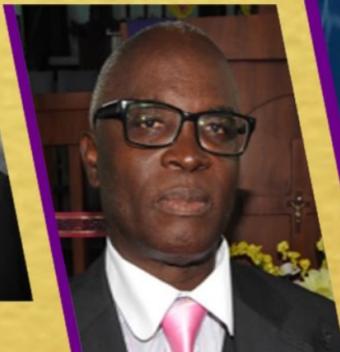
THE BAHAMAS NATIONAL BAPTIST MISSIONARY AND EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE

Installation Service



Rev. Dr. **LYLLOID SMITH**
President



Rev. Dr. **PHILIP MCPHEE**
First Vice President



Rev. **TRAJEAN JADORETTE**
Executive Secretary



Rev. **MICHAEL SYMONETTE**
Treasurer

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

The William Thompson Auditorium, Jean Street, Gleniston Gardens

NASSAU, BAHAMAS

MINISTRY OF WORKS HOSTS SEMINAR FOR CONTRACTORS

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

The Ministry of Public Works in collaboration with The Department of Information Technology is in the process of updating its contractor database, and also its tendering and payment certificate processes.

Stemming from the Ministry's preparation for the New Providence School Repair Programme, Director of Public Works, Melanie Roach, said it was decided that this would be the opportune time to kill two birds with one stone.

"The technical staff at the Ministry determined that a seminar would be the most effective way of imparting the information contractors will require to successfully tender for projects and once awarded a contract to navigate smoothly through the management of the construction process and provide the information required to ensure timely payments," she said.

"All of this is in an effort to increase the effi-

ciency and effectiveness of the Ministry of Public Works and the ease of doing business with the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas," she added.

Ms. Roach, encourages all contractors interested in participating in the procurement process for government capital works projects to attend the seminar and this includes for works of all types and valued from \$1 to multi-millions of dollars.

The topics for the seminar include: contract pricing and payment procedures, pre-qualification documents and assessment criteria, e-procurement, project management and site safety, and the construction contractor's act.

"Through the registration process for the seminar, contractors will be granted the opportunity to pre-qualify to be places in the Ministry of Public Works' database of contractors.

"This updated database will inform the Ministry's project officers of which contractors are pre-quali-

fied for various types of capital works."

To register for the seminar, contractors are required to send an email to mopwcontractors@gmail.com.

The email message should contain the name of the contractor (as shown on a government produced ID), the name of their company (as listed on a current business license), phone contact/s, and email address/es.

"By return email they will receive an invitation to the seminar and Ministry of Public Works Pre-Qualification Questionnaire.

"Contractors will be required to complete the questionnaire and submit it on the day of the seminar with the following documentation: a current business license, a vat registration certificate or tax identification number certificate, if not vat registered, bearing in mind that only contractors who are vat registered will be allowed to bid on projects valued at over \$100,000, a current tax compliance

certificate (TCC), and a bank reference letter."

The seminar is open to all contractors throughout The Bahamas, inclusive of the family islands.

Contractors must first register online and then bring the required docu-

ments to the seminar on May 30, 2018.

The Information for Effective Private-Public Sector Interaction Seminar will be held on Wednesday May 30, 2018, at the St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall on

Boyd Road between 8:30-3:30pm.

Both the Minister of Public Works, Desmond Bannister and the Parliamentary Secretary in The Ministry of Public Works, Iram Lewis will bring remarks.

GOV'T PRO-ACTIVE ON SCHOOL REPAIRS

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

Summer break is fast approaching and while it spells thousands of youngsters away from the classrooms, it is also a time to get started on much needed school repairs.

However, contractors have not been selected to carry out the work.

According to Director of Public Works, Melanie Roach, all schools are in need of repairs and the Ministry of

Education has set aside a budget to mobilize contracts for about six million dollars.

"We have scopes of works ranging from \$35,000 up to \$700,000; so it depends on the type of work," she said.

"What we did was that the Principals of each school were asked to present us with their wish list, everything that they've wanted done at the schools and we have scoped those.

■ See GOV'T PRO-ACTIVE / page 7...

