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"Expect Higher Taxes"

• Davis paint grim picture

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Opposition leader Phillip Davis is warning the public to expect increased taxes in the new 2018/ 2019 budget of the Free National Movement government.

In a statement released yesterday, the opposition leader claimed that the

public can expect an increase in the VAT rate to offset the elimination of VAT on certain goods and services, an increase in selective customs, excise tariff rates, and real property taxes, the introduction of new and additional taxes, among other effects due to the "anemic" revenue growth over the past fiscal year.



► Opposition leader Phillip Davis (Journal file photo)

■ See HIGHER / page 2...

DPM: BUDGET TO SHOW FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest says when he presents the national budget next week Wednesday, one thing you will not see in our budget is any runaway spending.

"We will spend the people's money responsibly, in accordance with our strategic priorities and the commitments made to the Bahamian people. All of our work at the Ministry of Finance moving forward will be conducted in the context of a statutory mandate to practice fiscal responsibility," he said.

Mr. Turnquest explained that the public can expect the government to make hard choices to lower the debt levels as well as make responsible choices to arrive at a more sustainable fiscal balance.



► Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest (Journal file photo)

■ See RESPONSIBILITY on PAGE 2...

ROBERTS BLASTS GOV'T ON INCOMPLETED BUILDING

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Former Cabinet Bradley Roberts sounded the alarm as he labels the Free National Movement (FNM) as unaccountable, non-transparent, and dishonest.

This stems from recent and past construction projects across the nation in which the general contractor or initial construction company was relieved of their duties causing the tax paying public millions of dollars.

Mr. Roberts said that the most recent project causing concern stands on John F. Kennedy Drive, just west of the Paul Adderley Building.

He said, "It is clear that this public structure is substantially complete but work has suddenly stopped because I am advised the contractor, Lloyd Smith, has been fired. The general public and I have seen this scenario before with the construction of the Paul L. Adderley Building where incidentally Mr. Smith was the general contractor."



► Former Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Bradley Roberts (Journal file photo)

■ See BLASTS GOV'T / page 3...

Bahamas Off EU Blacklist

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas has been given formal notification that it has been removed from the blacklist of noncooperative tax jurisdictions or jurisdiction for tax purposes, but placed on a grey list, according to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Peter Turnquest.

In March of this year, The Bahamas was blacklisted by the European Union (EU). The Bahamas was included on

the EU's list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes despite efforts by the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Finance to keep The Bahamas off the list.

The Ministry of Finance, released a statement on Friday stating that the delisting followed a positive technical recommendation from the European Union's Code of Conduct Group, formally adopted by the Council of European Union Finance Ministers.

■ See OFF EU BLACKLIST / page 3...

Illegal Haitian Migrants Reach Venice Bay

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

A search is reportedly still on for illegal migrants after a Haitian sloop made landfall off Venice Bay, South New Providence after midnight Saturday.

Several Law enforcement personnel including Royal Bahamas Police and Defence Force, as well as Immigration officers were

only able to capture 26 of the migrants who were on board and are now being held by Immigration officials.

According to reports, "shortly after midnight, a 35-ft Haitian sloop made landfall off Venice Bay. Efforts by security forces resulted in the capture of 26 migrants, who were turned over to Immigration officials for further processing."

Defence Force is also reporting that prior to Sunday morning, marines were deployed to key areas along the coastlines of New Providence to support vessels patrolling off shore. However, much of the Defence Force's land base maritime and air operations have been hampered by adverse weather conditions.

Since May 2017, Defence Force officers

have apprehended 13 migrant smuggling vessels and also apprehended or assisted with capturing over 1,000 migrants during the same period.

The Defence Force is also actively patrolling the waters for over fishing by American sports fishermen as well as mixed migrant smuggling in Grand Bahama, Bimini and Abaco. In addition to reports of Dominican poaching in the Southern Bahamas.

The last landfall made by Haitian migrants on New Providence was in February of this year.

Defence Force personnel say they will hold a press conference today to speak to the latest incident and inform the public of solutions to challenges faced by the force.

Man dies in Traffic Mishap

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Another traffic accident in the capital on Saturday morning left a man dead.

Reports said that a man driving a purple and gray Toyota Tacoma on Prince Charles drive lost control of the vehicle and collided with a tree.

The victim's identity has not been revealed; however traffic officers continue their investigations on the matter.

■ See MAN DIES IN / page 2...

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“Expect Higher Taxes”

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Further, Mr Davis said, “the introduction of new and additional taxes to fund the deferred capital expenditure and assist in the ambitious deficit reduction target of the draft Fiscal Responsibility can be expected.

