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"A New VAT Model"

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK AND LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writers

Despite the government's assertion that the implementation of a Value Added Tax (VAT) increase to 12 per cent was necessary to better the country's financial state, the Chairman of the Coalition which advised the government initially on the introduction of VAT says the government has departed from the original model which was agreed.

Weighing in on the public's reaction to the government's 2018/2019 budget, on Radio Love 97 this past weekend, Gowan Bowe, who represented the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and headed the committee to advise the Christie administration on VAT called the manner in which the increase is being introduced "naïve". Mr. Bowe who is also Group Chief Financial Officer for Fidelity Bank and Trust International Limited said to increase VAT to 12 per cent with exemptions on many items is a new model.

■ See A NEW VAT MODEL on PAGE 3...



► Gowan Bowe, Group Chief Financial Officer for Fidelity Bank and Trust International Limited (Journal file photo)

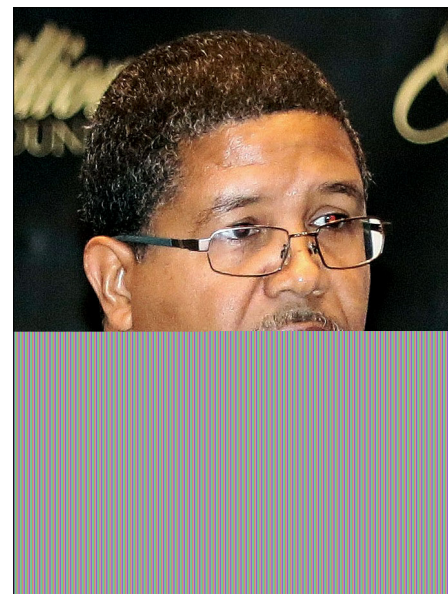
DPM Fires Back at Opposition's Budget Criticism

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Deputy Prime Minister Peter Turnquest fired back at the opposition after PLP leader Phillip Davis described growth within the last fiscal year as "anemic".

Mr Turnquest says, "It is laughable that an opposition that oversaw a massive run up in debt over the last five years would have the nerve, the gall to stand before the Bahamian people to talk about this current government that is taking the very deliberate and difficult decision to try and fix this runaway train that we have had over the last five years."

■ See OPPOSITION'S BUDGET / page 6...



► Deputy Prime Minister Peter Turnquest (Journal file photo)

Labour Day Carnage



► Scenes from the carnage on the Labour Day march last Friday.



BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT

The nation mourns after what is being called "a senseless lapse" on the part of a truck driver that resulted in the deaths of four women and caused scores of casualties on Labour Day this past Friday.

The jubilation of participants in the Labour day parade soon turned into grief shortly after 10 a.m when the driver of a F-150 truck lost control of the vehicle, hitting several people.

Apart from the four fatalities, some eighteen others received various injuries.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Ken Strachan said, "It is understood that when he got out of the vehicle, it went forward colliding first with a child on the side of the street."

■ See LABOUR DAY / page 2...

Chinese Nationals Detained On Drug Charges

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT

Four Chinese nationals along with one Ecuadorian were charged with possession of drugs with the intent to supply last Thursday.

Standing before Deputy Chief Magistrate Subusola Swain, all of the Defendants pleaded not guilty and were remanded to The Bahamas Department of Corrections until August 7th.

Among the Chinese nationals were two juvenile; Ziyi Dang and Zhang Lei Chine both of them are 17 years old.

■ See CHINESE NATIONALS DETAINED on PAGE 3...

Ministry of Health launches Anti-Tobacco Initiative

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

In honor of World No Tobacco Day, the Ministry of Health has launched an initiative to combat smoking and raise awareness of its side effects.

This year's goal focuses on drawing attention to health risks associated with the use of tobacco under the theme, "Tobacco and Heart Disease, aiming to expose the link between tobacco use and cardiovascular disease.

Heart disease and strokes are the world's

leading cause of death, according to Minister of health Dr. Duane Sands.

He said that medical science has shown that smoking heightens one's chances of heart disease because of raising triglycerides, lowering the good or HDL cholesterol, making blood more sticky and likely to clot blocking blood flow to the brain, damaging blood vessels by increasing the buildup of plaque in the blood vessels, and increasing blood pressure by causing thickening and narrowing of the blood vessel.

■ See INITIATIVE / page 3...



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Labour Day Carnage

Continued from / PAGE 1...

