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FRIDAY - JUNE 29TH, 2018

75 CENTS

BPL Employees Released

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Today employees of Bahamas Power and Light (BPL) who have applied and been approved for BPL's voluntary separation packages will be released.

BPL Chief Executive Officer Whitney Heastie said yesterday that

the Company has taken previous experience and applied them to ensure that it doesn't fall into any kind of trap in relations to letting go of persons that are critical to the company at this time.

He said, "with the release of those individuals, there's also shoring up of people because some those folks are really critical."

"A lot of the folks that have left are the most senior people in this

organization, with the most experience in this organization and we certainly have learned from these type of exercises in the past, where voluntary separation packages are being offered and the most senior, most experienced folks leave and then all of a sudden, you're in a more critical situation than you were before."

He also confirmed that while around 300 persons have applied, a

number of them will be retained by the company.

"A third of those we have deemed as critical employees and we are going to have to retain and ask them to stay back to help us through this most critical period of the year which is summer, our peak season and then there's a phase out approach with those that are staying on as to when they can be released," Mr. Heastie said.

BPL Chairman Darnell Osborne confirmed earlier this month that the company intends to put a plan in place to either train existing employees or phase in new employees to take these critical people's place.

Mr. Heastie said these individuals will receive the same packages as those he released today, even though they will be phased out at a later date.

MP LAUNCHES BAIN TOWN ROOFING PROJECT

BY TIA THOMPSON
Journal Staff Writer

There are over 200 homes in Bain and Grants town to be fixed and to be ready for the hurricane season. The Member of Parliament for the constituency Travis Robinson has launched a roofing project to ensure all his constituents that are in desperate need of roof repairs are covered in the next few months.

On the park grounds in the area, the MP had trucks with all the equipment needed for roof repair.

The project will be done in four phases and continue over a course of four to five months. Phase 1-launched yesterday, included the distribution of materials to constituents that are employed, but still in need of assistance. Phase two and three include homes of the elderly and single parents with materials and physical construction. Phase four is open to general constituents who may be in financial difficulty and could benefit from this initiative.

Project lead contractor Mr. Andrew Colebrook says that the first phase of this project is estimated to take about one month, based on the project expenditure and the rush to have homes fixed before a major hurricane reaches the Bahamas.

The overall project will cost in excess of \$100,000. The focus is on distribution of supplies, and those receiving more than just supplies are the elderly and single parents. He said this is where the bulk of the funding will go.

See MP LAUNCHES / page 2...

Prime Minister Discusses Budget with Exuma residents



Prime Minister Hubert Minnis addressed the residents of Exuma on the 2018/2019 National Budget in a Town Hall Meeting at St. Andrew's Community Centre on Wednesday, June 27, 2018. (BIS Photo/Yontalay Bowe)

BY LINDSAY THOMPSON

GEORGE TOWN, Exuma – Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis continued his trek across the islands to discuss with residents the 2018/19 National Budget and the Value Added Tax increase to 12 percent.

A Town Hall Meeting was held at

St. Andrew's Community Centre overlooking Elizabeth Harbour, where scores of residents turned up on Wednesday, June 27, to hear of the provisions aimed towards making life better. Exuma is one of the fastest growing economies in The Bahamas.

The Prime Minister spoke passionately about future plans for the country, particularly the poor, vulnerable

and young people.

"It is very important to understand and appreciate the Budget as it relates to the future development of The Bahamas," the Prime Minister said. "It is the function of a government to leave behind a better country."

See PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES / page 2...

LOCAL CHARITIES PREPARE FOR VAT HIKE

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

With the increase in Value Added Tax (VAT) becoming effective on Sunday, July 1st, many organizations in Civil Society are bracing themselves for increase expenditures and a shortfall in revenue.

See FOR VAT HIKE / page 4...

