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The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

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Gov't Accused of Hurting The Poor

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Leader, Philip Davis, says that if passed as is, the Economic Empowerment Zone Bill 2018, will only create overlapping of procedures of administrative arrangements.

The opposition has advanced the argument that the Minnis administration is no friend of the poor and that it is using provisions of the Economic Empowerment Bill as proof.

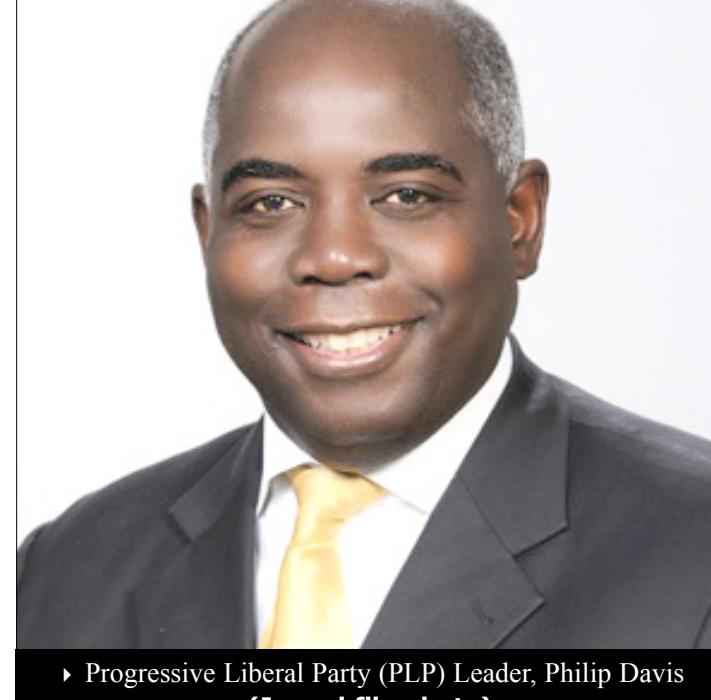
Wrapping up the Opposition's contribution in the House of Assembly yesterday, Mr. Davis, scolded the government for bringing a bill his party believes only uplifts the rich at the expense of the poor.

"This bill, this framework, is guaranteed to increase property values, increase rent, lead to higher business profitability."

"In short this does not benefit the vulnerable, this hurts the poor."

"This displacement policy will favour one side, creating concessions and loopholes promoting gentrification," he said.

■ See ACCUSED / page 2...



► Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Leader, Philip Davis
(Journal file photo)



► Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Deputy, Chester Cooper
(Journal file photo)

PM Reveals Plans for New Gov't Building

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis has confirmed a major project to transform the Southern Recreation Grounds and surrounding areas.

Additionally, he added that contracts are being issued and ground will soon be broken on two of

the smaller parks, which are Father Marcius Peters Park and McPherson Park.

The Prime Minister said the tender has been closed on the bids for the Southern Recreation Grounds and that in short order construction will begin.

"I will soon advise the public on a project to construct government offices on Market Street. These

new buildings will accommodate three government ministries, private sector office spaces and other facilities. This project will be exhausted by the private sector," Dr. Minnis said.

Approximately the government spends \$50 million annually renting property for government departments like the passport office, the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Immigration.

These new buildings will accommodate private offices as well as it will complement work of the over the hill initiative, providing additional employment in the area.

He said, "It will complement the work of the Over-the-Hill initiative, spurring additional economic activity and provid-

ing additional employment in this community during construction and for ongoing maintenance."

"In time we hope to build a Native Food Market Over-the-Hill. A Native Food Market will feature Bahamian architecture and art. It will be a major economic empowerment project and revitalization project."

"Such a Native Food Market will welcome scores of Bahamians and tourists and provide business opportunities for many Bahamians to sell their goods and products."

The market will have a variety of foods and products for sale from ice cream to potato and cassava bread, tamarind sauce, and other Bahamians treats.

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Construction Industry Facing Many Challenges



Minister of Public Works, the Hon. Desmond Bannister told contractors in Grand Bahama that the construction industry is facing many challenges.

