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MONDAY - JUNE 25TH, 2018

75 CENTS

MP Blindsided

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Former Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Social Services Vaughn Miller

says his confidence remains with Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, despite being terminated from his position as a parliamentary secretary after voting against the increase in Value Added Tax (VAT).

The member of parliament for Golden Isles said that he took full responsibility for the position he took

and even though he said that he felt blindsided when the increase in VAT was introduced in the 2018/2019 budget about two weeks ago.

"It's my responsibility, I will be held accountable", Mr. Miller said.

Appearing as a guest on Love 97's radio show 'On Point', when asked by the host Wendall Jones if he will continue to follow his leadership, he responded with an affirmative. He also affirmed that he would continue to be a part of the Free National Movement.

■ See MP BLINDSIDED / page 2...



▶ Former Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Social Services Vaughn Miller

Breadbasket Items To Increase

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Raw almonds, cashews, fruits and vegetables may be among the list of breadbasket items after consultation, according to Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands.

Dr. Sands made the statement yesterday at the University of the West Indies' Clinical Medicine and Research 2018 commencement ceremony.

As a fresh batch of physicians enters the workforce, Dr. Sands encouraged them to join him in his fight to promote a healthier Bahamas.

The minister touched on the country having the worst profile of non-communicable diseases in the Americas, the highest rate of HIV/AIDS outside of Sub-Saharan Africa, among other ailments, which he said is preventable.

He added, "the efficient and effective approach to



▶ Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands (Journal file photo)

our medical challenges demand routine and appropriate screening, medication where necessary, restrictive dietary changes, and an abandonment of the lifestyle that shuns physical exercise."

■ See BREADBASKET / page 2...

COURT OF APPEAL JUDGE QUESTIONS JEAN RONY'S RETURN TO THE BAHAMAS

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

A Justice in the court of appeal on Friday questioned whether the supreme court had the right to order the government to return Jean Rony Jean Charles to The Bahamas even without Bahamian citizenship.

Appeal Court Judge Sir Michael Barnett said he struggled to see how Justice

Gregory Hilton could have ordered the government to return Mr Jean-Charles from Haiti.

His struggle he says is because Mr. Jean-Charles is not a citizen of The Bahamas.

In response to this, attorney Fred Smith, QC, submitted that he could not accept that his Mr. Jean- Charles is an alien, mainly because he was born here and did not break any immigration laws.

Mr. Smith said he isn't a citizen, but

he's not an alien either and that a child born in The Bahamas to non-Bahamian parents should not have to pay for their parent's sins. He submitted that a child's status must stand alone in relation to the constitution.

He further explained that there is a group of people in The Bahamas that fall under this category that he categorizes as being 'citizens waiting'.

■ See COURT OF APPEAL JUDGE / page 2...

PRIME MINISTER MINNIS AND FLORIDA'S GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT EXCHANGE DIALOGUE IN WEST PALM BEACH MEETING



▶ WEST PALM BEACH, Florida -- Governor of the State of Florida, Rick Scott met Bahamas Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis and his delegation on Thursday, June 21st 2018, at Palm Beach International Airport Conference Room where they had the opportunity to exchange dialogue. Photos show Governor Scott, left, standing with Prime Minister Minnis; discussions at the table, along with Bahamas Minister of Foreign Affairs Darren Henfield; and the group, assembled, shown from left: Viana Gardiner, Chief Operating Officer, Prime Minister's Delivery Unit; Carl Allen, Allen Exploration; 45th (and current) Governor of the State of Florida, Rick Scott; Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis; Mrs. Allen; the Hon. Darren Henfield, Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Linda Mackey, Bahamas Consul General, Miami, Florida. (BIS Photo/Yontalay Bowe)

JOBLESS RATE TO INCREASE

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

Minister of Labour, Senator Dion Foulkes has expressed both surprise and serious concern over local gaming house, Island Luck's, decision to axe some 350 employees within just 30 days.

Mr. Foulkes said he received a memo to that effect with the gaming giant citing the forthcoming increased gaming taxes as the reason for terminations.

