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# The Bahama Journal

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# MINNIS FIRES THREE MPS

**T**he first major challenge from within the government of Prime Minister Doctor Hubert Minnis of the Free National Movement ended in the firing of two Parliamentary Secretaries and the Chairman of the Hotel Corporation of the Bahamas yesterday.

The Governor General acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister revoked the existing directions given to Travis Robinson as Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation and Mr. Vaughn Miller as Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development.

The Governor General, in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister also revoked the appointment of Mr. Frederick McAlpine as Chairman of the Board of the Hotel Corporation of the Bahamas.

A statement released by the Cabinet Office stated, "Under the provisions of the Manuel of Cabinet and Ministry Procedure, Part II, Section III, Item 21, Parliamentary Secretaries, like Cabinet Ministers, are bound as a condition of their continuance in office, to support governmental decisions in public."



▶ Travis Robinson



▶ Vaughn Miller



▶ Frederick McAlpine

## Robinson: "Moral Courage is Rare"

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK  
Journal Staff Writer

Despite Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis' strong pitch for house members – particularly members of his parliamentary caucus – to vote yes to the 4.5 per cent planned increase in value added tax – four FNM MPs stuck to their guns and voted no to the hike.

One of them, the youngest, Bain and Grants Town MP Travis Robinson says, "moral courage is a rarer commodity."

The other rebellious three were Centreville MP, Reece Chipman; Golden Isles MP, Vaughn Miller and Pineridge MP, Frederick McAlpine.

Their vote upped the opposition to the tax, to seven MPs, considering the three Progressive Liberal Party house members – Leader, Philip Davis; Deputy, I. Chester Cooper and Englerston MP, Glenys Hanna-Martin – who from the beginning said they did not support the move.

■ See "MORAL COURAGE IS RARE" / page 2...

## MPs told: "Resign or Be Resigned"

BY LEAH COOPER  
Journal Staff Writer

Deputy Prime Minister Peter Turnquest admitted yesterday that the government was very disappointed with the decision of four Free National Movement members of Parliament to vote against the increase of Value Added Tax on Monday.

Mr. Turnquest also said that he accepts the fact that this is what democracy is all about and that he respects an individual's right to make any decision necessary for the good of constituents.

He said, "each of us come with different viewpoints and looking from different places in terms of our understanding of what is being contemplated and what the objectives are."

"Again, we can only share the information and how persons process that and how they make their decisions is really up to them"

When asked if MPs Reece Chipman, Vaughn Miller, Frederick McAlpine, and Travis Robinson should all resign, the Deputy Prime Minister bluntly said that that is above his pay grade and such a decision should be left to the Prime Minister.

Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands, however, reasoned that it's a simple matter of "resign or be resigned".

He said, "I think the member for Centreville expressed himself quite well when he said that there is democracy. Democracy has to be able to live and breathe, but in life, there are no rewards or punish-

ments only consequences."

He added, "so as a part of government, I believe that any member of government who defies a position taken by government should expect to experience the consequences of those actions."

Agriculture Minister Renward Wells also agreed with these sentiments.

He said, "If a minister or parliamentary secretary decides was to disagree with the position of government and it was such of a state where you decide to vote against the government, traditionally, you don't even take your seat. You simply just walk around to the back bench and sit down. That's the way it happens, but in this regard, I guess they've left their fate up to the prime minister," said Mr. Wells.

## DPM Addresses Concerns of Ignoring Poor

BY LEAH COOPER  
Journal Staff Writer

Amid concerns of the budget ignoring the poor, Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest yesterday reiterated a call for the public to pay less attention to political pundits, social media, and political operatives.

Mr. Turnquest affirmed that many parts of the 2018/2019 fiscal budget have a direct benefit for Bahamians, particularly those in the most "vulnerable" financial position.

He said, "when we start talking about the breadbasket items, the electricity, and the water; those represent real savings to the Bahamian people. Particularly, those who consume at the lower end of the spectrum, and I think it's particularly important that this class of persons read this budget for themselves because it irritates me, quite frankly, when I hear people say that there's nothing in this for the poor."

He added, "the fact of the matter is that we've gone out to make sure that we've protected and cushioned as much as we possibly can the effect of the increase on the most vulnerable, and that is reflected in the exemptions on the most basic items and services that that class of people utilize."

■ See DPM ADDRESSES CONCERNS / page 4...



▶ Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest (Journal file photo)



▶ Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis during his 2018/2019 Budget Contribution in the House of Assembly, June 18, 2018. (BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe)

## Gov't To Empower Bahamians With Land

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK  
Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis, says "our vision is to create a minimum of one subdivision per year over the next 10 years."

Dr. Minnis made the pledge to members of the

House of Assembly on Monday while participating in the budget debate.