Mr Davis also projected no real increase in the recurrent allocation for any of the critical areas such as health, education and national security. He said the manpower and skills deficit in national security, health and education would continue to widen.

“A freeze on public service increments or a reduction of public service employment levels; Public sector salary incre-

ments automatically upwardly adjusted recurrent expenditure by about 1 percent per annum; Increments along with the increase in interest expenses and principle amortization would likely breach the 3 percent rule,” he said.

Mr Davis said reduction in subvention to public corporations would certainly mean job losses.

The Member of Parliament for Cat Island, Run Cay, and San Salvador said that the Free National Movement (FNM) administration lacks a growth agenda to push the country forward.

He said, “In the first year in office, many of the gains made by the previous administration

have evaporated. For example, there has been anemic revenue growth notwithstanding the opening of Baha Mar. Revenue for the first 9 months is trending on par with actual revenue for the last fiscal year. This is disturbing as the last fiscal year’s revenue yield was decimated by Hurricane Matthew.”

Mr Davis said, “With the phased opening of Baha Mar and the absence of major storms impacting New Providence, revenue yields should have been at least 10 percent above the last fiscal year. A 5 percent increase in recurrent revenue would have allowed the Government to fully execute its capital budget.”

On the expenditure side of

the budget, the opposition leader expressed concerns about the “widespread yet very selective terminations of contractual workers”.

He said, “Expenditure levels have not dropped in comparison to last year. This is concerning, as vendors are not being paid on a timely basis to such an extent that arrears have risen to levels which is creating unsettling chatter among the business community about the Government’s solvency.”

Mr. Davis also addressed the expectations of the public service.

He said that in critical areas like health, education, infrastructure, and national security need more resources and

improved services on par with more developed countries.

He also spoke on the FNM’s public policy promises which include eliminating VAT on a variety of goods and services, introducing economic empowerment zones in New Providence, providing free tuition at the University of The Bahamas, increasing public private partnerships, and drafting a Fiscal Responsibility Act to keep recurrent expenditure growth less than 3 percent of the previous year’s level and or less than the growth in nominal GDP.

He said that for a government without a real growth agenda, this is a bleak outcome and a recession inducing budget.

MAN DIES IN TRAFFIC MISHAP

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Police also report the discovery of 60.2 pounds of suspected marijuana with an estimated street

value of \$60,000.

Officers searched a vessel docked on East Bay Street around 1:30 Saturday morning and discovered 12 packages of

the drugs onboard. One Bahamian male along with five foreign nationals were taken into custody.

They are expected to face the Magistrate’s

Court next week.

Police also conducted a search onboard a local mail boat docked at Potter’s Cay Dock on Saturday morning and

discovered 1 ½ pounds of suspected marijuana in one of the vessels cabins.

This quantity has an estimated street value of \$1,000, and a Bahamian

male was taken into custody on this matter.

He is also expected to be formally charged next week at the Magistrate’s Court.

Police also uncovered a nine millimeter pistol with seven rounds of ammunition around 3AM on Saturday.

Officers said acting on information, they conducted a search of a 2006 Buick Car on Collin Avenue and fifth terrace, Centerville and found the weapon.

A male and female were taken into custody awaiting arraignment next week.

DPM: BUDGET TO SHOW FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Minister of Finance pointed out the government’s prioritized internal auditing as one of several initiatives showing how serious the government is about transparency, integrity and accountability. He spoke at a meeting of the Institute of Internal Auditors last Friday.

The Minister also said, “We

recognize that words like accountability and transparency must be more than political buzzwords. We must back that up by taking steps to ensure that we have a cadre of qualified financial and accounting professionals to enable the government to track and account for revenue and expenditure, and to uphold its commitments to fiscal responsibility.”

Mr. Turnquest also said that fiscal discipline has not been a hallmark of all governments in the past.

He added, “at the governance level, the landmark fiscal responsibility legislation, released for public consultation two weeks ago, is a major initiative that demonstrates our seriousness and commitment to living according to this ethical

standards and fiscal responsibility principles.”

The government chose to develop the 2018/2019 budget in accordance with the law’s guidelines.

Above all, Mr. Turnquest noted that the public will see the government embrace the idea of transparency and accountability “in a way no other government has done before.”



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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 23 2018:

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
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WEST BAY STREET CABLE BEACH
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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 June 5 2018 when the Tenders Board meets at 10:00 a.m.

