

STANDARD SERVICES SUPPLIES LTD.
 Shirley & Church Street
 Phone: 322-4635



Shop at STANDARD SERVICES where you could get **20% OFF** Houseware, linen, lamps and draperies, and much, much more

The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

DEAN & ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS
 "Meeting Your Needs Efficiently and Professionally"



BUILDINGS (COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL)
 LIFE - GROUP - MEDICAL - ANNUITIES - LIABILITY - MARINE - HOMEOWNERS - AUTO

Tel: (242)-356-0986 Fax: (242)-356-0987
 Deal's Plaza, Mackey Street
 P.O. Box CB-13952 Nassau, Bahamas
 8:30am - 4:30pm

VOL. 30 - NO. 163

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 6TH, 2018

75 CENTS

Primary Student Killed

Police officials are on the hunt for the man behind an early morning shooting that took the life of seven-year Cameron Cooper and left another male wounded. According to Assistant Commissioner of Police, Clayton Fernander, the incident stemmed from a drug fight on Pipe Lane, just off Palm Beach Street after 7

am on Tuesday morning. It is reported that during the altercation, one of the men pulled out a firearm releasing several shots, which resulted in the tragedy.

The wounded man was rushed to the hospital shortly after the incident, with no word on his condition.

Young Cameron was a second-grade student at Columbus Primary School. Yesterday his classmates

wrote notes and dedicated to him. There were messages like "I love you Cameron", "We miss you", and "On June 5th, we lost our friend".

Sadly, there was another of a stick person drawing in

a box, illustrating a young boy in a coffin.

Cameron's homeroom teacher says that "he was no trouble at all. He was one of those students that you never had to speak to twice and he

was always a sweet and humble soul. He played no sports, but always participated in the school's sports day and was loved by all of his classmates."

Principal Patricia Chisolm

says Governor General Dame Marguerite Pindling visited the primary school to extend her condolences. Also, various agencies are also assisting with the grieving process.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUPS RECEIVE \$84,000 FROM CIBC FIRSTCARIBBEAN'S WALK FOR THE CURE



► Andrea Sweeting, President of the Sister Sister Breast Cancer Support Group, said, "CIBC FirstCaribbean has stood up to the test as a corporate sponsor, so we're truly proud of them and the success of the Walk for the Cure." L to R: CIBC FirstCaribbean Managing Director (Bahamas & TCI) Marie Rodland-Allen; President of the Cancer Society of The Bahamas Dr. Williamson Chea; Secretary of the Cancer Society of The Bahamas, Judith Higgs; President of the Sister Sister Breast Cancer Support Group Andrea Sweeting; and CIBC FirstCaribbean Managing Director, Customer Relationship & Management Strategy, Trevor Torzsas. **Photo credit: Vado Culmer**

Three Killed In Plane Crash

Three American men perished in a plane crash in bushes on the island of Eleuthera yesterday.

Police on the island say a twin engine Cessna aircraft crashed in bushes off Rock Sound International Airport.

The aircraft departed Rock Sound shortly after 3pm enroute to Fort Pierce, Florida, USA.

The aircraft had reportedly crashed in rough terrain making it difficult for authorities to reach. When authorities and others arrived at the site, they reportedly discovered that the three men were dead with two of them burnt beyond recognition.

Officials of the in the Bahamas are reportedly making efforts to locate the next of kin of the men. However, the names of the victims have not been released.

a team from the Department of Civil Aviation left New Providence this morning for Eleuthera to start investigations of the crash.

Grand Bahamians Protest New Taxes

Opposition Leader Philip Davis says "Grand Bahamians have demonstrated in the streets and taken to social media urging the government to fix Grand Bahama. That island delivered five FNM MPs, three senators and three ministers, yet all they have to show is a closed hotel property with no prospects for opening; more foreign labour at the Grand Bahama Shipyard as Bahamians are displaced and a 12 per cent VAT hike.

"The budget is taking this country in the wrong direction. There are too many contradictions and inconsistencies and greater transparency is needed by this government if it is to recover lost public confidence. I say again that governance is serious business and not a public relations or marketing exercise."

Addressing the media at Gambier House yesterday, Mr Davis said, "the people of Grand Bahama showed their disappointment during



► Opposition Leader Philip Davis (Journal file photo)

Labour Day when the Deputy Prime Minister addressed them; they got up and left.

■ See BAHAMIANS / page 3...

WEB SHOP OWNER FEELS BETRAYED

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

A local Web Shop owner is lashing out at the government for what he calls a betrayal.

Craig Flowers, Chief Executive Officer of FML Group of Companies said as a Bahamian he feels betrayed by the Free National Movement government's decision to increase in taxes.

"I feel betrayed by the present government because the argument that was made was that it was the people's time, and I thought the people's time meant that this government was going to provide for us," he said.