HIS EXCELLENCY C.A. SMITH PRESENTED DIPLOMATIC CREDENTIALS AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN PANAMA



PANAMA CITY, Panama -- His Excellency C.A. Smith (left) presented his diplomatic credentials to the President of the Republic of Panama, H.E. Juan Carlos Varela, and the Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Isabel de Saint Malo, at the Presidential Palace in Panama City on June 26, 2018. (Photo/Courtesy, Bahamas Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

CHINESE WOMAN FOUND DEAD

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

Police on the Berry Island are investigating the death of a Chinese woman, believed to be an alleged drowning.

According to reports, shortly after 11:00am yesterday morning, a woman was discovered unresponsive floating in waters off Great Stirrup Cay.

She was removed from the water and CPR was rendered before being transported to the local clinic where she was pronounced dead. Investigations are ongoing.

This alleged drowning occurred just days after the RBPF investigated two alleged drownings one in Bimini and the other in Exuma.

In the previous incidents, a 54-year-old American man and his family were swimming in Luna Beach on the northern side of North Bimini shortly after 11am Sunday when he was seen floating in the water.

CPR was given and the victim was taken to the Bimini community clinic by EMS where he was later pronounced dead.

In the second incident, police were investigating the death of another American man, this time the man was snorkeling with a family member in waters between Musha and Rudder Cay, when it was noticed that he did not surface.

A search was made and the man was discovered at the bottom of the sea.

He was removed from the water and taken to the community clinic where he was pronounced dead.

See FOUND DEAD / page 2...

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Bahamian Chinese Community Speaks Out

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamian Chinese Community Association of The Bahamas (CCA) is outraged in the wake of disturbing videos circulating on social media coupled with a recent television report that they say distorted and damaged the public's perception of them.

The organization made it clear

in a release that it has been under contract with the Bahamas Waste Management's biodiesel division over two years.

They also explain that the grease pit at the location in question was full at the time and in need of clearing due to the inability to collect on time.

According to the organization, the number of restaurants that participate in the program is expected

to increase as they make efforts to expand this initiative.

They would also wish to clarify that the restaurants featured in the video are equipped with both cesspits and grease pits as mandated by local laws.

They also wish to confirm that both pits never meet and never make their way into the kitchen once they have been extracted.

They also said, "we are certain

that this unfortunate misunderstanding has been fully explained and will now be put to rest."

The Association added, "we are deeply hurt and offended by the scurrilous unfounded accusation which have been targeted at our community and aired by a certain television news industry and across social media without any real attempt to investigate the truth."

They warned that such videos are incredibly not only to their establishments, but also breed contempt and encourage prejudice "which is not a practice in the Christian nation we grew up in and call home".

As Bahamians, they said that they are prepared to do all within their legal rights to ensure that their names and the confidence of other Bahamians is fully restored.

Prime Minister Discusses Budget with Exuma residents

Continued from / PAGE 1...

According to the Prime Minister, several things are of particular importance to him as it relates to the Budget: He used his own childhood as an example of living in poverty within the larger discussion of how the Budget aims at decreasing the poverty level, and increasing opportunities for the middle class, for a better way of life. Another area he said that is "dear and personal" to him is for Family Island residents to have the same opportunities as residents in New Providence.

Between intermittent applause of approval from those in attendance, the Prime Minister went on to list more provisions within the Budget such as education, health care and home ownership.

He said starting September 2019, qualifying students would receive free education to attend at the

University of The Bahamas (UB). Similar arrangements are being made at the Bahamas Technical & Vocational Institute (BTVI).

Already the top 4 students who graduated from UB with a degree in Economics will be contracted by the Government to work at the Ministry of Finance, and granted scholarships to obtain Masters Degrees abroad. They would be subsequently hired by the Government in line with a 10-year vision plan to improve the Public Service.

Regarding the increase in VAT, the Prime Minister said that it was a hard decision to make, but the aim is to grow the economy. "As Prime Minister you must make difficult decisions. I would prefer to lose an election than lose a country," he said.

