

VOL. 30 - NO. 144

FRIDAY - MAY 4TH, 2018

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ACTION OF A CONTRACT OF A CONT

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK Journal Staff Writer

inister of Labour D i o n Foulkes h a s revealed that the principals of The Pointe under construction on Bay Street are not in breach of the Heads of Agreement with the government. The Minister released the findings of a workforce census into the \$200m development yesterday.

There were reports that there is a disproportionate number of Chinese workers on the site of the downtown project, when compared to locals.

Following an investigation into such claims, the minister met with President of the Pointe Development, Daniel Liu, his vice-presi-

Over-the-Hill Initiative To Improve Commercial Activity



REGULATORS BUILD CAPACITY AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING

Officials from the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs n а PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) collaborated to host a two-day Anti-Money Laundering/Countering Terrorism Financing (AML/CTF) Forensic Workshop, (May 1-2, 2018) in the Training Room of the Bahamas Customs Department, Customs House, Thompson Boulevard.

An initiative of the Office of the Attorney-General and the Ministry of Legal Affairs, the workshop was part of what will be an ongoing process to build even greater capacity amongst the country's regul a t o r s . PricewaterhouseCoopers was invited by the Office of the Attorney-General to facilitate the two-day Workshop.

The training was intended to enhance the technical knowledge and forensic investigative skills needed to identify and trace the proceeds of crime and also to effectively investigate and prosecute money laundering, the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It is further anticipated to lead to more effective money laundering investigations and successful prosecutions. The Office of the Attorney General intends to hold more training sessions of this kind to deepen the awareness and increase the skills of all relevant stakeholders. Representatives/ Regulators from the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs, Office of the Auditor General, Central Bank of The Bahamas, Securities Commission of The Bahamas, the Insurance of Commission The Bahamas, Compliance Commission, Bahamas Gaming Board, Royal Bahamas Defence Force, Royal Bahamas Police Force and the Financial Intelligence Unit, all participated in the two-day workshop.

dent and legal counsel.

It was during that meeting that it was revealed that "with factors related to the technical aspects of the present construction phase and the expected long term buildup of Bahamian workers," The Pointe is not in breach of the Heads of Agreement.

A report produced by The Department of Labour for review and response found there are 73 non-Bahamian workers and 24 Bahamians presently on site.

However, the Heads of Agreement calls for a 70 per cent Bahamian to 30 per cent non-Bahamian workforce composition.

See NOT IN BREACH / page 4...



Minister of
Labour Dion Foulkes
(Journal file photo)

BY LICEC BASTIAN Journal Staff Writer

Of the 600 to 700 businesses in the Over-the-Hill community, only 200 of them are considered formal businesses. This was revealed by Financial Secretary Marlon Johnson Wednesday . This is being used as a springboard to encourage the reintroduction of commercial activity in that community.

During a recent town hall meeting on the Over-the-Hill Community Development Partnership Initiative, White Paper, Mr. Johnson said that a survey conducted in 2016 uncovered that many of the businesses in the community were not in the formal sector.

"So, you have business going on, you all know it, you live in the communities, yet a relatively small number are registered and formalized.

See OVER-THE-HILL INITIATIVE / page 2...

ABACONIAN ARRAIGNED ON MURDER CHARGES

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK Journal Staff Writer

Thirty-one year-old, Adnado Major of Dundas Town, Abaco, was arraigned before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson Pratt yesterday, for the murder of 23year-old, New Providence resident, Perez Dames.

It is alleged that the accused, on April 27, in Marsh Harbour Abaco, by means of unlawful harm, intentionally caused the death

of Dames.

According to reports, shortly after 9pm, police were called to the area of Charles Sawyer Highway, where they discovered Dames' lifeless body, with an apparent gunshot wound to the head.

The body was examined by a doctor at the scene and pronounced dead.

Major was not required to enter a plea and was remanded to The Bahamas Department of Corrections until July 3, 2018.



Thirty-one year-old, Adnado Major

See **REGULATORS** / page 2...

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NationalNEWS

Over-the-Hill Initiative To Improve Commercial Activity

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"A lot of the prevailing wisdom is you avoid getting registered because you don't have to pay your tax, your business licence fees or because it had been a hassle in a lot of ways to get registered.

"The challenge with that when you are outside the formal community is getting access to credit, getting access to concessions, it becomes difficult.