"And not just to provide for us, but to recognize the mistakes of the former government and that the people's desire from the former government was for you to be able to improve my life," he added.

"The improvement in my lifestyle that I asked of you, means to me that I would be able to retain more of my little change in my pocket at the end of the day. Not for me to have to pay more taxes; not for the cost of living for me in the country to increase."

"I'm of the opinion that the former government would have imposed a 7.5 per cent tax for me and I threw them out on their heads," he said.

"That's why I threw them out. They applied more taxes, they went against my wishes and regulated the gaming, they made me miserable."

He added that he thought this Minnis-led administration would recognize the mistakes of the former government.

However, Mr. Flowers said he believes the government has not learned anything from its predecessors.

Mr. Flowers comments come as a guest on the Love 97 talk show "On Point," with host Wendal Jones.

MERCHANTS RESPOND TO VAT INCREASE

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

While the government assures that the increase in Value Added Tax (VAT) would reduce the country's debt and improve finance, many retailers believe there will be a greater effect on consumers.

Director of Retail for Milo B. Butler and Sons, Allan Butler, said transitioning from 7.5 percent to 12 per cent will not affect the company in terms of the changes they will have to make.

However, the difficulty will be how the establishment is affected in terms of the number of customers coming into their stores, once the implementation of a higher tax rate is put into place.

He said the double tax-

ation of duty and VAT will decrease the customer's ability to spend and affect those who have businesses here in the country, adding that the VAT increase may also encourage persons to shop abroad.

Butler said although he knew that VAT would be increased, he did not expect for it to increase with the country's level of employment as it stands.

He added that everything sounds good on paper, but there are some things that need to be fixed first before we can implement a higher tax rate.

Butler suggested that unemployed individuals will not be able to afford to buy goods and thus have a greater dependency on the government.

■ See MERCHANTS / page 2...



LOVE CASH N'GO

CASH N'GO 322-CASH (2274) simplycashngo.com

- PAY BILLS • SEND MONEY
- PURCHASE AIRLINE TICKETS
- PAY INSURANCE
- VISA PAYMENTS

STAY WITH THE FOLKS YOU KNOW.

Breadbasket Items on Probation

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

The fact that corned beef remained on the list of

breadbasket items came as quite a relief to many, who view the meal as a staple. However that feeling that could be short lived, accord-

ing to Minister of Health Doctor Duane Sands.

The Minister said that the item is "on probation" as it relates to the revision of

breadbasket items. Now we have the budget debate. Then, we have to continue our tour, and to engage."

Dr. Sands said that the ministry intends to visit family islands like Abaco, Exuma, Eleuthera, and Grand Bahamas for educational campaign on the initiative.

He added, "the public should expect to see healthy foods replacing unhealthy foods on the breadbasket.

The minister also said that two issues must be addressed with regard to the list's revision which requires legislative change and budgetary implications.

He said, "the change of what is on the breadbasket

now requires only discussion and decision, and ultimately is gazetted by the minister responsible for price control, Dion Foulkes, after consultation."

The minister also went into detail about the introduction of a Catastrophic Care Plan in the wake of last week's budget debate.

He acknowledged that the ministry has been aware of the public's need to host cookouts to accommodate the medical needs of their loved ones.

This plan intends to make this a thing of the past as the National Health Insurance Program will be updated to ensure that the public receives the care they need

for conditions like cancer, heart disease, and trauma.

He said, "we have always been of the view that while primary care services are beneficial and have returns in the long run, that to provide assistance to Bahamians for these catastrophic problems is essential.

"So, the revamping of National Health Insurance moving forward is going to be able to provide to assistance individuals exactly in those situations," said the Minister.

It is expected that more will be said on the issue during the minister's contribution to the 2018/2019 budget debate.



MINISTRY OF FINANCE

PUBLIC TREASURY DEPARTMENT

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

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

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

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

Vendor Verification Process

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

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

Vendor Verification Information Required

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

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

TREASURER, COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

MERCHANTS RESPOND TO VAT INCREASE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Meanwhile Rupert Roberts, President of Supervalu, said the government has to give merchants time to reprice, as it is a process that will not happen overnight.

Roberts added that once merchants get the necessary answers from the government, Supervalu will begin its transition to 12 percent.

He added that merchants will be pushing for exclusive pricing, rather than inclusive pricing, which would allow their businesses to put their own pricing on the shelves, showing the consumer their deals, rather than including the VAT.

Roberts suggested that the VAT inclusive prices will deter consumers from buying goods unless they absolutely need it.

"We want to put our pricing on the shelves, show the consumer our \$1.89 corned beef, and if it goes to 12 per cent VAT; add the 12 per cent add the register," he said.