The government wants to give each Bahamian an opportunity to own and purchase land with all the infrastructure, light, water, cable, roads at a cost of less than \$30,000.

The first islands to be a part of this program are New Providence, Andros, Abaco, Exuma and San Salvador.

The PM stressed the need for the Bahamians, especially young Bahamians, to own land in the country.

■ See TO EMPOWER / page 2...

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# BAHAMAS UNIFIED BUS DRIVERS UNION FORMED

BY TIA THOMPSON  
Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Unified Bus Drivers Union, the very first bus driver's union in the Bahamas made its debut yesterday with many progressive plans for the future.

Union President Frederick Farrington says that their main goals are to facilitate and jumpstart a busing system that is long overdue, that

works for everyone.

The Union started as a steering committee among all bus drivers in February 2015, after the removal of the bus stop in downtown Nassau in the area of the Royal bank of Canada.

With over 200 of the 300 bus drivers in the Bahamas as members, they intend to change the face of bus drivers and Bahamians' perception of them. Their plan is to be able

to ensure that bus drivers are now obeying all safety regulations. "If you mention the word's 'bus drivers', you can see the frustration on people's faces. We are committed to make a turn around and show the public a uniformed and courteous driver by obeying all rules and regulations," says the union president.

The newly formed union intends to work with the road traffic department, and the

police force to adjust and make changes to the way public transit is done in the Bahamas.

Mr. Farrington says that they intend to work with the National Insurance Board as well. As of today, 85 per cent of bus drivers in the Bahamas lack National Insurance coverage. Union president says that he is committed to decreasing that number, even if only by 5 per cent.

The union intends to meet the controller of the Road Traffic department sometime next week to discuss the major issue of bus stops and having bus drivers stop anywhere in the roads for passengers.

Further, a new payment system is being implemented where passengers are given cards to scan. It is a three-card system consisting of green, yellow, and pink cards.

Seniors to use pink cards; green cards represent \$1.00 and yellow cards represent a \$1.25. at the of each work day. The driver will know how much money he has made based on the cards swiped into the system from their bus.

The newly formed union is currently not under the Bahamas Public Services Union, but it intends to be sooner than later.

# Gov't To Empower Bahamians With Land

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"We must ensure that each and every Bahamian has an opportunity to own land in this country.

"Because a large number of Bahamians are under the age of 35, a percentage of service lots will be geared toward those 35 years old and younger. What we're saying, is we will give our young people a start in life."

However, the Prime Minister said he wished to clarify a matter in which there seems to be some confusion.

"Though I want to encourage qualifying public officers to apply for land in this program, this program is not restricted to public officers.

"Any Bahamian, who is interested in this program, and who meets the qualifications are eligible to apply, including single mothers, and moderate-income families.

"These government subdivisions will allow these young people to build their homes duty free; we're looking after young people," he added.

According to Dr. Minnis, phase two of this policy, the commercial component, will be leg-

islated next year.

"This component will afford Bahamians the opportunity to purchase land at minimum a cost for Bed and Breakfast hotels, helping more Bahamians to own boutique and small hotels, and to become involved in our primary industry," he said.

"This is important because especially in the family islands, and it's happening here also, but especially in the family islands, many of our foreign guests and residents are building second homes, and these second homes become a part of hotel inventory.

"Their rooms are rented and as a result of that Bahamians are losing their own country," said Dr. Minnis.

The Prime Minister said that the government foresees that if nothing is done within the next 10-20 years, the work inventory in the family islands, bed breakfast etc. will be owned by foreigners and Bahamians will be displaced.

"We are a futuristic government, we look and anticipate what may possibly happen and subsequently tried to prevent it from happening so as to ensure that Bahamians are protected," he said.

"We are in the process, our land and survey department is in the process of surveying and identifying land that we deem important for the development of bed and breakfast hotels, boutiques etc.," he added.

"These land will be zoned and subsequently sold to Bahamians at reduced rate with all the infrastructure so that Bahamians moving forward will own our boutique hotels."

The Prime Minister also shared plans for the local economy.

"We also want to stimulate the local economy and bed and breakfast hotels, as the name suggests individuals sell breakfast," he said.

"If all the breakfast items, and BAIC would love this, if all the breakfast items are strictly Bahamian, then they will be incentivized even further.

"They like the residential component would be able to build their hotel duty free."

The Prime Minister wrapped up the Budget Debate on Monday.

# MINNIS FIRES THREE MPs

Continued from / PAGE 1...

After four FNM Members of Parliament voted against a bill to increase Value Added Tax in the House of Assembly on Monday night, the Prime Minister acted swiftly, adhering to the Cabinet Manual of Procedure.