"We are very concerned about it. The government has not made a decision either way in terms of what our reaction is going to be.

"But 350 persons being laid off over a period of 30 days is a very significant matter in terms of the employment in the country.

"The affect it has on those 350 families, that is something that we are currently



▶ Minister of Labour, Senator Dion Foulkes (Journal file photo)

discussing. "I do not want to presuppose what the reaction of the government is going to be, that is something that has to be decided," he said.

What Mr. Foulkes did reveal is that his ministry stands willing to assist the displaced workers.

■ See JOBLESS RATE / page 4...

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MP Blindsided

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"If circumstances change, presently as we speak, yes, but of course I can't speak to the future. I didn't think I would have been terminated Tuesday past, so if you had asked me this question the last time (I was on the show) I didn't foresee that.

"So, in the predictable future, my answer to you is yes. If circumstances arise to make me second guess what I think then, I'll deal with that at that time, but presently, emphatically, yes," Mr. Miller said.

Asked if he had difficulty in following Dr. Minnis' leadership as leader of the FNM and prime minister, Mr. Miller said "as of now, as of today, in this date and time, no

sir".

When asked if he felt blindsided, yet obligated to support the government, not knowing that there would be an increase in VAT as a member of the government, nor not knowing what the budget contained Mr. Miller said he did feel offended.

"Obviously, I didn't know before everyone else knew; was I offended? Yes.

"Offended to the extent that I was upset and felt insulted and humiliated and wanted to just do a protest vote against it? No sir, that's not the case at all.

"I've always been against VAT, as I feel it is oppressive, it's regressive and the brunt of it is borne by the poor, middle class and small and medium sized businesses. I knew

that.

"It wasn't until after speaking to persons in and out of the constituency; interestingly they did not oppose an increase; they opposed increase to 12 percent. They thought it was too much, it was too soon, it was too fast, it was too aggressive. Some of them actually told me 'Miller, you need to convey the message tell them slow down,'" Mr. Miller said.

As for whether he agreed that the Prime Minister did what he was supposed to do in the course that he took in firing him, Mr. Miller lamented that the Westminster System is selective and needs reform.

"My position on that is that it's very selective in terms of in the

past, not just the present Prime Minister, but in the past. They are very selective with their use with cabinet policies, procedures or Westminster policies and procedures. It's not across the board, it's not absolute, it's very selective, sometimes even emotional.

"That's why my position on that is, as I've said to you, that's nothing short of dictatorship in disguise. I'm an advocate for political reform, policy reform. There is the demand of the general Bahamian populace, the majority of the voting electorate is [for] more transparency.

"They want their politicians to be more accountable to them, because obviously under the system really, how they feel, what they think is

secondary to whatever the cabinet thinks," Mr. Miller said.

"I'm not complaining that I was treated in any way unjust or there was some level of injustice towards me or towards us, all of us knew.

"We were very knowledgeable, we were aware of what we were doing. But I'm saying to you, as countries grow, as countries develop, as the populace becomes more mature, there has to be some adaptations, some adjustments; we've never done that.

"If I opt to stand on the side of the people who elected me, and who hired me to represent them, so be it. I'll have to suffer the consequences and I am. I could've resigned or be terminated, I chose the latter over the former," he said.

BREADBASKET ITEMS TO INCREASE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Dr. Sands also announced plans to set up the Office of Medical Staff Development, which he labels a "bold" initiative.

He said that the office's

objectives will be to facilitate "equitable distribution of the National Public Sector Physician Workforce", ensure coverage of health services across The Bahamas, reduce stagnation of career develop-

ment among junior physicians, and to increase the number of independent practitioners.

He also said that the goal is to improve the quality of health care delivered to all of the people in The

Bahamas ensuring that they get value for money while promoting continual learn-

ing with all physicians.

Dr. Sands also encouraged the new graduates to

work to make the system better, stay strong, and work hard.