He said the two most pressing of those challenges are the commencement of the enforcement of the Construction Contractor's Act and the issue of E-procurement, a new procedure recently launched by the Ministry of Finance.

"Getting a contract from the Government is not going to be an automatic thing," said Minister Bannister. "There are certain procedures that are being put in place and which will have to be followed."

"Those Contractors who decided not to show up to this seminar, will miss out on some very important information which will be needed as we move forward," said Minister Bannister.

The Minister officially opened the Contractor's Seminar, on Thursday, July 26, 2018, at the Church of the Ascension Hall. The event was held by the Ministry of Public Works

■ See CONSTRUCTION / page 8...

■ See CONSTRUCTION / page 8...

Gov't Accused of Hurting The Poor

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mr. Davis added that what the bill hopes to achieve is already incorporated in other pieces of legislation, in policies and programmes like Urban Renewal and in agencies like the Ministry of Works, the Department of Environmental Health, the Real Property Act and in Customs regulations.

PLP Deputy, Chester Cooper, in his contribution to the debate expressed doubt that the proposed legislation will work as structured.

In fact, he charged that it's not particularly well thought out in terms of the needs of

the impacted communities and that he doesn't believe for a second that it's about helping the poor, but rather the ones to benefit are the rich.

"The rich people own the land, not the poor people. The rich people who don't live Over-the-Hill are the ones who own the buildings and apartment complexes, not the poor in mass," he said.

"The rich people are landlords – they collect rent, the poor people Over-the-Hill pay rent. This is pretty simple stuff."

"The poor people don't, by and large, own these prop-

erties which the incentives are supposed to help."

"Secondly, my research tells me, that many of the businesses in these areas are owned by Chinese and other foreigners, and I have no issue with Chinese or other foreigners, but I make the point, that it's not the poor Bahamian people who are going to be advantaged by this bill, the people you say you care for," said the MP for Exuma and Ragged Island.

Pointing to what he called gaping flaws, house members heard how the bill fails to specify which Minister the waiver of customs, excise taxes, real property taxes and

business license fees will fall under.

He also took issue with the penalty that companies would only pay a fine if the law is broken, but individuals get sent to prison; that no regulations were laid or established prior to the debate, there's no direct indication of exactly where the zones are and that the provision that the company's duty free vehicle be used for activities of the zone is simply impossible to enforce.

Mr. Cooper said, "It would appear to be very difficult to monitor the menu of concessions to

ensure that non-eligible entities and individuals are not benefiting.

"More thorough analytical work should have come before this legislation, if only to determine whether or not it was economically feasible to proceed in this way at this time.

"As a rule, re-urbanization tends to favor the "haves" over the "have-nots" at the end of the day.

"And that is the crux of my concern at the end of this all. That at the end of this exercise, those who will have, will have more, and those who have next

to nothing perhaps will have even less," Mr. Cooper said.

Despite the issues and concerns seemingly plaguing the bill, Golden Isles MP, Vaughn Miller said he's sufficiently satisfied it has the potential to impact and bring social and economic restoration and rejuvenation to depressed and challenged heritage areas.

However, he made an appeal for the oldest of the heritage villages on New Providence, Adelaide, to be added to the list of communities for the economic empowerment zone.

CONCH POISONING VICTIMS INCREASING

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

fresh water.

Dr. Sands said, "there will be inspection teams verifying that people are actually following the recommended approach to conch preparation.

"The legislation allows for the various government agencies to shut down any persons who do not comply with the requirements of the law."

While conch poisoning

cases predominately stem from Potter's Cay, there are other venues as well.

The Minister said, "we can now confirm that the vibro cases have been primarily at Potter's Cay. As we get additional information then we will advise the public," the health minister said.

Dr. Sands further advises the public that if they consume conch from places that do not use fresh water, then they will be doing so at their own risk.

Minister of Marine Resources Michael Pintard said that the Ministry of Environment does regular inspections of these areas to ensure that these stalls are up to code.

His Ministry also has persons stationed at these locations that sell raw conch cuisines.

