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TUESDAY - JUNE 26TH, 2018

75 CENTS

PLP SETS STANDARDS FOR CANDIDATES

In an ongoing effort to select suitable candidates to win the next general elections, the leadership of the Progressive Liberal Party has endorsed what is being

called "a mix of qualities and standards to become an effective and lasting Member of Parliament on a PLP team.

The requirements come after an Aspirant Candidates Modular Training Workshop Seminar for potential PLP

candidates held last week at the Party headquarters at the Sir Lynden Pindling Centre, Gambier House.

In a nutshell, the requirement document states that "candidates should be imbued with a strong com-

mitment to positive, progressive principles and willing to expose themselves to intense public scrutiny and remain in the arena and stay the course, because they are committed to fight for a cause greater than themselves.

"At the end of the day, individuals who meet these standards are those whom the people ought to elect to Parliament. Candidates must be part of a team and behave as such. The team must meet the requisites necessary to forming a credible and competent government that promotes social justice, moral welfare and economic

empowerment of the people. For the Party to offer less is to insult the voter and demonstrate that the Party does not understand the clear message sent by the people, which would require changes in the conduct of MPs and candidates of the Party."

■ See **PLP SETS** / page 2...

CARICOM Implements Strategic Plan For Bahamas



High Commissioner of The Bahamas to CARICOM, H.E. Reuben Rahming, met with officials of the CARICOM Community Secretariat on Monday, June 25, 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Seminars are being held over the next few days with various stakeholders and decision-makers in the country to facilitate a CARICOM Results-Based Management System. The conclave is part of CARICOM's mandate to enable members in the region to have a more cohesive and strategic response in issues that affect the region including disaster management, education and infrastructure, with the objective to promote the principles of managing for development results and furthering the regional integration process. Over the next few days, the team will meet with stakeholders in a cross-section of industries including: Directors and Heads of Department, CSME Focal Point, representatives of National Authorizing Offices (NAO) & National Statistics Offices (NSO) and key Public Sector agencies. They will also meet with Non-State actors: International Development Partners, Private Sector, NGOs and the Media. Pictured L-R: Evan D. Green, Vice-President, Disaster Risk Management; His Excellency Reuben Rahming; Craig Beresford, Director, Strategic Management; and Hippolina Joseph, Senior Project Officer. **(BIS Photo/Kristaan Ingraham)**

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CARICOM have teamed up to implement a five-year strategic plan next year - a system that will allow the public to see what The Bahamas is doing as a CARICOM member country.

According to Craig Beresford, Director of Strategic Management, it is to ensure that the government keeps its commitments.

"The new strategic plan that we're going to develop for the community will be a results focused strategic plan.

"So we will now start from what do we want to achieve and then speak to how are we going to achieve it.

"The previous strategic plan was a bit different. It was bringing together all the decisions which would have been made over the last couple of years that we need to implement to advance regional integration.

"So it was not necessarily results

focused, so this time around it will be a results focused strategic plan," said Beresford.

According to Evan Green, Vice President of GPR and Disaster Risk Management, the Results Based Management (RBM) System focuses on how to better design, plan for, manage, monitor and report on the initiatives with a focus on learning and improvement.

■ See **CARICOM IMPLEMENTS** / page 2...

AG ATTACKS CHINESE LABOUR

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

Attorney General, Senator Carl Bethel yesterday urged that it's time for the so-called foolishness that has been allowed to take place at the multi-million-dollar Pointe Development to stop.

That was the no nonsense warning of Senator Bethel in connection with the number of Chinese workers at the downtown Nassau project.

Senator Bethel, told his colleagues in the Senate that just yesterday, he noticed foreigners laying blocks, charging that there is no way that foreigners are needed for this.

The Leader of Government in the Senate said he has already called his colleague to get cracking on it and that he expects to see Bahamians on the site.

Labour investigators have determined that there is a disproportionate number of foreigners working on the project, this despite its the heads of agreement indicating that 70 per cent of the workers be Bahamian.

Minister Optimistic Over Hotel Sale

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

The Grand Lucayan, is one of Grand Bahama's most anticipated investment projects, yet by the government's own admission, wrapping up a sale for the beleaguered property is taking longer

than expected.

State Minister of Grand Bahama, Senator Kwasi Thompson told members of the Senate yesterday that the government's commitment to this deal has never been stronger.

■ See **OPTIMISTIC** / page 3...

