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# The Bahama Journal

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**VOL. 30 - NO. 178**

**THURSDAY - JUNE 28TH, 2018**

**75 CENTS**

# "Integrity Not For Sale"

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK  
Journal Staff Writer

**O**ne week after being fired, Bains and Grants Town MP, Travis Robinson, yesterday reconfirmed his commitment to support the governing Free National Movement.

"My integrity is not for sale, my conviction is not for sale, my one vote is not for sale," Robinson said.

Contrary to the assumptions made, according to the MP, his decision last week to vote against the 4.5 per cent Value Added Tax (VAT) increase was not on a whim, neither on the basis of misinformation, but

after much consideration.

Mr. Robinson said his decision had everything to do with the promise he made to his constituents on the campaign trail to fight for them, stand up for them and speak out for them - even if it caused him his livelihood, and that it did.

The Bains and Grants Town MP - along with two others - was immediately fired as a Parliamentary Secretary after they voted against the VAT increase.

The Westminster System requires a Parliamentary Secretary to support his government's policies and actions.

In a communication to The House of Assembly yesterday, Mr. Robinson fully accepted the conse-

quences of his actions.

"No system of governance, no position or money enough, will cause for me to yield my personal belief or conviction, especially when my people need me the most," he said.

"But you see Mr. Speaker, [mine] is a story of young black educated Bahamian male from Bains and Grants Town, whose poverty knew no end.

"My no vote in this honourable place was in alignment with my low and meek rise from the dust of poverty," said the youthful MP.

Mr. Robinson assured though, that despite his firing, he and the Prime Minister continue to enjoy a remarkable political relationship,

akin to a father and son.

"I wish to announce once again my continued pledge and support to the Free National Movement, as I am sticking with the FNM."

To his constituents, who must shoulder the shared burden of an increased tax, he asked that they - as in the case of all Bahamians - not give up.

"It is at our weakest point that we need our greatest strength in order to triumph," he said.

"Let us be creative, enterprising, and determined every day not just to survive, but to help others to survive and move from mere survival to thriving.



► Bains and Grants Town MP, Travis Robinson (Journal file photo)

■ See INTEGRITY NOT FOR / page 3...

## LIMITED SPACE FOR NEW DOCTORS

BY LEAH COOPER  
Journal Staff Writer



► Minister of Health, Dr. Duane Sands (Journal file photo)

The Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) has opened its doors to 40 of 49 new graduates of the University of the West Indies for a one year internship, according to Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands.

Dr. Sands described this internship as essential for the preparation and licensure for the country's medical graduates.

He added that this will allow the

new physicians to have adequate training to manage the health concerns of the day.

Dr. Sands also said that PMH was first approved to facilitate internships back in 1967 with just 25 students.

Since then, things have changed as more Bahamians choose to enter the medical field.

The minister said that he never imagined the exponential growth of the medical training program and suggested that the country

work to accommodate this boost in talent.

He said, "Our success has created a massive logistical, fiscal, and ethical nightmare as human implications represented symbolically by these nine students."

He added, "Their current fears demonstrate yet another area where we have postponed definitive resolution of impending problems at multiple, various levels."

■ See LIMITED SPACE / page 3...

## MP WANTS New System of Governance

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK  
Journal Staff Writer

The Member of Parliament for Bains and Grants Town and former Parliamentary Secretary in The Ministry of Tourism, Travis Robinson has called for a select committee to evaluate the Westminster system of government in terms of its relevance, effectiveness and continued adherence in the 21st century Bahamas.

The young MP addressed what he called "the elephant in the room," in the House of Assembly yesterday.

The MP spoke for the first time publicly since his appointment was revoked by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Robinson told House members, "It is my fundamental belief, that no member should be placed in a position to choose between their party/government and the people they represent in this honorable house.

"Such a position is to put a strangle hold around the neck of the Bahamian democracy, choking the life out of it.

"In a democracy, power flows from the citizens to the government, but the vote is not the end all and the be all," he added.

He said, "we cannot be satisfied with participation that is limited to going to the polls every five years.

"If we are to have a strong healthy democracy we must all participate.

■ See NEW SYSTEM OF / page 2...

## GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF '68 PAYS COURTESY CALL ON THE GOVERNOR GENERAL



► The Government High School Class of '68 paid a courtesy call on Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling at Government House on Tuesday, June 26, 2018. Pictured seated from left: Carolyn Rodgers, Betty Roberts, Dr. Rhonda Chipman-Johnson (President of GHS Class of 1968), Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling, Justice Rhonda Bain, Kelsie Dorsett and Myrtle McCartney. Standing from left: Gregory Austin, Barrett McDonald, Dr. Albert Ferguson and Edmund Dorsett. (BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)

## Royal Fidelity Addresses "Pension Crisis"

BY TIA THOMPSON  
Journal Staff Writer

Some Bahamians believe that national insurance is enough, leaning on it as their primary source of income. However it was

created to supplement retirement savings.