Proprietors and landlords are reminded of their responsibility to provide access to running water in restaurants and food preparation establishments.

GOT NEWS?
Please call The Bahama Journal's News TIP LINE at 356-7254 and let us know!



PUBLIC NOTICE

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTHERN RECREATION GROUNDS

The Government of The Bahamas through the Ministry of Public Works seeks to engage suitable contractors for Phase 1 of the Redevelopment of the Southern Recreation Grounds located Baillou Hill Road, and Cockburn Street.

Schedule for Tender Opening

Companies interested in tendering may obtain Tender Documents at:

Architectural Section
Department of Public Works
1st Floor North Wing
Ministry of Public Works
John F. Kennedy Drive
Nassau, Bahamas

A compact disc containing the Tender documents may be collected between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. for a non-refundable fee of \$25.00 as of Tuesday, 25th June, 2018. Applicants will be responsible to print hard copies of the Tender Documents for their use. Documents are to be completed in accordance with the instructions therein. The non-refundable fee must be paid in cash at the Accounts Section on the 3rd floor of the Ministry of Public Works Building, John F. Kennedy Drive.

All tender bids **must** include the following:

- Completed Tender Document
- Completed pre-qualification document
- Current Business License,
- Current National Insurance Compliance Letter
- Value Added Tax Registrant Number or Tax Identification Number (T.I.N.) Registrant Number.
- Current Tax Compliance Certificate.
- Proof of ability to obtain Contractors All Risk Insurance for the contract value and period.

Sealed Tender submissions should be addressed to the Permanent Secretary Ministry Of Public Works and are to be deposited in the Tender Box located at:

Tenders Board
Ministry of Finance
Ground Floor
Sir Cecil Wallace Whitfield Building
West Bay Street
Nassau, Bahamas

Tender submissions will be received no later than 10:00 am, Tuesday 24th July 2018.

All persons who submit bids are invited to attend the Tender opening at 10:00am, 24th July 2018.

Please note the Ministry Of Public Works reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

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Pictured from left: Marlon Johnson, Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance; Cecilia Strachan, Permanent Secretary, Department of Labour; the Hon. Dion Foulkes, Minister of Labour; the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance; Michael Nelson, IDB Acting Country Representative and Timyka Davis, IDB Labour Market Specialist. (Photo courtesy of the Ministry of Finance)

is financed by the government, according to Chief of Operations, Michael Nelson.

"This programme is a result of significant partnership work between the IDB and the government of The Bahamas over the past decade," he said.

"This includes the IDB-Financed, Wage, and Productivity Survey which was a survey of some 2,378 Bahamian firms which concluded that among the difficulties was finding the right skill set within the labour market, specifically with relation to job skills as well as applicants lack of experience,

and lack of soft skills.

"As such, there has been some challenge in improving labour productivity in the country."

Minister of Finance, Deputy Prime Minister, K. Peter Turnquest said that the overall objective of the loan project aims to increase employability and improve access to quality jobs for Bahamians ages 16-40, especially in areas such as maritime, medical services, information technology and telecommunications, targeted at the unemployed and school leavers.

According to the DPM there are three components

funded through the loan agreement.

"The Apprenticeship component is expected to, among other things, expand the ongoing National Training Agency (NTA) pre-apprenticeship initiative to include an additional 1,100 participants.

"Furthermore, there will be a new training programme for advanced participants.

"The number of persons expected to be recruited for the advanced one year programme is 1,350. All persons selected to this programme will receive a

stipend.

"I note that stringent measures will be undertaken to ensure that resources are disbursed in accordance with prescribed policies.

"Moreover, requisite evaluations will be undertaken to determine whether this initiative is progressing satisfactorily to achieve its stated objective," said Mr. Turnquest.

Labour Minister, Senator Dion Foulkes said the programme looks to ease the shortage of trained Bahamians in specific skills.

"What this programme

is going to do, and we know it's going to be successful, we are going to train Bahamian men and women, in the skills that are currently demanded by the market.

"Our curricula in most of our institutions is outdated and going back in the 70's and 80's," he said.