"So, the happy challenge we have is to lower the barriers for businesses within the community to become a part of the formal sector and find ways to become low cost and low hassle and that then opens the door for them in the formal sector to access credit and get the concessions and the things they need in order to go and to thrive," Mr. Johnson said.

He told the residents that in order for the community to thrive, particularly as an economic empowerment zone, businesses must be regularized.

"The extent to which economic opportunities, commercial opportunities are created is the extent to which you could create jobs and incomes that truly in the heart of addressing poverty.

"The interesting dynamic of the Over-the-Hill community is that it is

a residential community; it is an old community, one of the oldest communities in New Providence, but if you look at it from a business to residential mix, you will see that businesses, although it has a small strong business component, formal businesses are underrepresented in the community.

"So, one of the dynamics that has to change for the long-term liability of the community is that you have to get commercial activity back into the community," Mr. Johnson said.

The government is looking to relieve major tax burdens, provide concessions on customs duties, relieve real property tax and stamp tax on the transfer of properties.

"Businesses that have a turn over of under \$5 million, which is the definition given to medium sized businesses or a small business, these businesses will get full exemption from the payment of a business license tax or any type of business license tax that may come in the future.

"The Customs Duty exemption one is an interesting one and it's the most challenging administratively for us; but it is one of the most important ones. Under the Customs Duty exemption regime, you will get exemption on all of the materials and all the items that you would need in order to build or refurbish or to improve your business.

"There will be an exemption on all the Real Property Tax in the region and so what this provision will allow businesses who upkeep their properties, residential persons who upkeep their properties will be exempted from Real Property Tax.

"And of course, any transfer of properties or any sale of properties, will be exemption of Stamp Duties," Mr. Johnson explained

The Over-the-Hill area represents the most impoverished communities, according to Mr. Johnson.

REGULATORS BUILD CAPACITY AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Director of Public Prosecutions in the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Legal Affairs, Mr. Garvin Gaskin, said the inclusion of what may be considered by some to be the "non-traditional" law enforcers (regulators), such as those from the Securities Commission of The Bahamas, the Insurance The Commission of Bahamas and the Compliance Commission, among others, in the process, helps to ensure greater success.

"That's the key involvement, and not in the tradi-



• AG's Office Forensic Workshop in session. (BIS Photo/Derek Smith)

non-traditional players," DPP Gaskin said. "Once those bodies are made aware adjust their regulation methods and their interactivity with the regulated instituthese veneers of legitimacy of the money-launderers – that's what money launderGaskin added. The Workshop was also part of the strategy for The Bahamas "in advancing and expanding the effective fight" against money laundering and counter-terrorism financing.

tional way, but to involve what I would describe as

of what the money-launderers are doing they can also tions. The training empowers all to effectively take off ing is all about, concealing the proceeds of crime" DPP

See **REGULATORS** / page 4...



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NationalNEWS



• Dr. Etienne (left) presents PAHO's Public Health Hero of the Americas Award to Dr. Dahl-Regis. (**BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay**)

Former Chief Medical Officer receives PAHO's Public Health Hero of the Americas Award

BY LLONELLA GILBERT

Bahamian longtime healthcare professional, Dr. Merceline Dahl-Regis received the Public Health Hero of the Americas Award from the Pan American Prime Minister explained that Dr. Dahl-Regis represented The Bahamas on numerous occasions as a delegate at conferences of PAHO and the World Health Organization (WHO). She served on the executive board of WHO.

Commonwealth of Nations.



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Health Organization (PAHO) at a ceremony at Government House, Wednesday, May 2, 2018.

Dr. Dahl-Regis former Chief Medical Officer (CMO) is the second Caribbean national and the first Caribbean woman to receive the prestigious award.

PAHO over the years has recognized Public Health Heroes for their invaluable contributions to public health in the Americas. They come from a broad spectrum of backgrounds and fields of work and share one common goal: improving the health and well-being of the peoples of the Western Hemisphere.

Prime Minister Dr. the Rt. Hon. Hubert Minnis said during her tenure as CMO, Dr. Dahl-Regis worked across technical and administrative boundaries to achieve the goals and objectives of the Ministry of Health.

He said Dr. Dah-Regis spear-headed the drafting of strategic plans for health services.

"She significantly strengthened maternal and child health care services. This included initiatives to maximize MMR immunization coverage and more emphasis on adolescent health through the establishment of the Adolescent Health Centre."