POLICE PROBE HOLIDAY HOMICIDE

■ Continued from / PAGE 2...

Both victims were transported to hospital where they are listed in serious condition. Investigations are ongoing.

Police in New Providence also investigating two shooting incidents.

Shortly after 12:00am on Monday, a man was attending a party in Eastwood Estates, when he got into an altercation with several men resulting in him being shot to the body.

He was transported to hospital and is listed in stable condition. Investigations are ongoing.

In the second incident, shortly after 3:00am on Sunday, a man was seated in his vehicle at The Shell Service Station, on Tonique Williams-Darling Highway, when another man armed with a firearm, opened fire resulting in him being shot to the body.

The victim was transported to hospital and is listed in stable condition.

Investigations are ongoing.

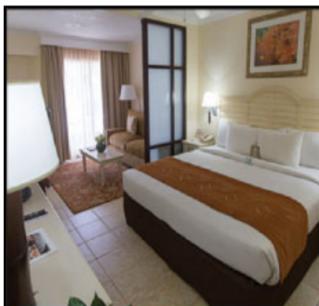
Police are also seeking the public's help in solving three armed robberies over the weekend.

In the first incident, shortly before 4:00pm on Saturday, two men armed with a firearm entered a convenience store on Blue hill and St. Vincent Road, holding up an employee and robbing the store of an undetermined amount of cash, before fleeing on foot.

In the second incident, shortly after 12:00am on Sunday, a man and woman had just arrived at their residence on Marigold Farm Road, when two men armed with a firearm robbed them of cash, before fleeing in a silver vehicle.

In the final incident, shortly after 2:00am on Sunday, two women were driving in the area of Love beach, when their vehicle was bumped from behind causing them to stop.

Two men armed with a firearm robbed them of cash, before fleeing in a vehicle. Investigations are ongoing.



ALL THE PERKS OF COMFORT SUITES, ALL THE PLAY OF ATLANTIS...

There is no place quite like Comfort Suites Paradise Island. Our guests, whether traveling for business or leisure, enjoy the best of both worlds. Steps away from the world famous Atlantis Paradise Island, we provide all the recognizable amenities of the Comfort Suites brand, in addition to exclusive access to the Atlantis. Comfort Suites Paradise Island is well suited for the relaxed family vacation, and also offers all the necessities of modern business travel. Our award winning property, with unique value added amenities, is truly the Gem of Paradise Island.

- Complimentary access to all pools, the spectacular water parks, pristine beaches and activities at neighboring Atlantis.
- Complimentary full American buffet breakfast
- High Speed free Wi-Fi access in all rooms and public spaces
- Newly renovated, air-conditioned junior suites with parlor lounge, pull out sofa bed and your choice of king or double beds.
- Value added amenities include free parking, free in-room safe, 32 in. flat screen tvs, mini in-room refrigerators, fully equipped business center and coin operated laundry facilities.
- A la carte lunch and dinner prepared by our award-winning chefs available at our very own Crusoe's Restaurant where indoor & outdoor dining awaits. Swim up service available at our Pool Bar

The ultimate vacation or business trip awaits. Join us and experience All the Perks of Comfort Suites and All the Play of Atlantis.



Comfort Suites Paradise Island
For Reservations Call (242) 363-3680
www.comfortsuitespi.com
Email: info@comfortsuitespi.com



“THE RIGHT STEPS ON BAHAMA MAR”

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Q. Could you recount what it was like for you hearing Baha Mar filed for bankruptcy when it did?

A. I can do no better than repeat the words of Prime Minister Christie (PM Christie) - the Government was blindsided by the Developer's Chapter 11 filing. Please remember, as PM Christie said, Mr. Sarkis Izmirlan, the Developer, had asked him to intervene with, Mr. Izmirlan's partners (especially the China EXIM bank "the Bank") to assist with funding to complete the project. At Mr. Izmirlan's behest, PM Christie met with persons at the highest levels in the People's Republic of China and the Bank. PM Christie has said that on 29th June, 2015, when Mr. Izmirlan came to meet with him, PM Christie was looking forward to relaying to Mr. Izmirlan the good news that a way forward to financing completion had been found. Rather, Mr. Izmirlan relayed to the PM that, as they were speaking, at the Developer's initiative, a Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing was taking place in Delaware. The Government of The Bahamas (GOB) was blindsided by this news and deeply concerned about the impact that it would have on the Project (the hotels, casino and convention center), the Bahamian economy and Bahamians. It was apparent that the Developer had no funds available and no buyer ready to complete the Project.