According to Cleora Farquharson, Royal Fidelity Assistant Vice President of Pension Services, most Bahamians work 30 to 40 years and then live dimin-

ished lives.

"As Bahamians, we don't save, we don't have money for immediate needs as oppose to retirement..." says Ms. Farquharson. Now she says the Royal Fidelity family wants to get the dis-

cussion going on this topic so that people know how much they must save and make those steps toward saving.

Royal fidelity hosted a Pension Breakfast at the Baha Mar Convention

Centre yesterday where all clients and potential clients were invited and made aware of factors like inflation, age groups and wages that affect pensions.

■ See PENSION CRISIS / page 3...



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# Six Haitians Arraigned on Drug Charges

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

Six Haitian Nationals were arraigned yesterday on one count each of possession of dangerous drugs with the intent to supply and conspiracy to possess dangerous drugs with the intent to supply, conspiracy to import danger-

ous drugs and importation of dangerous drugs with intent to supply.

A drug bust on Inagua last Saturday landed the six accused before Deputy Chief Magistrate Subusola Swain.

The group, which included a 17-year old female, all pleaded not guilty to all the charges except the captain of the vessel.

The six consisted of the captain, Clodius Michel age 30; Monique Tilme, 48 ; Ronel Guillaume, 39; Georges Merandieu Decimus, 50; Solane Pierre, 57 and Lissanka Jean age 17.

Magistrate Swain told the juvenile's mother that she may get bail because she has her mother who has residency here.

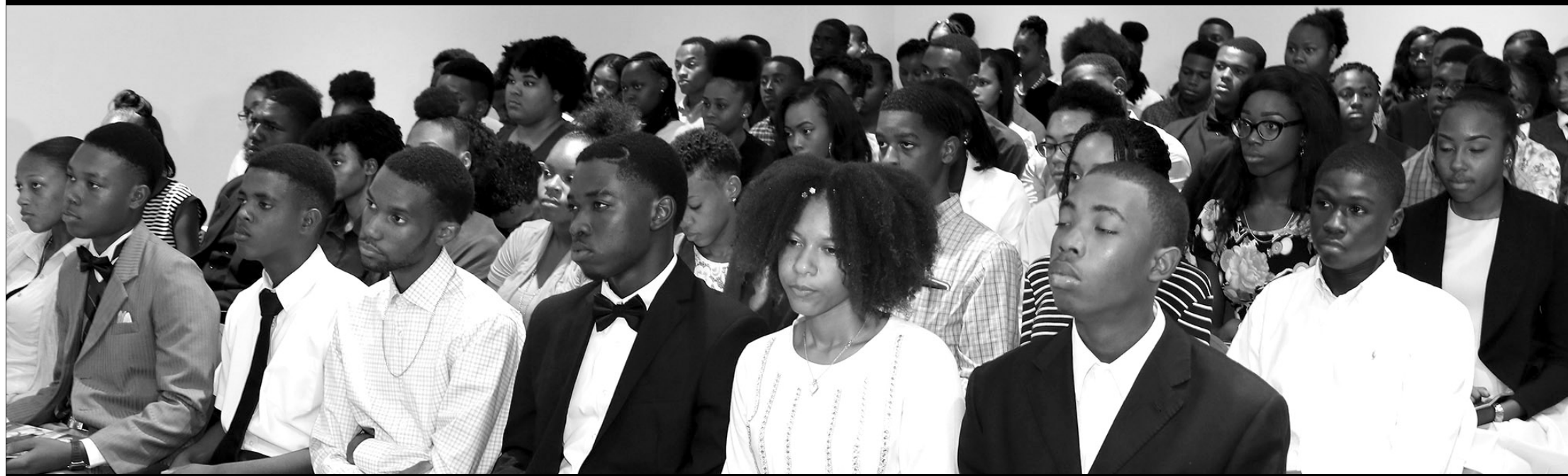
However, they entered the Bahamas illegal-

ly and as a result they would have to be handed over to the Department of immigration after all court proceedings are completed.

The captain who pleaded guilty was sentenced to five years on each count, the others were remanded in custody until Friday.

The six were found with 40 pounds of suspected cocaine.

## PUBLIC SCHOOL SCHOLARS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS AND ENCOURAGEMENT ON THEIR NEW JOURNEY



► Photo show some of the scholarship recipients, officials from the Ministry of Education and Ricardo Deveaux, Under Secretary, and guest speaker at the ceremony. (BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna)

## MP Wants New System of Governance

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"Everyone cannot physically sit in these seats, or be Cabinet ministers, but there is no shortage of work to be done."

The MP urged Bahamians to familiarize themselves with the Westminster system.

He added that many also suggested to abandon the centuries long system.

However, before doing so, the MP said there are many steps to be taken before arriving to that conclusion - there must be a place for questions to be posed.

