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VOL. 30 - NO. 221

TUESDAY - SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2018

75 CENTS

Alleged Police Killer Arraigned

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

The man accused of the September 12th murder of Aide de camp, Inspector Carlis Blatch, was yesterday arraigned before the courts.

Shackled, handcuffed and under the heavy guard of plain clothes and fatigued clad officers, he was escorted into court, as dozens of curious onlookers stood behind a barricade to catch a glimpse.

Once before Chief



▶ Timothy Cole, 48, arraigned in connection with the September 12th, 2018 murder of Aide-de-camp, Inspector Carlis Blatch (Journal file photo)

■ See ALLEGED / page 2...

Minnis Addresses Psychological Impact Of Crime

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis said yesterday that open murders like that of Inspector Carlis Blatch have a psychological impact on the Bahamian society.

"You can imagine what has happened to H.O. Nash and the family members, you can imagine

when somebody is raped in their home, or they're robbed in their home, the psychological impact, he said."

"We're just looking at capturing the criminal, but we're not looking at what it has done psychologically, not only to that family, but to the nation," he added.

■ See MINNIS / page 7...

GG PAYS RESPECTS TO FAMILY OF THE LATE POLICE INSPECTOR CARLIS BLATCH



▶ Governor General, Her Excellency the Most Hon. Dame Marguerite Pindling paid respects to the family of late Aide-de-Camp to the Governor General, Police Inspector Carlis Blatch at their home in Yellow Elder on Sunday, September 16, 2018. Photos show the Governor General visiting with the family and presenting flowers to them. (BIS Photos/Letisha Henderson)

Bahamians Asked To Obey Immigration Laws

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis yesterday said Bahamians must obey the law on the issue of illegal immigrants working here in The Bahamas.

Dr. Minnis told reporters on the sidelines of The National Skills Symposium at The National Training Agency, that the issue is not that these individuals are com-

ing seeking opportunities, as there is nothing wrong with it, but this he said must be done legally.

"We need employees, yes and we'll accept them legally, but if you allow illegals to continue to be employed under the radar and establish an underground economy, then that has great effect on your society and they will continue to come here once

■ See BAHAMIANS / page 7...

POLICEMAN'S KILLER NO STRANGER TO POLICE

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

According to Assistant Commissioner of Police Clayton Fernander the suspect in connection with this past Wednesday's police shooting is no stranger to police.

In fact, Mr. Fernander confirmed that 48-year-old Timothy Cole's criminal record stretches back for decades.

He said, "he was

involved in criminal activities from a juvenile we were dealing with this individual, and he continued to be in and out of prison and continue in his old ways."

At this point, the accused is said to be the only one police are looking for in this matter.

When questioned about the motive, investigators held strong to Blatch's

■ See KILLER / page 7...

PLP Searches For Candidates

The Progressive Liberal Party has announced that it is having its second module for aspirant candidates in Grand Bahama on the 28th September 2018 at the PLP's headquarters in Freeport.

The scheduled speakers for the occasion will be Professors Chris Curry and Michael Stevenson on the political history of the Bahamas; Edison Key; Obie Wilchcombe and Senator Michael Darville

are also scheduled to deliver presentations.

The Party's Leader Philip Brave Davis, its Deputy Leader Chester Cooper and the Chairman of the Party Senator Fred Mitchell will also speak

and be in Grand Bahama for the discussions.

A public meeting is planned for Saturday 29 September at the PLP's Headquarters beginning at

■ See PLP / page 7...

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Alleged Police Killer Arraigned

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt, Timothy Cole, the man who reportedly turned himself in just days ago, was formally charged with murder and armed robbery.

According to court dockets, Cole - by means of unlawful harm - intentionally caused Blatch's death. He's also accused of robbing the deceased of a navy blue Hyundai Elantra, valued at \$19,000 and a \$600 Samsung Note 8 cellphone.