The terminations of the

MPs triggered mixed reactions throughout the country.

In New Providence on the Love 97 Radio afternoon show "On Point", many callers understood the decision of the Prime Minister to act based on the convention of the Westminster system and Cabinet procedures. However, many were supportive of the principled

stance of the four MPs, including Centreville MP, Reece Chipman to vote against the VAT increase.

In Grand Bahama, hundreds showed up at the Freeport International Airport to greet the MP for Pineridge, Mr. McAlpine who flew into Grand Bahama after receiving his letter of termination.

# Robinson: "Moral Courage is Rare"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

A letter addressed to Mr. Robinson by the Prime Minister advised that his appointment was being revoked.

The letter expressed the Prime Minister's thanks and appreciation for the contributions Mr. Robinson has made towards the development of the country over the past year.

Mr. Robinson has since posted on his Facebook page the words of Robert F. Kennedy that reads, "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

The quote continues, "few men are willing to brave the disapproval of their peers, the censure of their colleagues, the wrath of their society.

"Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change a world that yields most painfully to change."

Meanwhile on the heels of Mr. Robinson's firing came another.

Stripped of his duties as Parliamentary Secretary in The Ministry of Social Services was Golden Isles MP, Mr. Miller, who thanked the Prime Minister for the opportunity to serve.

Mr. McAlpine's termination as Chairman of the Hotel Corporation followed.

Yesterday, Press Secretary, Anthony Newbold, said the Prime Minister can appoint and disappoint those who serve under him.

"Let me say this, letter or no letter, to Mr. Robinson, Rev. McAlpine and Mr. Miller, all of us, Anthony Newbold, all 19 cabinet ministers, and lots of people in the government of the Bahamas, serve at the will and pleasure of Prime Minister Minnis, and as he appoints us, he can disappoint all of us."

When asked if the firings will lead to a cabinet shuffle, Mr. Newbold said, "certainly no cabinet ministers were involved, but one wouldn't necessarily have anything to do with the other.

"If the Prime Minister decides he wishes to shuffle, that would be a totally independent decision."



## MINISTRY OF FINANCE PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

Family Islands will commence at 10:00 am daily.

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

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

Marlon Johnson  
(Acting) FINANCIAL SECRETARY

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► Scenes from 2018 Bahamas High School Diploma Commencement ceremonies at the Kendal G. L. Isaacs Gymnasium. (Northern District Photos/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr. BIS)

# Students Praised and Encouraged at 2018 Bahamas High School Diploma Commencement Exercises

Accomplishments of hundreds of high school students were celebrated as they received their diplomas at the Bahamas High School Diploma Commencement ceremonies on Thursday evening, June 14, and Friday morning, June 15, 2018 at the Kendal G. L. Isaacs Gymnasium.

The Ministry of Education hosted the annual commencement event, with Northern District and Southern District New Providence secondary school graduation ceremonies taking place on consecutive days.

To the theme, "Exceeding

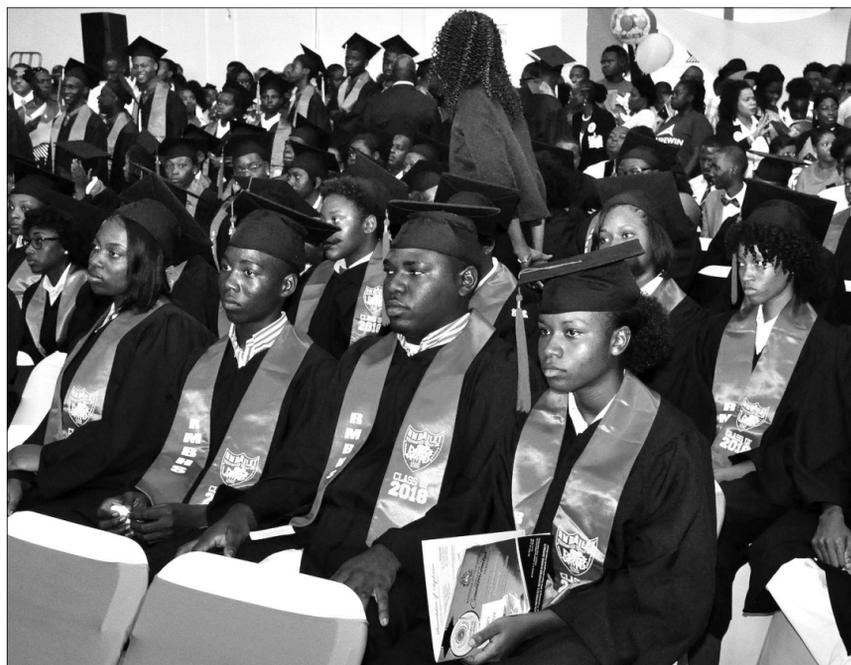
Limitations ... Pursuing a Better Tomorrow," Education Minister the Hon. Jeffrey Lloyd during Friday's proceedings encouraged students to exercise humility, be grateful and strive to do their best. "Always be humble," he said. "Life is not about you. You are about life.