MITCHELL: "VAT INCREASE UNCONSCIONABLE"

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

According to Senator Fred Mitchell, fifty percent of the people who make under \$30,000 a year in The Bahamas cannot make ends meet at the end of the month.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate made it clear that he supports the government's spending, but part ways on its push to impose a 12 per cent Value Added Tax.

"It just seems counter-intuitive and unconscionable," he said.

Over in The House of Assembly

four FNM MPs voted against the increased tax.

Three of them suffered the consequences and were stripped of their duties as Parliamentary Secretaries and Hotel Board Chairman.

While the government has advanced its case by stressing that this

is in keeping with the rules, Senator Mitchell, said the Prime Minister could have dispensed with the rule.

Mr. Mitchell said he found it curious that the Prime Minister did not send the Member of Parliament for Bain and Grants Town, Travis Robinson, away.

"The poster boy for FNM Youth in Participation in the country, gets cut loose by the Prime Minister, one year and a month after going through Bain Town; the poster boy for youth," he said.

■ See **UNCONSCIONABLE** / page 2...



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PLP SETS STANDARDS FOR CANDIDATES

Continued from / PAGE 1...

The document says, "The PLP must again become the heroic champion of the Bahamian people, in their search for the path to better lives."

It states that the following

are essential for candidacy:

- Must be a member in good standing and active in the Party; and, be very familiar with the Party's Core Values;

- Must be free of scandals

and not involved in malfeasance or misfeasance;

- Must be honest, possess integrity and be blessed with humility;

- Should be above reproach in their personal and

professional lives;

- Should possess a good education, formal or otherwise;

- Must have a reasonable understanding of the world, along with a great knowledge of The Bahamas and the capacity to discuss both;

- Should have a good understanding of our economy, our cultural heritage, our history, the Westminster system and the Constitution of The Bahamas;

- Should have a clear vision of the way forward and have the ability to articulate it so clearly that people will buy into it;

- Must consistently demonstrate good and sound judgment and common sense;

- Must have a sense of charity, be committed to caring for the poor, and sympathize with the least fortunate;

- Must support policies which protect the rights of workers and commit to the expansion and strengthening of the middle class;

- Must show respect for citizens and, particularly, for those of our citizenry who are in their twilight years;

- Should have the ability to inspire our people to pursue noble objectives, dream

greatly and face the future with courage;

- Must demonstrate the desire to bridge the generational gap;

- Must treat people the way they, themselves, would like to be treated; and,

- Must commit to have their annual public disclosure statements scrutinized by the Party and respond to any inordinate fluctuations in the increases of their assets from year to year.

The Aspirant Candidates Modular training workshop seminar ended on Sunday with closing remarks from the leader of the Party Philip Davis.

CARICOM Implements Strategic Plan For Bahamas

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"The RBM approach also very well identifies how everyone must work together to achieve a lot of those results," he said.

"Most of the regional results that the strategy's aiming to achieve are achieved via national efforts, and not just national efforts, but coordinated national efforts.

"So the RBM approach is going to detail very clearly who is responsible for what, so there's an element of accountability and responsibility, both in implementation, in monitoring and in report-

ing."

According to Mr. Beresford, in order for the public to hold the community accountable, they first need to know what the community is supposed to be doing.

He stressed that it is the people's responsibility to familiarize themselves with the community strategic plan.

All commitments are outlined on the website, www.caricom.org.

Mr. Beresford said a report will be produced annually, detailing the progress of implementation and if the desired results were achieved.

Mitchell: "VAT Increase Unconscionable"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"So I thought to myself what could have happened is, you know the Prime Minister could have had a little word on the side and said "[my boy] take a little trip to Miami, cut the ribbon for me over there as we're opening the consular.

"Others were away, one was in China, one was in London, others were in the Cayman Islands, very exotic destinations.

"But poor Travis, found himself in Nassau, and now finds himself jobless."

The Senator's comments came yesterday as the Senate

wrapped up the 2018/2019 Budget Debate.

GOT NEWS?
Please call The Bahama Journal's News TIP LINE at 356-7254 and let us know!



NOTICE

BUILDINGS REGULATION ACT, CHAPTER 200, STATUTE LAW OF THE BAHAMAS

To: All landowners and residents of properties in New Providence commonly referred to as shanty towns.

You are reminded that the Government of The Bahamas indicated in January of 2018 that it intends to eliminate shanty towns throughout The Bahamas.