“The vehicle descended the hill, continuing north, ploughing into several persons who were spectating and participating in the Labour Day Parade. This was along the eastern side of East Street, near Shirley Street. The truck landed against a Nissan March and the building just at that intersection.”

ACP Strachan invited anyone who witnessed this tragedy to please come forward so that the RBPF can get the relevant information to advance the investigation.

He also asked persons of the public who would have taken pictures or videos of the incident to please refrain from sending these images over social media.

ACP Strachan said that this incident was a very trying time for The Bahamas and that this is the first matter of this nature to ever take place in the 56 years of hosting the parade.

Chief of Staff at the Princess Margret Hospital Caroline Burnett-Garraway spoke to the specifics of the casualties and injuries caused by this incident.

She said, “21 persons were treated at the Accident and Emergency Department. Three patients went to Doctor’s Hospital and were treated there and we can confirm

that two patients were brought in dead directly to the morgue at Princess Margret Hospital.”

Two persons had injuries that were so serious that they had to be admitted to the hospital and others were considered ‘walking wounded’ so they were treated and discharged.

In a combined Press Conference, Minister of Health Dr. Duane Sands applauded all the medical personnel who assisted in helping the wounded as best as possible.

He asked the public to join and pray for God’s grace in this time of tragedy.

Dr Sands said: “The Bahamas must be proud of the Princess Margret medical team and emergency services. They demonstrated a level of professionalism that made my heart proud.”

He also said that there was never any chaos and never a situation where things were not under control.



Scenes from the carnage on the Labour Day march last Friday.





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The Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, through the Ministry of Finance invites Tenders for the provision of OFFICE SUPPLIES for the Fiscal year 2018/19.

All interested persons/companies are invited to collect the Tender Document which includes product specifications between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; beginning May 23 2018:

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The original, along with three (3) copies of the completed proposal in English must be placed in sealed envelopes clearly marked “Tender Document for the PROVISION OF OFFICE SUPPLIES”

The successful bidder will be required to store and deliver the inventory to Government Departments on a Just-In-Time basis.

Bids must be deposited in the Tender’s box bearing no identity of the bidder at the *Ministry of Finance, Cecil Wallace-Whitfield Centre, West Bay Street, Nassau, Bahamas, no later than 9:30 a.m. on or before Tuesday, June 5 2018.*

Bidders or their designated representatives are invited to be present for the Tender opening on Tuesday June 5 2018 when the Tenders Board meets at 10:00 a.m.

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

Financial Secretary

"A New VAT Model"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"I think fundamentally they should have been focused on providing details around the empirical analysis that they would have performed in order to satisfy themselves that one, the economy can sustain the change in the systems; two, what the impact of that change would, be even if it could be sustained; and three whether or not it is actually predicted to achieve the revenue growth that they have in budgeted into the actual budget communication.

"And that if it was done, certainly [it] was not communicated in a very clear manner by the powers that be and I believe that the general population is apprehensive about any changes that do not seem to be supported by proper analysis thought and collaboration between all of the relevant stakeholders," Mr. Bowe said.

Speaking with this Journal, and giving a budget analysis, following the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest's announcement that VAT will increase effective July 1, from 7.5 percent to 12 percent, Mr. Bowe said

that a budget when presented should show how the government intends to manage the country.

"When we look at the budget as presented, ideally what you want to see from governments when they present budgets is the strategy and their long-term view of how they want the economy to grow and more importantly to fund the social needs that are managed by the government.

"I think that when you look at the rate itself, it isn't one that should be focused on in its significance, simply because there are concessions given on the other direction in terms of reductions of duties.

"Overall I think that there is an expectation that the ultimate price of goods should not increase by what you would call 12 percent because we are already at 7.5

"So, the actual incremental change is really only 4.5 percent, and ultimately the cost of living has been increasing steadily between 2 percent or there about for the past few years. So that's not a radical shift," Mr. Bowe said.

Bowe added that the complication with the actual proposal is whether

the new VAT system is prepared to what currently exists.

"Right now, the exemptions are very limited, and the rate is being maintained at a very low rate, with the increase to 12 percent but also the addition of the exemptions, the challenge is then will be the practical application of the new system.

"Whether businesses be able to do so within the timeframe set out; whether the consumers have, what I would term, tax elasticity and the ability to absorb the increase in taxes

"Fundamentally and probably the most significant whether the Department of Inland Revenue itself is actually geared up in order to administer this new the system in a manner that will ensure high compliance or at the very least consequences for failure to comply," Mr. Bowe said.