"I am not a drop in the ocean. I am the ocean in a drop. If it is to be, it must be up to me," said Minister Lloyd.

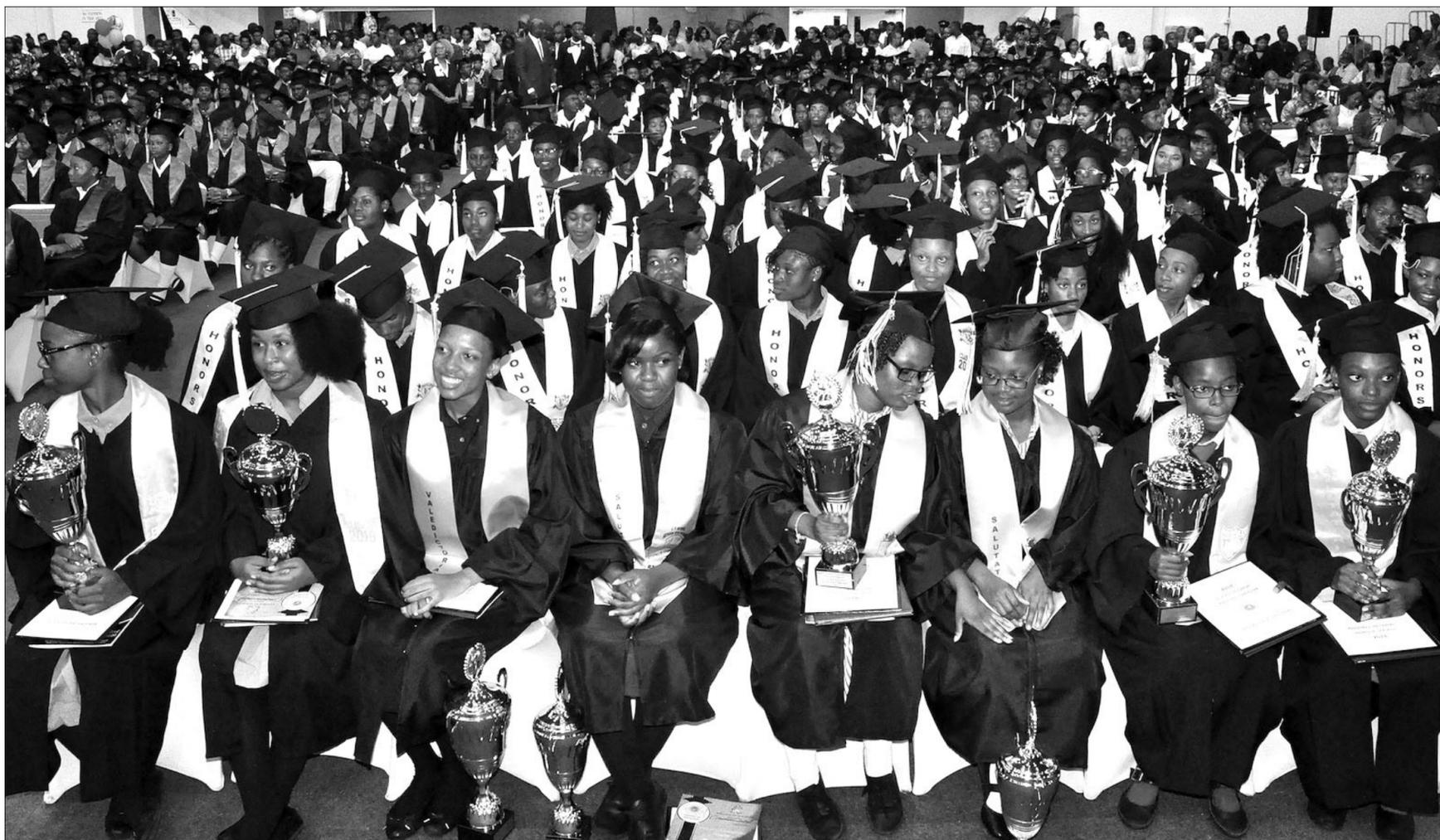
He urged the students to use their gifts to serve, empower and upgrade others, and he presented awards to outstanding scholars.