Under section 4 of the Buildings Regulation Act, a person who wishes to commence or carry on any building operation (or cause or procure the same to be done) must obtain a valid building permit from the Ministry of Public Works.

This is to advise that failure to obtain a valid building permit before commencing or carrying on any building operation (or causing or procuring the same to be done) may result in legal proceedings being brought against that person.

If you are a person residing in or a landowner in a shanty town and you are in possession of an **approved** building permit or an occupancy certificate for your building structure, you are asked to make contact within **fourteen (14) days from the date of this notice** with the **Ministry of Public Works (Buildings Control Division)**, at telephone number **326-2261**, to make an appointment to have your documents verified.

22nd June, 2018



MINISTRY OF FINANCE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby notified that a Public Auction will be conducted by the Customs Department on non-entered goods at the places and times listed below:-

No.	LOCATIONS	DATES	TIMES
1	Airfreight (GFT)	18 th July, 2018	9:00am - 12:30pm
2.	Airfreight LPIA (GFT)	18 th July, 2018	9:00am - 12:30pm
3.	Airfreight Odyssey (GFT)	18 th July, 2018	9:00am - 12:30pm
4.	Tropical Shipping - John Alfred Dock (GFT)	18 th July, 2018	2:00pm - 5:00pm
5.	MSC - Arawak Cay (GFT)	19 th July, 2018	9:00am - 12:30pm
6.	Mailboat - Arawak Cay (GFT)	19 th July, 2018	9:00am - 12:30pm
7.	Betty K. - Arawak Cay (GFT)	19 th July, 2018	2:00pm - 5:00pm
VEHICLES (NEW PROVIDENCE) CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS			
8.	Betty K - Kelly's Dock - Arawak Cay (HQ)	20 th July, 2018	9:30am - 12:30pm
9.	Inchape Shipping (HQ)	20 th July, 2018	9:30am - 12:30pm
10.	Island Maritime (HQ)	20 th July, 2018	9:30am - 12:30pm
11.	United Shipping (HQ)	20 th July, 2018	2:00pm - 5:00pm
12.	R. H. Curry & Co. Ltd. (HQ)	20 th July, 2018	2:00pm - 5:00pm
ARAWAK CAY			
13.	Mailboat - Fiesta Mail (Arawak Cay)	23 rd July, 2018	10:00am - 5:00pm
FAMILY ISLAND			
14.	George Town, EXUMA	16 th July, 2018	10:00am - 5:00pm
15.	Marsh Harbour, ABACO	25 th July, 2018	10:00am - 5:00pm
16.	Governor's Harbour, ELEUTHERA	30 th July, 2018	10:00am - 5:00pm
17.	Matthew Town, INAGUA	2 nd August, 2018	10:00am - 5:00pm

The above goods will be sold under the Provision of Section 201 of the Customs Management Act and the Auction will commence at 9:00 am daily with the exception of

Tropical Shipping, Betty K. Agencies, Arawak Cay (GFT), which will commence at 2:00 pm.

Vehicles (New Providence) Customs Headquarters, will commence at 9:30 am daily with the exception of Fiesta Mail, Arawak Cay East which will commence at 10:00 am. United Shipping and R.H. Curry & Co. Ltd will commence at 2:00 pm.

Family Islands will commence at 10:00 am daily.

A list of the goods to be auctioned can be viewed at Customs Headquarters, Betty K. Agencies, Gladstone Road Freight Terminal, Air Freight, Arawak Cay East.

The right is reserved to accept or reject any or all bids tendered.

Marlon Johnson
(Acting) FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Leadership Changes At Port Department

BY TIA THOMPSON
Journal Staff Writer

The port department is changing its leadership. Commander Raymond King, veteran of the Royal Bahamas Defense Force will be named the new port controller as of June 30th when Acting Port Controller Captain Cyril Roker retires.

Minister of Transport Frankie Campbell made the announcement while highlighting the contributions of three notable Bahamians in the maritime sector. They are Captain Cyril Roker, Commander Raymond King and Captain Dwain

Hutchinson who was appointed Acting Managing Partner of the Bahamas Maritime Authority.

After serving with the Bahamas Maritime Authority since 1996, Captain Hutchinson has gained a new role. He is now to serve as Governor of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) World Maritime University. The WMO is a postgraduate Maritime University founded by the IMO with the aim of further enhancing the objectives and of the IMO and its member states around the world. He is the "first Bahamian who will

serve the Bahamas in this global capacity, and as a Bahamian who continues to play his part in our critical Maritime Industry", says the Transport Minister.