The MP suggested creating a hybrid system of government.

"A proposed system of governance, that selects the best aspects of the Westminster System and parts

of a republican system, to form a hybrid system of governance for The Bahamas, specifically tailored to shatter the glass ceiling and reach the height of true democracy," he said.

"A hybrid system of governance where no member in this honorable House of Assembly, will be ever be fired again, for choosing between a fundamental belief and the direction of his party.

"Let my termination, and

that of my other colleagues, be the last of its kind."

The MP was terminated along with two others, for voting against the government's July 1st increase of value added tax (VAT) from 7.5 to 12 per cent.

Under the Cabinet Manual of procedure, a Parliamentary Secretary is a part of the government and as such cannot publically express his disagreement with a decision of the government.

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### 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.

22<sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> July, 2018	9:00am - 12:30pm
2.	Airfreight LPIA (GFT)	18 <sup>th</sup> July, 2018	9:00am - 12:30pm
3.	Airfreight Odyssey (GFT)	18 <sup>th</sup> July, 2018	9:00am - 12:30pm
4.	Tropical Shipping - John Alfred Dock (GFT)	18 <sup>th</sup> July, 2018	2:00pm - 5:00pm
5.	MSC - Arawak Cay (GFT)	19 <sup>th</sup> July, 2018	9:00am - 12:30pm
6.	Mailboat - Arawak Cay (GFT)	19 <sup>th</sup> July, 2018	9:00am - 12:30pm
7.	Betty K. - Arawak Cay (GFT)	19 <sup>th</sup> July, 2018	2:00pm - 5:00pm
<b>VEHICLES (NEW PROVIDENCE) CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS</b>			
8.	Betty K - Kelly's Dock - Arawak Cay (HQ)	20 <sup>th</sup> July, 2018	9:30am - 12:30pm
9.	Inchape Shipping (HQ)	20 <sup>th</sup> July, 2018	9:30am - 12:30pm
10.	Island Maritime (HQ)	20 <sup>th</sup> July, 2018	9:30am - 12:30pm
11.	United Shipping (HQ)	20 <sup>th</sup> July, 2018	2:00pm - 5:00pm
12.	R. H. Curry & Co. Ltd. (HQ)	20 <sup>th</sup> July, 2018	2:00pm - 5:00pm
<b>ARAWAK CAY</b>			
13.	Mailboat - Fiesta Mail (Arawak Cay)	23 <sup>rd</sup> July, 2018	10:00am - 5:00pm
<b>FAMILY ISLAND</b>			
14.	George Town, <b>EXUMA</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July, 2018	10:00am - 5:00pm
15.	Marsh Harbour, <b>ABACO</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> July, 2018	10:00am - 5:00pm
16.	Governor's Harbour, <b>ELEUTHERA</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> July, 2018	10:00am - 5:00pm
17.	Matthew Town, <b>INAGUA</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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



# “Integrity Not For Sale”

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Continued from / PAGE 1...

“We will develop our own Coorps in Bain and Grants Town, start community gardens, pool resources to start businesses, buy in bulk, look after each other’s children, [and] check on the most vulnerable people around us.”

The Bain and Grant’s Town MP’s popularity

soared following his no vote, with some dubbing him a “Political Gladiator.”

Mr. Robinson himself told the House that since last Tuesday he has received 244 letters, 308 calls, 905 WhatsApp messages, 1,024 emails, 3,429 Facebook tags, messages and postings and 113,000 views and hits on his Facebook live feed during a

walkthrough in his community.

The young politician said he wants to build a future for The Bahamas - one where democracy thrives and principles and morals are the order of the day and to do so with clean hands, clear conscience and consideration for and collaboration with his community.

## Royal Fidelity Addresses “Pension Crisis”

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Ms. Farquharson says that the average person does not realize how much is needed for retirement and don’t think about it until they are in retirement.

She says that time is not on our side and starting from now it is a necessity.

The staff of Royal Fidelity gave Bahamians options on how to live great during retirement. They introduced their new product, the Royal Fidelity Personal Retirement account, which is for more sophisticated investors. Customers would present Royal Fidelity with \$100,000 minimum and it is invested on their behalf. As they live into retirement, they can obtain monthly, quarterly, annual, or semi-annual payments, so that they can take care of themselves during retirement.

Royal Fidelity President, Michael Anderson in agreement with Ms. Farquharson says that pension participation is very low, and Bahamians have no pension when they retire, relying heavily on NIB and family.

He says the level of unfunded persons is a disaster. “It’s a catastrophe really, it’s a crisis. When people say \$3 to 4 billion quietly, it doesn’t mean its not a big number to deal with...” says Anderson.

He said Bahamians have paid “lip service” to this issue and we have done so for a while, with the issue growing behind us. Mr. Anderson says that this is not tomorrow’s problem, it is today’s.