Mr. Bowe added that when VAT was being contemplated in its primary stage under the former Christie administration, there was also then a view that it would pull the country into depression; however, he stated that in reality the country was able to absorb it.

"I won't say without any challenges, but certainly not with the dooms day prognostications that came out at the time.

"So, we certainly don't need to over react to the rate change but what we do need and what we should be demanding government is a very clear understanding of how they arrived at this decision and was this the only alternative that they have put forward.

"Because while this

may be a new administration and they see it as their first budget debate in crafting, government is continuous, and the well-being of the country is one that doesn't change from year to year or

administration to administration," Mr. Bowe said.

Responding to opposition leader that the 2018/2019 budget is recessionary, Mr. Bowe said Mr. Davis' statement cannot be made because of the absence of a proper

economic impact assessment

"Opposition and government have to be careful of accusing one another of the very same sin that they are committing.

See VAT MODEL / page 4...

Chinese Nationals Detained On Drug Charges

Continued from / PAGE 1...

The others Chinese Nationals were Merchin You age 40 and Xiaolin Ling age 55.

The Ecuadorian national was Brandon Kevin Parru Arguado, 18.

Spanish interpreter Simone Johnson and Chinese interpreter Wei Wag- Roberts were brought into the court to interpret the Chief Magistrate's decision to the defendants.

While standing before the Deputy Chief Magistrate the Ecuadorian national started crying after the magistrate told him that he would not be returning home for a while, even if he applies to the supreme court and his granted bail.

It took her a while to explain to all of the defendants the way the magistrate court operates in The Bahamas and that none of them would be leaving the country soon.

Ministry of Health launches Anti-Tobacco Initiative

Continued from / PAGE 1...

He added, "To out it plainly, my fellow Bahamians, smoking kills!"

Dr. Sands also listed statistics from the findings of the 2017 National household Drugs Survey which revealed that 25 percent of Bahamians between the ages of 12 and 65 admitted to smoking at least once.

It also revealed that males smoke at about four times a higher rate than females.

One of the initiative's arrangements includes a revised Tobacco Bill which Dr. Sands said will address the situation in The Bahamas comprehensively.

He said, "Such a bill will enable us to monitor tobacco use within The Bahamas, it will better

facilitate prevention policies, it will protect the Bahamian people from exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke by creating and increasing completely smoke-free indoor public spaces and workplaces, it will strengthen partnerships for smoking cessation programs and other interventions..."

He added, "It will implement effective anti-tobacco media campaigns that inform the public, especially our more vulnerable youth, about the harms of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure, and create a mechanism for the enforcement and levying of fines and penalties for infractions."

Dr. Sands also urged Bahamians to reduce their cholesterol, reduce and control their blood pressure, get support, and above all; stop smoking.

SPOTLIGHT ON BAIN GRANTS TOWN

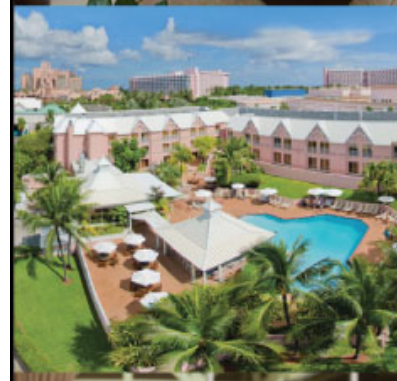
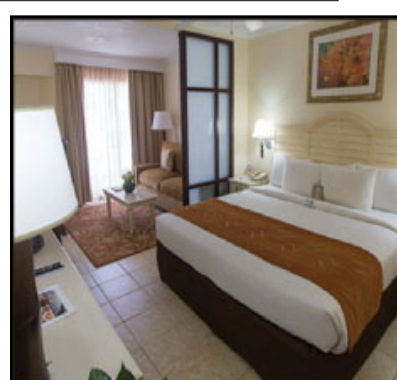
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THE TIPPING POINT

COMMENTARY BY BRADLEY B. ROBERTS, FORMER CABINET MINISTER AND MP

There is a phenomenon in politics called the tipping point. Pollsters like Public Domain advised that in their experience, when the proverbial rot has set in against a government typically between 18 and 24 months after a general election, it is almost impossible for the government to reverse the general mood of the electorate.