► Minister of Education, the Hon. Jeffrey Lloyd



► Southern District Photos/Aletha Cooper (Ministry of Education Communications Unit)



► Valedictorians & Salutatorians

## Ferguson wins Pompey Scholarship Exuma Student's College Dream Comes True, Thanks to Race

● **Exuma Marathon, set for November 10, prepares for another race long weekend with unique mix of history, culture, charity and tourism**

Devonte Ferguson cannot remember a time she did not dream of going to college.

And suddenly, that dream almost became reality when this student from L N Coakley High School in Exuma was accepted by Holland College in Canada.

While her acceptance was exciting for the entire family, it wasn't long before financial reality hit. Being accepted was one thing. Finding the money to make it happen, another.

The Fergusons immediately went into tight budgeting mode, but they were worried.

Last week their worries turned to smiles when Devonte, to her great surprise, was awarded the fourth annual Pompey Scholarship for her graduation ceremony.

"I nearly had a heart attack," said dad, McDonald Ferguson, who works in Air Traffic Services at Exuma International Airport. "This goes a long way to helping us out. It was a great relief to me. God is good, because this is a tremendous help for the family."

This fall, Devonte will study Tourism and Culinary Arts at Holland College on Prince Edward Island (PEI) and receive US\$5,000 towards the cost of her tuition.

The scholarship cheque was presented to Devonte by Chester Cooper, Member of Parliament for Exuma, Exuma Cays & Ragged Island, and Danny Strachan, Managing Director of the Exuma

Foundation and Board Member of the Exuma Foundation of Canada.

After speaking with her guidance counselor, she ultimately decided on Holland College after receiving many positive reviews from other Bahamians who attended. With a population of just 150,000, PEI is an island province on Canada's East Coast. A small population base, friendly locals and the fact that it's surrounded by ocean are all factors that made it appealing for Devonte, who will be leaving her home in Exuma for the first time.

Acadia University and Dalhousie University, located in Nova Scotia, are also popular choices for young Bahamians seeking to continue their education abroad.

Last week's Pompey Scholarship signals that another Exuma Marathon is on the horizon.

The Exuma Marathon, featuring the Run for Pompey, is scheduled to kick off on November 10. It is once again inviting runners from all around the world to experience some of the best water and beaches in the world. The event has rapidly become one of the most anticipated weekends on the island's tourism calendar, with races for all ages and abilities, including everything from a 2K "fun run" around George Town, to the incredible 50K "Run for Pompey" ultramarathon.

Exuma Marathon pays

homage to Pompey, the slave who in 1830 led a rebellion on Exuma when the plantation owner tried to transfer 77 slaves to another island, separating women and children from their families, not unlike the drama that is unfolding even today in the U.S.

Steeped in this history, Exuma Marathon is unique in that it offers both a sense of purpose and culture, while also showcasing one of the country's most beautiful islands to the world.

"Whenever you can uplift Bahamian history and culture, while raising funds for the community, and also bolstering the tourism product, it is a true win-win-win," said Peter Nicholson, the largest owner of Grand Isle Resort and President of GIV Bahamas Inc.

"It has been a genuine pleasure to watch Exuma Marathon and the Run for Pompey grow into what it is today. It is a true community effort and something all of Exuma should be proud of."

Exuma Marathon benefits from an array of sponsors. It is led by its title sponsor BAF Financial & Insurance, and also supported by GIV Bahamas Inc. Aliv, The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, Sands Beer, Caribbean Bottling Company, Grand Isle Resort, Ty's Sunset Bar & Grill, The Swimming Pig, Cash N Go, Superclubs Breezes, BahamasLocal.com, Bahamas Watch Exchange, Glinton, Sweeting & O'Brien and Diane Phillips & Associates.

To learn more about the Exuma Marathon and sign up for November 10, you can visit its website at [www.runforpompey.com](http://www.runforpompey.com)

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## ELEVEN WEB SHOPS TO CLOSE

On Tuesday June 19th, Asure Win Gaming Company sent an official communication notifying the Gaming Board of the company's intention to close 11 locations nationwide at the end of June.

It is anticipated that these closures will result in the termination of approximately 50 employees, as well as the termination of property leases, which facilitate these locations.

A statement from the company said, "the domestic gaming industry is a competitive market with high operating costs. In some instances, these locations identified were already underperforming. With the proposed tax increases in the 2018/19 budget, a sobering review of our operational costs and structure led us to take this preemptive action."

The Company engaged External auditors to provide an impact analysis of the proposed tax increase on the business.

The statement said once those assessments have been completed, the results will dictate any further action.

Asure Win said while it values its employees, "given the current situation, the company has had to make some fundamental business decisions concerning the future sustainability of our operations."

## DPM Addresses Concerns of Ignoring Poor

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mr. Turnquest said he recognizes the 4.5 percent increase also affects the remainder of the country; but he also said this calls for shared sacrifice for all who have benefitted from the system for years without paying their fair share.