COURT OF APPEAL JUDGE QUESTIONS JEAN RONY'S RETURN TO THE BAHAMAS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

He said that Mr. Jean-Charles or any one born in The Bahamas to non-Bahamian parents but fail to apply for citizenship before the age of 19 should be allowed to stay in the country and no be repatriated without due process.

The reason for this Mr. Smith said is because they did not break any immigration laws.

To the issue of identity, Mr. Smith submitted that evidence brought to court today contained Mr. Jean-Charles' signature with the birth date 3 years after the birth date that's on his birth certificate.

Mr. Smith however could not give an explanation as to why the date of birth on this

document and the date of birth on Mr. Jean-Charles' birth certificate were different from that document that he signed.

However, after a long day of debating, Mr. Smith requested that the court be adjourned as everything could not be completed in that day, as a result trial is set to resume on July 27th.

In February this year Supreme Court Justice Gregory Hilton granted a partial stay to Jean Rony Jean-Charles which released the government from his order to grant the him status pending its appeal of his judgement.

Mr. Justice Hilton found that Mr. Jean-Charles was "unlawfully expelled" from the Bahamas after having been detained at the CRDC from September 18 to November 24, 2017 in breach of his rights guaranteed under Article 25(1) of the Constitution.



NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

22nd June, 2018



MINISTRY OF FINANCE

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

Family Islands will commence at 10:00 am daily.

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

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

Marlon Johnson
(Acting) FINANCIAL SECRETARY

MINNIS HAS DISGRACED WESTMINSTER

COMMENTARY BY BRADLEY B. ROBERTS FORMER CABINET MINISTER AND MP

It was laughable to read the feeble, hypocritical and duplicitous defense of the Prime Minister to justify his firing of three of his Parliamentary colleagues who voted their conscience on the hike of VAT to 12% during the 2018/2019 budget debate. It is worthy of note that the shocking 60% increase was never shared with them before the measure was announced in the Parliament.

"It was my duty to fire the rebels" he argued, claiming to be bound by the need to follow the Westminster system.

The Prime Minister also selfishly argued that for him, it was a conscience vote, but others of his caucus who voted their conscience suffered punitive acts of reprisals at his self-righteous, petty, corrupt and spiteful hands. That is unfortunate albeit laughable.

The Prime Minister, however, excused and thus saved other members of his parliamentary caucus. He sent Minister Bannister to London, WSC Chairman Gibson to China and Parker and Albury were dispatched to the Cayman Islands. He could have easily sent Robinson to Miami for the official opening of the new

Consulate there if he really wanted to save Robinson or elsewhere. He instead chose to selectively apply discretionary cabinet procedures under the spurious guise of preserving democracy and the integrity of the Westminster system.

Minnis believes in the principles and intent of Westminster as much as Bahamians believe in Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. He selectively uses Westminster when it is politically convenient but treats its spirit and principles with utter disdain.

MINNIS IS THE QUINTESSENTIAL HYPOCRITE!

When Minister of National Security Marvin Dames condemned himself, violated Westminster and disgraced his ministerial office under oath on the witness stand in the Magistrate court regarding his active involvement in prosecuting the bribery case of a former PLP Senator, where was Minnis' need to be bound by this Westminster system he now conveniently hides behind?

Minnis knew that Dames, a policymaker, knowingly acted

improperly when he contacted and interviewed the crown's star witness and virtual complainant in a criminal matter.

This same Minnis was quick to march on the Parliament and the Ministry of Agriculture, scorching the earth in righteous indignation when he felt the then PLP Minister Alfred Gray interfered with the quasi-judicial duties of a certain Family Island Administrator.

Further, Westminster be damned when Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands acted improperly in approving the granting of a contract valued at \$1.8 million to the virtual complainant and star witness of the crown just weeks before she was to testify against a former PLP Senator. Sands did so against the advice of senior officials at the PHA and the office of the Attorney General. In law this is called the improbability of coincidence. Usually an expired contract continues month-to-month until a new contract is executed. In spite of this, Sands and Dames continue to sit in the Cabinet while others were terminated.