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

Financial Secretary

AIDS STATS REVEALED

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

The Ministry of Health has released its 2017 Global AIDS Monitoring Report. The 2016 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS report reveals alarming statistics about HIV/AIDS in the country. The comprehensive overview of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in The Bahamas showed that between 1985 and 2015, 13,449 persons were HIV positive.

According to reports, over a third of those cases or 35 per cent have since

died of AIDS.

At the end of 2015, 8,667 people were listed as living with HIV as determined through surveillance methods.

This means that roughly 1 in 50 persons in The Bahamas in 2015 was HIV positive.

In 2015, 226 persons were diagnosed with HIV in The Bahamas, which represented a 43 per cent decrease from the reported number of 396 in 2006.

Most of these cases or 84 per cent had not progressed to AIDS by the end of 2015.

New diagnoses in men exceeded the diagnoses in women, while persons aged 30-39, accounted for the largest age group of new diagnoses at 25 per cent.

Although new diagnoses have decreased among most demographic groups, cases among 15-24 year olds increased by 38 per cent between 2006 with 34 cases and 47 cases in 2015.

Cases among males in this age group tripled between 2006 with 11 cases and 27 cases in 2015.

Between 2006 and

2015, 1,155 persons died of AIDS-related causes in The Bahamas, with an average of 116 deaths per year.

The age-adjusted death rate decreased from 48 to 10 deaths per 100,000 persons in this time period.

The majority of AIDS deaths in 2015 occurred

in persons born in The Bahamas at 84 per cent and 40-99-year old at 45 per cent.

These figures were compiled in The 2017

Global AIDS Monitoring Report: Monitoring the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, released by The Ministry of Health.

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ROBERTS BLASTS GOV'T ON INCOMPLETED BUILDING

Continued from / PAGE 1...

He also said that during the FNM's last term in office between 2007 and 2012, the administration fired Mr. Smith.

He added, "In a very public account of the drama that unfolded, Mr. Smith withheld the balance of the building materials connected with the project. The case was taken to court where it was revealed that he was fired without cause, so he was paid the balance of the monies owed to him, he released the balance of the material, and the FNM hired another contractor to complete the project."

"The problem to the tax paying public was that upon completion, the cost of the building almost doubled, even though it was substantially completed. The initial cost was in the range of \$12 million. The waste on

this project was breath taking with no acceptable explanation coming from the FNM," he said.

In a statement issued yesterday, Mr. Roberts listed a number of projects in the country where the same issue transpired.

Some of these include a building project in Mangrove Cay, Garvin Tynes Primary School repairs, the remand center in Fox Hill, and repairs made to Stephen Dillet Primary School.

Mr. Roberts invited Bahamians to watch what he calls the "latest episode involving the new building project on JFK".

He also advised the public to watch for the government's explanation on the reasons for dismissing the current contractor, the initial project cost, and the completion cost after replacing the contractor.

Bahamas Off EU Blacklist

Continued from / PAGE 1...

DPM Turnquest, speaking with this Journal, said that the grey list is a list that includes "low tax jurisdiction or zero tax jurisdictions which the European Union has received commitments from to increase their transparency standards".

"That is just a transitory list that they have that they will monitor to ensure that we live up to the commitments that we made in respect to the timelines and the actual legislative and policy exchanges necessary in order to bring full compliance to the OECD criteria.

"We are certainly pleased to receive the news that we were moved off that first list as that was beginning to cause some concern within the international finance community.

"I want to particularly thank the hard working people from the ministry of finance, ministry of financial services and also the attorney general's office and as well as our partners at BFSB and AIBT as well as industry stakeholders who all worked very, very well in a collaborative manner and with great corporation and support to get us to the point where we are today," Mr. Turnquest said.

Mr. Turnquest however said that the work does not stop because of the delisting.

We now have to focus on the criteria with respect to economic substance and presence of these

international entities in The Bahamas to meet the substance requirements test as well as to eliminate green fencing with respect to taxation and that's our next goal.

"We've already established the working committee that is dedicated to addressing this issue and we look forward to having policies and legislative proposals in short order in accordance with our published timetables," Mr. Turnquest said.

Contrary to speculation, Mr. Turnquest said that The Bahamas had to make no other commitments to the EU.

"The Bahamas has had to make no commitments on any other matter, other than the issues already outlined. There is no underhanded or under the table negotiation or agreements that The Bahamas has had to sign up to.