In no particular order, major issues that built up to the tipping point were a lie about the stolen VAT money; a walk back on the Spy Bill; the fraud and secrecy surrounding the Oban oil deal and the lies and general hypocrisy about the completion and opening of the Baha Mar resort.

Bahamians were unhappy with the Prime Minister calling them corrupt in the international arena instead of promoting The Bahamas and the resourcefulness of its people. The objective record clearly shows that The Bahamas is the least corrupt nation in the Caribbean.

Another major tipping point issue was the insensitivity and arrogance of Education Minister the Hon. Jeffrey Lloyd in telling the media that he was pleased to fire several hundred persons from his ministry. This was exacerbated by the mass firings or separation of thousands of workers in the public service. The last salvo was the cancellation of the empowerment program and the firing of several hundred workers in the Public Private Sector Partnership program (PPP).

We observe in the budget heads that emoluments have increased by several hundred millions in the upcoming budget. Why is that? The FNM was busy firing thousands over the last year because they say the public service is bloated. Do they plan to engage in mass hiring to reverse the politically sour mood of the people?

The borrowing of \$2.3 billion in one year with no clear explanation on how the monies were spent was very unsettling and disturbing to many Bahamians. Compounding the confusion are

the tens of millions in purported savings from the downsizing exercise and the hike in VAT to 12%. There were tax exemptions and waivers offered in the current budget but the tax increases are projected to net the government an additional \$400 million in tax revenue, neutralizing all these tax exemptions. Bahamians are asking what the government is doing with all of this money and rightly so.

To date, the only explanation the FNM government could muster in their defence was that it's the PLP fault. I kid you not.

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The Prime Minister recently blamed the threat of Bahamian currency devaluation for his government's decision to raise the VAT rate from 7.5% to 12% a whopping increase of 60%. Bahamians assume that a Prime Minister knows the difference between fiscal and monetary policy. Currency devaluation, a monetary policy is presided over by the Central Bank. Raising taxes to fund government operations is a fiscal policy issue.

Prime Minister Minnis said the following on the 31st May 2018: "I do not believe we can tax or borrow our way out of debt. They call me a hypocrite for increasing Vat to 12%. If we did not we would be devalued within a year."

Firstly, the Prime Minister is duly advised that the Bahamian dollar is pegged against the US dollar and is not a floating currency. Secondly, The Bahamas has a service driven economy where 90% of our goods and services are imported and paid for in US dollars. Thirdly, the sovereign currency devaluation becomes a threat when a country defaults on its foreign currency debt obligations to foreign financial institutions and investors.

Additionally, when the country's foreign reserves are inadequate to pay foreign vendors for commodities such as oil and other essential goods and servic-

es such as food, the country is under threat of currency devaluation. These are strictly monetary and credit issues.

The Finance Minister literally bragged about the Central Bank having 23 weeks of foreign reserves or some \$1.6 billion according to the Central Bank. Further, The Bahamas Government has never defaulted on its full faith and credit to its international creditors and in its latest report.

Since the Prime Minister contradicted his Deputy Prime Minister and official Central Bank reports, he must explain to the Bahamian people the source of his information. Engaging in obtuse and fallacious alarmist rhetoric to defend the indefensible is unbecoming of a Prime Minister and quite frankly it's a national embarrassment as the country's various news wires are read internationally.

This alarmist rhetoric is reminiscent of ill-advised commentary the Prime Minister engaged in while representing The Bahamas in Lima, Peru and in London; he called Bahamas a corrupt nation when there was no empirical data to support such a claim. The Bahamas is listed as the least corrupt country in the Caribbean region. The Prime Minister is asked to cease and desist with this kind of nonsensical, shoot from the hip rhetoric and govern this country.

Currency devaluation has nothing to do with raising funds to repay a debt by whatever means. The Prime Minister raised the VAT rate to 12% to pay off the \$2.3 billion he borrowed in one year and he must not willfully deceive an entire nation on his poor and terrible fiscal policies.

I go further. Now that VAT has been hiked to 12%, this increased tax burden could and no doubt will negatively impact the economy's ability to earn foreign currency as it is a disincentive to foreign direct investment and will serve to diminish our competitive edge in tourism. These are some of the real conse-

quences of that ill-advised policy Dr. Minnis ought to be gravely concerned about.