The government considered raising VAT from 7.5 percent to 10 percent but determined that was not enough to deal with fiscal

pressures it encountered, the Prime Minister told Exuma. The government considered raising VAT to 15 percent but determined that would have inflicted "too much hardship" on Bahamians, so it settled on 12 percent, which it determined is necessary to save future generations of Bahamians.

A significant portion of the new VAT revenues will be redirected into the economy through the payment of arrears to various creditors, among other things, he explained. "I don't ever want to see what is happening in Barbados happen here," he said. "I never want to pick up the phone and call an international lending agency... you have to be in control of your own country."

"We should not lose sight of the fact that the government has been mindful, in the development of its plan to provide tax relief to the most vulnerable in our society," the Prime Minister said.

ty," the Prime Minister said. He noted that among those measures are the elimination of VAT on breadbasket items, medicines, residential property insurance, as well as on electricity and water for a large number of households.

The Prime Minister previously visited South, Central and North Andros on Monday, June 25, to discuss the provisions of the Budget.

CHINESE WOMAN FOUND DEAD

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Meanwhile, Harbour Island police are investigating two reports of indecent assault on two juvenile female tourists.

According to reports, sometime between the hours of 12:00am and 2:00am, the women were on a beach on Harbour Island when they were indecently assaulted by two adult Bahamian men.

The two men, residents of Harbour Island, were taken into custody. Investigations

are ongoing.

New Providence police have also recovered an illegal firearm.

According to reports, shortly before 1:00pm yesterday, Drug Enforcement Officers, acting on information, were on Peter Street, where they conducted a search of a heap of trash and recovered a .38 Smith and Wesson revolver.

No arrests were made in the incident, and investigations continue.



Prime Minister Hubert Minnis addressed the residents of Exuma on the 2018/2019 National Budget in a Town Hall Meeting at St. Andrew's Community Centre on Wednesday, June 27, 2018. (BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe)



MP LAUNCHES BAIN TOWN ROOFING PROJECT

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mr. Robinson said that what led to the creation of this project was his responsibility to his constituents and their many concerns. He noted that everyday during

his walkabouts, his constituents voice their issues, and this was something that the majority of them struggled with.

This initiative was done over a period of two months, with the roofing

project having Fidelity Bank as its platinum sponsor. The project also has the support and backing of Family Guardian Insurance, Original Pattie, Super Value and J.S. Johnson Insurance.



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

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BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

The Chief Executive Officer of Bahamas Power and Light (BPL) Whitney Heastie said yesterday that there will be no load shedding this summer, but there is no guarantee of no outages.

Mr. Heastie said the company has spent a lot of time preparing for this upcoming summer which he anticipates will be a better summer compared to summer of last year.

He said, "we've spent a lot of time working certainly on the generation side. I think historically we have been deficient in generation. We have spent a lot of time over the past 6 or 7 months working the generation assets.

"We're not where we want to be quite frankly and we still got some work to do, but I think given where we are and from whence we came, I think we're well on our way to making sure we can supply the loads that we will need for this summer."

Mr. Heastie said that they

are studying the system to understand what needs to be fixed before they can come up with an estimate to fix the issue and prevent an island wide blackout from occurring again, but the system he said is a very complex one that will take some time.

"The grid out there is pretty comprehensive. If you look at the poles and the wires just around New Providence within itself, it's a pretty complex system. We've got 21 major substations and that's just the major primary substations in New Providence, not talking about the secondary substations and so from the generating facility to those substations, which is the transmission lines and then from the substations to the various users which is the distribution network.

"It's a fast network and so what we have to do is look at each one of those systems which is more that 210 circuits just off of those 21 primary substations and understand what has to be done to make sure the appropriate

action is taken," Mr. Heastie said.

He also explained the reason behind the island wide black out that plagued the island on Monday.

Mr. Heastie confirmed that BPL officials have begun analysis in hopes of discovering what the exact cause of that outage was in regards to the equipment that was hit by a lightning bolt and subsequently failed as a result, but those results he said, are preliminary.