The evidence shows that it was Dr. Sands who brought the matter to Marvin Dames attention and not the police. Dames

met with the crown's star witness and virtual complainant after knowing she was allegedly involved in a criminal matter. Clearly Sands and Dames must go if the Prime Minister is to retain a modicum of credibility.

On the matter of Oban, the evidence placed in the public domain clearly showed that the Prime Minister intentionally misled the House and under the Westminster system, he must resign forthwith. He explicitly said to House members that he would execute the agreement on 19th February 2018 at his office. On that day, Peter Kreiger signed Satpal Dhunna's name in plain view of the cabinet. This was discovered by the public when the Prime Minister tabled a Heads of Agreement signed by Dhunna on Thursday 1st March. When questioned about the disparity and apparent fraud, PM Minnis claimed that the 19th February signing was merely ceremonial in nature and that the actual and real agreement was executed earlier in the month by Mr. Dhunna. A Parliamentary committee appointed by the Prime Minister and chaired by

Education Minister Jeffrey Lloyd later confessed that the FNM government broke the law. To date, no action of accountability has been taken.

These terrible and corrupt decisions represent a pattern of bad behavior and poor judgment by this Prime Minister that are apparently natural to him. For example, PM Minnis enjoyed a huge contract from his Ministry while he served as Minister of Health. The record shows that he failed to declare this contract with the government during two election cycles, a violation of the Parliamentary Elections Act.

He was very well aware that D'Aguilar defrauded Customs on multiple occasions; Pintard resigned from the Senate in disgrace for his involvement in a murder for hire plot; Michael Foulkes was convicted of fraud

in a Florida court and Rickey Mackey was involved in a car theft ring.

The preponderance of irrefutable evidence of disqualification for high office were all lost on Minnis, ignored by him and conveniently swept under the carpet. These parliamentarians of questionable character currently sit in Parliament and continue to formulate policies and legislate laws that govern us. This wanton abuse of Westminster and the Honour of the House undermine and savage our democracy. This is inexcusable and there must and will be a day of reckoning.

**PM MINNIS HAS NO
RESPECT FOR THE RULE
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Former MP Outraged Over Tax Discrimination

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

The government has for weeks argued otherwise, but a leading economist is convinced the proposed 12 per cent value added tax (VAT) will only hurt the economy.

Former Member of Parliament, Lester Turnquest says, "when the economy is in the doldrums as our economy is and has been from 2008 basically, what is required is stimulation, not for the government to do a money grab from the consumers who have no choice but to pay the 12 percent.

"The move to target the web shop owners to try to make up for any failings that the present government and previous governments had is wrong.

"You know as a Bahamian, who celebrates successful Bahamians, whatever the antecedents of the numbers business and our local gaming industry has been, the reality is that they are legal now."

Mr. Turnquest who has been a financial advisor and a senior Executive in Bank Leu before becoming a member of Parliament in 1992 said, "I don't see how you can discriminate, and I think it is discrimination to decide that you're going to tell someone I want 50 percent

of your profits."

He reasoned that equally profitable businesses like banks and food stores have not been subjected to such taxes.

"We're talking around this issue and no one wants to say it, I [will] say it, because a black man making plenty money, plenty people including some that look like him, don't like it.

"Until we could celebrate the successes of our fellow Bahamians, we will be forever greatly challenged moving forward as a nation," said Mr. Turnquest.

The increased tax hikes take effect July 1st, 2018 – the start of the new fiscal year.

MAN SHOT IN CLUB FIGHT

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Police officers in the capital need help in the investigation surrounding a shooting Saturday morning which left a male in his mid-thirties dead.

The shooting occurred on Culmersville off of Mackey Street shortly before 2am.

Officials said that the victim was involved in an altercation with another man at a club in the area prior to his death.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Clayton Fernander said that he remembered seeing the victim along with others earlier that night when they were sent home.

He also said that he found it unfortunate to discover that the deceased was that same man.

Mr. Fernander also urged the public to come forward with any information that will assist with this investigation.