After some thirty years of moving up in the ranks from a messenger to the highest position in the port department, Port Controller and acting as the Chief Service Provider for all governmental ports throughout the Bahamas, Capt. Roker is ready to relinquish his duties to another seafarer. His duties included the inspection and licensing of commercial boats, the licensing of boat masters,

the inspection and licensing of commercial recreational water craft and warrants of arrest within the territorial waters of the Bahamas.

These duties will now be passed on to Commander Raymond King. Commander King a veteran of 28 plus years on the Defense Force, was an executive and navigation officer on board the protector class craft and commanding officer of P42, Dauntless class and P37 amongst other things. "He is eminently qualified to assume the position of acting port controller and his qualifications in fact exceed the requirements

necessary..." said Mr. Campbell.

The minister says that his ministry his supportive of the initiative of the International Maritime authority to recognize the invaluable contribution to the world economy and

society at large. Because of such efforts, June 25th is now marked the International Day of the Seafarer and he acknowledged on this day the contribution made of to the Bahamian Maritime Sector by all seafarers.

Minister Optimistic Over Hotel Sale

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"While completing this deal has proven to be very complex, and is taking far more time than we have hoped, our resolve and dedication remains high. This deal must get done," Mr. Thompson said.

The Grand Lucayan closed for repairs following the devastation wrought by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. However, it never reopened.

The government has long been in talks with the Wynn Group to have the property sold, in hopes of restoring activity to the entire Lucayan strip as quickly as possible.

In addition to the emphasis being placed on this deal, the Minnis administration is also said to be in final discussions with investors of the Grand Palm Beach Acquisitions regarding a \$2.5 billion 10-year deal to revitalize the Ginn project in West End.

Senator Thompson said, "Grand Palm Acquisitions will construct, repair, revitalize, develop and operate a 246 room hotel and they will also have an additional two hotels, a banquet facility, a branded residence and also a casino.

"They also anticipate having facilities for mega yachts, and what is interesting about this is, as a result of the technology hub initiative they have indicated that apart of their development will be a smart city where they will also be attracting technology companies, to set up their companies within the project.

"The government is now in negotiations on the heads of agreement and we are informed that in the first year the developers intend to hire approximately 200 Grand Bahamians," said Senator Thompson.

The minister's comments came in defense of the argument that there is nothing in the 2018/2019 budget for Grand Bahama, whose anemic economy drags on.



► Pictured seated are from left: Lorraine Symmonette-Armbrister, permanent secretary of the Ministry; Captain Hutchinson; Minister Campbell; Denise Lewis-Johnson, chairman, Bahamas Maritime Authority; and Captain Roker. Standing are from left: Jade Evans assistant port controller, Cardie Cox and Louis Butler, directors of Bahamas Maritime Authority. (BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna)



MINISTRY OF FINANCE PUBLIC TENDER

VESSEL FOR PURCHASE

The Ministry of Finance advises that the following vessel has been forfeited to the Crown following breaches of the Fisheries Resources Jurisdiction and Conversation Act and resulting in the selling by Tender:

Vessel	Description
Name of Vessel: Sheyla	
Manufactured By: Unknown	
Make: Cummings	
Model Year: Unknown	

*The Sheyla is a 67ft. single steel hull fishing vessel outfitted with a second top-deck located aft. This vessel is powered by a (K-19) 6 Cylinder Cummings Single Screw engine.

Interested persons may view the vessel by visiting the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Base, located on Coral Harbour, between the hours of 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m., Monday to Friday from May 28, 2018 to June 22, 2018.

Bids should be addressed in a sealed envelope to the **Financial Secretary**, Ministry of Finance, 1st Floor Cecil Wallace Whitfield Building, West Bay Street by 5:00p.m. on June 22, 2018.

The face of the envelope should bear the words "Tender For Confiscated Vessel".

Each successful bidder will be required to make full payment to the Public Treasury, Nassau, The Bahamas by cash, certified cheque, or credit/debit cards for the vessel being purchased within ten (10) working days of being notified by the Ministry of Finance. The successful bidder will be responsible for making full arrangements for the removal of the vessel within two (2) working days after full payment has been made.