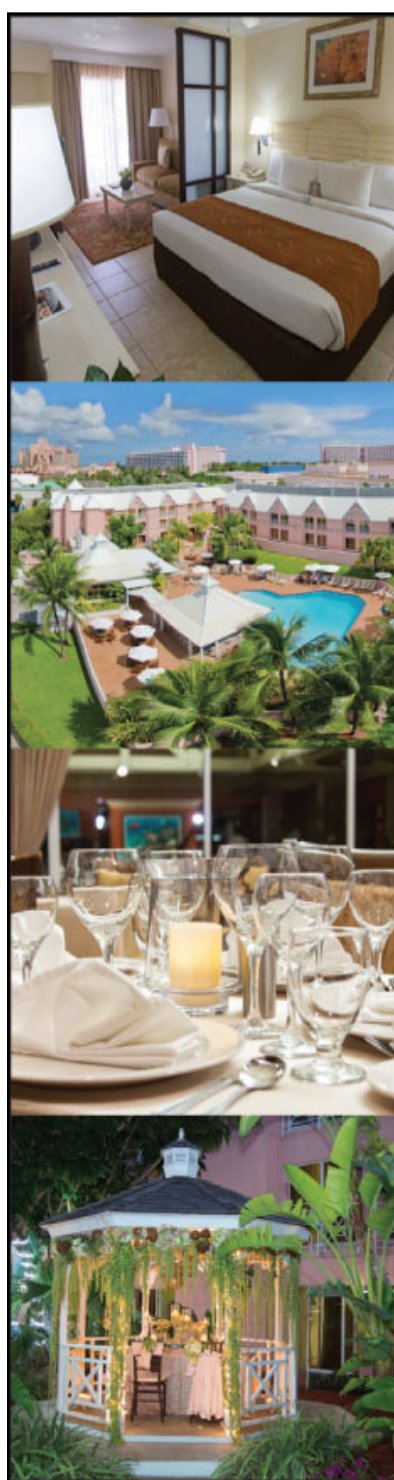
"The fact of the matter is that the European Union has not indicated or demanded any kind of concession from us in respect to the implementation of any kind of corporate task or personal income tax or anything of that nature; nor do they have the ability to do so as a sovereign nation.

"The fact of the matter is that we have agreed to live up to our commitment and our responsibility as a responsible international financial center to engage in a transparent tax exchange regime and we will live up to our commitments in that regard.

"But our policies, our internal policies, with regards to how we raise government revenue how

we deal with the privacy and the confidentiality of our clients is a matter we reserve as a sovereign entity and we will continue to do that," Mr. Turnquest said.

The DPM reiterated that the government looks forward to having the policies and legislative proposals in short order.



SPOTLIGHT ON BAIN GRANTS TOWN

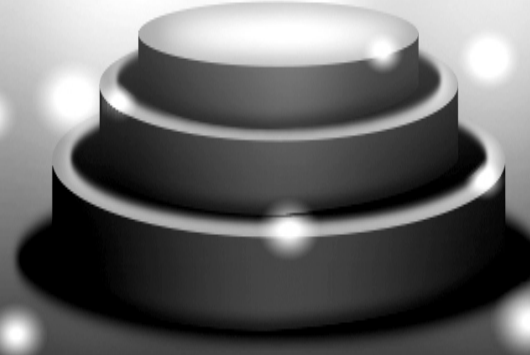
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BHCAWU New President Charts New Course

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

Newly elected president, Darrin Woods, and Team Phoenix dominated the polling charts last Tuesday, in The Bahamas Hotel Catering and Allied Workers Union (BHCAWU) elections.

Mr. Woods, now the former general secretary for the Union, said getting a registered industrial agreement is first on the agenda; their mantra, protection, empowerment, advancement and service.

“A part of what we want to start off with is our membership discount cards, where while we

negotiate a contract, as a part of empowering them we want to be able to stretch that dollar that they spend,” he said.

“At various business houses they’re able to get discounts, we also are partnering with first care, that they will be able to receive discounts on medical care.

“Whatever their monthly fee is, as a member of the hotel union, they will receive a discount off that monthly fee, and then wherever they go they’ll be able to get medical attention.

“Also, we’re partnering with the union health and welfare which is a major medical, which

our members will be able to buy into and they have a major medical.

“In addition to that we intend to introduce an assistance programme for our members because the time has come now when there are times of disasters that the union members will be able to come to the union and receive even if it’s an initial benefit,” he added.

With just under 5,000 members eligible to vote, Wood said they’re working on getting members reengaged with the Union.

“We’re going to offer our service now to the members, improve our service to them,

improve benefits to the members, because we believe that if we improve the benefits to the members, they will reconnect with the union,” he said.

“Because as opposed to just paying ten dollars a week and that’s it, you’ll be paying ten dollars a week and be able to receive some reciprocal benefits from the Union.”