He hopes that his organization can work with the government in solving pensions and other issues by putting plans in place with pension reforms and legislations.

“It is much more about where we are as a country today in the world with pensions. We are in a dire situation and we need to change this on a government level and in the private sector,” said Mr. Anderson.

Director of Labour, John Pinder declared that this seminar brings the importance of putting aside money just as you enter the work place. He hopes that the government will start to educate younger public servants of this to avoid the issues that we face now.

## LIMITED SPACE FOR NEW DOCTORS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

The minister stressed that a one opt solution to their immediate needs will only kick the can one year down the road.

He said, “Even if we hope that things will get better next year, hope by itself without definitive action is neither an effective tool nor a wise one.”

Dr. Sands also drew attention to many Bahamian students that opt to take their medical studies abroad while

coming home with the same cry—no jobs.

He said that he has been engaging institutions throughout the region along with the CARICOM Secretariat where he was able to secure four internship opportunities in the Cayman Islands for graduates.

The Minister of Health said, “While we empathize with and feel the tremendous stress of these graduates, let me assure them and their families that this government will make all efforts to suc-

cessfully resolve this matter to allow completion of their training.”

He assured the new graduates that the government will not leave them hanging.

**GOT NEWS?**  
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## Fidelity Bank Apprenticeship Program

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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 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

HUMAN RESOURCES

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► Photos show some of the scholarship recipients, officials from the Ministry of Education and Ricardo Deveaux, Under Secretary, and guest speaker at the ceremony. (BIS Photos/Patrick Hanna)

## Public School Scholars Receive Scholarships and Encouragement on Their New Journey

BY KATHRYN CAMPBELL

Public schools students were celebrated as 162 of them received scholarships to attend international colleges and universities in the United States of America and Canada.

The scholarships were granted through the Public School Scholars Programme (PSSP) by the Ministry of Education, which along with its partners is offering approximately \$2 million in scholarships for the 2018 academic year.

The Hon. Jeffrey Lloyd, Minister of Education, joined school administrators, teachers, parents, representatives of partnering colleges and universities, and officials from the Ministry of Education at the award ceremony, Friday, June 22, at the National Training Agency.

Minister Lloyd called on the awardees to adopt several life principles. He urged them to never lose their spirit of gratitude, always be humble, and to make it happen.

"The country has invested in you. We want a very sizeable return," said Minister Lloyd. "You don't have to give us a dollar but you must give us your best. Explore, enjoy, advance yourself and be qualified. Come back home. This is where your navel string is buried," he said.

The majority of the awardees were the first in their families to have the opportunity to receive tertiary education and represent New Providence and seven Family Islands. Three of

them, namely, Lauren Albury of Anatol Rodgers High School, Omar Davis of C. I. Gibson High School and Shawnteish Johnson of R. M. Bailey High School, shared stirring journeys to becoming public school scholars.

Ricardo Deveaux, Under Secretary in the Ministry of Education, gave special remarks to the recipients. He said, "You must have a dream. The power of the dream must be 'I will leave The Bahamas to begin a new life, a new journey,' and this new journey must take you to a new place. There are no guarantees, but the college experience is one you will benefit from.

"Be a student, make the required GPA and maintain your scholarships. Make an impact. Get involved in campus activities, get to know college administrators, leave a legacy so they will know a young man or young lady from The Bahamas walked this campus."

Also participating was Tamika Taylor, on behalf of the parents of the awardees; Dr. Alyson Gill, provost, University of the Ozarks; and Monique Hinsey, Administrator, PSSP.

The PSSP was designed to motivate, elevate and transform the lives of Bahamian public school graduates to obtain a college education through the Ministry of Education and partnerships with international colleges and universities in the Caribbean, US, Canada and Europe.



## SPOTLIGHT ON BAIN GRANTS TOWN

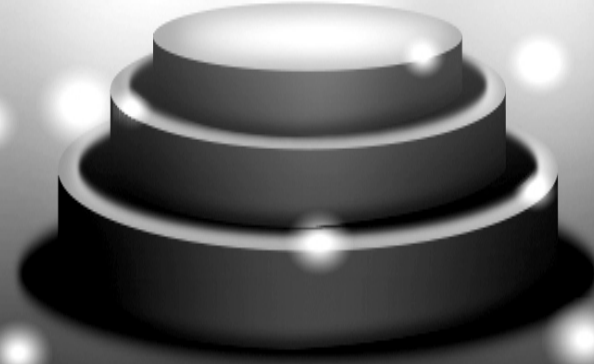
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# The Rough Cut

By Felix F. Bethel

“...oh-ho dear...”

“They’re nasty... [The police] scared us. We came here; we spent our money and what are they doing? They beat the woman. They’re showing us bad things. They should not do that. It’s scary because you know you have lots of tourists here. They should cut it out. The policemen are a little too aggressive here. Just let them tour... let them serve us. We’re coming here because of the people. Don’t be aggressive here.”