Q. Please recount what happened from then to the moment the SLS was opened.

A. GOB engaged top international advisors from the UK, USA and China to work with our team of national experts.

The experts were concerned that the Chapter 11 process could take 2-3 years (until 2018) and the Project would remain shuttered for that period. This would have devastating consequences on the Bahamian employees of Baha Mar, the Bahamian entrepreneurs at Baha Mar and on the Bahamian economy.

Negotiations ensued, involving the Developer, the Construction Company and the EXIM Bank. As the Project was 97% complete, it appeared to us that the Developer, the construction company and the Bank ("the Parties") should make every effort to complete and open the project (to the benefit of all) and resolve their differences thereafter.

The Delaware Court's decision that The Bahamas was to proper Forum for the resolution of this matter was a vote of confidence for The Bahamas and the Bahamian legal system. The Bahamas will continue to feel the positive impact of that vote of confidence in our legal system.

The Parties were not able to resolve their differences.

Under the supervision of the Bahamian Court, expert advisors were able to cause a favourable outcome for The Bahamas and Bahamians -

● A world class buyer was found

● The Project was completed

● The Project has opened and is being successfully operated.

The successful outcome of the negotiations is proof that the Christie Administration took the right steps at the right time for The Bahamas and Bahamians. Go to Baha Mar. Look at the happy faces of the young people working there.

If that is not enough, consider that by any yardstick Baha Mar is successful - its occupancy levels are exceeding projections; it is having positive impact on the Bahamian economy; it has upgraded and added value to the tourism product, including LPIA; in their assessments of The Bahamas, international agencies are reliant on the direct and indirect positive impact of Baha Mar; and, there is generally a feeling of hopefulness and optimism because of Baha Mar's success.

Q. How much of your work as Attorney General during that period involved trying to get Baha Mar opened?

A. A significant amount of time and resources of the GOB, including the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), were spent working with stakeholders to get Baha Mar completed, open and operating - owned by a world class entity that could successfully operate that significant Project. The first class Team at OAG rose to the occasion. As well as working on the vitally important Baha Mar Project, we successfully carried out our other responsibilities and accomplished our goals.

Q. Were there false starts, moments when you thought remobilization was imminent only to find out it wasn't? If so, can you describe them and say what turned out to be premature about those moments?

A. As the negotiations were carried out in an atmosphere of mutual respect, we were able to stay focused and to overcome perceived obstacles. We were determined not to be distracted by the naysayers, some of whom were reckless about the adverse impact of their utterances as they pursued political (and other) interests rather than the national interest.

Q. What happened during the trips to China? Can you recount the points of contention between the two sides and describe the format and lengths of the meeting? Did they ever turn angry or involved swirling emotions?

A. The travel from The Bahamas to China is 20-24 hours. On each of the trips to China, we attended meetings soon after arrival in Beijing and met into the late hours of the night/early morning. The Bahamian team then had to brief the PM and advisors in The Bahamas (12h behind Beijing) before retiring. We seldom got as much as 4 hours sleep.

The negotiations in China and The Bahamas were conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

GOB was firm about certain key points:

● The Project should be completed as soon as possible

● The Buyer had to be world class and able to finance the opening and successful operation of the Project.

● Bahamian employees had to be made whole.

● Bahamian entrepreneurs, as much as possible, had to be made whole.

Debt owed to GOB should be paid.

As can be seen, these key points were

achieved.

● The Project is complete and as of 22 May, 2018 will be fully open and successfully operated (beyond the expectations of the Owner) within 3 years of the Chapter 11 filing. Experts had advised that in a Chapter 11 the Project could have remained closed/shuttered for 2-3 years.

