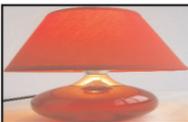


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The Bahama Journal

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VOL. 30 - NO. 199

TUESDAY - AUGUST 14TH, 2018

75 CENTS

Lawyers Slam Hotel Purchase

LEGAL ACTION PLANNED FOR DENYING CHILDREN SCHOOLING

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

Two of Her Majesty's Queens Counsels have roundly criticized the decision by the Minnis administration to purchase the Grand Lucayan Resort in Freeport Grand Bahama. Making their contributions to the now controversial decision on the Love 97 Radio Afternoon Show "On Point",



JUVENILE ARRAIGNED FOR MURDER

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON
 Journal Staff Writer

A teen boy, is one of four young men charged with two separate murders yesterday. The minor was formally charged along with 18-year-old, Reno Solomon of Acklins Street and 19-year-old Katraz Coakley of Yellow Elder in connection with the June 16th death of Ronald Williams.

Local activist group, Rights Bahamas plans to take legal action over children reportedly denied schooling.

In a statement, Rights Bahamas Education Committee Chairman, Dawrin Thompson argued that despite Education Minister, Jeffery Lloyd's decree that no child in The Bahamas shall be denied the right to an education, certain public schools continue to demand proof of status from students.

This he said constitutes a direct violation of the policy outlined by the Minister

■ See LAWYERS / page 2...

■ See ARRAIGNED / page 8...

■ See LEGAL / page 3...

AG DEFENDS GOV'T DECISION TO SEEK OUTSIDE COUNSEL

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

Attorney General, Carl Bethel has defended the government's decision to hire outside attorneys, in an effort to win its case to demolish Shantytowns. The AG argued that the cost of doing nothing is far greater, than the cost of

this. "I don't know why they would broadcast their terror at the thought of us having hired esteemed, experienced private sector counsel. "That's our right, and we've chosen to put the best foot forward that we could find, and they're all around the place issuing

press releases crying about it. "Well, I wish them well," he said. Rights Bahamas Attorney Fred Smith Q.C. said he doesn't understand why the government would even seek outside counsel. "They have very expert constitutional barristers in

their chambers who have been doing cases for decades. "In fact, they have repeatedly beat me in court, so the AG's chambers, they know their stuff," he said. Mr. Smith said he's been writing to the rele-



► Attorney General, Carl Bethel

■ See AG DEFENDS / page 2...

Irate Straw Vendor Demands Audit

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

One New Providence straw vendor is calling on the government to conduct an internal audit of the Straw Market's accounts department. Sharon Carey, who has been a straw vendor since 2001, claims she has been locked out of her stall from March 29th of this year, for alleged back payments. The only thing is, Carey said according to her records, her payment is up

to date and she feels wrongly accused. Since 2014, she said she has been having an issue with the accounts department for a similar incident, but she decided to drop the discrepancy and start anew. However, four years later, Carey is finding herself back in a situation, this time even worse. According to Carey, she tried to resolve the matter by taking what she felt were all the necessary steps to contact the rele-

vant authorities, including email correspondence back and forth. However, she said they would not take the time to review her receipts. "They kept bringing up 2014, because they checked my receipts and found nothing wrong," Carey said. Ms. Carey made the first payment on December 15, 2011 and has kept her receipts until March 29, 2018.

■ See IRATE / page 2...

New Supreme Court Justice Sworn In



► Keith Thompson was sworn in as Justice of the Supreme Court by Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling on Monday, August 13, 2018 at Government House. (BIS Photos/Derek Smith)

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

Lawyers Slam Hotel Purchase

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Attorneys Fred Smith and Maurice Ginton, two senior members of the Bahamas Bar condemned the thought of the purchase.

Mr. Smith said, "the purchase will represent a never-ending hemorrhage to the Public Treasury. The government should not let Hutchinson Whampoa off the hook so lightly. That company has collected some \$80 million from Insurance after the hurricane damaged the resort. If the government purchases the hotel, it would pay another \$200 million to buy it, repair it, and outfit

it. The tax payers in the Bahamas, excluding the people of Freeport should not have to bear that cost. After all, we in Freeport don't pay any Business license fees and Real Property Taxes. The Bahamian people would be taking on a white elephant.