Oh-Ho dear what can the matter be...oh dear; ho dear, who cares anymore... And so the hurt continues; and as police beatings make the headlines and [sadly] the same tired-assed politicians are bleating like lambs on the way to the slaughter –with some bleating about national security and others bloviating nonsense galore about majority rule.

Sure seems as if contexts do matter when you set about that nasty business of wishing or wanting to kill people.

From what I am hearing, some tourists are not coming back to the Bahamas – ever! “They said they’re not coming back here because if this is the way the police treat Bahamians they don’t want to return.”

As some of them are said to have described the police... They’re nasty... [The police] scared us...”

Here I end as I might not have wished but nonetheless, I have for you some real blam/gadjammit coming from the bloodied eye of that storm coursing its own destructive way through these islands, rocks and cays that belong to so very many foreigners.

The facts are clear and simple enough: A pre-school teacher was shot about the body multiple times with a shotgun by a lone gunman on Sunday night, leaving her school community in a state of shock and her family devastated.

According to police, Denise Adderley, 39, of Chippingham, was at Texaco Service Station on Wulff Road and Kemp Roads when she was shot.

Adderley died on the scene.

A man was arrested and a shotgun seized, according to police.

There it is: the real McCoy in today’s blood-drenched Bahamas – Blam/gadjammit!

In the meantime – as the following news excerpts reveal – the beat continues.

Story number one concerns an event that involved two women, a fight, some biting and fine some face-scratching – and a bevy of shocked tourists.

Here I am told that, “...Tourists and Bahamians looked on in horror as a police officer allegedly beat a woman before hauling her off to jail yesterday in the area just behind the downtown straw market.

Edena Farrah is the name of the woman who was allegedly beaten by an off-duty officer for reasons that are still unknown.

Now note this: “The lady (Farah) was on the scooter

with about 12 tourists following her... She stopped and was talking to the tourists, and the police woman, who wasn’t even in uniform, grabbed the woman by her hair and started to beat her...”

And then we have the question: “How could we have policemen in the force like that? The police should not be [acting] like that...”

Thereafter I am told that, some of the tourists on the tour chimed in with color commentary to the effect that, the police who beat the woman was truly nasty.

“They’re nasty... [The police] scared us. We came here; we spent our money and what are they doing? They beat the woman. They’re showing us bad things. They should not do that. It’s scary because you know you have lots of tourists here. They should cut it out. The policemen are a little too aggressive here. Just let them tour... let them serve us. We’re coming here because of the people. Don’t be aggressive here.”

And then there was even more commentary: Referring to the vendors who had served her earlier in the day, the woman added: “These are lovely people. The police should help - not hurt.”

“They’re nasty... [The police] scared us.

Now hear some of what happened ex post facto; and now – for emphasis – and after the nasty facts on the ground, Superintendent Wayne Miller informed media that he could not give details on what

Wendy Nixon, a straw vendor, said she was sickened by what she witnessed.

As I am told she said that, “The police beat her like they wanted to kill her. I’m calling on the chief of police to investigate the officers. They are not officers; they are bullies.”

The plot sickens and thickens: Natasha Farrah said she was told that her sister was punched in the face several times. Several family members gathered yesterday at the Tourism Police Station

when she was shot.

Adderley died on the scene.

A man was arrested and a shotgun seized, according to police.

There it is: the real McCoy in today’s blood-drenched Bahamas – Blam/gadjammit!

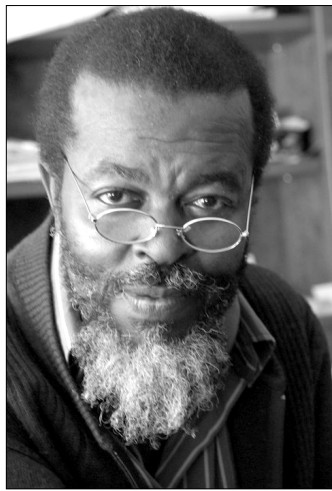
In the meantime – as the following news excerpts reveal – the beat continues.

Story number one concerns an event that involved two women, a fight, some biting and fine some face-scratching – and a bevy of shocked tourists.

Here I am told that, “...Tourists and Bahamians looked on in horror as a police officer allegedly beat a woman before hauling her off to jail yesterday in the area just behind the downtown straw market.

Edena Farrah is the name of the woman who was allegedly beaten by an off-duty officer for reasons that are still unknown.

Now note this: “The lady (Farah) was on the scooter



on Bay Street where Farrah was being held...”

Another sister said police would only say that Edena Farrah was arrested for disorderly conduct.

And then we get another blast of hot opinion: “She’s in there bruised and bloodied. She is not a robber. She is not a thief. And she is not a murderer. Instead of beating her they need to go and do their job...”

Oh dear, [and sadly so] they are doing their jobs!