"The network or the grid is designed really to isolate fault depending on where the fault occurs and the magnitude of the fault, because this fault happened directly inside the power plant. It had a magnitude that was very severe.

"In simple terms, if something were to happen further away from the plant, then the plant would have had a faster time to react. The closer it is to the plant results in the response to the protection system having to be a whole lot faster," Mr Heastie said.

Bain Town MP To Launch Tourism Consultancy

BY TIA THOMPSON
Journal Staff Writer

The recently fired Parliamentary Secretary Travis Robinson says he is still going beyond for his Bain Town constituents and has decided to form a new business.

"Travis Robinson the man behind the name, I am now going into some consultancy business as relates to tourism in the Bahamas," says Mr. Robinson.

Bain Town MP said that his new consultancy business is a personal endeavor. When asked if consultancy is being done for the government, he said that he is certainly opened to whomever offers him

business, but this will remain a personal business.

Mr. Robinson says that just as business was formed to assist the people, so was his decision to vote against the 60 per cent increase in VAT. "Travis Robinson the individual, I support the increase in VAT, Travis Robinson the member of parliament I do not accept the increase. I represent my people and I voted on behalf of my people. I can afford the 60 per cent increase, but they can't. It is not about me, it is about them."

Mr. Robinson says that he has not been offered any consultancy from the government yet, but when the time comes he will decide if to turn down or accept.

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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!"

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PLEASE SUBMIT RESUME AND TRANSCRIPT BEFORE: April 20th, 2018

HUMAN RESOURCES

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The Bahamas Bowl Games Proved A Boost to the Economy

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

It was announced yesterday that a total of 9,200 visitors to New Providence over the past four years injected \$23.8 million into the local economy due to the Bahamas Bowl.

An additional \$5 million was spent on food, supplies, entertainment, and local transportation.

Minister of Transport Frankie Campbell said that the government is well on its way to achieving its goal of establishing The Bahamas as the sports capital of the region.

He said, "by far, the greatest benefit of the Bahamas Bowl is the exposure our country receives through ESPN television. Coverage of the game broadcast by ESPN to millions and millions of television viewers is our number one source of marketing in the US and Canada."

The Minister added, "this widespread exposure has resulted in the strengthening of The Bahamas' brand identity in the international travel marketplace."

Two American College Football teams will later this year compete in hopes of claiming the

Prime Minister's Trophy at the Thomas A. Robinson Stadium.

Mid-American Conference Commissioner Jon Steinbrecher said this is "the crown jewel" of their line up as no other conference hosts a game with an international locale like The Bahamas.

He said, "the cultural opportunities for the young men and women we bring is unlike any other. I can't begin to tell you how often I speak to our kids who have been through this experience and they talk about they never in their wildest imagination thought that they would have this much opportunity."

He added, "we can deliver that through year after year through this partnership, and I can't tell you what that means to me and to our membership."

Fifty to seventy-five countries across the globe will have an opportunity to tune in to ESPN this fall to watch their favorite college football teams compete in paradise.

The Bahamas Bowl 2018 will kick off on December 21st this year at 12pm Eastern Standard Time.

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES ITS TECHNOLOGY SUMMER PROGRAM IN GRAND BAHAMA



► **THIS IS WHERE IT HAPPENS** – Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Senator Kwasi Thompson (left) is given a tour of the BTVI facility, and was shown one of the rooms that will be used to conduct the Information and Communications Technology Summer Program, which was officially launched on Wednesday, June 27, 2018. **BIS Photo/Lisa Davis**

LOCAL CHARITIES PREPARE FOR VAT HIKE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

That includes local charities like The Red Cross, The Salvation Army, and The Great Commission, who either expect or are already seeing a jump in the number of people needing assistance.

Red Cross Director General, Caroline Turnquest, admitted it's going to require a further tightening of the purse strings.

"So far, we have already seen a little increase in persons coming in and we just have to scale up on our fundraising activities to ensure that we have enough funds to assist those persons," she said.