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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Democratic National Alliance (DNA) card bearer for the Southern Shores constituency Ethric Bowe (Photo: Scharad Campbell)

Three Pop Up Farmer's Markets: The Newest is at Elizabeth Estates

"We will see you as we 'pop up' at Elizabeth Estates Park on Malibu Drive; The Bahamas National Trust Retreat on Village Road; or Gladstone Road" said the Executive Chairman of BAIC, Mr. Michael A. Foulkes in a press conference at BAIC on Friday morning, June 22. The Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources will have a total of three 'pop up' farmer's markets from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 23, 2018.

Minster of Health and Member of Parliament for Elizabeth Estates, Dr. the Hon. Duane Sands talked

about changes that are currently being made to the "Bread Basket Item List" as the government intends to propel The Bahamas to a more healthy way of life. "These locally grown crops are medicine and are the cure for our hypertension and a means of reducing diabetes and obesity, and they cost significantly less than what you'll find in the food stores," said the Minister, referring to the locally grown fruits, vegetables, sauces, jams etc. that are available for sale at each Farmer's Market.

Farmers all over The Bahamas have been consis-

tently pleased with the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources as they partner with them to bring fresh produce to New Providence to be sold. Minister Duane Sands revealed, "You're watching a revolution in The Bahamas where Bahamians are producing food for Bahamians, we're reducing our reliance on imports, but at the same time we're moving from people having to eat the junk."

JOBLESS RATE TO INCREASE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"I'd like to say that we would do all that we can in the Ministry of Labour to assist those persons in finding new employment.

"The economy is doing extremely well, especially in New Providence, and I would urge them all to register with our data bank and down to the Department of Labour.

"There's a strong possibility of finding alternate employment very very quickly," said the Minister.

News of Island Luck's shedding staff follows an in-house memo dated Thursday, June 21, 2018, which the company announced plans to conduct performance assessment exercises.

It was explained that these exercises were not to serve as the determining factor to any downsizing decisions, but a factor nonetheless in the event of store closures and redundancies.

Just last week, ASure Win made a decision to close 11 of its locations throughout the country by the end of the month, displacing 50 of its workers.

Meanwhile, the jobless rate set to climb as another two gaming companies reassess their operations ahead of added taxes.

In a memo, Paradise Games CEO, Kevin Knowles indicated that effective immediately, performance appraisals will begin.

It's said the information will be considered in the likely event redundancies and storefront closures become necessary.

Mr. Knowles, added that as they move towards the inevitable, everyone should use this opportunity to evaluate their work performance as well as spending and saving habits.

Employees were further urged to consult their immediate supervisor, human resources manager, or pastor as such situations can sometimes take a toll on one's physical, emotional and mental health.

CEO of FML Group of Companies, Craig Flowers has meantime offered some optimism looking ahead.

For his part, he's told employees he's devoted to remaining open in order to secure jobs.

News of gaming houses firings, closures and performance appraisal exercises come as the group was in talks with the government over the proposed tax increase, for over a month, according to Labour Minister, Senator Dion Foulkes.



SPOTLIGHT ON BAIN GRANTS TOWN

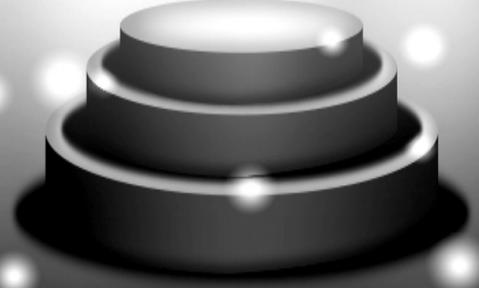
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DETERMINING YOUR BUSINESS VIABILITY

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 is quite an accomplishment if you have been able to achieve the dream of opening up your own business. Now the task becomes to keep it open and increase profits.

While there are bound to be challenges along the way, and there is no infallible formula for avoiding business failure, staying abreast of any potential pitfalls can help you to maintain business viability.

We previously outlined some factors to consider when determining any risks to your business. The question now becomes, 'how do you go about assessing business risk?'