The Prime Minister said Dr. Dahl-Regis also made contributions in these areas of public health policy both regionally and globally, wellrepresenting The Bahamas on the international stage.

He said she served on health-related committees of CARICOM and the She served as a member and chair of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) and as a member of the Immunization Safety Committee.

Additionally, she has chaired the Independent Review Committee of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) which supports vaccine procurement through PAHO's Revolving Fund.

The PM said in 2009, in recognition of her record of service, Dr. Dahl-Regis was the recipient of the PAHO Award for Administration.

He said after her retirement as Chief Medical Officer, she worked as Senior Policy Advisor to the Minister of Health and as the Registrar of The Bahamas Medical Council.

"She continues to bring her knowledge and skills to bear on various aspects of public health and continues to mentor younger physicians."

The Director of PAHO, Dr. Clarissa Etienne said the award is not bestowed lightly.

Dr. Etienne said Dr. Dahl-Regis' list of accomplishments is long, "indeed they are historic milestones in the annals of public health in the Americas."

Dr. Dahl-Regis said her award was for all of the healthcare expert staff both national and international who toil in the field, risk or lose their lives and who often endure conflict situations, all to protect the lives of many, including children born and unborn.

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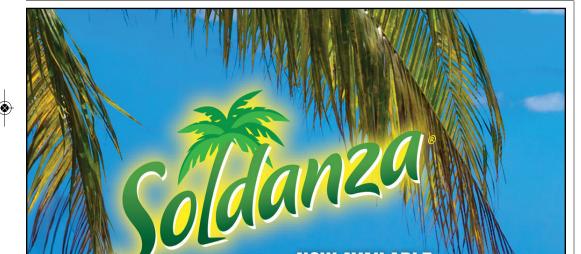
• AG's Office Forensic Workshop in session. (BIS Photos/Derek Smith)

REGULATORS BUILD CAPACITY AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING

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"In doing so, you must have training. Training must not be limited to Prosecutors or the Police, it must consist of all of the players. This is why you saw such a big group there; all of the persons who regulate, enforce the law, prosecute, need to be around the table, talking and building up the network. The experts need to demonstrate what the different typologies are, what methods these persons are using to do whatever they are doing along the money laundering lines, and along the financing of terrorism lines.

"There is also a focus on combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruc-



tion, something that some Small-Island States do not focus on enough, but which the relevant international bodies strongly require. We want to continue these training exercises by persons who have experience in these areas to impart the required knowledge," Mr. Gaskin added.

Facilitated by local, regional and international experts from PricewaterhouseCoopers, the workshop began Tuesday with Overview/Introduction of Forensic Investigation fundamentals, Integrity and Due Diligence, Investigation Techniques and Anti-Money Laundering/Countering Terrorism Financing. some of that practical knowledge that we have and share that knowledge and experience with the attendees," Mr. Kevin Cambridge, Director, PricewaterhouseCoopers (Bahamas) said.

Wednesday's (Day Two) sessions focused on F o r e n s i c / D i g i t a l Technology, Data Analytics and Data Preservation.

Among the facilitators were: Timothy L. Abrahams, Partner, Advisory, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Chicago, Illinois; Jessica Shannon, Partner, Caribbean Region, PricewaterhouseCoopers Tax and Advisory Services Limited, Kingston, Jamaica; Fabia, Tania Partner, Advisory, PricewaterhouseCoopers Angeles, LLP, Los California, and Director Cambridge, PricewaterhouseCoopers

(Bahamas), among others.

Mr. Cambridge said the firm literally brought in the "Who's Who in terms of $P \ w \ C \ ' \ s$ (PricewaterhouseCoopers) global, regional and local team" to facilitate the Workshop.

"Obviously all of these agencies have some very capable individuals doing what they do every day. What we have done, by lending our experiences, is to have fortified and added some muscle to what they do," Mr. Cambridge said.

"And not only that, with some of our international exposure, we are able to show them, to give them a peek, as to some of what is

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"Day One was primarily about investigative fundamentals in terms of forensic investigations and so forth and so we had some very interactive sessions during which, we were able to take coming down the pipeline when you talk about counter-terrorism financing, how Block Chain may impact some of the things they may see on a daily basis," Mr. Cambridge added.