● The Owner, Chow Tai Fook Enterprises (CTFE) is world class international company - involved in, among other things, property development, hotels and casino business. It is listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange and is valued at over US\$10 Billion.

● The approximately 2000 Baha Mar employees that lost their jobs the result of the Chapter 11 filing were paid all of their legal entitlements.

● Bahamian entrepreneurs owed \$500,000 and less were fully repaid. All others (if not wholly, were significantly repaid)

● Debt owed to GOB was paid.

It is important to note that although there was a view that there was no legal obligation to pay the employees, the entrepreneurs and GOB. GOB was adamant about the aforementioned positive outcome on these these key issues.

The positive results from the Bahamian focused strategy of the Christie administration are pellucidly clear. Over 4,000 Bahamians are working at Baha Mar. The employment of thousands of other Bahamians is an indirect result of the success of Baha Mar. Bahamian entrepreneurs are directly and indirectly benefitting from Baha Mar. Baha Mar, Atlantis and other hotels are experiencing occupancies beyond projections. There has been tremendous value added to the tourism product. The Four Seasons has returned to The Bahamas. Atlantis has expanded its experience. Sandals and Breezes are upgrading their product. LPIA is handling more passengers than projected. And there is much more spin off now and to come because of the success of Baha Mar.

Q. Did you ever doubt the administration's strategy amid all the public criticism?

A. I did not doubt the strategy and the advice of GOB's national and international experts.

I kept focused on 2 primary stakeholders: (1) the small to midsized entrepreneur who may have entered into a second mortgage to participate in Baha Mar. The Chapter 11 and subsequent closing of the Project would have caused him significant loss, including the real possibility of losing his home; and, (2) the Bahamian employees who then faced unemployment lines.

International observers, including from the Harvard Business School, say that it is unusual, if not unprecedented, for a development to emerge from a Chapter 11 filing with:

● Existing debt assumed

● Funds in place to complete the development

● And additional funds added for expansion

International observers were impressed at the

competence of the GOB, Bahamians and stakeholders to defy the odds. Emerging from the Baha Mar insolvency litigation (the Chapter 11 and The Bahamas proceedings):

● The existing debt was assumed even though the Project/the asset was then shown to be valued less than the existing debt.

● An additional sum of about US\$700 Million was spent to complete the Project.

● A further sum of about US\$20 Million more than budgeted was spent to open SLS

● Additionally, Rosewood (owned by CTFE) spent more than budgeted so as to upgrade and open Rosewood - to the premier hotel in the Project.

● Millions of dollars more were spent to refurbish and open the Jack Nicklaus golf course

● And, Hundreds of Millions more will be spent in further development.

This outcome has enabled The Bahamas to avoid further downgrading by rating agencies and possible devaluation of our currency. It has also restored confidence and optimism in The Bahamas and the Bahamian economy - see the projections of international agencies about growth of The Bahamian economy. The projections and the optimism are heavily reliant on the success of Baha Mar. This success is directly linked to the prompt action, wise decisions and vision of the Christie administration.

As we look back, it is clear that the then Opposition either didn't understand or appreciate what the Christie Administration was trying to achieve or they were indifferent to the facts. We supported a "real sale" to CTFE, a world class owner, that is listed on an international stock exchange, invested in well regulated jurisdictions, is serious about its investment in The Bahamas and realizing, for the benefit of Bahamians, the full potential of Baha Mar, which is a multi-billion-dollar investment.

Q. Are you able to say if Cabinet was unified behind the strategy?

A. GOB was unified in pursuit of the vision and objectives.

Q. Did you meet any important figures of the Chinese delegation we didn't know about? Is it safe to characterize you as the main player in the administration's effort to get Baha Mar restarted, the "worker bee" toiling behind the scenes even when others were giving the public commentary?

A. I was privileged to serve The Bahamas as Attorney-General at that time in our national development. Sir Baltron Bethel and I Co-Chaired the negotiations. I am grateful for Sir Baltron's expertise and sage advice. He has been honoured by Her Majesty for his contributions nationally and internationally to tourism development. In this Region he is still regarded as the leading expert in tourism development. Sir Baltron Bethel is a Bahamian national treasure. I am also grateful for the advice of our national and international experts. Bahamians can be satisfied that in The Bahamas we have world class lawyers and technical advisors.