There are a series of questions business persons can ask themselves to identify risks to their business viability or survivability. They might be easier to implement if they are broken down into the following five categories:

Competition – The question to ask is what changes are occurring that I should pay attention to that may present competition to my business?

Examples of such occurrences include, a competitor lowering the price of their products or having continuous sales, competitor selling more innovative products, and the opening of new store fronts near you or near your target market. All these occurrences can cut into your customer base and decrease your share of the market.

The Economy – what changes in the economy are likely to impact my business?

This factor can be dire as economic changes in a business environment has been responsible for a number of businesses closing over the years. The key is to spot the first signs of it happening and strategize to avoid its impact. Things to look out for include increases in the cost of you doing business—like increased cost of raw goods used to create products or the wholesale prices of the product themselves. Other clues include increased numbers of your customers moving away, increased taxes on citizens, and any and everything impacting the local economy and thus having the potential of impacting your business.

Business Operations – are there any challenges related to my business operations that could negatively impact its viability?

Examples of such challenges include if you

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.

no longer have access to the resources required to do business—like individuals with the necessary skills, or major equipment losses, and even the loss of the building structure. Other challenges could include if you have personal challenges like a health scare or commitments outside of the business that require your time and attention. If these are long term, they could impact the survivability of your business.

Political Changes – are there any political changes happening that might impact my business? A clue to this would be if there are policy changes likely to come as a result of a new government. One way to stay abreast is to pay attention to the campaign speeches and statements beforehand to see if there is anything that might negatively impact your business.

Business reputation – is there anything that I need to pay attention to impacting my business reputation? While not something that business persons may often think about, it is something to keep track of. Once a business reputation is lost, it is difficult to put that 'genie back in the bottle'.

These five categories can serve as a template to assess your business risk from time to time. How often you assess risk is dependent on your business. However, the more the merrier especially if it simply involves asking these questions. The more often you do assess risks, the more sensitized you will become to changes occurring around you that might impact your business and thus prompt you to act without a formal assessment process.

Now that you know what to consider and what questions to ask to determine your business viability, you have to determine what strategies you can use to mitigate any threats to your business, and look at how to create a more agile business, which will give the business more strategic possibilities.

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Vice President/Operations

EDITORIAL

SOMETHING BIG!

As facts on the ground now so eloquently attest: -- Pastor Frederick A. McAlpine, Reece Chipman and Travis Robinson are now bona fide men of the people.

As McAlpine so rightly explains: -- People support principle-oriented people.

And in that same God-given breath, the Pineridge MP opined:--"...People want their government back. They feel that the government has hijacked their things, which is their country. People want to have a say in their country..."

And for sure, that great day is on the way; whilst it might be delayed, its arrival is inevitable!

Indeed, then, one of its precursors might well have showed itself as

Travis Robinson walked about his constituency, hugging and kissing constituents, taking in the praise and soaking up their adoration.

For our part, then, we go on record with notice that: -- Something big is surely on its way, with that 'something-big-thing' now turning on that large extent to which the current administration seems to be losing its way.

And of course, there is all that other something big stuff having to do with Web-Shop layoffs and all which such moves might well push the Minnis-led regime in the direction of more and better real touch with the real needs of the Bahamian people.

Evidently, the people are now becoming more and more disillusioned with the Free National Movement, its leaders and its rank-and-file true believers.

Making things worse has to do with that fact that neither the public nor private sector now seems to have any shared blue-print aimed at taking the country to the so-called 'next' level.

This is most unfortunate!

What we do know is this: -- Genuine renewal demands that focused attention be put on the well-being of this nation's youth against a backdrop where the vast majority of our students and their parents are hungry, malnourished or both.

This is no sturdy basis for the real development of our nation.

For our part, we yearn for the soon-coming of that day when each child in every public school facility is guaranteed on a daily basis at

least one good balanced meal – preferably breakfast; with such food coming not from food-stores, but from farms owned and run by Bahamians.