"This programme is a modern skills and apprenticeship programme and we are going to target certain areas especially ICT skills and some hard skills also.

"The idea is as the economy grows, we want

Bahamians to take advantage of the opportunities here," said Mr. Foulkes.

As for the difference between this programme and that of the National Training Agency's soft skills programme introduced by the Christie administration, the DPM said the programme is simply an add on targeted at more specific hardcore technical and vocational skills.

The payment period attached to the loan is 25 years, with an interest rate subject to libor and currently stands at 3.06 per cent.

Construction at A. F. Adderley School Expected to End in Time for School Re-opening

Construction of 25 classrooms and a new administration wing at A.F. Adderley Junior High School are "progressing steadily" and expected to be finished in time for September, a few months ahead of the projected date.

Tim Johnson, chief architect, Ministry of Public Works, said the \$14 million project began in January 2017 and has a completion date of November 2018.

"The contractor is

pushing for September," said Mr. Johnson. "If we keep at the pace we are going, we probably can [be finished]."

The scope of works also includes a new computer room, staff lounge, lunch pavilion, additional parking lot spaces and a connection of the new facility to the old facility.

"The contractor is working on linking the two administration wings together. All the classrooms are basically com-

plete; the building is almost complete."

Mr. Johnson reported that once construction is finished, the portion of the school's population that operates from Workers House on Tonique Williams-Darling Highway can return to the main campus.

Ranmar Precision Development has the contract to carry out the work to the school.

A.F. Adderley has a population of approximately 800 students.



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.

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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.

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- 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.

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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
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- 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

A4

The Bahama Journal
Friday - July 27th, 2018

NationalNEWS

**MINISTRY OF LABOUR
THE PRICE CONTROL ACT, 1971
CHAPTER 339
THE PRICE CONTROL (GASOLINE & DIESEL OIL)
(AMENDMENT) () REGULATIONS, 2011**

The public is advised that prices as shown in the Schedule for LEAD FREE GASOLINE and ULTRA LOW SULPHUR DIESEL OIL (ULSD) sold by RUBIS Bahamas Limited and, LEAD FREE GASOLINE sold by Freeport Oil Company Limited (FOCOL) will become effective on Tuesday, July 24, 2018.

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PLACE	ARTICLE	MAXIMUM WHOLESALE SELLING PRICE PER U.S. GALLON		MAXIMUM RETAIL SELLING PRICE PER U.S. GALLON (VAT Inclusive)
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RUBIS Bahamas Ltd.	LEAD FREE ULSD	4.40 4.27	4.40 4.27	5.01 4.65
PART B FREEPORT, G.B.				
Freeport Oil Co. Ltd.	ULSD	4.41	4.41	5.01
PART C GRAND BAHAMA (NOT FREEPORT)				
RUBIS Bahamas Ltd.	LEAD FREE ULSD	4.29 4.14	4.47 4.32	5.05 4.70
PART D ABACO, ANDROS ELEUTHERA				
RUBIS Bahamas Ltd.	LEAD FREE ULSD	4.40 4.28	4.64 4.46	5.19 4.84
PART E ALL OTHER FAMILY ISLANDS				
RUBIS Bahamas Ltd.	LEAD FREE ULSD	4.41 4.30	4.66 4.46	5.22 4.86

ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY**PUBLIC NOTICE****OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER****TENDER INVITATION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A SERVICE PROVIDER
TO CONDUCT A LAND AUDIT WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS**

The Office of the Prime Minister invites tenders for the appointment of a Service Provider to conduct a Land Audit within the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

All companies are invited to visit the Notice's section on the Government's website at www.bahamas.gov.bs, or to collect the Terms of Reference for the tender between the hours of 9:30 am – 4:00 pm Monday through Friday from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Cecil Wallace Whitfield Centre
Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas

Office of the Prime Minister seeks the services of a Service Provider to conduct a Land Audit throughout the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in order to establish all land that is owned, leased or licensed for use by the Government. The Land Audit will build upon the work executed under The Bahamas Land Use, Policy and Administration Project, 2009 (LUPAP).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Government will engage the Service Provider to conduct the Land Audit which will:

- i) Spatially identify land and give ownership information within the study area in coordination with the Surveyor General;
- ii) Conduct a comprehensive assessment of all properties within the study area;
- iii) Create a user-friendly GIS database with ownership categories with useful fields that will assist in the planning and packaging of interventions;
- iv) Create a Land Audit report (maps, tables and graphs, as applicable) for each island; &
- v) In particular regarding Crown Lands and Treasury Lands, to determine:
 - a) What Government Land has been alienated for use by others, either in the form of lease holds, licenses, authorizations, joint ventures and contractual obligations;
 - b) What Government Land is presently under commitments to be alienated, either via grant, lease holds or other means which has not yet been perfected;
 - c) What Government Land is presently under consideration to be divested either via grant, conveyance, lease or other means which has not yet been perfected; and
 - d) Whether Government Land leased to third parties is being used for its agreed upon purpose.

DELIVERABLES

- i) A Land Audit report containing methodology and Land Audit findings and recommendations;
- ii) A Land Audit database with Title Documents as applicable and information on structures in the study area, submitted in Microsoft SQL or IBM Data base 2 format;
- iii) An A0 map size with an overlay of subject land parcels; and
- iv) 2x copies of DVDs/ CDs with GIS spatial datasets (WGS84 ESRI or ITRF shapefiles) of the above.

Bids must be submitted and sealed in an envelope clearly marked: **APPOINTMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDER TO CONDUCT A LAND AUDIT WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS**. All Tenders must be received no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, 3rd August, 2018, and addressed to:

Chairman, The Tender Board
c/o Acting Financial Secretary
Ministry of Finance
Cecil Wallace Whitfield Centre
P. O. Box N-3107
Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas

No increase, decrease, discount, reduction or any other changes to initial bid price(s) or conditions will be permitted after the opening of bids. Clarification of bids, as requested by the Office of the Prime Minister, may be accepted provided that the substance and prices of the bid remain unchanged.

Information submitted becomes the property of the Office of the Prime Minister, who reserves the right to reject any or all bids received.

Permanent Secretary

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUILDINGS REGULATIONS ACT, 1971****NOTICE OF DEMOLITION ORDER
IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ORDER**

To: Mr. Jerry Pratt
Nassau, Bahamas

**REF: A SINGLE STOREY WOODEN BUILDING LOCATED ON RUPERT DEAN
AND PRATT ALLEY NASSAU, BAHAMAS**

File No. 2046

1.

TAKE NOTICE that the Minister Of Public Works in pursuance of the powers conferred upon the Minister by Section 10 (1)(b)(i) of the *Buildings Regulations Act Chapter 188*, has made an Order dated the February 20, 2018 copy of which has been affixed on the premises requiring you the owner of the respective premises described above to remedy the cause of the said building or structure being in a ruinous dilapidated state, by demolishing the said building and removing any rubbish resulting from the demolition within sixty (60) days from the date of the Order.

Craig Delaney
Buildings Control Officer

March 15, 2018

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUILDINGS REGULATIONS ACT, 1971****NOTICE OF DEMOLITION ORDER
IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ORDER**

To: Mr. Mario Newbold
No. 37 Hospital Lane & Dunmore Street
Nassau, Bahamas

**REF: A TWO STOREY WOODEN BUILDING LOCATED ON NO. 37 HOSPITAL
LANE & DUNMORE STREET NASSAU, BAHAMAS**

File No. 2047

1.

TAKE NOTICE that the Minister Of Public Works in pursuance of the powers conferred upon the Minister by Section 10 (1)(b)(i) of the *Buildings Regulations Act Chapter 188*, has made an Order dated the February 20, 2018 copy of which has been affixed on the premises requiring you the owner of the respective premises described above to remedy the cause of the said building or structure being in a ruinous dilapidated state, by demolishing the said building and removing any rubbish resulting from the demolition within sixty (60) days from the date of the Order.