He said, "we've built up a tremendous amount of debt as a result of the fact that we were mortgaging the future of our children, and that's just not acceptable. We have to get our financial situation under control. We have to balance our consumption, our utilization of the resources against that of what we contribute."

He added, "there's a famous saying, 'Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.' Well, this is where we are."

The Deputy Prime Minister added that this concern boils down to the

country's lack of knowledge for personal finance management.

He said, "It is simple math. If you make x, you can't spend y, and that's where we've been. We've been maxing out this credit card and it's time to get it under control. Otherwise, it will consume us."

He added, "I hear people talk about, 'Oh we're not at Barbados level, we're not at Jamaica level,' but if we continue on the path that we're going, it is clear where we're going to end up."

"It is the responsible thing for us to do while we can do it and while we can control the way that we do it to do it now. So, we're taking the bull by the horn and wrestling it to the ground," he said.

The minister contended that in three years the proof will be in the pudding as to the success of the government's efforts.



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# A BUSINESS DILEMMA

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.

His multi-million-dollar business was under serious threat. After dominating the manufacturing industry in Canada for years, fashion mogul Peter Nygard sensed a change.

There was a move among major retailers in the late 80s and early 90s to shift from polyester products, but Nygard had developed a popular product among his customers that made him the 'King of Polyester' in the industry.

This created a dilemma for him: He had a very loyal customer base and he did not want to lose them by making such dramatic shifts in product. Yet, he wanted to protect his company from getting squeezed out in terms of floor space and presentations within the major department stores.

So now what? Faced with two high-risk considerations, Nygard had to calculate the risk on several levels. He did not want to lose his loyal customer base nor did he want to lose his retail clients.

He came up with a unique strategy, but one that only added to his challenge. Nygard decided to open his own retail stores so he could continue to meet the needs of his customers and also balance any loss of product placement space within department stores.

However, he knew very well that if the big department stores thought that he was interfering with them—in terms of a manufacturer becoming a retailer now trying to compete with them—they would stop carrying his products altogether.

Nygard knew his strategy could only work if he could convince the department stores that he was not intending to compete with them.

Being the brilliant strategist that he is, he did several things to address this new dilemma so that the department stores wouldn't see him as a threat.

- Nygard explained to the department stores carrying his products that there was a need to compliment the products that they sell, and he felt very strongly that he should open his own department stores to be able to do that.
- He made it clear that the focus of these stores was to act like a test

## 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.

tube for new product ideas and discover more about their customers and their desires, which would benefit the department stores.

- He offered the major department stores the opportunity to partner with his stores.
- He promised to always sell the products at regular price and never reduce it.

This worked! This was at a time when manufacturers did not compete with retailers or they would not survive. However, he had eliminated the threat. As Nygard's retail business grew and he lived up to his word, the trust between him and his department store partners grew.

Making this move not only allowed Nygard to protect his customer base and secure his relationship with the department store partners, it also allowed him to experiment with other products and expand his offerings. Such as Nygard's signature silk line.

He had developed what was considered a sensational silk product that was very popular and had a prominent position in one of the major upscale department stores. He was designing and producing everything from Tan Jay fashion line polyester, an edgier fashion, to the Peter Nygård Signature collection, even to the extent of having Peter Nygård Signature silk in Saks Fifth Avenue for many years.

Peter Nygard had turned a high-risk dilemma into a win-win situation for all of the stakeholders, which exponentially increased his success.

We'll break down the risk considerations for an applicable risk assessment tool in our upcoming edition.

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Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

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E D I T O R I A L

# COLOSSAL FAILURE

Speaking – as if from the bridge – the Hon. Philip 'Brave' Davis concludes as follows: – "...This budget oppresses the poor by unconscionably increasing value-added tax (VAT) by 60 per cent and provided no credible basis for doing so..."

And as if this was not enough by way of damning conclusion, Davis claims that: – "[The Budget] was most unimpressive and lacked a basic grasp of his own budgetary initiatives, and what underlying economic principles informed such programs. It represented a complete about-face from his campaign promises, recalling that taxing is the lazy way out. This is not the people's budget. This is not the people's time."

Echo retorts: – This is not the people's budget. This is not the people's time."

We wholeheartedly agree!  
As we all know, there was once a time in the very recent past when Dr. Hubert A. Minnis dared to become THAT LEADER who would help set the captives free!

Alas! Many who thought that same thing are today writhing in disbelief as THEIR LEADER has made a U-TURN on that road which [as they had been made to believe] would lead to a newer version of a long-promised Beulah land; and thus, THE PEOPLE'S fears that they have been let down and betrayed.