"When we put 12 per cent on the shelves, the consumer looks at the high price and then they say they're going to charge me 12 per cent at the register, and unless they absolutely have to have the item, they're not going to buy it.

"It's the wrong concept. For the merchants to keep selling and for the government to collect VAT, they should change it back to exclusive pricing."

As of July 1, 2018, VAT will be increased from 7.5 per cent to 12 per cent, and those items on them updated breadbasket list will not include VAT.

Let Your Advertising Dollar
Go A LONG WAY....

Advertise In The Bahama Journal
Call Our Sales Team At: 356-9071-3



THE BAHAMAS NATIONAL BAPTIST MISSIONARY AND EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE

Installation Service



Rev. Dr. **LLOYD SMITH**
President



Rev. Dr. **PHILIP MCPHEE**
First Vice President



Rev. **TRAJEAN JADORETTE**
Executive Secretary



Rev. **MICHAEL SYMONETTE**
Treasurer

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

The William Thompson Auditorium . Jean Street, Gleniston Gardens

NASSAU, BAHAMAS

“Death Warrant For Web Shops”

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

The Chief Executive Officer of FML Group of Companies Craig Flowers says the decision on the government to significantly raise taxes on Web Shop gaming is a death warrant to the industry. He said there is “no way the Web shops can continue with the proposed taxes. The government is on thin ice; most of the shops will go back underground where they were comfortable.”

Appearing on the Love 97 Radio Show “On Point” yesterday, Mr. Flowers said, “I feel betrayed by the present government. He said Minister of Tourism Dionso D’aguilar, whose portfolio includes gaming, promised that regulating the industry would be discussed with the operators.

“He would have assured me that there was going to be discussions pertaining to the regulations and the manner in which the industry was regulated and that it would be revisited.

“He also assured me that after coming to any type of conclusion on their findings, that it would have been discussed with the operators.

“And that at that point, there would be some adjustments made, be it increased tax, be it controls on the proliferations of web shops, be it zoning as to where web shops can and cannot operate.

“All of these things were to be discussed and in particular the enormous amount of illegal Shops that continue to exist in the country today, where we have to compete against all of those operators today that are still not regulated by this industry.

In his budget communication last Wednesday, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Peter Turnquest announced the introduction of a sliding scale of rates applied to taxable revenue of Web Shops, namely: up to \$20 million, a rate of 20 per cent, between \$20 million and \$40 million, a rate of 25 per cent; between \$40 million and \$60 million, a rate of 30 per cent; between \$60 million and \$80 million, a rate of 35 per cent; between \$80 million and \$100 mil-



► Craig Flowers (Journal file photo)

lion, a rate of 40 per cent; and over \$100 million, a rate of 50 per cent.

In addition, the Minister announced the taxation of gaming patrons through a 5 per cent stamp tax to be levied on both deposits made by patrons at the gaming houses and any non-online games or digital sales.

The Bahamas Gaming Operators Association through their attorney, Alfred Sears wrote Mr. Turnquest warning that it will take legal action over the “expropriatory, discriminatory, excessive and penal” tax rises, if the government does not meet with the operators within the next week.

Mr. Flowers told the radio audience, “I can’t see how the government can address coming to us for more money.

If they want more money, tax those persons, go out and find ways and means to tax all of those millions of dollars, from unregulated operators in the industry.

“That’s new revenue; but nobody is talking about that. In the whole deliberation, no one has said anything about how they’re going to address the enormous amount of pilfering from the government tilt by way of unregulated operators,” said Flowers.

The businessman said he feels disappointed and that it’s one thing to tax the gaming houses, but another thing to further tax the patrons; stressing that the real losers in all this would be the patrons.

“Now if the government is going to impose a second tax on the patrons, certainly the patrons are going to say no way.

“It is unacceptable for the government to impose two

taxes on one person for one bet. It is to say you patrons go home, don’t come out here, don’t come back to these places.

“Go somewhere else, find something else to do with your funds, that is what that is blatantly saying, that is clear,” he said.

Mr. Flowers said he envisioned that if modernized, the local gaming industry would create an enormous opportunity for the government to recognize a revenue stream in the country that they had to invest nothing into and that will be able to generate in millions of dollars to the treasury for the purpose of advancing and enhancing the local Bahamian.

The new taxes will be implemented on July 1, 2018.

SPOTLIGHT ON BAIN GRANTS TOWN

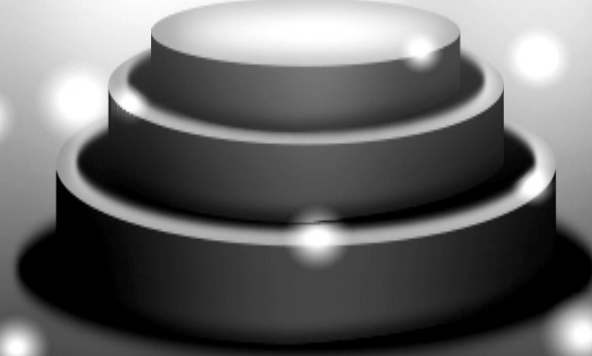
THURSAYS 7:30 P.M.
SATURDAYS 9:00 A.M.