The 48-year-old, was not required to enter a plea. Due to the nature of the crime, he also was denied granted bail. He was remanded to The Bahamas Department of Corrections until November 20th for service

of voluntary bill of indictment. Cole's attorney, Alexander Dorsett, who argued that his client had been beaten while in police custody, asked that he receive the necessary medical attention.

He also claimed Cole was concerned that his life may be in danger if he's placed in a cell with other inmates and requested to be isolated. The chief magistrate said she would refer his request to the Commissioner of

prisons as the court is not allowed to grant his request. Outside court, Cole's niece shouted "freedom, uncle Timmy." She was subsequently arrested.

National Advisory Committee (NAC) seeks Guidance for Local Government Proposal

Keeping with their theme: "Advancing Democracy by Empowering Residents", the National Advisory Committee (NAC) has spent the last few weeks soliciting the advice and guidance of various stakeholders in helping them draft the best implementation proposal possible for local government in New Providence. The NAC was launched in April 2018, by the Minnis administration under the Chairmanship of Senator Ranard Eric Henfield; and the committee has spent the past five months researching, debating and creating an effective local framework for the New Providence system. After engaging a wide cross section of residents from New Providence - from the general public, to the business community, to the media - about their plans for local government the committee and its subsidiary groups have now begun to engage with those immersed in the local government system

as practitioners in the Family Islands. "We started meetings three weeks ago with family island local government Chief Councilors, Chairmen and Council Members," note Henfield. "We visited Councils in Harbour Island and North Eleuthera, learning of their frustrations with the current system and the success stories. We reviewed with them our plans to implement a stronger system of local government in New Providence and asked for their advice, suggestions, or any changes they felt needed to be made to our proposals to improve our system." In comments to a local daily, retired Abaco Councilor David Ralph recently expressed his concern about the government's proposed plans. "Mr. Ralph and his wife are extremely passionate Bahamians and more specifically, Family Islanders that want to continue significantly contributing to the devel-

opment of their district and the country at large. The NAC read his article and we reached out to him because we appreciate his frustration with the Family Island local government system" Henfield explained. "The inability to raise revenue, the fact that so much of its allocation goes for salaries and the times when those impacted by certain decisions did not have a say in that decision making process is frustrating" he noted. "To add insult to injury, imagine residents seeing hundreds of millions of dollars leave their district for the capital to only get pittance returned. It's enough to discourage the best of us," said Henfield after several conversations with Mr. Ralph. "Ralph showed the committee and I the importance of putting in place a structure where local government and districts, can be effective with real autonomy. It makes no sense telling community leaders to be

innovative and to address the problems if you don't clearly legislate that they have the authority, sufficient revenue streams, adequate facilities and proper training". The NAC executives also met with the Auditor General on Friday, to discuss key elements of the committees' proposals, including a structure which would allow local government councils or districts to raise revenue themselves and have the autonomy to address their own needs out of that revenue, with a strong culture of transparency and accountability. "We have been getting essential feedback on how public finances are audited," said Ms. Brenda Bullard-Colebrooke, Acting Director of the Ministry of Local Government. "One of the most critical issues for us is accountability and transparency for the local government structure." This week, the committee plans to engage the Bahamian people through

a sustained media campaign, appearing on various local radio shows, to share some of its research and considerations along with its short to long term goals for implementation and re-evaluation. "From our focus groups, we've learned that many Nassuvians are not fully knowledgeable about local government or its functions," said the Senator. "They are however, very interested in the concept once explained and want to know more, so they can fully engage and participate." Henfield, Colebrooke along with NAC members such as Dianne Holowesko and Ed Fields, will spend next week visiting various stations to discuss the work they have done so far and to urge more Bahamians to share their ideas for an effective local government system. "Our proposal includes implementing this strong local government structure in 2020, but we know how important it is to

seek input from the wider community. I always remind persons I meet that when we are appointed or elected, we don't become know-it-alls. We aggressively and deliberately go out of our way to have honest dialogue with as many as we can," said Henfield. "After this week we plan to head to the University of The Bahamas to start 'Pop Up' booths to help solicit feedback from students and professors". In addition to these events the NAC has facilitated the creation of a Facebook page where citizens can send their questions, concerns or reservations to be reviewed. Persons can also send in emails to LGNP2020@gmail.com. "We realize we can't speak to everyone" said Colebrooke. "But we want to engage as many as we can so that Bahamians can be heard, before we launch our New Providence system."