Craig Delaney
Buildings Control Officer

March 15, 2018

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUILDINGS REGULATIONS ACT, 1971****NOTICE OF DEMOLITION ORDER
IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ORDER**

To: Ms. Beryl Brown
No. 3 Dumping Ground & Ferguson Street
Nassau, Bahamas

**REF: A SINGLE STOREY WOODEN BUILDING LOCATED AT NO. 3
DUMPING GROUND CORNER & FERGUSON STREET NASSAU, BAHAMAS**

File No. 2045

1.

TAKE NOTICE that the Minister Of Public Works in pursuance of the powers conferred upon the Minister by Section 10 (1)(b)(i) of the *Buildings Regulations Act Chapter 188*, has made an Order dated the February 20, 2018 copy of which has been affixed on the premises requiring you the owner of the respective premises described above to remedy the cause of the said building or structure being in a ruinous dilapidated state, by demolishing the said building and removing any rubbish resulting from the demolition within sixty (60) days from the date of the Order.

Craig Delaney
Buildings Control Officer

March 15, 2018

**NOTICE****MINISTRY OF LABOUR****DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR**

Please be advised that the following trade unions are in compliance with Section 30 (1), (2), and (3) of the Industrial Relations Act Ch321, Statue Law of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas:

- Bahamas Educators Managerial Union (BEMU)
- Bahamas Electrical Utility Managerial Union (BEUMU)
- Bahamas Electrical Workers Union (BEWU)
- Bahamas Financial Services Management Workers Union (BFSMU)
- Bahamas Hotel and Restaurants Employers Association (BHEA)
- Bahamas Industrial Engineers Managers & Supervisory Union (BIEMSU)
- Bahamas Musicians Entertainers Union (BMEU)
- Bahamas Utilities Services & Allied Workers Union (BUSAWU)
- Commonwealth Union of Hotel Services
- Union of Central Bankers (UCB)
- Union of Public Officers (UPO)
- Union of Tertiary Educators of The Bahamas (UTEB)

Signed
Mr. John Pinder
Registrar of Trade Unions
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

**NOTICE****DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR****NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF TRADE UNIONS**

The public is hereby notified that the Registration of the following Trade Unions has been cancelled pursuant to section 15(b) of the Industrial Relations Act Chapter 321 Statue Laws of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

- BahamaLand Construction & Allied Workers Union
- Bahamas Casino Employees Association
- Bahamas Cement, Marine, Maintenance Building Construction & Allied Workers Union
- Bahamas Marine Dock Construction & Refinery Workers Union
- Bahamas Maritime Port & Allied Workers Union
- Bahamas Petroleum Retailers Association
- Bahamas Security Allied Workers Union
- Commonwealth Transport Distributive & Allied Workers Union
- Commonwealth Transport Union
- Eastside Stevedores Union
- Optometric Association of The Bahamas
- Public Service Drivers Union
- The Bahamas Containers Port & Allied Workers Union
- United Brotherhood Long shore Union

Mr. John Pinder
Registrar of Trade Unions

**GOVERNMENT NOTICE**

**MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

INVITATION FOR TENDER**Residential Waste Collection New Providence**

The Government of The Bahamas is inviting Tenders for the weekly collection of residential waste in New Providence.

Interested parties may obtain further information, including eligibility to participate and may collect the bidding document(s) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per document, as of July 2, 2018 from:

The Department of Environmental Health Services
Farrington Road
Nassau Bahamas
Tel: (242)-302-5150, 322-8037

Between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

The method of payment will be certified cheque or cash. Tenders are to be submitted in triplicate (3) in a sealed envelope(s) and addressed to:

The Tenders Board
c/o The Financial Secretary
Ministry of Finance
Cecil V. Wallace Whitfield Centre
P.O. Box N-3017
Nassau, The Bahamas

No later than 4:30 p.m. on the 13th August, 2018

Tenders will be opened at 10: 00 a.m. on the 14th August, 2018 at the office of the Tenders Board, Ministry of Finance. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all Tenders.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL PLANNING

The public is hereby notified that a Site Plan Application (SPA/5/2018) on behalf of Mosko Group Limited is being reviewed by the Department of Physical Planning for presentation to the Town Planning Committee.