LOVE 97

HOST; REV. DR. C. B. MOSS

THE MOST UNIQUE SHOW ON RADIO

DON'T MISS IT



GRAND BAHAMIANS PROTEST NEW TAXES

Continued from / PAGE 1...

“Each week families in Freeport are migrating to Nassau in search of better economic prospects. Families are still sleeping in their cars on beaches. Since the raise in VAT was announced two Freeport small businesses have said they are closing their doors for good. Yet Peter Turnquest said in the House everybody is happy in the country; only the PLP is unhappy.”

Mr Davis said “what is interesting to note, there is not one mention of Grand Bahama in the budget.

“I suppose the workers are also happy with the cancellation of the Empowerment Program prior to Labour Day which put hundreds of young Bahamians on the unemployment line. This program was designed to improve the skill set in the labour force and hundreds benefitted. This was no 52 programme. These were jobs given to Bahamians to assist in making productive citizens.”



COMFORT
SUITES

ALL THE PERKS OF COMFORT SUITES,
ALL THE PLAY OF ATLANTIS...

There is no place quite like Comfort Suites Paradise Island.

Our guests, whether traveling for business or leisure, enjoy the best of both worlds. Steps away from the world famous Atlantis Paradise Island, we provide all the recognizable amenities of the Comfort Suites brand, in addition to exclusive access to the Atlantis. Comfort Suites Paradise Island is well suited for the relaxed family vacation, and also offers all the necessities of modern business travel. Our award winning property, with unique value added amenities, is truly the Gem of Paradise Island.

- Complimentary access to all pools, the spectacular water parks, pristine beaches and activities at neighboring Atlantis.
- Complimentary full American buffet breakfast
- High Speed free Wi-Fi access in all rooms and public spaces
- Newly renovated, air-conditioned junior suites with parlor lounge, pull out sofa bed and your choice of king or double beds.
- Value added amenities include free parking, free in-room safe, 32 in. flat screen tv's, mini in-room refrigerators, fully equipped business center and coin operated laundry facilities.
- A la carte lunch and dinner prepared by our award-winning chefs available at our very own Crusoe's Restaurant where indoor & outdoor dining awaits. Swim up service available at our Pool Bar

The ultimate vacation or business trip awaits. Join us and experience All the Perks of Comfort Suites and All the Play of Atlantis.



Comfort Suites Paradise Island
For Reservations Call (242) 363-3680
www.comfortsuitespi.com
Email: info@comfortsuitespi.com



MINISTER DAMES, US CHARGE D'AFFAIRES ATTEND COMBINED TRAINING CLOSING CEREMONY



Minister of National Security the Hon. Marvin Dames and US Charge d'Affaires Stephanie Bowers joined Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF) Commander Commodore Tellis Bethel at the official closing of the Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) at the RBDF base HMBS Coral Harbour, on May 31, 2018. Also on hand were Col. Michael Doherty, Deputy Commander, Special Operation Command North (SOCNORTH), the special operations component of USNORTHCOM, and representatives from Naval Special Warfare (NSW); Assistant Commissioner of Police Ken Strachan; and Comptroller of Customs Dr. Geannine Moss. According to information from the US Embassy, the training is an annual event supported by the Office of Defense Cooperation and the RBDF as part of security cooperation efforts. The training was significant, the Embassy noted, because it marked the first time in recent years the Royal Bahamas Police Force and Customs Department participated in significant numbers. The JCET was held in Nassau and Exuma from April 16 to May 30, 2018. The first 30 days of training were spent at HMBS Coral Harbour, followed by 15-day multiple location events at Hawk's Nest facility on Exuma. **(BIS Photo/Eric Rose)**

BFSU REMAINS STRONG FOR FALLEN SISTERS

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Financial Services Union (BFSU) President, Theresa Mortimer, having lost four persons in the Labour Day tragedy, said she and her members are trying to cope with the situation as best as possible.

Four women died when a truck ran into them on East Street near Shirley Street during the Labour Day march.

"We are taking this and we're building on it, because we believe our four sisters would not want the union to be halted or stopped in any way, but they would want it to go on.

"And so that's what we're doing, we're carrying on for their name sake, she said."

"This is not the first tragedy that we would have faced.

"In 2009, we lost both our Vice President and our Assistant Secretary General, and we bounced back from that; so we intend to bounce back from this,"

she added.

"As best as we could, we're trying to cope with our situation. I want to walk in it, walk straight through it, I cannot linger on it.