MINISTRY OF FINANCE
PUBLIC TENDER
VESSEL FOR PURCHASE

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

Vessel	Description
Name of Vessel: Brailyn	Brailyn
Manufactured By: Unknown	Unknown
Make: Unknown	Unknown
Model Year: Unknown	Unknown

*The Brailyn is a 53ft. fibreglass hull fishing vessel with extensive modifications. This vessel is equipped with Twin Detroit 6V Marne Diesel engines and one (1) four cylinder Cummins 35kw generator.

Interested persons may view the vessel by visiting the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Base, located on Coral Harbour, between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Friday from September 10, 2018 to September 28, 2018.

Bids should be addressed in a sealed envelope to **The Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance, 1st Floor Cecil Wallace Whitfield Building, West Bay Street by 5:00 pm on September 28, 2018.**

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

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

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

Marlon Johnson
(Actg.) Financial Secretary



NOTICE

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 \$	
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Freeport Oil Co. Ltd.	LEAD FREE	4.41	4.41	5.01

ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY

PM Opens National Skills Symposium

BY LINDSAY THOMPSON

In keeping with the government's commitment to improve the standard of living for Bahamians, Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis officially launched the National Committee for Industry & Skills Development, on Monday, September 17, 2018 at the opening of the National Skills Symposium.

The national committee was established to closely examine the skills gap that presently obstructs economic growth. Administered by the Ministry of Labour, it comprises an effort to address the lack of sufficient skilled Bahamian workers to meet labour demands, now and in the future.

The launch of the National Skills Symposium, applauded by the Prime Minister, took place at the National Training Agency.

At the launch was Minister of Labour, Senator the Hon. Dion Foulkes, members of the Cabinet and other government officials, and representatives from the Inter-American Development Bank, the business community, trade unions, and educational institutions.

The Prime Minister said he was also pleased at the cross-section of representatives from Grand Bahama and the Family Islands taking part in the nation-wide initiative.

"Your attendance and active participation reflect your commitment to work-

ing collaboratively with government to improve the standard of living and quality of life for all citizens and residents of our beloved Bahamas," he said.

According to the Prime Minister, the progressive and sustainable economic development of The Bahamas is contingent on a number of factors, including education and training: "Skills development is therefore essential not only for economic growth but also the personal development of our people," he said.

In keeping with a pledge made in the government's 2017 Manifesto, the Ministry of Labour established the National Committee for Industry & Skills Development.

The committee has been given responsibility to:

Assess the current skill needs among key areas of the private sector;

Collect information on the skills challenges faced by various sectors and identify common themes and priorities;

Develop a comprehensive list of the competencies, credentials and certifications that are required to sustain growth in the economy;

Identify related challenges such as education, immigration, and other systemic issues, that affect skill development;

Create ongoing systems and fora for collaboration among industry leaders and associations to address the specific needs within their sectors and subsectors; and,

Prepare and submit a

report, with follow-up activities, and recommendations for the government to consider.

"As you meet today and deliberate on the theme, 'Forging Our Future: Assessing & Analyzing the Skills Gap in The Bahamas,' I reaffirm my government's commitment to education reform," the Prime Minister said.

He added: "We intend to ensure that Bahamians are adequately equipped to embrace and maximize employment opportunities and participate in our economy in productive and meaningful ways."

To this end, he said that there is yet much more to be done such as providing pre-school education for approximately 1,000 students in this new academic school year; free tuition at BTVI for students who meet eligibility requirements; and, shortly, commence the phased introduction of laptops for teachers and tablets for primary school students, thereby expanding exposure to and use of technology early in the teaching/learning process.