He said, "Hutchinson under its agreement to own 50 per cent of the Freeport Harbour, 50 per cent of the Airport and 100 per cent of the Container Port was supposed to build and maintain a first class hotel and a Casino. That was the negotiated position. A purchase by the government would release them of that obligation," said Mr. Smith.

"Further, there will be no incentive for a new buyer to purchase the property," he said.

Attorney Ginton who has lived in Freeport since 1980 says, "the purchase of The Lucayan by the government will be a big mistake." He chastised the present government for its inability to do anything properly.

"There is no reason to buy that hotel," said Ginton. "The government is not in the business of owning hotels. They would still have to go out and get someone to run it. The government will be paying money for the management; that money will come off the top. For all

the shortfall, the government will have to produce the money.

"Rather than putting \$200 million in a hotel, the government should put that money into National Insurance. It would be easier for NIB to subsidize the people. What is the incentive to purchase the hotel?" he asked.

Mr. Ginton said, "a reasonable foreign investor, a hotelier said that he would not buy the hotel and make a fool of himself; and that he would rather lend the government money to buy it."

He was referring to a local

daily newspaper by Paul Wynn of The Wynn Group that was in negotiations with the Christie administration and subsequently with the new Free National Movement government for the purchase of the property.

Despite the numerous objections to the government's intention to make the purchase, including one from former Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham, it is understood that there is already Cabinet agreement to purchase the property.

Prime Minister Doctor Hubert Minnis said on the weekend that he will outline his government's plans later this week.

He said the hotel's closure will cause a domino effect resulting in the potential loss of more than 400 jobs. He said, "you also have the Our Lucaya Strip and therefore, the marketplace that will close. That's hundreds of jobs. The tour buses will not have any where to carry their guests, if there are any. The taxis will have problems. The loss of staff from the closure of the marketplace will have a greater impact on the supermarkets.

Dr. Minnis said that the commerce within Grand Bahama would be significantly affected with the hotel's closure.

AG DEFENDS GOV'T DECISION TO SEEK OUTSIDE COUNSEL

Continued from / PAGE 1...

vant authorities to put a hold on the August 10th Shantytown evacuation deadline.

"The simple thing is that before you go and destroy 7,000 people's homes they've simply asked the court to put a stop until such time, as they have their day in court, that is civilized behavior," Smith said.

"And I didn't just run to

the judge to do that, I wrote to the Attorney General's office, I wrote to the Prime Minister, I wrote to the Minister of Works from the week before.

"Letter, emails, requests to please let us take a moment, we'll file the case lets determine it in court, in the main time don't destroy people's homes.

"But they wouldn't even answer me. So they can't complain when people are running to court, and

they're pretending as if they were taken by surprise," said the Attorney.

Mr. Smith said they will continue with the case.

The government has eight weeks to respond and there will be a trial in due course.

He added that no date has been set and contrary to what the AG has said, the injunction doesn't expire on the 16th of August, but until the trial or until further order.

Irate Straw Vendor Demands Audit

Continued from / PAGE 1...

The vendor said she compared the market's history print out with her receipts and found that it was not adding up because according to her, the receipt records show that 24 payments made, were not accounted for in the Straw Market's account history.

"As far as I'm concerned, my account is up to date. They owe me, I don't owe them, and my shop shouldn't be closed," she said.

Ms. Carey said she also spoke to Minister of Works,

Bannister, who said he was not dealing with any matters related to the straw market.

"I stopped him and asked him if I could speak to him for a few minutes, he gave me a minute," she said.

"I introduced myself, he shook my hand, and I told him who I was.

"The moment I told him I was from the straw market, he said 'I'm not dealing with any business of the straw market, you've got to go to the authorities of the straw market.

"So, there it is, I have nobody to go to, to view my case."

Ms. Carey said she is hoping that this reaches the relevant authorities because she said she is "powerless."

"They're stealing my money, and I believe a lot of innocent people are being taken advantage of, I'm sure it's not happening to only me one.

"Every time you pay, you're paying over again.

"There's nobody to go to. I can't get a response from anyone.

"I'm asking someone to please have my account reviewed, because I need my shop open, they really inconvenienced my life," said the irate vendor.