The Ministry of Finance reserves the right to reject any or all bids and the item is being sold "as is where is" with no warranty to be implied or inferred. For vessels that are not registered in The Bahamas no guarantee is given as to its eligibility for registration elsewhere.

Marlon Johnson
(Actg.) Financial Secretary

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► Patrons stop at the NEMA booth for information regarding disaster preparedness and mitigation during an Exhibition mounted by the National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA on Saturday, June 23, 2018 at NEMA on Gladstone Road. The exhibition was part of NEMA's disaster awareness campaign during the 2018 Atlantic Hurricane season, which runs June 1 to November 30. **(BIS Photo/Raymond A Bethel Sr.)**



► A Hurricane Kit was just one of the many prizes handed out during the National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA exhibition featuring its Emergency Support Function groups and other public-private partners on Saturday, June 23, 2018 at its Gladstone Road and NEMA's Way headquarters. Pictured is Deputy Permanent Secretary at NEMA Chrystal Ginton presenting a hurricane kit to a winner. The kit comprised a portable stove, small pots and pans, batteries, flash light, tarp, blanket and other essentials.

NEMA Stages Hurricane Awareness Exhibition

The National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, is well into its disaster awareness campaign, by staging an exhibition featuring its Emergency Support Function groups and other public-private partners.

On Saturday, June 23, 2018 despite the intermittent downpour of rain – the grounds of the Gladstone Road and NEMA's Way headquarters came alive with an array of display showcasing wide-ranging services and functions of the disaster committee.

A Junkanoo Rush-out by Valley Performance Stars, live entertainment by Scorched Conch Rake 'N Scrape Band and a Kiddies Corner complemented the exhibition.

The 2018 Atlantic Hurricane Season – June 1 to November 30 – calls for 14 named storms, 7 hurricanes and 3 at category 3 or higher.

NEMA has been advising the public of the need to be prepared for any disaster, natural or manmade; the focus of the message: "Be Disaster Resilient. Be Prepared" in June with a number of activities.

On Sunday, June 3, the national church service was held at the New Providence Community Church on Blake Road, where members of the national disaster

sultative committee worshiped along with Prime Minister Dr the Hon Hubert A Minnis and his wife Patricia, both members of that church.

Director of NEMA, Captain Stephen Russell noted that NEMA has longed moved to focus on comprehensive disaster management, in keeping with regional and international protocols and best practices.

NEMA also conducted community walk-a-bouts in New Providence in the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Those communities visited were in the Marshall Road and vicinity, and Jubilee and Victoria Gardens. Plans are underway to continue these activities.

Other awareness activities were A National Hurricane Readiness Table Top Exercise, Community Presentations on Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness, appearances on TV and radio talk shows.

And on Saturday, June 30 a Fun Run/Walk will take place – beginning at NEMA at 6:30am.

The 2018 storm names: Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debby, Ernesto, Florence, Gordon, Helene, Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Michael, Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Rafael, Sara, Tony, Valerie and William.



SPOTLIGHT ON BAIN GRANTS TOWN

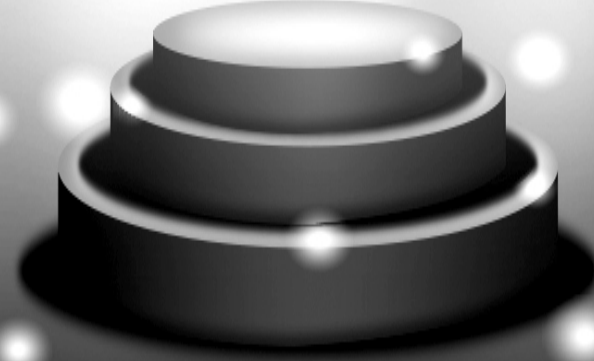
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Former M.P. Pierre Dupuch tells Government: "Stop using Parliamentary Secretaries as Voting Pawns"

"A coward dies ten thousand deaths; a man he dies but once." Congratulations. Congratulations to the courageous four who put their conscience before their pocketbooks!!!

The person who appears to be the Prime Minister's hatchet man, Carl Bethel, let the cat out of the bag when he publicly threatened the dissenters in Parliament that if they did not vote with the Government they would be fired!! It was said that the Westminster System demanded it!

Well they seem to rely on the Westminster System when it's convenient but ignore it when it's not. Had it been relied on consistently over the years, many politicians would have either resigned or not run again.