The only mercy in all that stuff that involved the police woman who they said bit the woman and then and thereafter yanked her hairy head has to do with the fact that there was no blam-gadjammit involved this time around.

Thank God for little mercies.

Oh dear...Ho dear!

“The officer approached her and [grabbed] her, [yanked] her hair and then the woman (Farah) threw her drink in the officer’s face, and the officer bit her,” Gibson claimed. “You should know the law. If you approach her, you’re supposed to arrest her and carry her. How could you beat her and bite her... what is this? Are we not humans anymore?”

From what I am hearing, some tourists are not coming back to the Bahamas – ever! “They said they’re not coming back here because if this is the way the police treat Bahamians they don’t want to return.”

As some of them are said to have described the police... They’re nasty... [The police] scared us...”

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E D I T O R I A L

# SCARY REALITIES

Now that they have done their VAT+THING, we who must now bite this newest of tax bullets must – [as a matter of the most urgent priority]-understand that another far more important issue merits urgent attention, with that matter being any number of hurricanes on their way.

Evidently, therefore, even as they now rush to explain their volte face on the tax in question, the fact remains that all of their rosier of hopes as regards VAT run the real risk of being left bruised, damaged or outright destroyed by damage done by wind, rain – and pestilence unleashed on the land.

In this regard, then, we report that: -- Sebastian Acevedo, author of “Gone with the Wind...” points out that the average disaster caused damages of US\$352 million (in constant 2010 USD), with damages from more intense storms, normally causing larger damages as expected.

The study, we are told, provided a quantitative analysis of the economic costs of hurricanes in the Caribbean.

As Acevedo shows: -- “The impact of a natural disaster is felt mostly in the destruction of the capital stock; that is, damages to housing, agricultural crops, roads, buildings, etc. Since the capital stock, in monetary terms, is usually larger than the total production of a country on any given year, it is possible to have disasters that destroy more than a 100 percent of GDP...”

And thus it follows that in the event of such an external shock—the VAT TAX Matter will, no doubt, take on the characteristic of being little more than prologue to that issue which – all things considered – matters most.

As climate chaos unleashes its uneven and combined disasters, its impact is particularly apparent in big cities. Two great tides are converging on the world’s cities today, and as a result, we are seeing one of the greatest threats to the sustainability of urban existence. The first of these is a human tide. In 2007 humanity became a predominantly city-dwelling species.

Of the approximately 7 billion humans currently living, 3.3 billion live in cities. But if the human condition is now an urban one, this urban humanity is not spread evenly across the world’s cities.

Here we might show: -- According to the World

Travel and Tourism Council, the Caribbean [Bahamas included] is the most tourist-intensive region in the world.

This makes Caribbean economies particularly vulnerable to the vagaries of Mother Nature.

In addition, note well that: -- The World Travel and Tourism Council predicts that the Caribbean will become the most at-risk tourist destination in the world between 2025 and 2050.

Interestingly enough, the UNESCO Science Report observed that ‘the region would be hard-pressed to deal with a major meteorological disaster,’ and urged it to ‘take climate change adaptation more seriously.’

As important are findings which show: -- “In the past as in the present, the fossil capitalism that is driving planetary ecosystems toward a mass extinction event was adopted for the profit of a miniscule but powerful global elite.”

And thus that paradox where: -- The great global majority who are least responsible for carbon emissions are suffering the most from climate chaos; which brings us to that place where: -- Some observers now broach vexing questions about the uneven global impact of climate change and about the viability of an economic system—fossil capitalism—that is predicated on ceaseless expansion on a finite planet.