"Because we have not been granted an increase in our subvention from The Bahamas government, that fee remains the same.

"However our expenses will go up because we purchase those things and the necessary items that we need, they have VAT added to them, so it means our expenses will go up.

"Not only the items we need for the program; the utilities would go up because we also pay VAT on our utilities.

"So, we know that it's going to be a bit more challenging, because we have to see how we were going to manage meeting the expenses," she said.

Already struggling to meet its existing needs, both Divisional Commander of The Salvation Army, Major Clarence Ingraham, and Bishop Walter Hanchell, President of Great Commission Ministries, said it's going to be quite a challenge.

"We are struggling ourselves to determine the impact the increase in VAT will have on our operations as well," said Major

Ingraham.

"We expect that there will be an increased demand of course for services, probably particularly for food.

"And then, our costs are going to increase in every way because VAT will impact all of what we do as well.

"So we're expecting an increase in cost in terms of what we do just our operational costs and then we're anticipating that there will be an increase in demand as well.

"It's probably going to hit us from both directions so to speak, which is going to create a considerable challenge for us at this point, because we're already struggling just to meet the needs that we have," said Major Ingraham.

Bishop Walter Hanchell, President of Great Commission Ministries, shared similar sentiments.

"We've seen an increase in clients coming to us for the last three years. Every year the numbers keep increasing," he said.

"We just have to deal with it and believe that we will get the support of the community to help us to cope with all of these extra people who are struggling and disenfranchised," said Bishop Hanchell.

Major Ingraham said the increase is just a very big concern at this point.

"We haven't really had time to put a lot of analysis into how deeply it would impact us," Ingraham said.

Ms. Turnquest said that the first board meeting will be held next week where they will look what they will do as an organization.

"We do realize that there is no way of getting around it, we expect our expenses will definitely go up."

The new VAT rate takes effect Sunday, July 1, 2018.



SPOTLIGHT ON BAIN GRANTS TOWN

THURSAYS 7:30 P.M.
SATURDAYS 9:00 A.M.

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CLUES THAT YOUR BUSINESS IS IN TROUBLE

The 2018 series salutes fashion mogul Peter Nygård's Golden Jubilee detailing his rags to riches story and incredible business success over these past fifty years. The Clifton Review will take an inside look at how he did it.

It's Thursday and there is a sinking feeling in the pit of your stomach. Tomorrow is payday, but you are unable to make the payments.

This experience is likely more common than not among many business owners the world over. While there are joys in owning your own business, there are many challenges to overcome, and more often than not, a lot of stress that goes with it.

Before we look at strategies for averting business threats, let's look at the signs that let you know that your business is in trouble.

An Australian company, Business Turnaround Services, has a record of helping companies in trouble turn their businesses around. They assert, "Timing is crucial when you sense that your business is in trouble, experiencing a financial crisis or underperforming." They present these clues for determining if your business is in trouble:

- **Your sales fall below your quota or target.** If you are struggling to find your next sales and have been experiencing several months of low sales, then you may not get the revenue you need to make profit or to merely break even.... Lack of sales will inevitably translate to low revenue, low profit and an increase of debts to suppliers, financiers and the tax office.
- **Customer retention is low and you are unable to convert prospects.** If you are losing more customers than you are gaining, then it is only a matter of time that you will have very few customers to get your revenue from.
- **Cash flow is inadequate.** Cash is king. The ability to generate cash is an important key to business success. Without strong, positive cash flow a business will never thrive and grow. While it may be normal for some businesses to experience fluctuations, it is critical to be able to balance the high and low cash flow seasons. If cash flow continues to fall, then the business will not survive.
- **You are unable to convert accounts receivable and inventory to cash.** Check the credit terms you are granting for your accounts receivable and check the quality of products being delivered to you. You must be able to convert these promptly to cash as this can also affect your cash flow.
- **Your employees are unhappy and lack**

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.

motivation. Most employees can sense that the business is in trouble. It can start with salary delays or cutting off of bonuses and benefits. If employees sense that the culture, environment and atmosphere of the company have become bleak, then this will have a direct impact on their productivity and quality of performance. Without the results you are expecting from your staff, your business will suffer.