But let us look at the Westminster System and how it applied to the Parliamentary Secretaries in the most recent case of voting in the House of Assembly. It is true that Parliamentary Secretaries are obliged to vote with the Government or offer their resignations.

This is true under the Westminster System. But what is a Parliamentary Secretary and what role does he/she play in the Government?

In England, a Parliamentary Secretary acts almost as a Deputy Cabinet Minister. The position was created to help organize a

huge Ministry, involving thousands of people. In The Bahamas, the Parliamentary Secretary is essentially a hired hand used to guarantee votes for the Government in the House of Assembly.

Most Parliamentary Secretaries in The Bahamas do nothing other than collect extra money for the position. But they are important to the dictatorial way in which the Bahamian Government has operated for many years.

I remember in the early eighties Sir Lynden Pindling appointed two Parliamentary Secretaries. At the time both Sir Kendal Isaacs and Sir Cecil Wallace-Whitfield, along with the other members of the FNM in the House of Assembly, were vehemently opposed to it.

We maintained then that it was only a maneuver to put almost dictatorial power into the hands of the Prime Minister. Over the years the respective Prime Ministers, both PLPs and FNMs, appear to have used this method of controlling Parliamentarians. It has become a dictatorship.

Here's how it works. Let's say there are twenty-five members in the House, ten in Opposition, and fifteen in Government.

The Prime Minister appoints ten of the fifteen as Cabinet Ministers and five as Parliamentary Secretaries. The other ten are Opposition. The Cabinet members get paid as Ministers and vote in

Cabinet. The Parliamentary Secretaries get paid but don't vote in Cabinet, but, when the motion goes to the House, they must vote with the Cabinet.

For example, if six Cabinet Ministers are in favor of a motion to increase taxes, and four oppose it, the motion carries. In this example, if the five Parliamentary Secretaries oppose the motion, they can't vote their objection.

The motion now comes before the House for passing. Ten Cabinet Ministers MUST vote for it. Five Parliamentary Secretaries MUST vote for it. Ten Opposition members vote against it. The motion carries.

Note, only six of the fifteen approved it!! Had the Parliamentary Secretaries been allowed to vote their consciences, the motion would not have carried. They simply said "yes sir boss", or "how high do you want me to jump ... on the way up!!!!"

But the Government cries, "vote with us or we'll fire you!!!! Dictatorship?"

In my opinion, all Parliamentary Secretaries should resign their positions, and all Members of Parliament who serve as the Chairman of any Government Boards should resign as Chairman.

I suggest they become beholden to the people who voted for them. Stop being voting pawns!!

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Vice President/Operations
E D I T O R I A L

C. FLOWERS: -- "WE BELIEVE..."

"...The [people] who will determine the future of the industry are the customers. From FML's perspective, we want to be very optimistic. [We believe that]:-- The industry will overcome this very difficult time... and we believe [at the end of the day] that:-- The industry will win over all else..."
Craig Flowers, CEO FML

"It's just one of those things!"
[and for sure]: -- It's also just amazing how some of our more highly placed citizens are prone to deliver themselves of some of the mightiest of pontifications regarding matters that do matter so very much to most of the lowly-placed ones who do not get as ready access to loudspeaker and microphone as do their highly-perched social superiors.

Instead, no matter what, the poor know that they always more and thus they sometimes in resignation to their fate in life, they conclude: -- "It's just one of those things!"

This is how some in this tribe respond when asked about their take on this or that contentiously debated and discussed public matter.

What we know for sure is that: -- Despite public protest; regardless all those reams of fears expressed across the board or for that matter those big decisions made by some of them nominally in support of their side in the House; or for that matter, any number of egos left bruised and crushed; the Minnis regime will have the last word--if only for now!

Here we suspect that Gaming Shop impresario, Mr. Craig Flowers, himself no stranger to high-level work and yeoman's service, is on to something very important as he counsels against anything that looks like panic-induced action.

In this regard, then, please note that: -- Unlike some of those other players in the Web Shop Operator world, Craig Flowers indicates that he is not prepared to announce layoffs before he can determine how his customers react to the decision to tax deposits..."

This is wise!
In addition, then, Craig Flowers, CEO of FML Group of Companies went on to explain: -- "My reasoning behind that is certainly we would have

in the industry probably the longest serving employees by the very nature of us being the oldest company as it relates to online gaming locally.