PUBLIC NOTICE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

EXTENSION OF 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 has extended the invitation for tenders for the appointment of a Service Provider to conduct a Land Audit of Government Lands within the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

All companies are invited to visit the Notices 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

Tenders 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 5:00 pm on Friday, 31st August, 2018, and addressed to:

Chairman, The Tender Board
c/o Acting Financial Secretary
Ministry of Finance
Cecil Wallace Whitefield Centre
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.

There will be a Public Briefing on Wednesday, 15th August 2018, at the Ministry of Finance, at 10:00 am. During the Public Briefing questions regarding the Project and Terms of Reference will be addressed.

Permanent Secretary



Ministry Of Transport and Aviation Road Traffic Department

Please be advised that The Controller of the Road Traffic Department in accordance with the provision of the Road Traffic Act Chapter 220, hereby publishes his intentions to grant available, **Self-Drive Car/Scooters and Private Scheduled (School Bus) Franchises and Variations**.

Accordingly, the Department is presently accepting applications for the available licenses.

All application forms **MUST** be accompanied with the following documents:

SELF-DRIVE CARS/SCOOTER FRANCHISE

- A copy of the first (4) pages of a valid Passport
- A copy of National Insurance Card
- A current police record
- A letter of Intent (or Business Plan if Available)

PRIVATE SCHEDULE (SCHOOL BUS) FRANCHISE

- A Tentative agreement or contract from a recognised institution
- A copy of the first (4) pages of a valid passport
- A copy of National Insurance Card
- A current police record
- A copy of Driver's Public Service Badge

All applications should be submitted to the Franchise Unit, Road Traffic Department at The Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium no later than 4:00p.m. Friday August 10th 2018.

Prime Minister Plans to Meet Nurses Again

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Amid the brewing unrest between the Bahamas Nurses Union (BNU) and the Ministry of Labour, Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis said this past Saturday that he plans to review the matter and meet with them shortly.

He said, "I have asked the nurses if they can commence relevant communication with the relevant Ministry authority

and we would look at the total that is owed to them and we will meet again in three weeks, where we will come to an amicable resolution so that we can agree on how we approach a solution moving forward."

This came after the Prime Minister's meeting with the BNU this past Friday, which was supposed to determine the union's actions moving forward.

The BNU held a strike vote on June 7th when

377 nurses voted in favour of a strike, with just seven opposing.

The Ministry of Labour said since the islands of Inagua, Mayaguana, and San Salvador did not receive ballots, the vote was considered null and void.

Bahamas Nurses Union President Amancha Williams told the Journal last week that those votes would not make a difference, as there was not much representation on those islands.

LEGAL ACTION PLANNED FOR DENYING CHILDREN SCHOOLING

Continued from / PAGE 1...

who told educators "you have no right, no authority to deny anyone access to our education system.

"You cannot ask them whether they are here legally or illegally, what their status is or not."

The Minister was alluding to the fact that any effort to impede any student's access to the classroom violates both The Bahamas Education Act and the constitution.

It is also a fundamental breach of The United

Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 26.

The group said it intends to hold those who breach this right responsible, and is calling upon all schools in The Bahamas to cease and desist demanding proof of status at registration immediately.

Rights Bahamas is also calling upon the Department of Education to uphold its Minister's stated policy, the laws of The Bahamas and the international agreements

to which the country is signatory.

The group argues that if this problem is not rectified, it could result in many children being unable to register in time for class.

They said if the situation is not rectified immediately, it will have no choice but to take legal action against the government.

When contacted, the Education Minister said he had no comment on the issue.



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 sold by Freeport Oil Company Limited (FOCOL) became effective on Wednesday, July 25, 2018.

SCHEDULE

PLACE	ARTICLE	MAXIMUM WHOLESALE SELLING PRICE PER U.S. GALLON		MAXIMUM RETAIL SELLING PRICE PER U.S. GALLON (VAT INCLUSIVE)
		MAXIMUM SUPPLIERS' PRICE \$	MAXIMUM DISTRIBUTORS' PRICE \$	
PART B FREEPORT, G.B.		INCLUDING SEA FREIGHT		
Freeport Oil Co. Ltd.	LEAD FREE	4.41	4.41	5.01

ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY

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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!"

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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



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.