And here we sincerely believe that a project of this nature can be economically viable; that it can be funded by government and its social partners; and with our Churches and unions and credit unions playing commensurately large parts.

This is the hope.

But even as we hope, we are often driven to despair because of the high and rising incidence of both deviance and crime – with murder, rape and pillage heading the list of offenses visited upon the heads of the innocent.

As a direct consequence, we now live in a post-Emancipation world where brother is ranged against brother – and where any semblance of healthy family-life is being trampled underfoot

And so today, there are very many Bahamians who openly wonder whether any administration – whether PLP or FNM or an amalgam of both – might ever have what it takes to turn this situation around.

Evidently, what we have on our collective hands is a scenario where the so-called chickens are coming home to roost; and thus today, we find ourselves becalmed and near bereft as we wake to discover that, those bonanza days are, so to speak: -- Gone with the Wind.

And yet again there is that vast raft of crimes where subtle theft has been turned into a national past-time – as in cases where workers at this or that utility operation routinely extort money done for this or that work for which payment has already been made.

Here of late, garbage collectors have found their own thieving way of getting more money for the work they are already being paid to do.

With open-palms, they all expect a so-called tip!

Sadly, this kind of behavior has come to be accepted and expected: thus some of the corruptions that now beset this beloved land of ours.

While we could [if only we would so wish] that things are trending in the right direction, we shall not because our good sense tells us otherwise.

And yet we hope.

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

SHUT-EYE
WILL THEY RISE AGAIN
R.I.P.
GONE... BUT STILL REAL MEN.
R.I.P.
R.I.P.
TRAVIS MILLER CHIPMAN MCALPINE
2017 - 2018
#DORSETT 2018



► **MIAMI, Florida** -- Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis gave remarks and participated in Ribbon Cutting at the Official Opening of the new office of the Bahamas Consulate General on 100 N. Biscayne Blvd., New World Tower, Suite 900, Miami, Florida (Tel: 305-373-6295). During the festivities, Thursday, June 21, 2018 Prime Minister Minnis encouraged the staff of the Consulate to work together for the benefit of The Bahamas, and the Bahamian diaspora across the United States. The Prime Minister, pictured cutting the ribbon, centre, is accompanied in the ceremony by Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Darren Henfield and Bahamas Consul General/Miami, Florida, Linda Mackey. **(BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe)**

BAHAMIAN PRIME MINISTER TELLS SOUTH FLORIDA AUDIENCE OF PLANS TO DEVELOP COUNTRY'S FUTURE LEADERS

● *At Ribbon Cutting, of Bahamas Consulate General Miami, Bahamian Prime Minister ask for help in identifying Bahamians abroad who could be developed as the top and the best in the country*

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL – The Right Honourable, Hubert Minnis, Prime Minister of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, at the recent official ribbon cutting of his country's foreign mission in South Florida, shared that his administration has a 10 year plan to identify Bahamians both home and abroad who could be developed as the future leaders of the country.

The Prime Minister was providing remarks at the ribbon cutting and official opening of the new location of The Bahamas Consulate General Office, Miami,

Florida, which recently moved from its former long term location in the Ingraham building, to its new address at 100 N. Biscayne.

An impressive selection of the Bahamian diaspora of South Florida was in attendance at the event, and the Prime Minister - who shared that recently it was decided to start a system where they would look within the various government ministries to identify their needs - asked for help in identifying Bahamian students and other Bahamians who could be given jobs in those areas of need.

The Prime Minister said that persons identified from abroad and from the University of The Bahamas, to meet those needs would be automatically offered a one-year contract to work for the government in those areas identified by the administration. Following the one year, he said that Ivy League Colleges and other top Colleges will be identified to send these persons to, so that they could complete a Master's Degree or whatever is necessary and at the full expense of the Bahamas government.

■ See **FUTURE LEADERS** / page 8...