● **Upper management cannot communicate with the staff.** When there is breakdown or failure in communication, management will not be able to identify conflicts in the everyday operations of the business. When conflicts are not identified, they will not be addressed or solved.

● **You dread going to work every day. Your passion for your business is gone.** You are always exhausted but you feel that you can never take a vacation because business functions solely depend on you. If your business depends on you alone, then it will never grow further from that. You must have effective management and best practices in place so that even if you are away, you can be certain that your business is healthy and growing in revenue.

● **Your company is just barely surviving.** The growing number of unpaid suppliers, outstanding receivables and low number of sales can take their toll on even the most steadfast business owners. Your business is not built to just "survive", it is meant to grow and prosper. (From: "8 signs that your business is in trouble" www.businessturnaround.net.au)

These experts suggest that you might be able to save your business if you recognize the warning signs early and make the decision to act.

Remember, fashion mogul Peter Nygard acted immediately before the potential threat to his core business could negatively impact profits. You can too and we'll show you the possibilities.

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Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

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E D I T O R I A L

VAT+ REGARDLES

Necessity is the mother of invention; thus our conclusion: -- VAT+ regardless, Bahamians will find a way forward out of this doozy of a mess.

Truth is that human beings are from one perspective, at their very best when with their backs to the wall, they know that they must claw their way forward.

And thus, on this blessed Friday, June 29, 2018, we are certain not only that we shall survive, but that very many of us will prosper even as we reach out to others wallowing in distress.

That we now live in a time and in a space where troubles now abound and when -- as it were -- the so-called chickens are coming home to roost, is -- as he would have the public believe -- both pellucid and clear.

But yet, we demur as we seriously wonder if the good brother in question might have helped himself by searching for anything such as his much ballyhooed pellucidly-clear pontification.

Sadder still, the same talking head brother has, on occasion, claimed that his party is 'distinctively-different' from their nemeses in the Progressive Liberal Party.

Truly, this man must be jesting as the facts on the ground [going back more than half a century] would attest.

[and thus] Whether pellucid, clear or [to put it other-wise 'pellucidly'-clear, we would suggest that: -- If ever there was an illusion to politics as the game is played in The Bahamas has to do with pretensions to the effect that they who describe themselves as being either die-hard PLPs or FNMS, truth is that: -- Au contraire, the Progressive Liberal Party and its Free National Movement opposites are as alike as two peas in occupation of one pod.

This characterization applies whether we look in on political realities Bahamian-styled and on their economic, social and cultural undergirding, the PLP and the FNM -- whether at the level of their elite handlers or at ground-floor with the so-called 'masses, there is no real difference between them.

Interestingly enough, then, the difference that matters most has to do with how the late Milo Boughton Butler might have been absolutely cor-

rect when he suggested that the divide that matter was the one having to do with how Bahamian society in his time was class-stratified.

And thus, his differentiation as regards classes and so-called masses.

This crucial distinction -- as we would also suggest -- would have had as its complement a key distinction as between capital and labor; with an added racially and women's rights focus and fillip from the late Doris Johnson.

It was out of this stew of definitions, distinctions and raw struggle for political ascendancy that helped in the political victories of Cecil Vincent Wallace-Whitfield and his rival, Lynden O. Pindling; and thus to these turbulent times as 'so-called' successive administrations have become complicit in bringing us this far!

And for sure, there is that other reality where despite the vigor of their electoral campaigns or for that matter, the fervor each puts into so-called 'debate' the truth remains that they are both in deep agreement as regards certain ideological fundamentals.

But clearly, if we are correct in this judgment, it might well follow that both parties might yet reach that point where they are obliged to conclude that, there are some key people 'out-there' who are no longer smitten with either or for that matter, with their myriad of games.