A purpose of the symposium would be to offer recommendations to the government in achieving its stated objective.

"We are all aware that the matter of job skills is a perennial one. Many of you here today, have been working diligently for many years to improve and build capacity in the workforce, and create increased opportunities for various industries," the Prime Minister said.

Statistics from the



► Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis addressing the National Skills Symposium at the National Training Agency. (BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe)

Department of Immigration confirm that thousands of work permits are approved on an annual basis for foreign workers. Many of these applications are approved primarily because employers claim and provide justification that in many instances Bahamians lack the requisite skills and/or certifications to fill various vacancies.

A key objective of the symposium is to identify skill sets and certifications that are needed with a view to reducing dependency on foreign workers and increasing local work force skills capacity, stimulating growth in the Bahamian economy and reducing the level of unemployment, the Prime Minister said.

The work of the committee will form the basis for the development and implementation of the best mechanisms to strengthen the educational system and, in particular, technical and vocational training programmes, he said.

In July of this year the Prime Minister opened the Department of Labour's

One-Stop-Service Centre, which enables job seekers and employers to interface more easily online.

"Undoubtedly, this support service will become an essential one as the numbers of persons in the job market increase due to their acquired employability skills," he said.

He said also looks forward to reviewing the comprehensive report from the multi-sectoral National Committee for Industry and Skills Development. The report will assist the government in linking the "critical needs" of employers with the curricula and training needed to assist the labour force in meeting the demands of the job market now and in the future.

"It is essential for the government to partner with stakeholders, including private industry associations and leaders, labour organizations, educational institutions, and others in civil society. Our long-term social and economic success depends upon our ability to harness the capabilities and maximize the

potential of our Bahamian workforce. This is a key priority for us all.

"This National Skills Symposium is, undoubtedly, a step that will facilitate the accomplishment of our goals," he said.

The National Committee was formed by Cabinet several months ago and includes representatives from the National Congress of Trade Unions Bahamas (NCTUB); the Commonwealth of The Bahamas Trade Union Congress (CBTUC); The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation; the National Training Agency (NTA); the University of The Bahamas (UB); University of The West Indies; LJM Maritime Academy; Southern University; The Bahamas Institute of Financial Services; The Bahamas Contractors Association; the Organization for Responsible Governance; and a number of private sector companies both in Nassau and Grand Bahama.

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NOTICE

The Royal Bahamas Defence Force invites bids to the Tenders Board for insurance coverage for The Royal Bahamas Defence Force's Building, Musical Instruments, and Warehouses.

- Specifications and schedules of assets can be obtained from the Ministry of Finance, Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- The quotes must be itemized to show the following:
 - Increased Value
 - Protection and Indemnity
- In providing quotations, reference the Buildings, the Musical Instruments and Warehouses for the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, the date for commencing coverage is the 30th September 2018 to 30th September 2020. The final date for submission is Friday 14th September 2018.

All submissions are to reach the Ministry of Finance by 5:00 p.m. on or before the above-mentioned date and to be addressed to the:

Financial Secretary
Cecil Wallace-Withfield Centre
P.O. Box N-3107
West Bay Street
New Providence, The Bahamas

NOTICE OF SITTING FOR NEW PROVIDENCE PORT AUTHORITY BOARD TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES UNDER THE BOAT REGISTRATION ACT CHAPTER (277) & COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT ACT, CHAPTER 278 A

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the New Providence Port Authority Board for New Providence and the Family Islands will be held at the Port Administration Building, Prince George Wharf on **TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 25th 2018** at 2:00 p.m. for the purpose of granting Licences under The Boat Registration Act Chapter 277 & Commercial Recreational Watercraft Act of Chapter 278 A.

Any Person entitled to and wishing to object to any application, should do so at least **six (6) days** before the date of the hearing, by submitting his/her objections in writing to the Board and to the applicant.