"We have more of a family type operation with our staff members and for us it is very important from the administration [level] to constantly assure our staff that we are going to do everything possible to secure their jobs...At the end of the day, the only determining factor that will be of any consequence to ourselves will be the response of the customers...."

Again, Flowers is direct, to the point -- and clearly, also, wise enough to know that -- when it is all said and done-the customer is king!

[And yet again], Flowers is on the money when he points out that: -- "...All of the remarks being made are pre-emptive here because none of us, including the government, is going to determine the future of this industry. The [people] who will determine the future of the industry are the customers...From FML's perspective, we want to be very optimistic. [We believe that]: -- The industry will overcome this very difficult time... and we believe [at the end of the day] that: -- The industry will win over all else."

And thus, the title of today's commentary: -- It's just one of those things.

On May 30, the government revealed that gaming house revenue up to \$20 million will be taxed at a rate of 20 percent; revenue between \$20 million and \$40 million will be taxed at a rate of 25 percent; revenue between \$40 million and \$60 million, at a rate of 30 percent; revenue between \$60 million and \$80 million, at a rate of 35 percent; revenue between \$80 million and \$100 million, at a rate of 40 percent and revenue more than \$100 million at 50 percent.

The government has also proposed taxing gaming patrons through a five percent stamp tax applied on deposits and any non-online games or digital sales.

The increases take effect July 1. [2018].

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This Time in Medicine is Exciting and Challenging for Doctors

BY LLONELLA GILBERT

Minister of Health, Dr. the Hon. Duane Sands said this time in medicine is both a particularly exciting and a particularly challenging one for doctors.

"How you deal with these challenges will determine your staying power in the profession," Dr. Sands said at The University of the West Indies School of Clinical Medicine and Research & the Ministry of Health's 'Induction and Awards Ceremony for the Graduating Class of 2018' held at Baha Mar, Sunday, June 24, 2018.

In attendance were Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis; Vice Chancellor, University of the West Indies, Sir Hilary Beckles; and Director, UWI School of Clinical Medicine and Research, Dr. Robin Roberts.

Dr. Sands said, "Newly-minted doctors, you are entering a profession now dominated with chronic non-communicable diseases, and the sad reality is that you may oftentimes

have to convince the very patients you hope to get well that they even have a problem."

He said, "We all have heard obese or overweight people say that they are just big boned or solid; or diabetics that swear that they have a touch of sugar; or the out of control hypertensive say they just 'gat a lil bit a pressure'. Such 'bending of the truth or these pleasantries' ease the need to wrap our heads on the brutal reality of diseases that kill and incapacitate."

The Health Minister said the social determinants of health are largely sadly outside of the control of the traditional doctor, no matter how well-intentioned.

"We continue to have the worst profile of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD's) in the Americas, and the highest rate of HIV/AIDS outside of Sub-Saharan Africa.

"Hundreds upon hundreds of our people are afflicted with kidney failure requiring dialysis at a cost of \$50,000 - \$80,000 per patient per year."

He said the efficient and effective

approach to the country's medical challenges demands routine and appropriate screenings, medication when needed, restrictive dietary changes and an abandonment of the lifestyle that shuns physical exercise.

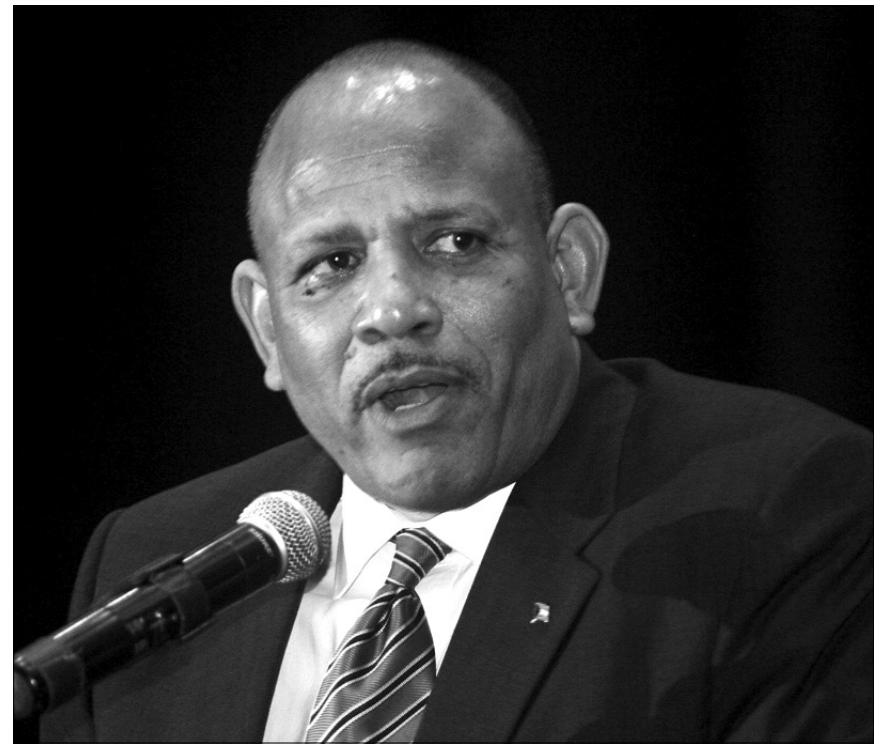
Dr. Sands added that everything from policy to service delivery should assist the Bahamian people in making wise and healthy decisions and adopting a healthy lifestyle.