"THE POINTE" NOT IN BREACH

Continued from / PAGE 1...

A press release noted that the present stage of construction, representing the second phase of The Pointe Development is the erection of the superstructure, which requires specialized post tension concrete structure workers to complete this phase in a very short time frame.

In the following phases, noted the release, more Bahamian workers and contractors will be engaged in order to comply with the overall 70 per cent Bahamian to 30 per cent non-Bahamian workforce composition.

The British Colonial Hotel Complex also owned by the developer of The Pointe, has two non-Bahamian workers and 275 Bahamian employees.

However, upon completion, The Pointe Development will boast 500 full time Bahamian workers.

The Ministry of Labour, and by extension, The Department of Labour ended by noting that it remains committed to employment and contractual opportunities for Bahamians.

The Pointe Development construction is scheduled to be completed in the second quarter of 2020.

EditorialNEWS

A5

YOUR DUTY TO YOUR COUNTRY

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.

What responsibilities do attorneys have to a society? The regulations for their profession show that theirs is not a profession that they can just practice without obligations.

How many attorneys are there in the House of Assembly for the Commonwealth of The Bahamas? And how many of them recently voted for the passage of the Criminal Evidence (Witness Anonymity) bill?

It appears as if they need to be reminded of their duties as attorneys.

Lest they have forgotten, Rule XII of the Bahamas Bar Code of Professional Conduct Regulations, outlining requirements for The Attorney And The Administration of Justice, state

- The attorney should encourage public respect for and strive to improve the administration of justice.
- The admission to and continuance in the practice of law implies on the part of the attorney a basic commitment to the concept of equal justice for all within an open, ordered and impartial system....
- The attorney's training, opportunities and experience enable him to observe the workings and to discover 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.

attorney's professional activities but is a broad general

responsibility resulting from his position in the community. His responsibilities are greater than those of a private citizen. He must not subvert the law by counselling or assisting in activities which are in defiance of it, and he must do nothing to lessen the respect and confidence of the public in the legal system of which he is a part....

Need we say more? Lets.

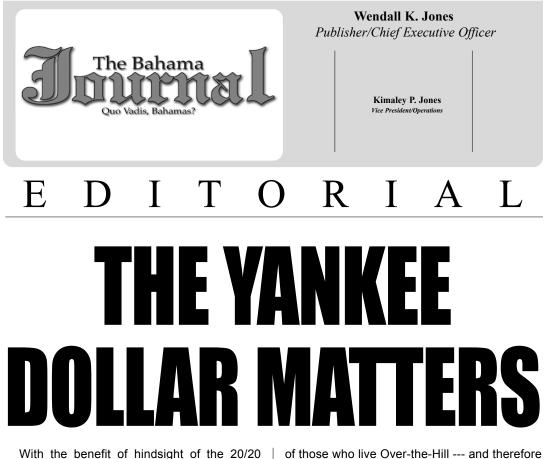
It cannot be stressed enough that the idea of passing a bill that contravenes the Constitution of The Bahamas is not just foolish, but a serious matter that should not go unchecked. Such action undermines our society and is in direct contradiction of the responsibilities of our lawmakers.

It is difficult to understand how they could even come to a place of making such a decision that goes against their professional responsibilities:

Are they ensuring with this bill that there is

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With the benefit of hindsight of the 20/20 variety and a modicum of good sense gleaned from long years of toil and struggle, we do advise any and all who would do any good for anyone to know that, they whom you would help should first do their best to do for themselves.

By way of commentary, we take note as follows:-- The distinctive prominence of the informal economy in the Over-the-Hill communities is highlighted by the fact that overall, 70 per cent of businesses in The Bahamas exist within the formal sector, according to 2012 Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) study.

Herein we find the rub that matters, moving forward as it has been correctly identified by none other than Financial Secretary, Marlon Johnson.

As Johnson so rightly explains:-- "...The challenge with that when you are outside the formal economy [brings with it certain challenges] such as:-- Getting access to credit and getting access to concessions..."

And as Johnson further explains:-- It becomes difficult!

As such, then:-- The happy challenge we have is to lower the barriers for businesses within the community to become a part of the formal sector and then that then opens the door for them to access credit and get the concessions and the things they need in order to go and to thrive..."

And therein we find one the hurdles ahead which might derail the entire Over-the-Hill Enterprise!

to a very real extent also by decisions taken in the United States, especially when they bear the imprimatur of their State Department.