Mr. Wood said although over the year’s progress has been made, there is much more work to be done.

“We are going to be focusing on the health aspect of our membership because we recognize that there are a lot of non-com-

municable diseases that our people are contracting and developing because of our lifestyle,” he said.

“We want to develop and portray a more healthier industry, because if the members and the employees are healthier they’ll be more productive on the job.”

Woods’ competitors were Abraham Smith of Team New Day, Tyrone Knowles of Team Revolution, and Valderine Small of Team Destiny.

There were two polls in New Providence, one in San Salvador and one in Grand Bahama.

The BHCAWU will be 60 years old on December 1, 2018.

BBCC PANEL EVENT LAUNCH



▶ Minister for Grand Bahama, Senator Kwasi Thompson joined members of the government, the President of the Grand Bahama Port Authority, local Immigration Representatives, GB Business stakeholders to unveil plans by his government to introduce the use of blockchain and cryptocurrency technology to the island’s digital strategy. During June 20th to 22nd, 2018 Grand Bahama Island will serve as the backdrop for the first ever Bahamas Blockchain & Cryptocurrency Conference (BBCC) which organizers are anticipating will attract the best and brightest in the crypto industry to the country. Pictured at the conference launch are (left to right) Ian Rolle, President of the Grand Bahama Port Authority President, Allison Levarity, Director of Customer Experience, ALIV, Minister Thompson and Donovan Moxey, Chairman, GB Tech Hub Steering Committee. (Photo courtesy of KeeniMedia for Barefoot Marketing)

BAHAMASAIR RESPONDS TO CRITICS

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Despite accusations of breaching safety protocols and evasive action, Bahamasair has fired back with a statement concerning “purported” events that took place onboard a Bahamasair plane last Tuesday.

The statement said that after Flight 137 took off from the Lynden Pindling International Airport, an ATR 42 encountered traffic with a Silver Airways aircraft on the climb out of Nassau.

The report also said the flight crew made the necessary adjustments and continued the flight, which landed

safely in Marsh Harbour and on schedule.

Bahamasair assured that at no point were the passengers, the flight crew, or the aircraft in any real danger.

The company also wishes to state that their flight crew and systems functioned as expected in accordance with training and documented procedures.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS EXPERIENCE THEFT

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Apart from individuals with no formal training grossly undercutting the market, some Bahamian funeral directors also worry about persons stealing their equipment.

The Bahamas Funeral Directors Association’s (BFDA) Public Relations Officer, Randy Curtis said that he lost \$50,000 in equipment one year as a result of stealing.

He said that these items included a church truck, a lowering device, and embalming instruments.

He said, “I use ‘Slaughter’ instruments, which is the top brand. It’s the Rolls-Royce brand of instruments, and they’re expensive, but they produce the kind of work that my clients are accustomed to and one year we had to buy three sets.”

This is why the association is aggressively pursuing to propose legislation to government.

Last week this Journal reported that the BFDA was actively seeking to propose legislation to government which will regulate its practices.

This piece of legislation will seek to deal with theft within the industry.

Mr. Curtis said, “a lot of these persons who are coming into the field they do not have equipment and they want to ask you to borrow, but they would have someone befriend your staff and say ‘Well, can I borrow so and so?’ They never bring it back.”

He added, “in the industry, I’ve heard of firms who would have lost up to \$7,000 worth of stuff out of the cemetery. If you got a lowering device for \$5,000, you’ve got \$300 or \$400 in chairs, you’ve got \$1,000 for the mat that you put around the grave, you could come back and the whole set up is gone.”

Mr. Curtis also said that the BFDA is scheduled to be ready to propose to the government by the end of the year.

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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
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THEREAL PETER NYGARD PART II

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.

"Will the real Peter Nygard please stand up." There are many sides to fashion mogul Peter Nygard as Marina Sturdza has shared in her 1987 article "Who is the real Nygard?"

Previously we highlighted several characteristics of Nygard that appeared to greatly contribute to his ability to make his business such a huge success. Sturdza also zeroed in on some of the ones we presented. Below are excerpts from what she shared in her article, which continues from Part I:

There's Nygard the perfectionist, who before launching his denim division, examined no fewer than 60 products, checking every detail, counting belt loops, pockets and the number of stitches per inch, measuring waist bands and checking logo positions. Nygard's own denim product was submitted to every conceivable wear and performance test, until it met his demands.

Even so, he ordered the production line stopped, when he zeroed in on a minor offending detail—and expensive three-week delay that cost the company thousands of dollars.