One only needed to see the frosty reception the people of Grand Bahama gave to Peter Turnquest at the Labour Day parade in Freeport 1st June. Much of the crowd left after Senator Mitchell spoke, ignoring the Deputy Prime Minister and MP for East Grand Bahama.

If Grand Bahama is FNM country, then Bahamians could

imagine the mood of Bahamians in Nassau and the other family islands - many of whom benefited from the empowerment program.

Given one policy blunder after the other by this government, it is no wonder that much of the political currency has been squandered in one short year. Some are now arguing that the FNM's time is up as they have reached the political tipping point of no return.

"A New VAT Model"

Continued from / PAGE 3...

"There is always a dampening effect of any increase in taxation and what remains to be seen is whether this is an overall increase in taxation or all of the measures that are being planned net on net will lead to a very stable level of tax relative to GDP.

"So, I believe that ultimately there should be less emotive statements that will create panic and pandemonium and more focus on what would be the economic impact analysis that has been performed. And while that is never a crystal ball, using things like that in order to guide our conversations and our discussions as oppose to reactive statements," Mr. Bowe said.

"I think we have to be very careful if you out rightly rejected the choice of government because they were elected by the very same people who may be opposed to a VAT increase," he said.

"I think ultimately, it's more important that we hold them accountable to appropri-

ately justify the decision that's been made.

"And if they are unable to do so then there are different courses of action, in terms of employing them to allow cooler heads to prevail and look for a more palatable solution that can be digested," he added.

"I think when we get into, what I would call a combatted stance, unfortunately that puts us in bucking heads type scenario and it's just becomes two stubborn heads fighting against one another.

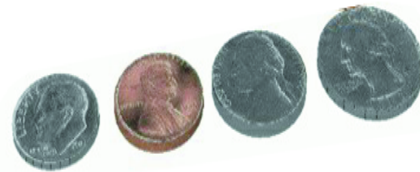
"It's more important that we be mature, have the conversation, offer the objective criticism and the critique and then ultimately rely on there being patience and maturity on both sides in order to get to a resolution that all persons can live with."

Meantime, social media went in overdrive last week in response to the increase, with many creating and circulating memes.

The implementation of 12 per cent VAT begins July 1, 2018.

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PURE MILLION-DOLLAR MAGIC

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

Can the right mindset change the outcome in our lives?

There is an interesting article in the Harvard Business Review (HBR) that sheds some light on how fashion mogul Peter Nygard was able to thrive during a recession and soar to such heights with his levels of success.

It presents an interview with Carol Dweck who is a Stanford University professor and author of the book Mindset: The New Psychology of Success.

The interviewer, Sarah Green, asks Dweck about the idea in Dweck's book about having a growth mindset vs. a fixed mindset. Green used the example of going back to a 10, 20, 30-year high school reunion and noting that the person who you thought would be most likely to succeed ending up with a career that didn't quite pan out. She asked how someone with so much potential could fall into such a trap.

Dweck explains that such an individual could have fallen into a fixed mindset:

That's a great example because you think oh, this person's most likely to succeed. They've gotten the A's. They're president of the student body. But because of their success, they may have fallen into a fixed mindset. They may have believed all the hype, the idea that they just have it. And they become afraid of making mistakes. They become afraid of tarnishing their image.

And because they are fearful of venturing out of their comfort zone, they don't take the risks or develop the abilities they're capable of. You go back to the same reunion, and you see people you thought were not likely to succeed, and they've really done amazing things. These are the people who maybe didn't have an image to uphold, didn't feel the weight of other people's expectations, and just followed their passions and developed their abilities. (hbr.org: "The Right Mindset for Success")

This is a compelling perspective to consider with respect to Peter Nygard. Nygard doesn't have an image to uphold because he moves to his own drumbeat. He doesn't appear to care about what others think of him. He has his own unique style and way of doing things and it doesn't matter what others think about that.

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.

That obviously makes him not afraid of risks and he appears to take them often.

For him, it's all about following his own instincts and doing what he feels led to do. And why wouldn't he? It always appears to pay off.

'If you always do what you have always done, you will always get, what you've always gotten.' This is usually stated when people try to do things and expect a different result.

In Nygard's case, he does what he always does to get the results he's always gotten:

1. He listens to that inner voice that has always guided him in the past and steered in the right direction.
2. He takes action on the guidance that he gets.
3. He continues to believe that nothing is impossible and gets to work crafting strategies based on a solution-oriented approach.
4. He is fearless in face of the odds. In other words lets his Finnish 'sisu' spirit kick in to persevere no matter the circumstances.