Evidently, therefore, such advice comes with the proviso that one's self is not to be confused with one's own person but that, to know that the true 'self' is always deeply tied up in affiliations, unions and associations; thus the importance of not only the State; but also the Church, Unions and other civil-society based institutions.

This is precisely why we now advise in the spirit of all that is true, good and just, we do declare that we wish the current administration all the best in the world as it moves forward in earnest effort aimed at providing succour to our people who live Over-The-Hill.

And yet, there is also that other set of realities where truth must be spoken to power; and thus, when and where advice – as best as we can provide it – is offered.

In this regard, then, we feel obliged to suggest that any and all plans concerning the socalled 'rejuvenation' of any heartland community must – from jump-street-engage that fuller genius which is inherent in the so-called 'people'.

Indeed, were we all minded to move in this spirit, we would wake – as it were – to the great hope and promise inherent in our motto:--Forward, Onward, Upward, Together!

Take that road and victory is ours!

Take another; ahead nothing but regrets and shards of broken dreams.

Indeed, there is no doubting the fact that the areas designated and identified under the

strengths and weaknesses of laws, legal institutions and authorities. He should therefore lead in seeking improvements in the legal system, but his criticisms and proposals should be bona fide and reasoned.

• The obligation outlined in the Rule is not restricted to the

"equal justice for all"?

In creating and passing this amendment, were they focused on "proposals that are bona fide and reasoned"?

Did they take care "not to subvert the law by counselling or assisting in activities which are in defiance of it"?

We think not!

Will the Senate act responsibly or will they follow suit?

Such a failure would become [in terms of politics as we know the game] nothing short of a disaster for Dr. Minnis and his team!

And clearly, such a failure might also fuel even more distress in an area where social stressors now abound---In short, then, we humbly sum up by suggesting that:-- One of the truly hard lessons of life as it is lived in today's capitalism-oriented world has to do with the importance of market forces as they impinge on the social existence of people everywhere.

And thus it remains that:-- These forces directly impinge on the level of well-being now being experienced by all Bahamians, inclusive

'Over-the-Hill' are home to an abundance of supposedly 'poor' people; and yet, statistics recently uncovered suggest that there may well be another set of indicators which may reveal--once taken into fuller account—a totally different picture.

Here we also remind that in very recent times, the State Department has urged visitors to [The Bahamas] ---avoid the area known as Over-the-Hill—thus depriving that area of its share of the Yankee dollar.

It is that dollar which makes all the difference here, there and practically everywhere!

Letter to the Editor WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Dear Editor,

A name is a very serious thing!

I would like to say a sincere 'thank you' to whomsoever made the decision to remove the revered name of "Junkanoo" from the middle of "Bahamas Carnival". Now our proud centuries-old tradition is back in its rightful place!

Secondly, and in the same vein, I would like to strongly entreat the Bahamian public (particularly politicians and the media) to treat our proud nomenclature of "Overthe-Hill" with the deep respect it deserves and not besmirch this rich heritage by referring to it as the 'inner city" – another foreign abomination which has no place within our proud history.

Unfortunately, persons use these names

without thinking of the serious damage they can do, and before you know it, they become that self fulfilling prophecy we do NOT want!

I commend and support the Prime Minister for making bold steps to lead us back once again towards that other extremely important name of "Community" by inculcating those values which defined us as a people.

Let's "be who we is, and not who we ain't" by using those names we can lay claim to as our own – names that were a positive reflection of who we were, who we wanted to be, and the roads we were prepared to take to get us there!

> Yours sincerely, Pam Burnside





NationalNEWS





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.

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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 <u>CHARLESZONICLE@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS</u> Dr. Merceline Dahl-Regis, fourth left, next to Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling, became the first Bahamian to receive the prestigious Pan-American Health Organization Public Heath Hero Award of the Americas. The honour was conveyed at a PAHO award ceremony in the Ballroom at Government House on Wednesday. Pictured from left: Dr. Esther de Gourville, Prime Minister Minnis, Dr. Carissa Etienne, Dr. Dahl-Regis, Dame Marguerite Pindling, Minister of Health Dr. Duane Sands, and Dr. Merle Lewis. (BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay)

Prime Minister applauds role of Dr. Dahl-Regis in Advances in health care

BY LINDSAY THOMPSON

Dr. Merceline Dahl-Regis became the first Bahamian to receive the prestigious Pan-American Health Organization's 'Public Heath Hero Award of the Americas' at a PAHO award ceremony at Government House on Wednesday evening, May 2, 2018. Prime Minister. Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis commended the role Dr. Dahl-Regis has played in the great strides that have been made in Bahamian health care.

with efforts to eliminate vaccine-preventable diseases." the Prime Minister said.