"It's an accident, it's a tragedy and we have to move on."

Tami Gibson was the BFSU's Assistant Secretary General, Diane Gray-Ferguson, was the mother of the Union's Trustee; Tiffany Moss, Tabitha Bethel-Haye was a former BFSU Member and Kathleen Rodgers-Fernander, an avid BFSU supporter and Mrs. Mortimer's close friend.

In a statement, Mrs. Mortimer added that while many were injured, the Union gives thanks for the sparing of so many lives and for the privilege to join together for the betterment of the nation and the BFSU.

As for the negativity circulating social media, the Union leader says they're just not interested.

What they are grateful for are the prayers, support, calls, texts and other gestures of kindness.

In the face of it all, The BFSU has vowed to continue to stand together, pray and support the family mem-

bers of their bereaved sisters, those who are still hospitalized, as well as their Secretary General Lashon

Sawyer and her son, Travis as they weather this storm. When contacted, Christian Council President,

Bishop Delton Fernander said no date has been selected just yet for a National Day of Prayer.

Committee Seeks The Best In Bahamian Society

BY TIA THOMPSON

The advisory committee of the National Honours system says that they are seeking the best of the best; those that have reached extraordinary achievements and those that have helped to develop not only communities but the country. Having done a test exercise before attempting to see how many nominees would be obtained and getting a large number of 200, the Committee expects to obtain many nominations.

Prime Minister Hubert Minnis formed the 10-member committee in accordance with the National Honors Act of 2016 to come up with a system that will honour notable Bahamians; no longer following the British way of honouring; all while highlighting the talent and efforts of our Bahamian people.

There are eight established societies

of honour, including the honor of National Hero, The Order of Nation, The Order of The Bahamas, The Order of Excellence, The Order of Merit, The Order of Distinction, any other honor constituted by the Governor-General, and The Order of Lignum Vitae, which is given to the "youth of the nation".

"There are people in our nation that have made seminal contributions, regardless of age," says Mark Humes.

The national honors system has no age limit, and there is also no restriction on whether the person being nominated is alive or deceased, as the committee wishes to acknowledge all of those in the Bahamian society that contributed to National Development.

Mr. Idris Reid says that there is no limit on the number of people to be honored as nominations are opened to the entire Bahamas, but great care with be taken during the selection.

In addition to the eight societies, there are award of medals. The awards are Distinguished Service medals for citizens of the Bahamas in recognition of exceptional service in Public Service or Civil society, Badges of honour for persons in the civil society who perform exceptional service to the Bahamas; and medals for bravery undertaken in the Bahamas. These awards will recognize persons who have achieved excellence in designated categories while contributing to national development.

Those being nominated cannot be made aware of their nomination as a public announcement of approved awards and nominees will be made on July 10, 2018, following a conferment of all awards on National Heroes Day in October 2018. Applications must be in on or before June 11th, 2018 and the committee is looking forward to a large number.

Soldanza
NOW AVAILABLE
THE GOOD NATURAL SNACK!

milobutler
RESPECT, QUALITY AND VALUE GUARANTEED.
(242) 677-6380
PEACH STREET OFF MONTROSE AVENUE

Roberts Furniture
Anniversary Sale

FREE MATTRESS
When you Purchase any 5pc Bedroom Set*

SAVE 25%
STOREWIDE MAY 24TH - 31ST

APPLIANCE COMBOS
BUY 2 APPLIANCES
SAVE 25%
PLUS *PLUS* *PLUS*
12,000 btu DUCTLESS A/Cs \$399
INCL. VAT

PLUS
SAVE 40%*
PATIO FURNITURE
PLANTS
FLORALS
LAMPS
MIRRORS
PAINTINGS

LINEN DEPARTMENT
SAVE 30%*
ON NEW ARRIVALS
OR
SAVE UP TO 50%*
ON EXISTING STOCK

Roberts Furniture
5th Terrace & East Avenue
CENTREVILLE
Phone: 322-8862
 Join us on Facebook

Former M.P. replies to the Graduate's COMMENTS ON MAJORITY RULE

BY PIERRE V. L. DUPUCH

In a letter to the editor "the Graduate" answered my article about Majority Rule in The Bahamas. I seldom answer such letters because the writer has not got the moral courage to use a proper name. So in this article I will refer to "the Graduate" as "He/she/it" which will cover all the possibilities of identifying the person or beast.

In my article, I said that the German Goebbels used the tactic of repeating a lie often enough so that people assumed it was the truth. The Bahamian Goebbels repeated a lie about Majority Rule long enough so that people assumed it was the truth.

The German Goebbels and the Bahamian Goebbels had different motives but both used the same means ... a repeated lie.

"He/she/it" seems to claim that the colour card was not the basis of the PLP argument. This sounds like the modern day Goebbels saying that the Holocaust never happened in Germany.