It's obviously a winning formula that works for him every time. And while the rest of the world caught a cold when America sneezed in the 2008 recession, Nygard was wearing a face mask and inoculated himself against getting sick.

In fact, not only did he not get sick, his business increased its vitality with all of the measures he took.

So what can the right mindset do for a person?

For Nygard, his mindset of refusing to join the recession, resulted in pure million-dollar magic.

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The Bahama Journal Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimaley P. Jones Vice President/Operations

EDITORIAL

LABOUR DAY HORROR

As others in this tribe now do, so do we as we reflect on this past Friday's horrifying events on East and Shirley streets when any number of workers and their children were either injured or killed in what seems an accident most bizarre.

This Friday June 1st, 2018 Labour Day celebrations --- took a tragic turn leaving four people dead and a significant number of people injured.

Interestingly enough, workers near enough and dear enough to their stricken fellow-labourers, did what they were called to do.

And for sure, they did so with aplomb and with a very high degree of professionalism.

As health minister, the Hon. Dr. Duane Sands was constrained to concede: --- "...From the time of the incident, the EMS staff, doctors and nurses responded -- even in their grief-- to care for the victims..."

We salute them all and as we do, we pray God's continued grace and favor to all who gave their all even as they grieved and commiserated and cared for the victims.

The nation's chief, the Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis was also rhetorically fulsome as he so rightly and so very righteously responded: --"...On behalf of the people and government of the Bahamas, and on my own behalf, and that of my wife, Patricia, I extend heartfelt condolences to the families, colleagues and friends of those who lost their lives today. Our prayers and thoughts remain with the deceased and all those affected by today's terrible tragedy..."

Note also [and as is to be expected in the circumstances]: --OPPOSITION Leader Philip "Brave" Davis said that he was deeply saddened and upset by the lives lost when a truck hit persons marching during the Labour Day parade.

And as this leader did also expatiate: -- "...It is sad that on what should have been

a joyous day, the nation must mourn. We are often reminded that in the midst of life there is death but we are never ever prepared for losses of this shocking nature. We grieve with and pray for the families..."

We do so also. And thus today, we too mourn and -- as in the case of so very many others in this tribe, we, too, struggle to find words sufficient to this tragic turn of events.

But yet, even as we grieve, we are comforted by the fact that --as bad as things did go this past Friday, thanks be to all that is still good and true in this life for the fact that, this horror was not even worse.

Such was that bloody scene that one eye-witness to tragedy on the hoof did report as follows: ---"As I was standing on East and Shirley Streets I heard a DJ shout out; --- 'Look out!'

I looked up the hill I saw something as if it was out of a movie: --- People being hit into the air and run over; then I heard the most sickening sound --- a piercing scream followed by a loud pop --- that I later found out was someone's head being pinned. I saw nurses, who were moments before dancing and enjoying themselves, flying into action. I saw a mother pick up her kids and throw them to safety before losing her own life..."

And as she summed up the horrors she witnessed she explained: --- "...I will never forget the screams and bodies lying in the street; seeing the face of the truck driver and knowing too that some of him did [too]; I will never forget this Labor Day..."

And yet, even as we quake in the face of this latest example of unmerited human suffering, we commiserate with they who grieve and with all who now mourn.

But in truth, nonetheless, we exult in the fact that -- as in all things human -- this time of suffering and sorrows piled upon even more of the same will fade and that life will move on.

Such are the eternal vicissitudes of life! May they who died now rest in peace.

THE BAHAMAS
Sun, Sand, Sea and the
The Bahama Journal

NO BETTER READING

The advertisement features a collage of newspaper front pages from The Bahama Journal. The main headline on the collage is "Four Bodies Claimed" with a sub-headline "Haitian Burials Imminent". Other visible headlines include "Brush Fire Scorches Acres of Land", "22ND MURDER VICTIM Identified", and "Debris Hinders Business For Ferry Operators". The collage also shows various advertisements, including "HAMANA'S PLUMBING SUPPLIES" and "GO TANKLESS". The background of the advertisement is a scenic view of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore.

Labour Leaders Shocked by Tragedy

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT

Labour Minister Senator Dion Foulkes shed tears as he was emotionally overwhelmed over the Labour Day parade tragedy.