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

“NOTHING IS EVER PERFECT”

The 2018 series salutes fashion mogul Peter Nygard'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.

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.

How's life? Are you where you want to be and achieving the things you want to achieve?

Fashion mogul Peter Nygard's business practices have a useful lesson that we can apply to our lives to make the changes we desire to live a more fulfilled life.

Many companies practice the business principle of continuous improvement whether it's through the Deming Cycle, Six Sigma, Lean, Total Quality Management or others. They use specific suggested processes for practicing this principle. For Peter Nygard, this principle is a way of thinking, his practicing modus operandi, his philosophical approach to everything.

If you had to pick a defining practice in his business, it would be his focus on continuous improvement. It is an important foundation for him. He once stated, "Nothing's ever perfect. You can always improve something."

As a perfectionist, it's not surprising. In his business, continuous improvement is practiced in every area on every level.

The company structure and processes are reviewed on an annual basis. The technological implementations are continuously checked for effectiveness. Product quality and delivery mechanisms are always assessed.

The biggest continuous improvement focus for Peter Nygard and his company is in their product development and execution. No matter how successful what they have created is from a previous season, they look for ways to improve on it, which isn't the standard for everyone.

Once individuals have achieved success in their lives in any area, they tend to feel that they have arrived—they've reached the pinnacle. However, with Nygard, the practicing principle is, 'how can we make it even better'. The focus is not on 'how can we make money', but on 'how can we improve'.

As Nygard has stated, "Business to me is not a vehicle for making money but a vehicle for achieving a sense of accom-

plishment that just keeps driving me further."

This constant focus on improvement allows his business to constantly evolve. And that is the difference between making millions in a business and hundreds of millions.

For Nygard, continuous improvement is a way of being and a way of living. Our lives can also benefit from a continuous review process.

One individual practices continuous improvement by reviewing his life every year on his birthday. He spends time in reflection and looks at where he is relative to the goals he had previously set. He then makes a course adjustment or correction for the year ahead.

When asked why he does this he explained that life goes by really quickly; it could be over before you know it. He didn't want to get to the end of his life to realize he didn't live his life the way he wanted to and didn't accomplish all of the things he wanted to accomplish.

One's birthday represents the perfect opportunity for a reflection. It's an ideal time for reviewing because it's also a reminder that you are getting older and running out of time to do the things you want to do.

That makes sense. If you think about it, human beings are creatures of habit and can easily get into a rut or a place of complacency. One way to get yourself out of it is to have a set time and schedule to review your life and make a plan to improve it.

So if you are not where you want to be in your life and achieving the things you want to achieve, a plan of action for 'reviewing, measuring, and taking action' is a great method for getting your life back on track.

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

The Bahama Journal Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimaley P. Jones Vice President/Operations

EDITORIAL

SIR FRANKLYN---A NATION-BUILDER

For as long as we can remember, Franklyn Roosevelt Wilson has been in the news that matters in and throughout the length and breadth of The Bahamas.

Over the week-end just past, The Franklyn R. Wilson Graduate Centre at the University of The Bahamas (UB) was officially opened.

As we have learned, the new facility, referred to as "center of excellence", is expected to play an integral role for students pursuing graduate degree programs.

And thus today, we do most whole-heartedly agree with the Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis, prime minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas when he proffers as regards Sir Franklyn's and Lady Wilson's willed philanthropy:-- "We are grateful for [their] many years of service to the development of The College of The Bahamas, which now enjoys university status; thus its newly minted nomenclature, University of The Bahamas.

And yet again, as we tune into the nation's chief, we note that:-- "...Over the many decades, Sir Franklyn and Lady Wilson have generously donated to a range of public and private initiatives and programs ranging from education to health and wellness..."

Clearly, then, these two great Bahamians because of their philanthropy, charitable work, and community service, are noteworthy and exemplary.

They are therefore most worthy of both thanks and praise for all that they have been doing, lo these very many years now long gone!