Similarly, for his classic Alia pant, available in 56 different colors, Nygard insisted on a costly one-piece waistband plus custom-dyed thread, buttons and zippers to match each of the 56 shades—all for a garment slated to retail at a ridiculously low \$26, that is churned out at the staggering rate of 30,000 a week.

There's Nygard the arch-competitor... a man whose compulsion to conquer and succeed in all his endeavors is seemingly endless.

All of the above are, or have been, the real Peter Nygard. But emerge with a remarkably limited portrait of the man, who's considerably more complex than he's likely to admit. Says Nygard: "What you see is what you get." Not entirely.

No one ever built a \$200-million clothing empire on mere flamboyance, hedonism, and a knack for self-promotion, and nobody ever did it alone. And Nygard's ability to retain top-level executives ... is testimony to the caliber of Nygard's operation and the opportunities he offers. And the company's impressive growth record—Nygard International has never failed to turn a consistently high profit, and sales have doubled every five years—indicates that Nygard is clearly paying attention to business.

Nygard's route to fashion supremacy may not have been as glamorous as that of his higher-end designer market peers, but in North America, the middle-market is where the numbers are and where the profit lies. What's more, Nygard's record has greatly endeared him to his retailers, and will doubtless earn him a privileged reception for his next venture, a signature collection pitted directly against Canada's "better" manufacturers.

Nygard further protects his retailers' interests (and incidentally, his own) by providing thorough product information and staff indoctrination, plus enviable display and co-op advertising support. So effective are his tactics that Nygard's Canadian retail sales amount to \$4 per capita, for every man, woman and child in this country—all the more impressive when you consider the company's low price points—\$25 to \$150, and the sheer number of units represented. In total, Nygard produces 10 to 12 million garments a year in his Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, Los Angeles, Taiwan, Korea, Hong Kong and Chinese factories.

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.

And you can't ignore Nygard the industry innovator, whose arsenal of computer software tracks everything from design and fabrication specifications, sales and marketing programs, immediate sales figures, customer data, stock levels, and accounts receivable, plus myriad other business details. Nygard's electronic message system also connects him instantly to any of his 30 international offices. In a business in which today's hot trend is all-too rapidly tomorrow's ennui, that's money in the bank.

And, for all that he's painted as a jet-setter, a party-goer par excellence, Nygard remains a loner, an essentially solitary man whose invariable priority is his work.

There's also Nygard the family man, who takes pleasure in providing his family with a luxurious life in Nassau, and who flies his parents in to share all the important occasions of his life.

While Nygard's glittering glass-enclosed new building could be construed as a self-aggrandizing and needlessly extravagant expenditure, it is also a stunning Toronto landmark that will most certainly pay off in increased sales and employee productivity. In fact, says Jim Bennett, the building's showroom and display facilities have already prompted an increase in orders. And, since Nygard intends to make his multiple-use building available to other designers and fashion organizations, it's also an elegant gift of space to the industry and to the city.

The interesting thing from this perspective is that it appears nothing has changed with respect to Nygard's approach to his business. We can see how his consistency has helped him to continuously achieve mega success while so many other retailers have gone out of business.

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The Bahama Journal Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimaley P. Jones Vice President/Operations

EDITORIAL

TIME & [THE] TRUMPS

Civil rights attorney Colin Allred left his job at the Department of Housing and Urban Development in January 2017 deeply concerned about the incoming Trump administration...

Back home in the Dallas-area district where he grew up, he decided to heed the words of the president he had served: If you're unhappy with your elected officials, run for office yourself.

Dear beloved brothers and sisters, behold as we quote a most prescient warning from the esteemed W.B. Yeats— "...Things fall apart; the center cannot hold; mere anarchy is loosed upon the world— The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere the ceremony of innocence is drowned; the best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity..."

There you have it: -- While the worst are full of passionate intensity!

When these words were written, Adolf Hitler was right-there in the wings awaiting his dark entrance onto history's stage; he came, he saw and with his dark advent, evil was unleashed and as a direct consequence, tens of millions of people were destroyed.

Sadly, it sure now seems as if the world might yet witness evil remixed in these days when the United States of America now finds its key institutions under assault and siege.

In truth, then, today's deeply challenged times -- as dominated by the unlikely presidency of one Donald John Trump -- are now coming face to face with circumstances eerily similar to those precedent to Hitler's evil rise and prominence in Germany.

And as we all know, Donald John Trump is an American businessman and now-wonder of wonders, this man is now the President of the United States of America—and now -- as we fear -- there is fear and trepidation as to what might yet ensue for not only his country, but for the whole wide world!