We know for a fact that there are men and women 'out-there' who know that once upon a time when there was neither PLP nor FNM, they did live in a Bahamas where whilst life might have been hard, most people had learned the hard way that they had to pull together if they wished to flourish.

That is precisely what they did and precisely because necessity is the mother of invention, they used their smarts and they survived.

But yet, there is that other reality where some of our elite denizens like the supremely ambitious likes of Stafford Sands, Roland Theodore Symonette or for that matter, Milo Butler, Leon Young or Josiah Rahming were able to lead in a time when leadership was absolutely crucial.

As in the case of so very many others, these great ones made their mark!

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





150 HAVE MINISTRY OF YOUTH SUMMER JOBS IN GB

BY ROBYN ADDERLEY

FREEPORT, Grand Bahama – One hundred and fifty young people were told to take advantage of their job placement and learn something from the opportunity on Thursday, June 28, by Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, the Hon. Michael Pintard.

Minister Pintard addressed the youth job placement orientation at Foster B. Pestaina Centre, Christ the King Anglican Church. Of the 400 applications received, 150 were placed and will have jobs from July 2 to 27.

The Minister told the young people they were at a very critical point in their lives, and he gave them some advice on the experiences they will have, pointing out that working in areas that they may not have preferred will nevertheless expose them to additional options.

Sharing some of his experiences, the Minister went on to share a few jobs he has held in the course of his career. “Those varied experiences prepared me for what I’m doing now. It is important in a tough economy,” he continued, “in The Bahamas and



► **SUMMER JOB PROGRAMME** – The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture held Orientation for 150 students participating in the summer job programme on Thursday, June 28, 2018. The students heard from the Minister responsible, the Hon. Michael Pintard, who encouraged them to make the best of the opportunity afforded them. **(BIS Photos/Lisa Davis)**

even internationally, to have options.” When goals or dreams do not work out the way one intended, he said, it is important to have options. It is also useful to have varied skills as it is eas-

ier to make the transition into another area. “This will help to sustain you until you can do the thing that is your passion.”

There are many persons, he said

who have been working in various vocations, forced to seek other options as a result of economic downturn. Those who were flexible enough made the transition and in

some cases, found it more rewarding than what they left. “So, as you go through this programme and you find yourself, in some cases, working in the area that’s not your primary choice, I’m asking you to give consideration to the experience it provides – and it provides you with options -- to be exposed to different things, to be flexible enough to make the adjustment because life will require of you, in the not-too-distant-future, to be incredibly flexible.”

The programme will also teach you some lessons, continued the Minister. He said they ought not to walk away from any experience without asking themselves what is the lesson. Every job opportunity will give a lesson.

When on the job, they will notice that adjustments are needed, but urged them to not point out what is wrong and try to be a part of the solution. Minister Pintard closed by saying, “It’s not just about us providing an opportunity for you. Far from it. It’s about us being able to get from you the gifts and talents that God has given you so that you can help improve this island and this country.”

He told the young people that they are the hope the country needs.



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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VAT Compliance Workshop at BAIC

BY SYDNEI L. ISAACS

Small to medium business owners took time to attend the VAT Compliance Workshop Program at BAIC on Thursday, June 28, 2018. The aim of this workshop was "To offer direct assistance to cause entrepreneurs to be profitable or more profitable than they are, and to simplify the VAT process for small and medium-sized businesses" said Executive Chairman of BAIC, Mr. Michael Foulkes.

This workshop was especially important as The Bahamas transitions from a VAT rate of 7.5 percent to 12 percent.

"We are not a part of your particular business and there are situations that may be unique to you -- but just ask us, and we will try our best to determine the answers here today," said Timothy Adderley of the Department of Inland Revenue.



Executive Chairman of BAIC, Mr. Michael Foulkes, and the audience at BAIC's VAT Compliance Workshop on Thursday. (BIS Photos/Patrick Hanna)



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