But yet, regardless of let down and betrayal: -- There are others currently in the House who are also stuck in agreement and [perhaps even] solidarity with Davis!

And thus please note that: -- Travis Robinson, Frederick McAlpine, Reece Chipman and Vaughan Miller – as they now stand – are now lodged squarely in that political space once occupied by a defeated and [once-upon-a- time] routed [and left for dead] Progressive Liberal Party.

Evidently, there is life after near-death; thus an awakened and probably newly energised Davis can now crow: -- The only thing the FNM has done is [to] tax the Bahamian people, more than they can bear; a discriminatory tax against gaming operators, the fixing of the economy for the rich; his tax increases support giveaways for the rich; and also, no news for Grand Bahama to help them up off the

ground and there are heavier burdens for the poor. This budget is a colossal betrayal of the Bahamian people; that will lead to a double-dip recession."

Time will tell if indeed this does turn out to be the case!

And thus, for us, this is a very sad day in today's deeply challenged Bahamas as one of its native sons wakes to discover how unpopular he and his colleagues have become in but the span of one short post-euphoria day for the Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis, his Cabinet and to any number his party's now despondent rank and file members!

Here there are any number of easy to verify facts that might yet win the day for a still triumphalist Minnis to be up and doing with the people's most urgent business.

And thus today, we also tune in to the behaviour of certain neophyte Members of Parliament who did what they thought they had to do as they voted against the current administration's brand new budget.

This is an amazing turn of fortune not only for Robinson, McAlpine, Chipman and Miller; but also for a wide-awake and now deeply engaged PLP— thus all of that cheesy chatter as to how the governing party would prefer losing an election if that was the price for saving the Bahamian Nation from itself.

And for sure, this species of rhetoric is both patronizing and perfectly gratuitous!

And thus as we get back to the real politics that matters, namely the cut and thrust between Opposition and Administration, we note and highlight some of what, the Hon. Philip 'Brave' Davis now concludes.

In this regard, then, please note that: The system and political culture we live in only makes way for any administration to do as much good or bad as they can in the short five-year span it now provides all of those fine folk who would serve.

In this regard, then: -- It really is something to watch, wonder and stand amazed as heroes are undone and even as this process unfolds, heroes are being made in a moment when "The People" are continuing to await the arrival of those men and women who would not disappoint them.

# FORMER M.P. PIERRE DUPUCH COMMENTS ON TAX ON BAHAMIAN GAMBLING INDUSTRY



## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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

I don't like gambling. I think it's addictive, it harms children's wellbeing and it takes money from the poor. If gambling is allowed it should be in the form of a lottery with all money earmarked for Education and Health.

That's my opinion.

Ever since the FNM stated they planned to target the local numbers industry with up to 50% taxes, I have heard comments like:

"The Government should stick it to them! They have too much money!!"

That seems to be the opinion of many.

The PLP Government had a referendum on gambling.

The people voted against it.

Regardless of that, the Government passed it and made it law. Just like it gives out licenses to grocery stores, barber shops, liquor stores, it made the "numbers houses" legal.

The amount of money the institution makes is irrelevant, so long as it is legal. So to pick out any institution which it licenses to "stick it to them" is wrong and leads to instability.

It sets a serious precedent. If you make money, and the Government decides to single you out to tax you, it is unacceptable. It may look good to some but it sets a serious and dangerous precedent. Every time the Government passes a law a precedent is created.

What the precedent says is that anybody who the Government perceives to be rich can be selected. They didn't say the gambling industry because that would include the foreign owned gambling casinos. Instead, they singled out Bahamian owned gambling operations.

Isn't that interesting? To the foreign owned gambling operations they say "yes sir boss" and to the locally

owned gambling operations they say "let's stick it to them".

If they can do it to gambling they can do it to the grocery store or anybody else. In an already fragile economy this is a scary proposition.

For example, if an investor sees an opportunity to invest under a certain tax regime in The Bahamas, and invests accordingly based on the tax regime, only to find that the Government changes it mid-stream, the investor could lose their investment and therefore would not invest in new businesses.

I know of what I speak. It happened to me!!

Uncertainty, is the biggest problem to get Bahamians to invest. We make all kinds of concessions to foreign institutions, but no concessions to Bahamians.

This is the underlying problem in The Bahamas. We say "yes sir boss" to the outsider but "we'll stick it to ya if you is a Bahamian".

To add insult to injury, the FNM who, at this point and without consultation, pushed it down the throats of the numbers house industry, sent their attack dog, Carl Bethel, after those who object!!

He said the objectors would be rooted out of the holes and prosecuted. Oh, I thought Carl Bethel was the Attorney General whose job it is to send cases to trial and to staff the courts with sufficient judges to deal with all the cases in a timely manner.