In this regard, then, please note that any number of highly regarded psychiatrists are now saying that: -- Donald John Trump shares a number of traits found to be common in known psychopaths.

But yet, we are also obliged to confess that: -- Information reaching us say that the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations has

obtained wiretapped conversations of a Kremlin-linked banker who later met with Donald Trump Jr. during the 2016 presidential election.

We also learn that: -- Spanish national police provided the FBI with tapes of Russian oligarch Alexander Torshin's phone calls with a convicted Russian money launderer.

Note also that: -- Torshin, a close supporter of Russian President Vladimir Putin, briefly met with Trump Jr. at the National Rifle Association's annual convention in Louisville, Ky., in May 2016.

Interestingly enough, it is now being reported that: -- Torshin was known to leverage his membership in the NRA for meetings with high-profile officials.

And thus, in these dread times, another Donald John Trump is smack-dab-in the middle of a vat of truly nefarious bad news!

As a consequence, then, it is now being bruited about that: ---- "Mr. Trump's son should be concerned!"

And thus today, the lesson to be learned is to the effect that: -- "...Time longa dan rope..." [English Translation]: Time is longer than a rope!

And thus, notwithstanding abiding fears and trepidations galore, there is some really good news now brewing.

Here we note that: -- Many Obama alums are fired up to push back against President Donald Trump, a figure who rose to political prominence with racially-charged accusations about Obama's citizenship.

As Tom Malinowski, 52, the former assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights, and labor now running for Congress in New Jersey's 7th Congressional District now admits: -- "Looking back on last year, it was the effort to take down the Affordable Care Act with no viable replacement. It was the Muslim ban, and attacks on immigrants, it was the tearing up of alliances and commitments internationally. It was the taking down of environmental protections, it was refusing to invest in infrastructure as Trump had promised!"

The sum of the matter, then, is this: -- If you're unhappy with your elected officials, run for office yourself.

Put simply, then, time is running out on and for the Trumps!

THE BAHAMAS
Sun, Sand, Sea and the
The Bahama Journal
NO BETTER READING

The advertisement features a background image of a beach with waves. On the left, there is a collage of newspaper clippings from 'The Bahama Journal'. One prominent headline reads '22ND MURDER VICTIM Identified'. Other visible headlines include 'MODERN Men Boutiques' and 'WOMAN'S PLUMBING SUPPLIES'. The text 'aimed' is partially visible on the left side of the collage.



► The University of The Bahamas (UB) held a commencement ceremony at the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium on Thursday, May 24, for its 908 graduates of the Spring 2018 Class. The class, the largest in recent times, was addressed by Dr. Rodney Smith, UB president, and Fred Perpall, ceo, The Beck Group, Class of 1993. Among those in attendance were Minister of Tourism & Aviation, the Hon. Dionisio D'Aguilar and Minister of Labour, Sen. the Hon. Dion Foulkes. Dr. Smith conferred the degrees to the graduates. **(BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna)**

UB's largest graduation

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

The University of The Bahamas graduated 700 students last Thursday – the biggest graduation at the University to date.

While 700 students graduated, 900 students crossed the threshold. The other 200 students either graduated before the spring 2018 semester or had another class to complete in the following semester.

Although the skies were overcast, that did little to dampen the spirits of the 900 students who crossed the floor during the university's spring commencement exercise.

Donned in their traditional robes, the group was the first ever to wear decorated shoals and mortarboards.

This was the focus of a recent standoff between the student body and University officials.

The University eventually agreed that each graduate may wear an academic stole

representing a Greek organization, honor society or a registered club along with the distinction honor cord where applicable.

However, the wearing of decorated mortarboards was for this year only.

Reflecting on her time at UB was Charleena Constantakis, the recipient of the Governor General award, whose journey at the then College of The Bahamas started in fall 2013.

She commended her peers for their courage and determination, for pushing on despite the trials and tribulation and finishing strong.

To her professors, she said that the work was hard, the homework and tests exhausting, but the knowledge gained was worth while.

With an extreme sense of joy and pride, some UB graduates described their feelings of graduating as unexplainable, a dream come through and a goal reached.

The new University of The Bahamas graduates join the University's 18,000 alumni.