Either "He/she/it" is outright lying or was either not born, not here, or never ducked the rocks. The PLP maintained that the formation of the House of Assembly must be based on colour lines, no more than 15% white and at least 80% black. Anyone who denies that is trying to bury the truth.

I believe the House of Assembly should be comprised of 100% QUALIFIED Bahamians.

I said that IF the colour card were used in U.S. elections Barack Obama would never have been elected because the MAJORITY of voters in the U.S. were white. It was as simple as that, and that is a FACT.

I said that simply to say that the colour card SHOULD NOT be used in elections in The Bahamas. "He/she/it" is trying to twist my words. That is typical!!!

In 1962 I was a candidate for the "Far East". In those days there were two representatives in the House of Assembly for the Far East. The boundaries for that constituency stretched from East Street in the West to East End in the East.

A.D. Hanna and Arthur Foulkes were running in that Constituency for the PLP, Geoffrey Johnstone for the UBP, and I was an Independent. A.D. Hanna and Geoffrey Johnstone won.

I lost. I didn't blame it on gerrymandering, a lightning strike or anything else. I lost. The people didn't want me and so they voted for A.D. Hanna and Geoffrey Johnstone. That's not hard to understand, is it?

Although I was very involved in politics I stayed out of front line politics for twenty years. When I decided to run in 1982 I surrounded myself with the greatest, most hardworking, and the best organized team the country has ever seen.

That TEAM had me elected to the House of Assembly for the next 25-years. While there I kept my nose clean and let my conscience be my

guide.

Just before the 1997 election we were called in individually to discuss possible changes in the boundaries of the constituency. I was told that my constituency would not be changed, except for one small polling division "to help out your neighboring colleague". I agreed and left.

Just hours before the final boundaries were signed, a meeting of all FNM candidates was called and the election was discussed. As the meeting was drawing to a close the PM strode over to a map of New Providence, which was hanging on the wall and said: "there will be no discussion on this and these are the new boundaries for Shirlea".

He took a black marker and COMPLETELY redrew the boundaries of Shirlea, putting in Kemp Road, St. James Road, the Five Pound Lot, etc., all known PLP strongholds. I started to say something and the PM responded, "I said there will be no discussion" and the meeting ended.

It was clearly gerrymandering. I didn't cry about it, I faced facts, either not nominate or fight it. Discussing it with my team we decided to fight it. We did and we won.

It had been a PLP stronghold. My philosophy always was that you were a PLP or FNM only until the Polls closed on election day. After that you became one people, one constituency.

After winning I saw what was needed and moved in to accomplish it. I started food programs, after school classes, and with the help of a few friends I personally built a new house for a paraplegic whose leg had been amputated. She, by the way, was a PLP and had voted against me!

I fell in love with the people of the new constituency. Rather than it being my downfall, which was planned by some, it became the most invigorating experience of my political life. And so now I say thank you to those who tried to destroy me.

"He/she/it" would have you believe that gerrymandering was a UBP thing. It is wrong but it is not exclusive to the UBP. It is used in the USA; it was used by the PLP; it was used by the FNM.

Buying votes is also wrong, but it was not exclusive to the UBP. It is done in the USA; it was done by the PLP; it was done by the FNM.

Many times boundaries cut through houses, one bedroom in one constituency the other in another constituency.

But people, not lines, vote. "He/she/it" must have been sleeping lately or has "head in sand" syndrome.

So to indicate that it was only the UBP who used these tactics is dishonest and wrong.

When you enter the race, you accept the ground rules. In the USA the person who gets the most votes in the Electoral College becomes President, thus Donald Trump not Hillary Clinton won the recent US election.

In The Bahamas, the Party

which has the most seats in the House of Assembly becomes the Government and is the Majority to Rule.

In 1962 women were given the right to vote. That is known as Universal Suffrage.

Rather than declaring January 10th Majority Rule day, the big day should be in November when women were allowed to vote.

Again the PLP claims to have been the champion of the women's right to vote. Not true. I remember as a teenager (and long before the PLP was formed) people like Mrs. Mary Ingraham and a group of women meeting and agitating for the women's right to vote. Some were big supporters and constituents of Sir Stafford Sands. It is true the PLP jumped on the bandwagon, but it is not true that they created the wagon!!

It is true that someday a white, brown or yellow person will lead the Party which wins the majority of seats in the House of Assembly, but to say that it was the PLP's position is simply not true.

I have faith in the young Bahamians who are learning and preaching that colour does not matter, and these same young people will ensure that the colour card will be buried never to enter Bahamian politics again.

Although I did not support them, I was very impressed that the PLP under the leadership of the Rt. Honourable Perry Christie fielded a number of young white candidates in the last election.

I have always found Perry Christie to be a decent man. He was, in my opinion, not a very successful Prime Minister, but that does not mean he is not a decent man.