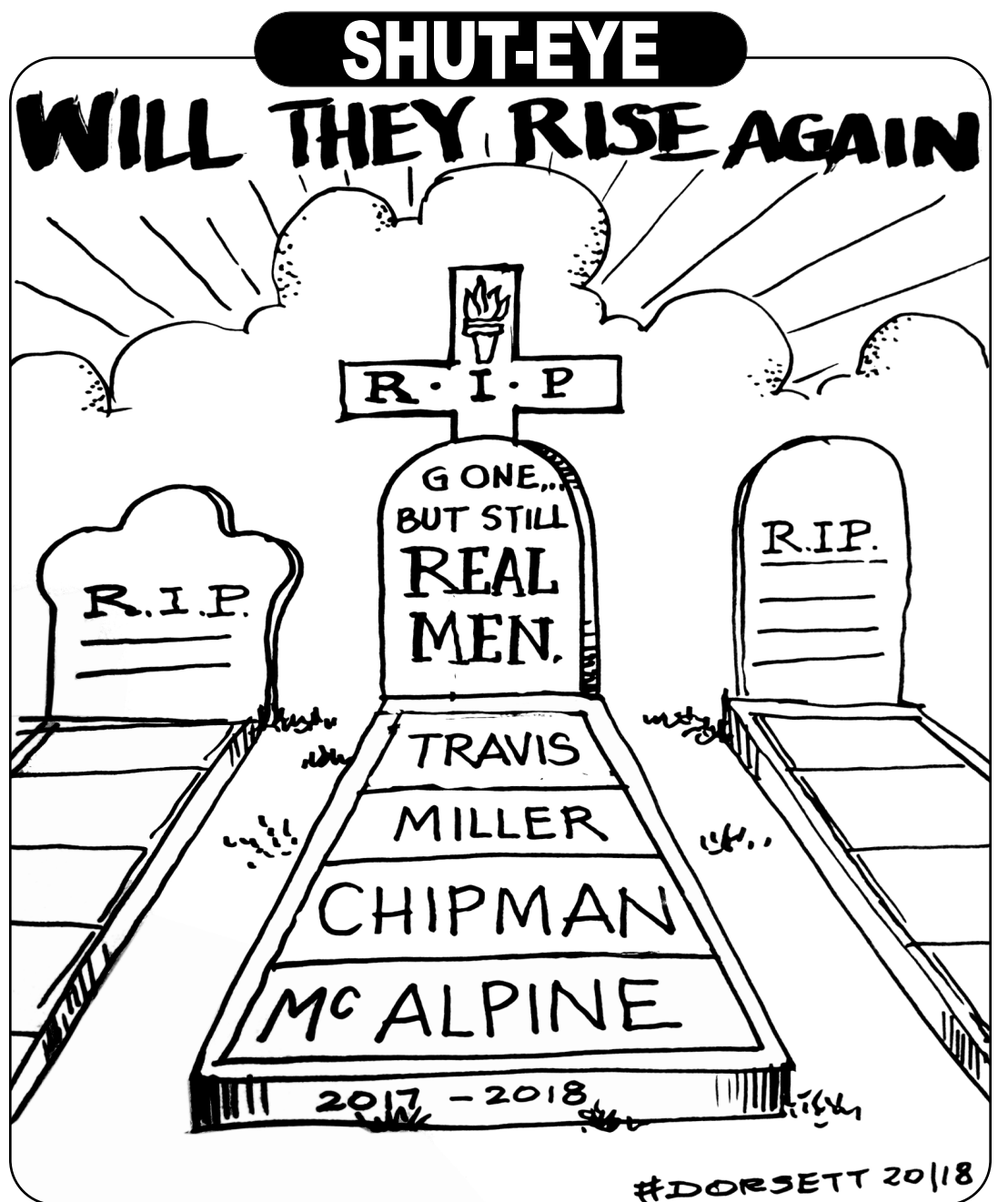
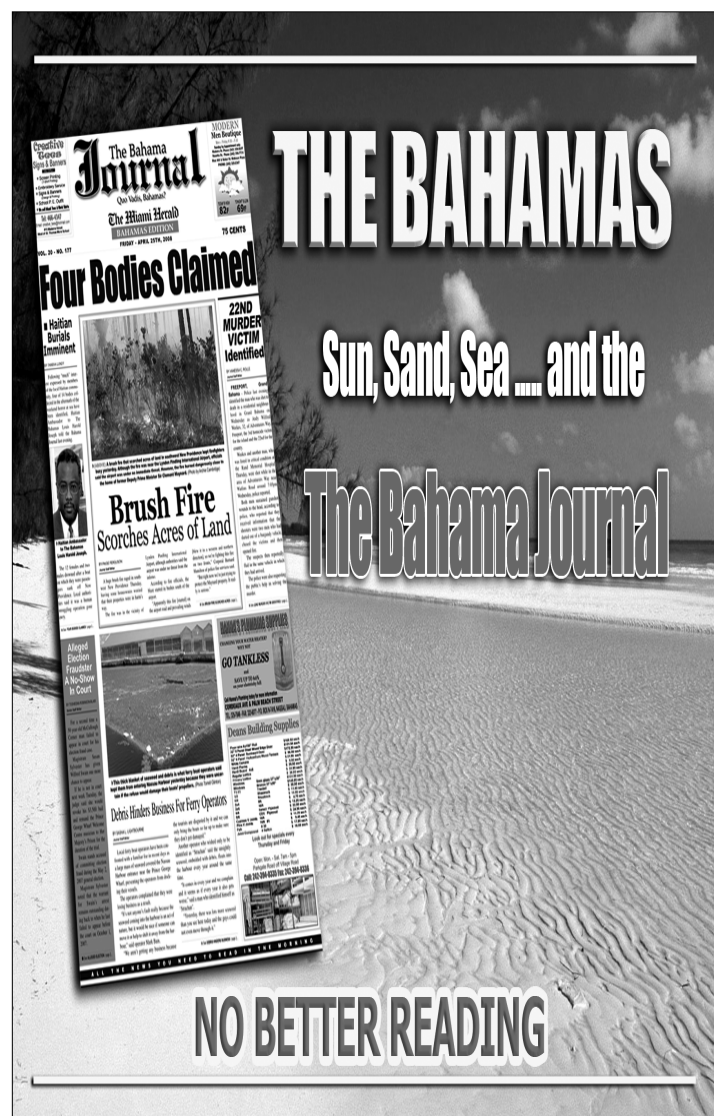
And for sure-as some of the weakest in this world of the strong—we are told that: -- Hurricane and climate change costs in the Caribbean over the past 65 years amount to US \$52 billion (in constant 2010 USD) for the 148 disasters with information on damages.