He said National Congress of Trade Union (NCTU) leader Bernard Evans along with Trade Union of Congress (TUC) leader Obie Ferguson were marching around the British Colonial Hilton Hotel when a Police Officer gave them the shocking news.

"We were just shocked, we didn't know what to say. We cut off all the music on the parade and instructed them to play spiritual music which they did. We cancelled the rally at Fish Fry at Arawak Cay," said the Minister.

This is a tragedy and to his knowledge something like this has never happened before. He also said that their hearts go out to the Trade Union movement and to all of those who were affected directly or indirectly by this tragedy.

As customary the Union leaders had used the march to express pressing concerns within the movement. Mr. Evans said they all pale in comparison to what happened on Friday.

"To the family of the victims we want you to know that we are here for you and lastly to the young man, the driver. I know where he's at and I'm sure that's not a good place right now."

"Let us just come together and pray as the minister alluded to and on

behalf of the officers and member of the entire National caucus of Trade Unions, the Financial Services union which was the union mostly impacted by this tragedy. We express our condolences and our prayers are with you and your family," Evans said.

Meantime Mr. Ferguson commended the Ministers for the manner in which they responded.

Mr. Ferguson said, "I think when we find public figures do things of this nature I think its properly appropriate that the country understand the sensitivity of the matter and the manner in which they approach it. So, I just want to thank the administrator of this hospital."

He also made the appeal on the next Labour Day rules be put in place in respect to vehicles to

make sure that they are fit to be on the parade.

He went on to say that they will work with Assistant Commissioner Strachan and his team to ensure that the next parade be done the way it's supposed to be done to avoid this type of situation from happening again.

At last report, the driver was assisting police with their investigation.

DPM Fires Back at Opposition's Budget Criticism

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"The fact of the matter is that they have oversaw and run up in the payroll, just the wages of the government, by \$266 million," he added.

The opposition leader also noted last Sunday that the new budget will induce recession and that expenditure levels have not decreased over the FNM's first year in government.

The Minister of Finance also called the previous government's spending irresponsible.

He said, "In the last year alone you know the amount of people who have been sold a dream in giving three month contracts and six month contracts to try to win an election."

"We now have to pay. You hear the crocodile tears about letting people go when they know full well what they did to try and deceive the Bahamian peo-

ple," he added.

The deputy prime minister also said that that the previous administration left them with very limited options on how to address this "structural problem".

Mr. Turnquest assured the public that the difficult decisions made by the government are necessary to ensure a brighter future for The Bahamas.

He said, "I don't know about you, but I have children. I want them to grow up in a Bahamas that has a better opportunity than I had.

"I want them to be able to live their dreams in safety, in relative stability, and we have an obligation as a government, as a people to ensure that there is a stable Bahamas, a safe Bahamas, a progressive Bahamas for them to inherit," he added.

Mr Turnquest continued by saying that not acting on this issue is not an option.

Opposition Leader responds to DPM's comments

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Leader of the opposition Phillip Davis responded to Deputy Prime Minister and minister of Finance Peter Turnquest's remarks that statements made by the opposition were "laughable".

Mr. Davis told the Journal News Team that the PLP needs answers.

He said, "Why would he say that we're in no

position to talk? We have spoken and our words speak for itself, and we have asked him to answer the questions we've asked, and we want him to answer the issues that we have out before him. We want him to explain why he's doing what he has to do in such a short period of time after only one year in office."

Mr. Turnquest also noted that the decision to increase Value Added Tax

rates was difficult, but the previous administration left the government no choice.

He said that the PLP government ran through \$266 million during their term in salaries alone.

He indicated that this move by the government is an effort to stop this "run-away train", and to prevent the next generation from having to pay more money to fix this "structural issue".



MINISTRY OF FINANCE

PUBLIC TREASURY DEPARTMENT

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

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

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

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

Vendor Verification Process

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

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

Vendor Verification Information Required

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

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

TREASURER, COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS



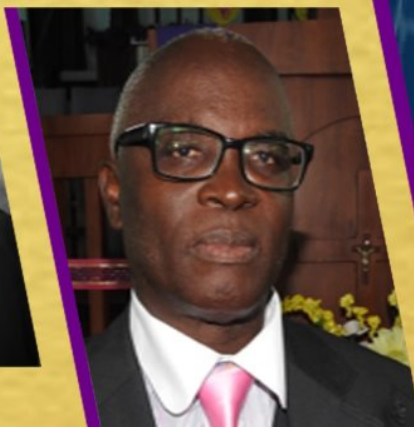
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SUNDAY, JUNE 3RD, 2018 AT 3:30PM

The William Thompson Auditorium, Jean Street, Gleniston Gardens

NASSAU, BAHAMAS

Prime Minister visits families of victims of the Labour Day Parade tragedy; and visits survivors in hospital

BY LINDSAY THOMPSON

Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis spent a good portion of Saturday visiting the families of those who died on the Randol Fawkes Labour Day Parade on Friday. He also visited the survivors who were hospitalized as a result of injuries sustained in the unfortunate mishap.