He explained that 45 years ago, a revolutionary social idea gave way to the creation of a national breadbasket.

Dr. Sands said it was the kind of initiative that was revolutionary at that time.

"In 2017, on reviewing the 45-year-old Bread Basket list, we realized that the items included were not ideal. Many were calorie-dense and nutrient poor with a number of items which, when combined with an inactive lifestyle, increase the risk for becoming overweight, obese and developing one or more NCD's."

He said the breadbasket was a progressive social initiative and the



► Minister of Health Dr. the Hon. Duane Sands brings remarks at The University of the West Indies School of Clinical Medicine and Research & Ministry of Health's 'Induction and Awards Ceremony for the Graduating Class of 2018' held at Baha Mar, Sunday, June 24, 2018. (BIS Photos/Kristaan Ingraham)

drafters could not have known that an initiative that saved many from malnutrition by allowing a belly-full would become, in part a reason for the epidemic of obesity, hypertension and diabetes, heart disease and kidney failure.

"Instead of being underfed and malnourished, we are overfed and malnourished."

The Health Minister said the Government has committed to an extensive national consultative and educational campaign, which has been ongoing but not yet complete. He said the importance of this initial and ongoing engagement with the public cannot be understated.

"When we complete the consultation, we expect that the revised, agreed list will be gazetted by the Minister of Labour on the advice of my Ministry. There will be no need for any additional legislation."

Dr. Sands said because there have been overwhelming views expressed on two items to date, sugar will definitely not be on the price control protection list.

He added that Corned Beef was found wanting, was weighed in the balance, and was granted clemency. It is on probation.

Dr. Sands said moving forward, he anticipates that the Government shall work to achieve consensus to remove margarine, condensed milk, mayonnaise, canned soups and broths and canned meats (SPAM, Vienna

sausages, etc.)

The Government expects to add:

Beans and Peas (a healthier source of protein and minerals.)

Raw Almonds and cashews

Fresh oranges

Fresh apples

Root crops (sweet potato, pumpkin, cassava, Eddie, Irish potatoes)

Oatmeal

Tuna, sardine and mackerel in Water

Healthier milks

Healthier flour (whole wheat, spelt, Quinoa, Coconut, gluten-free, rice, unbleached white)

Healthier bread (Whole grain, whole wheat)

Healthier Butters and Oils

Healthier rice

Dr. Sands said it is expected that the combination of VAT elimination and price control (18 per cent and 21 per cent) will not only make healthy foods less expensive; they will actually be affordable.



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.

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- 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

RBPF 25TH ANNUAL SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME OPENS WITH CHURCH SERVICE

Minister of National Security the Hon. Marvin Dames joined Acting Commissioner of the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) Emrick Seymour, Senior Officers, RBPF facilitators, sponsors, stakeholders and participants, on June 25, 2018, at the Official Opening of the RBPF 25th Annual Summer Youth Programme, held at the Zion Baptist Church, on East and Shirley Streets. A number of private sponsors also received plaques at the event, as a show of gratitude. This year's theme is "Igniting the Dreams of our Children's Future", and there are about 16 camps throughout The Bahamas, with eight on New Providence. At least 2,000 campers are set to participate in the six-week programme that has the following mission statement: "To inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens, through the medium of academics, music and sports". **(BIS Photos / Eric Rose)**



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