This we applaud; and thus today, we insist:-- There is no time like now for getting things as right as humanly possible; and therefore with this warning in mind, we are especially happy as we join in praise-shout and honor-deserved to Sir Franklyn and Lady Wilson for their joint decision to come on over and help build up and big-up the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

As we all know, this they have been doing for decades now as they continue to contribute not only in their guise as savvy business persons, but also in their chosen roles as mentors to many in a time and in a place where far too many truly successful men and women routinely focus on themselves, their

needs and their myriad of wants.

And for sure, this great Bahamian is also known in those circles where men and women who really matter make things happen.

Two such people who have become known throughout our country and region for making things happen are Sir Franklyn and Lady Wilson.

Today we honor and salute the both of these fine, true and good Bahamian nation-builders.

What is as interesting has to do with the fact that, both of these great Bahamians are savvy enough to realize that success comes to any and all who know how to reason together and who -- as they do so recognize that many hands would make a burden light.

And thus, the great work they and RBC have been able to do on behalf of both the so-called bottom line and the youth of this nation; thus their project called Future Launch; a global initiative which -- as we have learned -- is designed to close three critical gaps: helping youth get work experience, helping youth grow their network and helping youth gain new skills.

And thus, today, we reiterate our deepest congratulations to Sir Franklyn and Lady Sharon Wilson for the all and more they have given and gifted the Bahamian people.

It therefore follows:-- We either pull together for the achievement of the common good or we pull apart thus opening up those mighty flood-gates which -- as experience teaches-always lead to pillage, misery and want!

In truth, then, Sir Franklyn and Lady Wilson are exemplars of how each of us can do their bit to help make The Bahamas a more beloved country; and so we pray:-- May the Almighty always keep them safe, happy and secure in their persons and in their continued love and witness as but two of all those Bahamians who are true-tru Bahamians; thus pledged to helping build up and big-up this great little nation---their native land.

And in conclusion to this matter:-- May God bless the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

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

NO BETTER READING

The advertisement features a collage of newspaper front pages from The Bahama Journal. The main headline on the collage is "Four Bodies Claimed" with a sub-headline "Haitian Burials Imminent". Other visible headlines include "Brush Fire Scorches Acres of Land", "22ND MURDER VICTIM Identified", and "Debris Hinders Business For Ferry Operators". The collage also shows various smaller articles and advertisements, including one for "WANDA'S PLUMBING SUPPLIES" and another for "GO TANKLESS". The background of the advertisement is a scenic view of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore.



► The Duke and Duchess are pictured in Green Drawing Room, Windsor Castle with (left-to-right): Back row: Master Brian Mulrone, Miss Remi Litt, Miss Rylan Litt, Master Jasper Dyer, His Royal Highness Prince George, Miss Ivy Mulrone, Master John Mulrone Front row: Miss Zalie Warren, Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte, Miss Florence van Cutsem.

Meghan Markle's wedding was a rousing celebration of blackness

Sometimes Twitter is capable of poetry. In this case, I read it between the lines, on a sunny Saturday afternoon in Windsor, in the juxtaposition of two separate trending phrases. #RoyalWedding and #BlackExcellence are not unusual on their own. But to see the two together, in a combination that would once have been unthinkable, speaks volumes about what has just changed.

The setting is unlikely. The place – Windsor Castle – is the oldest inhabited castle in the world. The ritual – a wedding of the Queen's grandson – is full of arcane and ancient British tradition: heraldry, knights of the garter, a choir that has been in continuous

existence since the 13th century.

But that is not what this royal wedding will be remembered for. When Oprah Winfrey entered the chapel at Windsor Castle, one TV anchor joked that for some people, it was the moment the real queen arrived. Winfrey's attendance was a reminder that, between her and Meghan Markle, the bride whose wedding she had come to watch, perhaps the two most famous women in the world today are of African heritage.

Also present were Serena Williams, who was there with her husband Alexis Ohanian, and other black royalty, including Idris Elba, with his fiancée

Sabrina Dhowre, and Gina Torres, Markle's fellow actor in the TV series Suits.