SCHEDULE

PLACE	ARTICLE	MAXIMUM WHOLESALE SELLING PRICE PER U.S. GALLON		MAXIMUM RETAIL SELLING PRICE PER U.S. GALLON (VAT Inclusive)
		MAXIMUM SUPPLIERS' PRICE \$	MAXIMUM DISTRIBUTORS' PRICE \$	
PART A				
NEW PROVIDENCE				
		I N C L U D I N G S E A F R E I G H T		
RUBIS Bahamas Ltd.	LEAD FREE ULSD	4.40	4.40	5.01
		4.27	4.27	4.65
PART B				
FREEPORT, G.B.				
		I N C L U D I N G S E A F R E I G H T		
Freeport Oil Co. Ltd.	ULSD	4.41	4.41	5.01
PART C				
GRAND BAHAMA (NOT FREEPORT)				
		I N C L U D I N G S E A F R E I G H T		
RUBIS Bahamas Ltd.	LEAD FREE ULSD	4.29	4.47	5.05
		4.14	4.32	4.70
PART D				
ABACO, ANDROS ELEUTHERA				
		N O T I N C L U D I N G S E A F R E I G H T		
RUBIS Bahamas Ltd.	LEAD FREE ULSD	4.40	4.64	5.19
		4.28	4.46	4.84
PART E				
ALL OTHER FAMILY ISLANDS				
		N O T I N C L U D I N G S E A F R E I G H T		
RUBIS Bahamas Ltd.	LEAD FREE ULSD	4.41	4.66	5.22
		4.30	4.46	4.86

ACTING 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 Delancy
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 Delancy
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 Delancy
Buildings Control Officer

March 15, 2018



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 Whitefield 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:

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

DELIVERABLES

- A Land Audit report containing methodology and Land Audit findings and recommendations;
- 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;
- An A0 map size with an overlay of subject land parcels; and
- 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 Whitefield 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

The FNM has lost the plot!**The FNM has betrayed its core principles.**

By Fred Smith, QC

The policy of the FNM government to Eradicate Haitian Settlements throughout the Bahamas betrays the very foundation of the FNM.

The government and much of the public regrettably do not seem to appreciate why Homeowners, ROHL and Rights Bahamas are fighting this openly discriminatory policy.

We do not wish people to live in squalor. And, the villages are neither composed mostly of illegals or squalid!

The reality is many of these villages are built properly, they do have sanitation, they have power and water, and they are closely knit familial and generally agriculturally sustaining communities of human beings who have a legal right to be in the Bahamas and on their land.

And, to the extent that some villages do not have sufficient sanitation, utilities or building controls, they should be implemented.

However, it is an unconstitutional overreaction and it is government overreach to destroy people's homes and property who have been there for up to 43 years in some cases.

Regrettably The government continues to promote mis-information.

Rights Bahamas and Fred Smith are not trying to prevent sanitation and building inspectors doing their jobs with respect to specific structures EVERYWHERE in the Bahamas not just in Haitian villages.

The same kind of enlightened policy that the prime minister and the government have created in the Over The Hill revitalization and economic empowerment zone policy should also be extended to other challenged communities to help them bring up their standards as well.

There is no rational explanation for treating them differently.

The truth is that the real explanation is an act of illegality by the government.

It is trying to do indirectly, that which it cannot lawfully do directly.

The government is targeting communities of Haitian descent and using the pretense of enforcing sanitation and building regulation laws to

1. Take away land from people who have property rights either as owners, tenants and or who are squatters [which is the way most of the older communities in The Bahamas were created in the first places] so as to be able to sell land at reduced rates to Bahamian citizens because land is becoming scarcer and in greater demand as New Providence grows.

2. Force the integration of people of Haitian descent into other areas to prevent Haitian ethnic communities existing.

3. Destroy these communities because they are alleged to provide safe Havens or, "underground railroads" for allegedly illegal immigrants.

The villages, interspersed throughout the Bahamas which are of predominately Haitian ethnic origin, should not be targeted for destruction for those three reasons.

In fact they should not be destroyed at all. That is simply inhumane and degrading to over 7000 human beings.

7000 is the figure Minister Dion Foulkes' and the shanty town task force estimate are the number of people that are going to be homeless when their homes are bulldozed.

Instead, I say they, these villages should be assisted and improved, as Mrs. Carron of the Tribune said, to become centers of cultural and business revitalization.

A little imagination, respect, thought and humanitarian approach would go along way to helping to create and foster wholesome such communities.

The environmental health services act and the building regulations act should be enforced reasonably as against ALL persons not just against "Haitians", many of whom are fellow citizens of the Bahamas of Haitian descent.