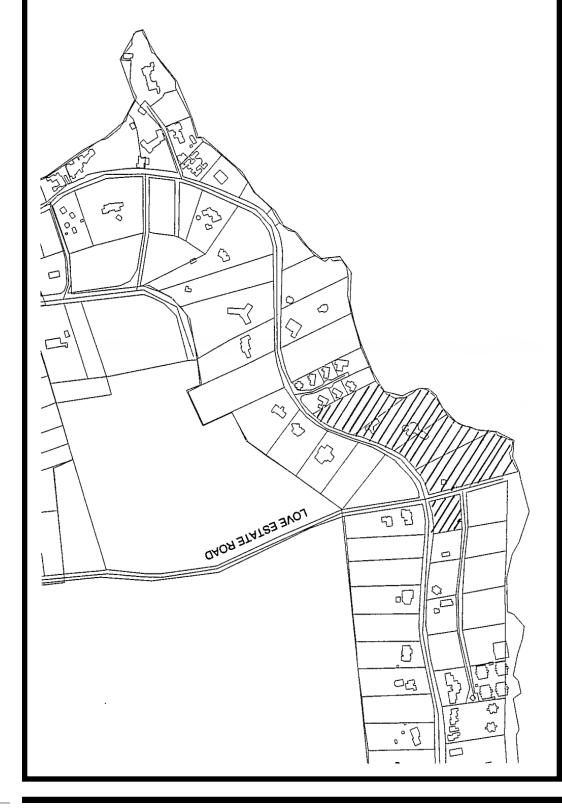
He noted that since Independence, The Bahamas has seen tremendous progress in the provision of health care. But the emerging trend of prevalence of chronic non-communicable diseases (CNCDs) is undermining progress and has led to dra-

matic new challenges. "The treatment of medical conditions related to term, these initiatives will enable more Bahamians to lead healthier and longer lives.

"We regard this as a war against CNCDs including the risk factor of obesity, as one that we can win," the Prime Minister said. "It is not however, one to be fought exclusively by the Ministry of Health."

The government's vision includes an emphasis on personal responsibility and a variety of social and health

Signed Charles B. Zonicle Acting Director of Physical Planning



The esteemed award was presented to Dr. Dahl-Regis by Dr. Carissa Etienne, Director of PAHO and WHO Regional Director for the Americas.

According to Dr. Minnis, the observance provides the opportunity for the country to reflect on its post-independence journey, with respect to health care, as it nears the 45th year independence anniversary.

Dr. Dahl-Regis is a Bahamian public health pioneer known locally and regionally for her work in advancing disease elimination through immunization, over many years.

"It is a matter of great pride that through the technical expertise of Dr. Merceline Dahl-Regis, The Bahamas has been able to make significant contributions to this work of PAHO in interventions associated

CNCDs requires public funding which could be allocated to other priority areas of health care delivery. CNCDs have implications for the productivity of the workforce due to illness and disability -- all contributing to the undermining of our country's potential for further economic growth and national development," the Prime Minister said.

In this vein, he said just as his government is committed to sustaining the gains in immunization coverage against communicable diseases, it is also committed to further reducing the need for hospitalization as a result of complications associated with CNCDs.

The Ministry of Health has recently announced initiatives to further promote healthier food choices and combat sedentary lifestyles. It is emphasizing the message of prevention and anticipates that in the longpolicies geared toward directing choices to avoid ill health and obesity.

The Prime Minister expressed "deep appreciation" to PAHO for its ongoing support in numerous aspects of public health programming and policy.

PAHO, which serves as the regional office of the World Health Organization, is the oldest public health organization in the world.

"The technical assistance it provides to its member states is noteworthy in a region where most of its members are categorized as developing economies," the Prime Minister said.

It is a matter of great pride that through the technical expertise of Dr. Merceline Dahl-Regis, The Bahamas has been able to make significant contributions to this work of PAHO in interventions towards eliminating vaccine-preventable diseases.