Cutting his Labour Day holiday weekend short, the Prime Minister arrived from Long Island where he was attending the Regatta and took a small delegation with him to the various homes in New Providence.

The deceased are: Dianne Elizabeth Gray-Ferguson, 55, of Coral Harbour; Kathleen

Augusta Fernander, 51 of Buttonwood Street, Pinewood Gardens; Tabitha Charlene Haye, 41, of Pineyard Road; and Tami Patrice Gibson, 48 of Tropical Meadows.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by the Hon. Duane Sands, Minister of Health; Senator the Hon. Dion Foulkes, Minister of Labour; Bishop Delton Fernander, President, The Bahamas Christian Council; Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister Jack Thompson and Bahamas Information Services, the Government's public relations department, on June 2, 2018.

During his visit with family members, who were obviously

distraught, the Prime Minister offered condolences on behalf of the Government and the people of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas. Bishop Fernander prayed with family members and assured them that God is "faithful" and will comfort them in their time of bereavement.

The Prime Minister and Bishop Fernander interacted with and offered words of encouragement to the husbands of Haye, Gibson and Gray-Ferguson, and with Nahshawn Fernander, son of Kathleen Augusta Fernander.

Officials reported that 24 participants in the parade suffered injuries and were taken to hospitals for medical care. Of the injured who remained hospital-

ized, the Prime Minister and his team visited with them at the state-owned Princess Margaret Hospital and the private Doctors Hospital, where the victims were recovering in the Female Surgical Wards I and II, and the Intensive Care Unit, respectively.

Hospitalized are Christine Adderley, Tamika Lightbourne, Annabell Sands-Gibson and Philippa Roberts-Forbes. The families of the deceased and the recovering victims in hospital responded overwhelmingly to the visits by the Prime Minister and his team, indicating that the gesture "cheered" them up after facing such an ordeal.

The Prime Minister had initially issued a statement on

Labour Day, Friday, June 1, in the aftermath of the incident. He commended the participants, first responders, onlookers and the professional teams at the Princess Margaret Hospital who worked with great compassion and urgency to care for the injured, and those who had already passed away.

"We commend all those who came to the aid of those affected by this tragedy," the Prime Minister had said. "Government ministers and other officials will continue to offer immediate support and ongoing assistance. We are committed to doing all that we can to assist the family members of the deceased, and those injured and their families."



► Prime Minister Hubert Minnis meets with Michael Ferguson, the husband, and other family members of Dianne Elizabeth Gray-Ferguson, 55, of Coral Harbour who died on the Randol Fawkes Labour Day Parade on Friday, June 1, 2018. Also pictured, left, is Senator Dion Foulkes, Minister of Labour. The Prime Minister was also accompanied by Duane Sands, Minister of Health; Bishop Delton Fernander, President, The Bahamas Christian Council; Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister Jack Thompson; and Bahamas Information Services, June 2, 2018. (BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna)



► Bishop Delton Fernander, President, The Bahamas Christian Council offers words of encouragement to Stephen Haye, husband of Tabitha Charlene Haye, 41, of Pineyard Road, who died on the Labour Day Parade on Friday, June 1, 2018. Looking on are Prime Minister Hubert Minnis; Duane Sands, Minister of Health; and Senator Dion Foulkes, Minister of Labour.

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THE BAHAMAS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOR

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

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

The Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Ministry of the Environment and Housing has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP), to request competitive tenders from qualified companies to provide a cost-effective solution for the Energy Efficiency Retrofit (EER) at Anatol Rodgers High School, located on the island of New Providence in The Bahamas.

The goal of the EER is to decrease annual energy demand and improve comfort through the installation of energy conservation measures (ECM) and a rooftop solar PV array. Accordingly, Bidders are expected to design, supply and install the following ECMs:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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