I thought Marvin Dames, the Minister of National Security, was the man to order the "rooting out" of those suspected of a crime.

Rather than being the "bully boys" the Government should make money by saving money. How many millions have been spent on those so-called "forensic auditors"? I thought they

were supposed to be investigating those "PLP crooks and prosecuting them"?

Did they find any crooks? Or when they opened that can of worms did they find an equal amount of worms wearing red shirts as they found wearing yellow shirts?

The FNM seems to spend most of their time trying to condemn the PLP when they have been guilty of the same thing, wasting money.

They continually condemn Brave Davis for having two clinics in Cat Island. They call it a waste. That's odd. Who built the hospital in Exuma? How much did it cost? Do they have anyone there who can operate the state of the art equipment? How big is it? Was it paid for out of National Insurance money? Is this why National Insurance is going broke?

The same questions plus others can be asked about Abaco. Waste, waste, absolute waste!!!!

Has anyone ever walked down Shirley Street and seen the steps from Shirley Street to the hospital entrance? Nobody uses them. How much did they cost?

Looks pretty, eh? Rather than spending money on fancy steps, would it not have been better to spend it on saving lives? Waste, waste, utter waste.

My suggestion is that both the FNM and the PLP acknowledge that mistakes have been made by both sides, sit down and work together to get this country out of the mess it is now in.

But before sitting down each one should read "The Confessions of an Economic Hit Man" by John Perkins. They will then realize what real challenges face this country!!

It wouldn't be a bad idea for the Bahamian people to read it as well.

## 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!"



PLEASE SUBMIT RESUME AND TRANSCRIPT BEFORE: April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

#### HUMAN RESOURCES

Re: Apprentice Program

51 Frederick Street | P.O. Box N-4853 | Nassau | F: 328.1108  
[careers@fidelitybahamas.com](mailto:careers@fidelitybahamas.com)

# RBDF RANGERS PASSING OUT PARADE

Scores of Defence Force Rangers Cadets, both male and female accepted the challenge to raise the standard of excellence in discipline, dedication and determination. They were successful in being officially inducted into the Rangers program.

The installation ceremony for the nation builders took place at the Defence Force's Coral Harbour Base, where 180 students graduated. The first of several installations over the past weeks, Passing out Parades were also held on several Family Islands.

With the programme having expanded its reach with government and non-governmental organizations, these promising youths are being exposed to a diversity of learning opportunities.

These agencies include, but are not limited to Junior Achievement, Bahamas National Trust, Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, Bahamas Red Cross Society and The Bahamas Salsa Movement. Last year, the RBDF Rangers also received the coveted Ministry of Youth Award for the National Youth Organization of the

Year.

Bringing remarks for the occasion was Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security, Mr. Eugene Poitier, who encouraged the young Rangers to remain motivated as they performed their duties.

"Your outstanding achievements personify the Rangers motto of 'Discipline, Dedication and Determination'", said Mr. Poitier. "Nine months ago, you embraced the challenge to engage in a positive, uplifting, wholesome youth development program that has made you a better person".

There was a drill display by the Rangers Drill team and a physical fitness segment by the RBDF Rangers. The ceremony culminated with presentation of awards and certificates for academic achievement and leadership recognition to the students.

Receiving the Ministry of National Security Award for Exemplary Character and Leadership was Devon Rigby from Jubilee Christian School, and the Commander Defence Force Academic



► The RBDF Rangers after their Passing out Parade at the Defence Force Base. Seated are: Commander Defence Force, Commodore Tellis Bethel; Lieutenant Delvonne Duncombe, Rangers Director; Parents-In-Action Group President Terica Russell along with Rangers Instructors. (RBDF Photos by Marine Seaman Kyle Smith)

Achievement Award for the highest Grade Point Average was awarded to Anameka Johnson of Akhepran International Academy who attained a 3.75 overall average.

Commander Defence Force, Commodore Tellis Bethel commended Rangers Director Delvonne Duncombe, his senior supervisors Chief Petty Officer Ian Morley and Pedro Bain, and the team of instructors for their outstanding leadership role in the Rangers Program.



► Mr. Eugene Poitier, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security presenting the Ministry of National Security Award for Exemplary Character and Leadership to Devon Rigby from Jubilee Christian School. Also shown are Commodore Tellis Bethel, Lieutenant Delvonne Duncombe, Rangers Director and Terica Russell, Parents-In-Action Group President.



► Some of the RBDF Rangers participating in the physical fitness segment of the Passing out Parade at the Defence Force Base.



## MINISTRY OF FINANCE PUBLIC TENDER

### VESSEL FOR PURCHASE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Marlon Johnson**  
(Actg.) Financial Secretary

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