At this royal wedding, talented black people were more than adornment. The sermon, delivered by the Episcopal church leader the Rev Michael Curry, began with a quote from Martin Luther King Jr before enlightening the congregation on the wisdom of spirituals – traditional African American music rooted in the experience of slavery – and casting Jesus as a revolutionary. If there had been any doubts about what cultural experience Curry would bring to the service, they were swiftly and decisively answered.

■ See MEGHAN on PAGE 7...



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



THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

PROVISION FOR OFFICE SUPPLIES FOR ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS – FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018/19

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 18 2018:

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
SIR CECIL WALLACE-WHITFIELD CENTRE,
WEST BAY STREET CABLE BEACH
NASSAU, BAHAMAS

The tender Document must be completed in accordance with the instructions therein: - 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 May, 22 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

THE BUSINESS OF GIVING

● Social and business goals go hand-in-hand for Bahamas Striping Group of Companies.

It's not a line item in the Grand Bahama Children's Home budget - the cost associated with ambulatory trips a disabled 13-year-old orphan periodically takes to the hospital and filling her prescriptions after.

Still, those costs have to be covered.

When those bills come due, the Grand Bahama Children's Home look to donations from Bahamas Striping Group of Companies and other corporate sponsors to fill the gap between what it collects from the government and what it needs to properly care for its young residents.

It costs nearly \$500,000 annually to keep the doors open at the orphanage which typically houses between 25 to 35 children whose ages range from newborns to 13.

The government allocates around \$195,000 per year to the state-run home, in two disbursements, to help cover the cost of salaries.

"When corporations like Bahamas Striping Group of Companies partners with us, it means so much because we cannot do it alone," said Sheila Johnson-Smith, executive director of GB Children's Home.

"The money we receive from them goes towards medicine, vitamins, clothes, groceries and school supplies."

The relatively young company which turns eight this month, has "stepped up to the plate" for the orphanage, something Mrs. Johnson-Smith said some older, more established companies have yet to do.

"They have invested significant amounts of money in the Grand Bahama Children's Home and we cannot begin to express how grateful we are to them. I'm not letting them get away because they have become family," she said.

"Not many companies do that. It is absolutely amazing what they do for our children, who are among the most vulnerable in society. They help keep the home open."

An industry leader in roads and airports maintenance, BSGC is a dedicated corporate philanthropist. As a part of its eighth anniversary Bahamas Striping will donate 80 computers throughout The Bahamas. Computers were dispatched to Eleuthera, Exuma, Grand Bahama, Andros, Inagua, Berry Island, Bimini, Abaco and San Salvador.

The Bains & Grants' Town Constituency Office of parliamentarian Travis Robinson received five of those computers to assist with the delivery of its Cyber Tech Career College certified courses.

"The computers are used for our introduction to computer classes and our e-commerce classes and will be utilized as a part of our research, science and technology hub when that comes on stream," confirmed Diallo Rolle, office manager. "The devices are essential to our Bains and Grants Town Centre for Academic

Development and Enrichment. They certainly make a difference in the lives of our constituents who wouldn't normally have access to a desktop and printer."

Endorsed by Prime Minister Hubert Minnis as an "outstanding Bahamian enterprise," the multi-layered, multi-million-dollar operation has taken strides to dramatically change the landscape of corporate social responsibility.

"I can't think of anything more gratifying than performing acts of kindness to worthwhile causes and charitable organizations in need," said Atario Mitchell, BSGC's president and Co-founder.

"In our eighth year our company is maturing. We do not function in isolation from the society around us. We are all connected, so that's why we have our scholarship programme which is progressing smoothly and our investment group cultivating the next batch of extraordinary entrepreneurs. The goal is for the Bahamian public to benefit, that way we rise together."

May 10, marked the company's eighth anniversary. Launched on a \$5,000 government grant, the company has come a long way since its humble birth.

With no textbook guide on what approach to take in expanding their business footprint, company executives pursued their passion and interests and in so doing grew Bahamas Striping's business footprint far beyond its initial scope.