As to constitutionally protected property rights, many are tenants from landlords who have title and they are not squatting. It is illegal for the government to interfere in business relationships between private persons.

And to the extent that people have built homes without permits, inspections should be conducted to simply bring them up to code as opposed to demolishing peoples homes. And if someone cannot be, then it may be necessary to demolish them. But a policy of wholesale destruction of dozens of communities of human beings is simply unacceptable.

The policy of "eradication" is obviously intended for an ulterior purpose. It is plainly, as the government has openly said, to get back what might be crown land to be able to sell to Bahamians who are not of Haitian descent.

The prime minister made that very clear in a speech on July 13. He wants the land back to sell at low prices to Bahamians.

He completely misses the fact that according to Minister Foulkes' own task force statistics, over 70% of the people in the villages are Bahamian citizens and or have other status like permanent residency, spousal permits or work permits.

Ironically, the very reason he wants the land so that he can build low-cost housing for development and growth in New Providence is the very reason that many people have squatted and or have built these villages over the years, because there is a regrettable shortage of available housing for families in New Providence and even more so in the 'Abaco's and the rest of the family Islands.

So just where does PM Minnis and his ministers think that the 7000 human beings that they dispossess and whose homes they demolish are going to go with all of their belongings?

Perhaps their real intent, and they may as well come out and say it, is that they want to ship them all back to Haiti... whether they have legal status in the Bahamas or not.

So PM Minnis' immigration policy of "get your papers straight or get out" has simply now morphed into the current policy of "present your house papers but get out anyway"!

Most people living in most homes in the Bahamas couldn't produce building permits or occupancy certificates if the government came knocking at their door in the middle of the night demanding them.

Many homes have been sold over and over again and the current owner, tenant, resident or occupiers would never have seen a building permit or an occupancy certificate.

There is no law which allows the government to traverse the lands and demand the production of building permits or certificates of occupancy.

Just like there is no law which allows Immigration to set up roadblocks, conduct raids, break down peoples doors and randomly stop people on the street and demand the production of "papers".

It is unconstitutional to do indirectly that which cannot be done directly. The government cannot lawfully simply take people's property, and destroy it, without compensation, and use as an excuse building and sanitation laws to hide behind their real intent.

One day when the government decides on some illegal policy which directly affects you, your family or your friends, you may suddenly realize the value of the constitution and organizations like Rights Bahamas and lawyers like Fred Smith, whether you like them or not, who fight to protect every "Persons'" rights, no matter how unpopular that person, group of persons or cause might be on that occasion.

The Constitution provides for due process and it protects every "person" against discrimination despite their place of origin or ethnicity.

Our fellow citizens, permanent residents, spouses of Bahamians, and children born in the Bahamas who are of Haitian descent, are entitled, just like the rest of us, to the protection of the law!

And guess what?

Even Haitian citizens and persons who come to the Bahamas illegally, whether they are Dominican poachers or Haitian, Cuban or African migrants, they; ALL PERSONS; have rights!

Yes indeed, it seems to come as quite a shock to most Bahamians but; Haitians Have Rights Too!

The Prime Minister and his ministers have made it plain that their intention is to take back land from "Haitians" for Bahamians.

A more open declaration of ethnic warfare against persons of Haitian descent cannot have been more blatantly proclaimed.

What the government is doing is illegal and unconstitutional; plain and simple.

The very concept that the government believes that it has the dictatorial power to make over 7000 people of Haitian ethnic origin homeless overnight in the Bahamas in the 21st-century shows just how much this FNM government has completely Lost the Plot, lost touch with reality and fallen to the basest levels of rank discrimination.

They have betrayed the philosophical foundation of the FNM which was born fighting discrimination and victimization by the PLP.

Sir Cecil Wallace-Whitfield must be turning in his grave at what his FNM party has become...the very epitome of victimization and racial discrimination.

I cry shame on the FNM for becoming the party of open victimization and discrimination against people of Haitian ethnic origin.

I never thought I would see this day in our Bahamas!

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The Bahama
Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimaley P. Jones
Vice President/Operations

E D I T O R I A L

Lucayan Deal Nixed?

The Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis frames the issue this way: "...The Grand Lucayan, under no circumstances, can be allowed to close. If the Grand [Lucayan] fails, it will have a domino effect on the Lucaya strip with other vendors and small merchants who sell items to tourists [being impacted], and there will be no accommodation for the few guests who come into your shores..."

At another remove, Minister Dionisio D' Aguilar advises: "We are looking at the Grand Lucayan deal - it is very fluid-always in motion-The hotel is owned by Hutchison Whampoa ... there are no willing buyers right now for the price that they're asking..." Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Dionisio D' Aguilar.

And thereafter, some more very interesting verbiage: "...I think they have settled at a price that they want, so now it's either fish or cut bait. The government has to decide what it wants to do because in the past... if you go back, the Royal Oasis closed, and the...government failed to step forward in that instance and we all know the hugely negative impact that had on the economy of Freeport. The government is very mindful of what happened in the past and we are very cognizant that we have to do something. The specifics of what we are going to do are still not concluded yet..."

Specifics not concluded yet---of course, not concluded; precisely because good sense suggests that were the Government foolish enough to buy that hotel, the purest disaster would be on the way.

Some indication of this can be gleaned from input on the matter by financial analyst, Anthony Ferguson who explains: "The question becomes, is this the best use of my money? As a private investor, our objectives are very different. So, the government has a social responsibility and those will probably weigh heavily on their decision-making process. But I will caution them to be mindful, given the current budgetary state that you are in, that you too need to be responsible and try to maximize the return on any borrowings that you do for the future generations."

And thus, we also need an answer to the

question: Is this the best use of my money?
We answer: No!

Any Government backed buy-out in hard times like these is just so much bad news now being contemplated as VAT+ continues its rampage on the poor and the so-called middle classed Bahamian.

Indeed, the real question now arises for the Minnis-led People's Time Regime: What do you do if you paint yourself into a corner?

Well, as some amongst us know so very well: You wait for the paint to dry!

These thoughts now come to mind as we reflect on what now seems a disaster of the first order, one that promises to bring with it an object lesson of how the best of intentions quite often lead to even more unmerited suffering and loss.

And thus in what seems a rush to judgment, Dr. Minnis and his team seem bent on using up Government money [perhaps even 'borrowed' funds] to keep open the Grand Lucayan hotel.

As the public knows, this comes on the heel of a decision made by Wynn Group CEO Paul Wynn when he announced that he had pulled out of the deal.

Evidently, this brother did what he did precisely because the deal—as he saw it—was not in his interest.

All we know is this: If Wynn could not make it happen, why should anyone believe that WE can succeed!

As we have previously outlined, there are money and business-savvy folks out there who know what a bad deal looks like.

One such Bahamian is Anthony Ferguson who sees the [purchase of the Lucayan] as what he depicts as a "tough, tough" sell; adding: "You don't have the [air]lift. You don't have the entertainment. You don't have any number of things to actually even get the people there should you decide."

And thus: As this cookie crumbles, the current administration should walk this one back to some semblance of fiscal reality where they would know that there is no sense in throwing good borrowed money behind more of the same!

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NO BETTER READING



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.

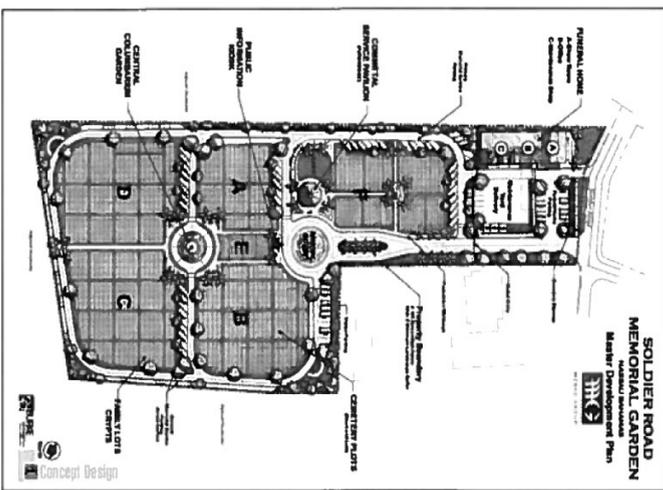
The preliminary site plan and file for the proposed development are available for viewing at the Department of Physical Planning, located in the Aventura Plaza on John F. Kennedy Drive, during normal working hours.

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.