What we know for sure is that such damages involve processes of subsidence and coastal erosion- which once taken together-destroy natural barriers that protect cities from increasingly severe storms and their surge waters.

Of necessity, then, every island, rock and cay in the Bahamas is on the so-called hurricane hit list!

Evidently: -- The area’s most prone to such disasters extend in a band across the planet’s tropics, including urban regions in Central America, the Caribbean, the Bay of Bengal, China, and the Philippines.

We are smack dab in the middle of these scary realities.







► Sponsors of the workshop: The Port Department, Ministry of Transport and Local Government, Ministry of National Security, Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, and the Government of Canada. (BIS Photos/Patrick Hanna)

## Maritime Security, 'Critical' For The Bahamas



► Minister of Transport and Local Government, the Hon. Frankie Campbell

BY BETTY VEDRINE

Maritime Security is 'particularly critical' for The Bahamas, given its makeup as an archipelagic nation, said Minister of Transport and Local Government, the Hon. Frankie Campbell: borders are extremely porous, as the country features a vast expanse of water covering an area of 100,000 square miles.

The Minister delivered opening remarks at a work-

shop and roundtable discussion on 'National Maritime Supply Chain Security in The Bahamas' at the Paul Farquharson Conference Centre, June 26-28, 2018.

"Due to The Bahamas' geographic make-up, there is a great need to maintain constant vigilance, ensuring that maritime security remains at the highest level at all times," said Mr. Campbell, adding it is evident that the stability of The Bahamas' economy requires

that the country's maritime industry be protected at all costs. "In this regard, I am pleased to emphasize that all of the major port facilities in the Bahamas meet international ship and port facility security (IP code requirements). And are supported by 24/7 security presence."

The Minister said that it is, therefore, of paramount importance to partner with neighboring countries and participate in workshops such as this one to promote

the vigilance required for maintaining secured borders.

The three-day conference comprised interactive sessions facilitating increased information-sharing and analysis and inter-agency coordination, with a view to identifying opportunities for enhancing related policies, procedures and mechanisms at both the port and national level among key stakeholders within the Bahamas' maritime industry.



### 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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# Davinia Blair Appointed Executive Director of Small Business Development Centre

The Government of The Bahamas – and its collaborative partners the University of The Bahamas (UB) and the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers' Confederation (BCCEC) – are pleased to announce that Ms. Davinia L. Blair has been appointed Executive Director (ED) of the imminent Small Business Development Centre (SBDC). Ms. Blair's appointment signals the government's commitment to building and supporting the institutional framework and the national support programme for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

The SBDC is the product of a tri-partite arrangement between the Government, the University of The Bahamas and the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employer's Confederation and the Ministry of Finance. The Centre works to guide the development and

funding of MSME throughout the country.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest said, "We are excited to have Ms. Blair as our ED, to assist in developing and carrying forward our vision for economic and entrepreneurial development for Bahamians. She will be supported by a team of professionals and will have the necessary resources to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the programme, and we anticipate significant results under her leadership."

Through appointments like Ms. Blair's, Mr. Turnquest said, the government and its partners in this endeavor are "making tangible investments in both human talent and treasure to facilitate the growth, development and real economic emancipation of the Bahamian people."

The SBDC will connect to



► MS. DAVINIA L. BLAIR

the Caribbean Small Business Development Centre Project, through which the Organization of American States (OAS) is supporting member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in bolstering their MSME regime.

Ms. Blair has a Master of Science Degree (MSc.) from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) University of London, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Economics (BA) from The American University of Paris. She started off her academic career at the then-College of The Bahamas, pursuing a degree in Economics. She is a highly skilled economist with a facility for strong financial and quantitative decision analysis. Her private and public sector experience encompasses the pursuit of economic and national development in the service of diverse entities

ranging from small businesses to multi-million dollar institutions.

Ms. Blair has served as a director of the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employer's Confederation (BCCEC) for two terms. She most recently served at University of The Bahamas as the Vice-President of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Affairs. While at UB, she also served as Secretary for the Canadian Friends of the University of The Bahamas, and served on the UB Investment Committee.

The SBDC concept is one that has worldwide endorsement and affirmation. Such centres help prospective entrepreneurs realize their dreams of business ownership and help existing businesses remain competitive in a complex, ever-changing national, regional and global marketplace.



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