The company stretched its tentacles into the tourism sector with the launch of Bahamas Themed Photography, a business specializing in resort photo imaging, videography and capturing destination weddings, groups and conventions and other special events.

Then, the up-start, start-up established a foothold in the construction and development sector through the launch of Abaco Caribbean Holdings Ltd.

According to Dominic Sturup, co-founder and chairman, the coming years will see the continued diversification of the company.

"We are in the process of prioritizing the sectors in which we want to have a presence, essentially they represent a market for growth for our subsidiaries," said Mr. Sturup. "Turning eight, we're no longer the new kid on the block. Even our challenges were opportunities to learn. Presently, our vision is to enter into the agricultural sector with a focus in animal husbandry."

The economic environment in which the business operates has been most crucial to the company's success this past eight years," said Mr. Sturup.

"We've been blessed with a business friendly climate created by the government and the private section that has been favorable to our business expansion," he said. "To whom much is given, much is expected. That Biblical concept fuels us."

GOV'T PRO-ACTIVE ON SCHOOL REPAIRS

Continued from / PAGE 3...

"Now the Ministry of Education of course has to look at their budget and decide which are critical items, which are needed items and which are items that can be put off for this period of time," she added.

However, no contractor is paid in full without the school's Principal signing a form to confirm that the work is completed to their

satisfaction.

According to Ms. Roach, the Ministry is in the process of evaluating the schools for repairs.

"Some schools require more work than others. The Ministry of Works is also in the process of getting approval to hire structural engineering consultants to go through some of the older schools so that we can get a comprehensive structural engineering report and a determination

as to whether those schools can be repaired or if they need to be replaced."

The Ministry of Public Works only deals with New Providence schools, and according to Ms. Roach, the Ministry has already completed and priced those scopes of work.

However, the Ministry plans to have contractors ready to go by the first week in July.

Meghan Markle's wedding was a rousing celebration of blackness

Continued from / PAGE 6...

And as the cameras took in the facial expressions of guests in the chapel, I couldn't help but wonder how many of the British royal family and aristocracy in attendance had ever had an experience like this before, one in which they were showered, generously, in the particular emotion of the rousing, rumbling rhetoric of a powerful black pastor. Zara Phillips – much to the enjoyment of regular black churchgoers on social media – was visibly in a state of shock.

"A black reverend preaching to British royalty about the resilience of faith during slavery, 1000000% not what I thought I was waking up for," wrote a black Canadian journalist. "The royal wedding is good."

Markle used her wedding to introduce her new peers to blackness. The teenage cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason was framed by flowers as he revealed the depth of talent that made him the first black person to win BBC Young Musician of the Year award. The Kingdom gospel choir sang soul classic Stand By Me: a love song, yes, but one that first rose to fame in the midst of the civil rights movement, becoming a soundtrack to protest and unity in the face of racial injustice.

For people used to being part of the majority, these may be symbols they don't easily see. But for those



who relate to Markle's situation – a person of colour entering perhaps the whitest and most exclusive of spaces in the world, the British royal family – they speak to an everyday sense of being the first, of bringing a heritage that changes the atmosphere, of having to decide whether to downplay it or wear it with pride.

Markle's choice was clear, and people responded. The wedding has transformed Windsor itself – a town only 20 miles from London but which, in its lack of visible diversity, can feel culturally thousands of kilometres away – that is suddenly full of people of colour. The day before the wedding, I saw African American women dressed in white lace dresses, some wearing tiaras, others wearing Meghan Markle masks. For all the talk about whether Markle is really black, for all the critique of

her being "white-passing" or ambivalent about her black heritage, there are certainly black women in America who feel one of their own has entered British royalty.

Since Markle's father could not be there, commentators were speculating that, by arranging for Prince Charles to accompany her towards the altar, the royal family were making a statement of their acceptance of the newest family member. I like to see it differently. By choosing Prince Charles, Markle was making a statement that she embraces them. For a woman of her background, this is not an easy thing to do. Not everyone feels it's a step forward. But at least by allowing her wedding to be not just a pageant of tradition, but also a celebration of blackness, she's started as I hope she means to go on.



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.