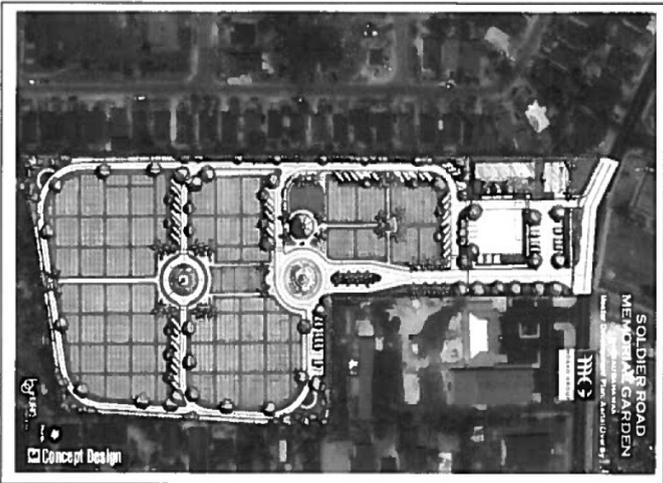
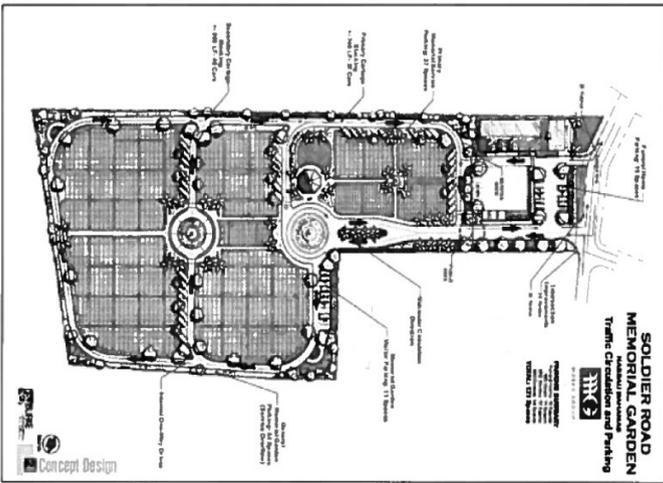
Submissions should be made via P.O. Box N -1611 Nassau, Bahamas or fax (242) 328 - 3206. Further inquiries should be made to the Acting Director via Tel: (242)322-7550/2 or (242)328-3202 or CHARLESZONICLE@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS

Signed

Charles B. Zonicle
Acting Director of Physical Planning



Masterplan



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 ULTRA LOW SULPHUR DIESEL OIL (ULSD) sold by SOL Petroleum Bahamas Limited will become effective on Tuesday, August 7, 2018.

SCHEDULE

PLACE	ARTICLE	MAXIMUM WHOLESALE SELLING PRICE PER U.S. GALLON		MAXIMUM RETAIL SELLING PRICE PER U.S. GALLON (VAT Inclusive)
		MAXIMUM SUPPLIERS' PRICE \$	MAXIMUM DISTRIBUTORS' PRICE \$	
PART A				
NEW PROVIDENCE				
INCLUDING SEA FREIGHT				
SOL Petroleum Bahamas Ltd.	ULSD	4.11	4.11	4.48
PART C				
GRAND BAHAMA (NOT FREEPORT)				
INCLUDING SEA FREIGHT				
SOL Petroleum Bahamas Ltd.	ULSD	3.98	4.16	4.54
PART D				
ABACO, ANDROS ELEUTHERA				
NOT INCLUDING SEA FREIGHT				
SOL Petroleum Bahamas Ltd.	ULSD	4.12	4.30	4.68
PART E				
ALL OTHER FAMILY ISLANDS				
NOT INCLUDING SEA FREIGHT				
SOL Petroleum Bahamas Ltd.	ULSD	4.13	4.30	4.69

ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY

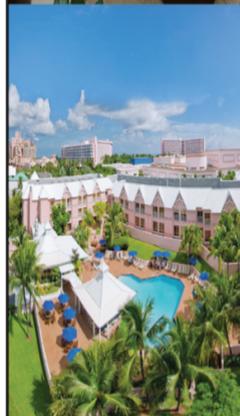


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JUVENILE ARRAIGNED FOR MURDER

Continued from / PAGE 1...

The trio was not required to enter a plea, and bail was denied.