MINISTRY OF FINANCE

PUBLIC TREASURY DEPARTMENT

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

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

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

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

Vendor Verification Process

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

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

Vendor Verification Information Required

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

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

TREASURER, COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS



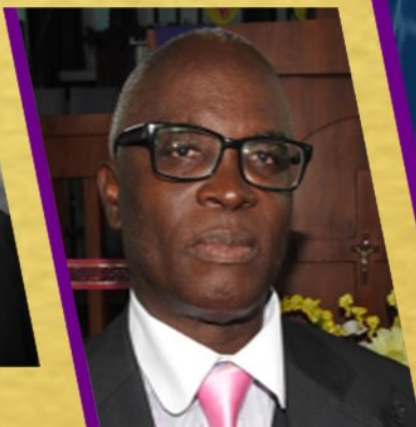
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SUNDAY, JUNE 3RD, 2018 AT 3:30PM

The William Thompson Auditorium, Jean Street, Gleniston Gardens

NASSAU, BAHAMAS

Government Unveils Plans for Cryptocurrency Conference on GB

• June 20th-22nd, The Grand Lucayan Conference Centre

Freeport, Grand Bahama - The age of the internet has given rise to increased access to information, shifting the way that we all interact. Technology has, and continues to connect us in ways previously unseen; and in doing so, has paved the way for even more advanced methods of conducting business, managing resources and plotting global economic development.

In recent years, a newly crafted resource dubbed blockchain technology – an incorruptible digital ledger of economic transactions that can be programmed to record everything of value – has further revolutionized the way world economies grow. Originally designed to facilitate the effective use of digital currency, it has evolved into the backbone of a new internet culture which governments around the world – including The Bahamas – are working to capitalize on.

“We are thinking about the way forward,” explained Minister of Grand Bahama, Senator Kwasi Thompson during the launch of the event’s website and press conference on Thursday in Grand Bahama. “We want The Bahamas to be part of that discussion. And we anticipate this conference will serve to present Freeport, Grand Bahama as the ideal location to establish offices and global headquarters for new technology companies.”

Thompson joined members of government, the President of the Grand Bahama Port Authority,



► Minister of GB Senator Kwasi Thompson addresses Press Conference to announce the launch of the Bahamas Blockchain & CryptoCurrency Conference to be held in Freeport on June 20-22 2018. (Photo courtesy of KeeniMedia for Barefoot Marketing)

local Immigration Representatives, GB Business stakeholders to unveil plans by his government to introduce the use of blockchain and cryptocurrency technology to the island’s digital strategy.

During June 20th to 22nd, 2018 Grand Bahama Island will serve as the backdrop for the first ever Bahamas Blockchain & Cryptocurrency Conference (BBCC) which organizers are anticipating will attract the best and brightest in the crypto industry to the country.

This event came about due to the recommendations from the Grand Bahama Tech Hub Committee that was formed after the GB Tech Summit last year in Grand Bahama. Headed by

Donovan Moxey, organizers of this event are expecting over a thousand international investors, entrepreneurs, wealth management executives, Bahamas Government officials, and business leaders. These ‘Tech Heads’ will travel both locally and internationally to network and gain a better insight into the regulatory framework that The Bahamas has established for cryptocurrencies, ICOs and exchanges. It is also expected that many will travel to see the selected “40 Stars of Technology” in the Blockchain and Cryptocurrency arena present their innovative investment opportunities.

During the launch, Moxey launched the BBCC Website live

to the guests and to the world via live Facebook feed on the conference page. “The focus of this event is to invite investors and entrepreneurs who are developing Blockchain solutions, to come to Grand Bahama and our country. I am very pleased that this Government and the Prime Minister himself is leading the charge of this event,” he noted. “The Bahamas will unveil their rules and regulations for cryptocurrency at BBCC, but you need to be here, the Prime Minister will be here, and so if you want access to decision makers in the Bahamas government, you want to be here and you want to pre-register now for #BBCC.”

Focusing on key parameters such as the need for legislative

adjustments, capital funding and global investment, the launch of the conference is further in line with an agenda set by the Minnis administration to promote the city of Freeport as a digital hub, catering to new and innovative technical markets.

“This is truly a defining moment for the future of the Grand Bahama Economy,” said Senator Thompson. “The government is pleased to be spearheading this initiative and paving the way for a real digital revolution which will undoubtedly impact the lives of Bahamians in a positive way.”

BBCC Info

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

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

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

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

The Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Ministry of the Environment and Housing has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP), to request competitive tenders from qualified companies to provide a cost-effective solution for the Energy Efficiency Retrofit (EER) at Anatol Rodgers High School, located on the island of New Providence in The Bahamas. The goal of the EER is to decrease annual energy demand and improve comfort through the installation of energy conservation measures (ECM) and a rooftop solar PV array. Accordingly, Bidders are expected to design, supply and install the following ECMs:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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