Now that Brave Davis is leading the PLP, I think you will see emphasis placed more on quality of the candidate than anything else. For the country's sake, I hope.

The Bahama Journal Is An Independent Newspaper - Published Week Days By The Communicators & Associates In Affiliation With Jones Communications Ltd.
East St. North - P.O. Box N-8610
Telephone: 242-325-3082 - Fax: 242 -356-7256

Wendall K. Jones
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer
The Bahama Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?
Kimalee P. Jones
Vice President/Operations
E D I T O R I A L

VAT—FULL CIRCLE

As we recall: -- Mr. K. Peter Turnquest once upon a time did speak about how real growth could be unleashed if only the Bahamian people would give him and his fellow hierarchs a chance to run things.

The people heard them, believed them and therefore voted for them; but even now we remember that precious time when the air was being filled with some of life's sweetest sounds.

And thus today, we remember when prospective candidate K. Peter Turnquest waxed eloquent when he said that: -- The Bahamas is teeming with natural mineral and human resources, waiting to be discovered, tapped and exploited---We know about the salt, aragonite, seaweed, sponges, fisheries, bush medicine, teas, craft products, etc. which have been underperforming for Bahamians.

And with that said he let loose as follows: -- "With investments to jump-start the research and the eventual processing of these and other raw materials in a locally domiciled production facility for export, we can create new jobs and entrepreneurs..."

Alas! That was THEN; THIS IS NOW!

Should the Government proceed with its VAT increase plan, the Bahamas will have come 'full circle' in just five years; ending up back where it started in 2013, when a 15 per cent VAT with multiple exemptions was comprehensively rejected by the private sector and the Government's own advisers.

Sure looks like déjà vu all over again! It could not work then; and for sure, there is nary a chance it will work this time around.

Meanwhile, back in the real world, some of this land's keenest of entrepreneurs are like Sir Franklyn Roosevelt Wilson are aghast as they contemplate certain implications now attendant on the Minnis administration's VAT-increase proposal.

As Sir Franklyn recently exclaimed: -- "I'm still so shell shocked...I haven't had a chance to really digest it fully, but [at first blush] this is really, really bad news. This is really troubling..."

And thus Wilson also suggests: -- They're [meaning the Minnis led administration] providing sufficient incentive now for people to

get into legitimate tax avoidance...I don't understand this. I am at a loss to understand the logic behind this Budget..."

In truth, then, and therefore: -- There is a case to be made for a comprehensive review concerning the funding of education, health and social welfare.

Indeed, there is also that raft of compelling evidence which supports and undergirds a thesis to the effect that: -- 'Free' services are often either abused or ill-appreciated by those who are obliged to consume them.

This is but one aspect of the fiscal crisis which now begs closer scrutiny; and thus, please note that these strictures do not apply to certain categories of public goods. These would include the maintenance of law and order, national defence, and public health.

Put otherwise, by taking the course of least resistance in the matter involving pay increases to public sector workers, today's FNM-led administration has [like its predecessor in office] merely postponed a most fateful day of reckoning.

We've been there and done that with the initial 7.5% VAT. And the same will happen to the additional 4.5% VAT because Minnis and Turnquest have steadfastly refused to make good on their many election campaign promises to address the horrendous size of our public services sector in a meaningful way.

Until they do so, more taxes only adds more fuel to the fire of uncontrolled government growth.

For our part, then, this is really not rocket science material; indeed, it reeks of the commonest and lowest denominator in what some describe as either mother's wit or common sense gone to bed!

In this regard, then, we need only reference Wilson's thought -- experiment where -- as he so cogently asserts--You cannot assume that, because you got so much money at 7.5 per cent, if you go to 12 per cent it's a proportionate increase. People will find legitimate ways to get around it..."

Where there is a will, there will be found a way.

It's just that simple!
O how time flies!

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

NEMA BEGINS Disaster Awareness Month at Church

The National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, kicked off a month of activities in order to remind the public of the need to be prepared for any disaster, natural or manmade.

On Sunday, June 3, 2018 the national church service was held at New Providence Community Church on Blake Road, where members of the national disaster consultative committee worshiped along with Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis and his wife Patricia, both members of that church.

Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis has declared the Month of June, "Disaster Preparedness Month," as NEMA is strongly urging the public to do their part as reflected in its theme: "Be Disaster Resilient. Be Prepared."

Captain Stephen Russell noted that NEMA has moved to focus on comprehensive disaster management, in keeping with regional and international protocols and best practices. However, the public is being reminded that the Hurricane Season is June 1 to November 30.