Fidelity Bank Apprenticeship Program

Across The Fidelity Group, we are driven by a clear purpose – making a positive difference in the lives of our colleagues so they can make a positive difference in the lives of customers and in the communities we serve! Therefore, in keeping with our guiding principles, and in support of our continued growth, we are seeking to attract PHDs to join our team. Job applicants who are Passionate, Highly Motivated & Driven to Succeed and wish to become Banking and Finance Apprentices should apply.

What can Participants in our Apprenticeship Program expect and what will they be doing?

We have a reputation for being a training bank. So naturally, we will be providing great personal and professional development with the opportunity to advance to supervisory and managerial positions in an accelerated program.

We will help participants to develop an in-depth knowledge of our products, services and processes; enhancing their communication, leadership, and people skills.

Our Apprenticeship Program is comprised as follows:

- One year in Deposit Administration, Business Development, and Customer Service
- One year in Loan Administration and Lending
- One year in Operations, Compliance, and Special Projects

To service our customers while being trained, coached and mentored requires that participants in our Apprenticeship Program can work flexible hours in any of our branches in New Providence, Freeport or Marsh Harbour, and are available to work on Saturdays as required. Fidelity offers Saturday Banking at most of its branches.

We hire for attitude and potential, then train for skills. So what skills and qualifications will participants need? Because our training is extensive, participants will not need any previous experience in Banking or Finance. However, to succeed in this program requires that you already possess the following attributes:

- Ability to persevere and commit to a three (3) year program
- Ability to learn quickly in a fast paced environment
- Ability to receive constructive feedback
- Giving "EXTRA", with a passion for providing exceptional customer service
- Professional in demeanor, deportment, and dress
- High ethical standards in your work and personal life
- A passion for sales and solicitation in a strong sales culture

Additionally participants will need to possess either of the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree with a GPA of 3.0 or above or
- An Associate's Degree with a GPA of 3.0 or above, and four (4) BGCSEs with a 'C' grade or above or
- 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!"

FIDELITY
We're good for you!

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

Re: Apprentice Program
51 Frederick Street | P.O. Box N-4853 | Nassau | F: 328.1108
careers@fidelitybahamas.com

DOMINICAN POACHERS CHARGED BEFORE COURTS

A week after they were apprehended by the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, 4 Dominican fishermen were charged before the courts in New Providence for poaching in Bahamian waters.

Leidy Trinidad, Pedio Cabera, Hector Ventura and Randis Tabarez all appeared before Magistrate Volt Evans in Court #6 and were charged with:

(1) **Illegal Fishing, in that they unlawfully took fish within the exclusive fishing zone.**

(2) **The possession of Nassau Grouper, in that they were found in possession of the processed named fish.**

All the men pleaded guilty. Trinidad, Cabera, and Ventura were fined twenty

thousand dollars (\$20,000) or 8 months in jail, and Tabarez was fined ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or 4 months in jail. The vessel was seized and the fisheries products were confiscated. They Dominican poachers were all remanded in custody at the Department of Correctional Services.

MBS Durward Knowles, under the command of Lieutenant Commander Omarv Saunders, apprehended the 50-ft Dominican fishing vessel, Brailyn on the Great Bahama Bank on June 16th with the 4 Dominican fishermen, along with a quantity of scaled fish on board.

An additional 20 Dominican fishermen were also apprehended by Cuban authorities after Defence Force officials notified Cuban border authorities of the Dominicans fleeing to



► Photo shows: Dominican vessel apprehended by members of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force on June 16, 2018. Four Dominicans were charged before the courts on June 22. (RBDF Photo by Marine Seaman Michael Turner)

Cuban waters.

MBS Durward Knowles had also arrested 6 Dominican poachers aboard three skiffs in the area of Cay Santo Domingo in September

of last year.

The 6 Dominicans were sentenced to 18 months at the Department of Correctional Services for engaging in foreign fishing within the

Exclusive Economic Zone of The Bahamas. They were also charged with possession of prohibited apparatus for fishing purposes and were sentenced to 6 months at the

Department of Correctional Services.

The Royal Bahamas Defence Force continues to protect the territorial integrity of The Bahamas.



Donalds

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