Solomon and Coakley were remanded to The Bahamas Department of Corrections, while the minor was taken to the Adolescent Centre until October 24th for trial.

Coakley was represented by Attorney Donna Major and Solomon, Attorney Nathan Smith.

Meantime, Omar Thompson appeared before Deputy Chief Magistrate, Subusola Swain for the January 29th murder of Earnest Davis.

He too was not required to enter a plea and was not granted bail.

Thompson is scheduled to appear back in court October 10th at 10am.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA COMMITTEE AGREED

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

The Cabinet has approved a medical marijuana committee, although the names of the individuals have not been announced.

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis said, "we now have to write the various different entities - Chamber of Commerce, University of The Bahamas, COBUS (SGA), business leagues. There are different entities so that they can send their representative inclusive of the Christian Council."

Outspoken Baptist Bishop Simeon Hall, who served on the CARICOM Commission for marijuana will play an active role on

the marijuana committee.

The Prime Minister said the other prospective members should receive a letter within the next week or two.

He said, "afterwards, they will be provided with the CARICOM report, and we hope that they would be able to complete their work in 3-4 months as we have said."

The committee will host town meetings and focus groups on the topical issue, that has gotten an increasing number of Bahamians touting its economic and medicinal benefits.

The Prime Minister has said that once the public's position is determined, the matter will be brought to parliament for debate and a decision made on the way forward.

Minister of Tourism Makes Terminally Ill Child's Dream Come True

Minister D'Aguilar arranges for teenage boy with cancer to swim with the pigs.

Seventeen-year-old Grayson Richardson is battling a rare type of brain cancer called anaplastic astrocytoma. About 1,200 children under 19 are diagnosed with glioma (brain tumor) per year in the United States with a fraction of those being astrocytoma. Since being diagnosed Grayson has been a fighter. He has had a combination of two brain surgeries, forty-four rounds of chemotherapy and heavy doses of steroid used to keep brain swelling down. Since treatment, his body has changed dramatically and he is completely blind on the right side of both of his eyes, and is now unable

to read or speak clearly.

Recently, Grayson's family reached out to the Ministry of Tourism and shared his dream of swimming with the world-famous swimming pigs. Once Minister D'Aguilar heard Grayson's story he did everything in his power to make the teen's dream a reality.

"I am touched by this young man's story. In spite of his illness he still takes the time to volunteer and give back in any way that he can. The Ministry of Tourism is excited about the opportunity to share one of the many wonders of The Bahamas with Grayson in the hope of

making his days brighter," said Minister D'Aguilar.

The family traveled with Captain Bruce from Da Salty Pig excursion. Captain Bruce described the experience as very rewarding and humbling. "It was a very special day for all of us at Da Salty Pig, as we had the exceptional privilege to meet Grayson and make his dream of swimming with the pigs come true. It was an incredibly touching moment to see his smile when the first pig swam up to him. He was filled with so much joy and happiness."

Grayson's father Flint

Richardson said you could see the pure joy on Grayson's face when he heard the news that he would have the opportunity to go to Spanish Wells, Bahamas to swim with the pigs.

"Grayson has been wanting to swim with the pigs for years. It was truly a dream come true for him, in fact for all of us! He truly enjoyed putting his feet in the sand and moving through the beautiful waters. It was such an amazing experience, one our family will never forget. Thank you, Ministry of Tourism for making Grayson's dream come true."



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The Bahamas Maritime Authority is once again offering a scholarship to a young Bahamian, who is keen to train for an exciting and challenging career in the Maritime Industry.

The scholarship is inclusive of tuition, course materials, accommodation and travel. Commencing September 2019, the successful candidate will follow a 4-year degree programme at the State University New York Maritime College, New York, USA.

Upon completion of the degree, the qualified officer will be expected to serve on board a Bahamian flagged vessel for at least 2 years.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from:

Mrs. Katie Clarke
Nassau Branch Manager
Bahamas Maritime Authority

Website: www.bahamasmaritime.com

Email: scholarship@bahamasmaritime.com

Tel: +1-(242)-356-5772

Fax: +1-(242)-356-5889

Completed applications must be submitted in person or by post, with copies of academic certificates/transcripts and proof of Bahamian citizenship, no later than Friday, 7th September 2018. Qualified applicants will be contacted for interviews.

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