A number of public relations activities are being planned to bring about a new sense of awareness. They are:

*** SUNDAY, JUNE 3**

National Church Service 11am
New Providence Community Church, Blake Road;

*** FRIDAY, JUNE 8**

9am – 4pm
National Hurricane Readiness Table Top Exercise;

*** THURSDAY, JUNE 14**

Community Walk-about in areas impacted by Hurricane Matthew 2016
5pm-7pm;

*** JUNE 11 – 21**

Community Presentations on Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness;

*** SATURDAY, JUNE 23**

Exhibition at NEMA, Gladstone Road
10am – 7pm;

*** SATURDAY, JUNE 30**

Community Fun, Run, Walk
6:30am; and,

*** June 4-29**

Media Blitz: Radio, TV, And Social Media.

The Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project Outlook has predicted that this year, the 2018 Atlantic Hurricane Season calls for 14 named storms, 7 hurricanes and 3 at category 3 or higher.

The 2018 storm names: Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debby, Ernesto, Florence, Gordon, Helene, Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Michael, Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Rafael, Sara, Tony, Valerie and William.



► The National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, kicked off a month of activities in order to remind the public of the need to be prepared for any disaster, natural or manmade. On Sunday, June 3, 2018 the national church service was held at the New Providence Community Church on Blake Road. Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis and his wife, Patricia, were also in attendance. Pictured is Captain Stephen Russell, Director of NEMA greeting the Prime Minister and his wife as they arrive for the service. **(BIS Photos/Raymond A. Bethel Sr.)**



► The National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, kicked off a month of activities in order to remind the public of the need to be prepared for any disaster, natural or manmade. On Sunday, June 3, 2018 the national church service was held at the New Providence Community Church on Blake Road. Prime Minister Dr the Hon Hubert A Minnis and his wife Patricia, were also in attendance. Pictured from left are: Captain Stephen Russell, Director of NEMA; Prime Minister Minnis; Mrs. Patricia Minnis; Caroline Turnquest, Bahamas Red Cross and Trevor Basden, Director, the Bahamas Department of Meteorology.

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 20th, 2018

HUMAN RESOURCES

Re: Apprentice Program

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

Minister Pintard Welcomed All to Cat Island Rake-n-Scrape Festival



► **ARTHUR'S TOWN, Cat Island** -- Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture the Hon. Michael Pintard welcomed all to the Cat Island Rake-n-Scrape Festival in Arthur's Town, May 31 to June 2. (BIS Photos/Kemuel Stubbs)



THE BAHAMAS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR

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

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

The Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Ministry of the Environment and Housing has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP), to request competitive tenders from qualified companies to provide a cost-effective solution for the Energy Efficiency Retrofit (EER) at Anatol Rodgers High School, located on the island of New Providence in The Bahamas. The goal of the EER is to decrease annual energy demand and improve comfort through the installation of energy conservation measures (ECM) and a rooftop solar PV array. Accordingly, Bidders are expected to design, supply and install the following ECMs:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Minister Pintard Meets Stakeholders at Rake-N-Scrape Festival in Cat Island

BY ERIC ROSE

ARTHUR'S TOWN, Cat Island – Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture the Hon. Michael Pintard said that his Ministry was committed to collaborating with the Cat Island Rake-n-Scrape Festival committee in ensuring that each year the product improves and enlarges the reach of Bahamian artists, artisans and chefs beyond the boundaries of Cat Island and The Bahamas.

"In our view, Cat Island ought to be the Rake-N-Scrape capital of the world," Minister Pintard said, referring to the event that he officially opened on May 31, 2018, in Arthur's Town, Cat Island. Also joining the Minister from his Ministry for the Festival was Percy "Vola" Francis, accompanied by Cat Island Family Island Administrator Neil Campbell. Earlier that day, the trio interacted with organizers, vendors, performers and attendees.

"The most significant Rake-N-Scrape artists should participate in this festival and out of the festival should emerge new Rake-N-Scrape performers. The sights, sounds and tastes of Cat Island ought to be on full display and packaged

for ongoing sale on island and exported year round." Minister Pintard said that various artists' music, flour cakes, miniatures of Mt. Alvernia, salt packages, artwork of the blue holes or plantations, jams and jellies from various islands, fruits, soaps and candles manufactured on island, baked Cat Island crabs and countless other delights can be produced to better brand the island and revive the economy.

He noted that Cat Island had produced cultural icons, pioneering educators, renowned pastors and a global actor such as Sir Sidney Poitier. "As a descendant of Cat Island, I'm proud of our heritage, brilliance and indomitable spirit of our people," Minister Pintard stated.

"This Festival provides the backdrop against which we can explore our heritage and ecotourism; thereby increasing room inventory, occupancy, sea arrivals and airlift." He continued that the proposed clean up and signage on heritage and eco-sites are indications of the Government's commitment, and his Ministry will work in partnership with the Member of Parliament, local government officials and residents to make the transformation a reality. (BIS Photos/Eric Rose)