The applicant is requesting preliminary approval to develop a cemetery on a 7.76-acre tract of land, situated on the southern side of Soldier Road and immediately east of Kennedy

Subdivision. The proposed site also is bounded in part on the eastern boundary by Windsor Place Subdivision.

The preliminary site plan and file for the proposed development are available for viewing at the Department of Physical Planning, located in the Aventura Plaza on John F. Kennedy Drive, during normal working hours.

Interested persons and organisations are invited to review the information on file and provide written comments to the Acting Director of Physical Planning within twenty-one (21) days of the date of this notice.

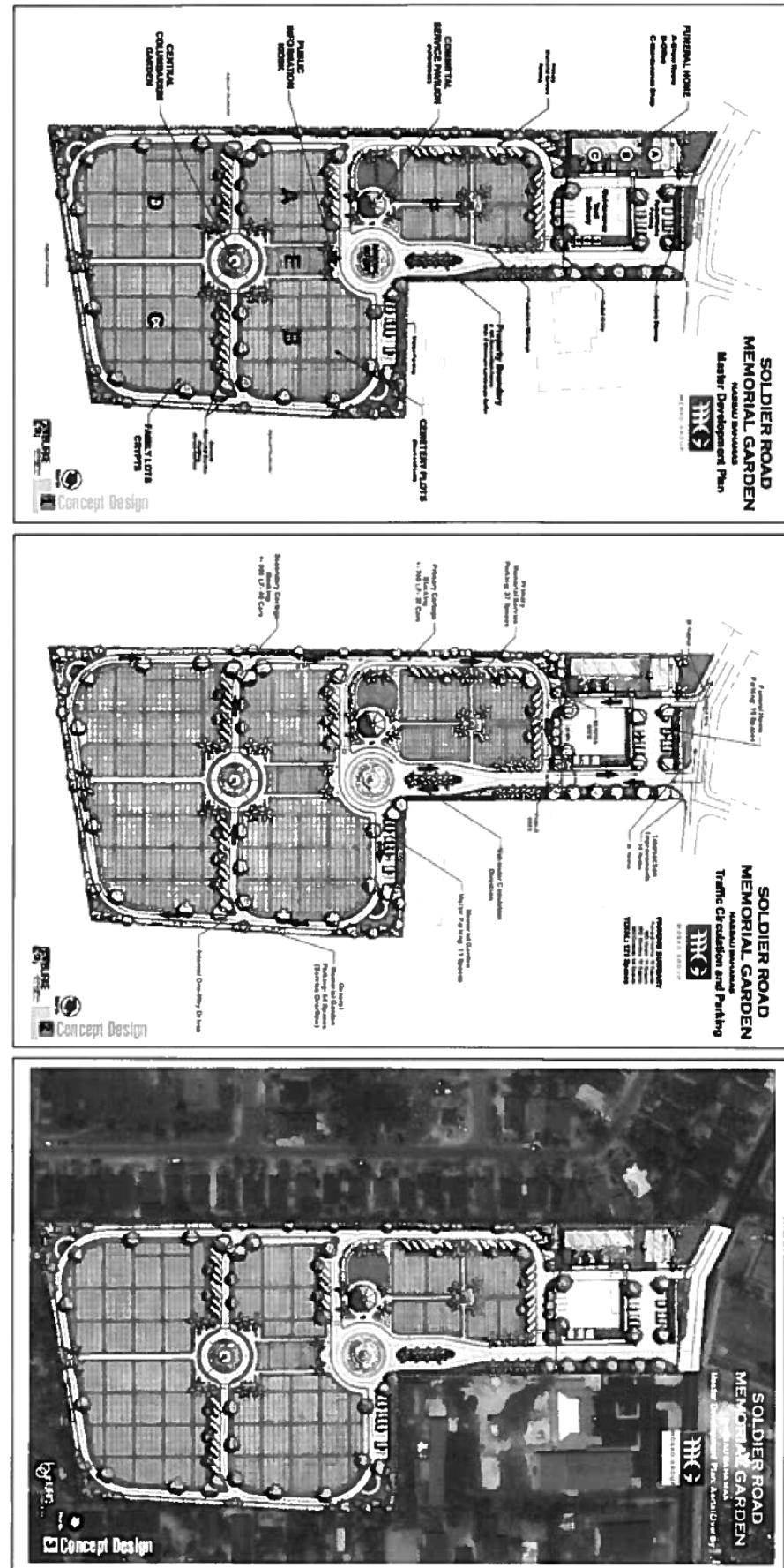
Submissions should be made via P.O. Box N -1611 Nassau, Bahamas or fax (242) 328 – 3206.

Further inquiries should be made to the Acting Director via Tel: (242)322-7550/2 or (242)328-3202 or CHARLESZONICLE@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS

Signed

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Construction Industry Facing Many Challenges

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

and was designed to update Grand Bahamian contractors on some of the new procedures set to be implemented by the Ministry.

Some of the topics covered during the seminar included pre-qualification documents and assessment criteria, Construction Contractor's Act, contract pricing and payment procedures, project management and site safety and E-procurement.

He thanked those who attended the seminar, but expressed disappointment in what he called a "poor showing" for Grand Bahama.

"We are introducing new procedures to the Ministry of Public Works, including our pre-qualification process and no one should take it for granted that they are going to get work from the Ministry of Public Works," said

Minister Bannister.

"All of you would be given a pre-qualification form and it will be important for each of you to pre-qualify. It is going to be a new era of transparency in how we do work. The world is changing so the information that we will be disseminating in this seminar will be very important."

Minister Bannister told the contractors that the success of the Ministry of Public Works is very much in the hands of the private sector, as the government seeks to develop the building environment in the country.

"What I have found since coming to the Ministry is that many contractors do not use the services of a Quantity Surveyor and often rely on their experiences to calculate and tender prices, which often leads to a wide range of prices coming into the Ministry of Public Works,"

said Minister Bannister.

"I have seen this too often, where someone comes in too low and someone comes in too high. Quantity Surveyors at my Ministry are working to develop standards to help contractors. In doing that we plan to bring uniformity to our pricing structure."

Minister Bannister noted that he is well aware that there are contractors who have their personal horror stories of trying to get paid in a timely fashion from the Ministry of Public Works for works that have already been completed.

He said the session on payment procedures was designed to give local contractors valuable insight on all of the information that is required when an invoice is submitted, so as to minimize the amount of time it takes for them to be paid.

"But I am not going to pretend that all of the prob-

lems are with the contractors," said Minister Bannister. "Some of the delays in payment are within the Ministry. I say we have to do a better job, because when people work, they would like to be paid."

"So, it is very important that you, as the contractor, do your part and it is very important that we in the Ministry do our part."

Minister Bannister said that the Ministry of Public Works, in collaboration with the Department of Information Technology is in the process of updating the Contractor's Database and also the Tendering and payment certificate process.

He said that in order to provide transparency and fair opportunity for all who participate in the government Capitol Works program, it is absolutely imperative that the database of qualified contractors be brought up to

date.

"This is the digital age and times have changed," said Minister Bannister. "You are in a totally new age for your profession. Contractors who do not keep up with the times, will likely be left out of many of the opportunities that will be advertised on Government websites."

"Contractors are being encouraged to take advantage of the many educational opportunities available locally, overseas and on the internet, to delve deeply into the art and science of project management. It is only then you can realize the type of profits that you need to realize, without skipping on the works and to enable your business to grow."

The Minister of Public Works told the Grand Bahama Contractors that the Ministry is in the process of tendering two major projects in Freeport – the total renovation of the Garnet Levarity Building and the Freeport Post Office.

"Those works will generate work among selected main contractors and many sub-contractors in specialist trades, as the scope includes special roof repairs, air conditioning, electrical and plumbing replacement, exterior and interior finishes, window repair and replacement and more."

"The Ministry of Public Works is going to change in the way that it is focused in serving our constituents and in this case our constituents are contractors. We are committed to giving service, but we are also committed to enforcing the standards which the Bahamian people hired us to enforce when we spend their money."



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