Persons attending the meeting on behalf of an applicant must produce written authorization at the meeting.

Applicants for renewals are not required to attend, unless they have received written notification from the New Providence Port Authority Board.

The under mentioned persons have applied for the grant of licences and renewal as specified below.

**BOAT REGISTRATION ACT
NEW MASTER'S LICENCE-NEW PROVIDENCE - 2018**

REG NO.	NAME	CLASS
NB/01/18	Brown Wilton Nassau, Bahamas	B
NB/02/18	Burrows Burnest Nassau, Bahamas	B
NB/03/18	Burrows Marcus P.O. BOX N-9886 Nassau, Bahamas	B
NB/04/18	Coakley Joel T. P.O. Box EE-17821 Nassau, Bahamas	A
NB/05/18	Farrington Gaston Nassau, Bahamas	B
NB/06/18	Flowers Nico P.O. BOX N-448 Nassau, Bahamas	B
NB/07/18	Hunt Ellis Keisha P.O. Box EE-17553 Nassau, Bahamas	B
NB/08/18	Leach Justin P.O Box N1702 Nassau, Bahamas	B
NB/09/18	Lowe Bronson P.O. Box N-4427 Nassau, Bahamas	A
NB/10/18	Miller Ramond Allan Drive Nassau, Bahamas	B
NB/11/18	Rahming Edrin P.O. Box EE-15670 Nassau, Bahamas	B

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REG NO.	NAME	CLASS
NB/12/18	Russell Gromiko P.O. BOX SP-62792 Nassau, Bahamas	B
NB/13/18	Wallace Gianni P.O. Box EE-17413 Nassau, Bahamas	B
NB/14/18	Wells Craig P.O. Box N-10386 Nassau, Bahamas	B

**BOAT REGISTRATION ACT
NEW OPERATOR'S LICENCE-NEW PROVIDENCE- 2018**

REG NO.	NAME	CLASS
NB/20/18	Miller Aldeon D. Sea Breeze Nassau, Bahamas	D

**THE BOAT REGISTRATION ACT
NEW BOAT LICENCE - FAMILY ISLAND -2018**

REG NO.	APPLICATION	BOAT NAME	CLASS	PASS	USE
NB/01/18	RAV Bahamas Bimini Bay Resort & Casino Bimini Bahamas	"Dorado" 139'x35'x7.5 Tug Barge	B	0	Tug-Barg
NB/02/18	Cartwright Roger T/A Long Island Boat Rentals Mangrove Bush Long Island, Bahamas	"Summertime" 19ft Sundance	B	4	Rental
NB/03/18	Cartwright Roger T/A Long Island Boat Rentals Mangrove Bush Long Island, Bahamas	"Sea Ya" 13ft Boston Whaler	B	4	Rental
NB/04/18	Cartwright Roger T/A Long Island Boat Rentals Mangrove Bush Long Island, Bahamas	"Let's Go" 19ft Sundance	B	4	Rental

**THE BOAT REGISTRATION ACT
NEW BOAT LICENCE - NEW PROVIDENCE -2018**

REG NO.	APPLICATION	BOAT NAME	CLASS	PASS	USE
NB/54/18	Alliea Campbell Nassau, Bahamas	"No Name" Cycle Boat	A	16	Tours
NB/55/18	Sunshine Cruises Limited Nassau, Bahamas	"Missy" 65ft Bonner Yacht	B	100	Charters

2

REG NO.	APPLICATION	BOAT NAME	CLASS	PASS	USE
NB/56/18	Ramatar Narine & Newbold Arjay Nassau, Bahamas	"Proud" 32ft Center Console	B	12	Rental

**NEW COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT ACT
NEW PROVIDENCE - 2018**

REG NO.	APPLICATION	BOAT NAME	CLASS	PASS	USE
NB/85/18	Smith Feodor St. Vincent Road Nassau, Bahamas	"No Name" 11ft Crystal Kayak	D	1	Rental
NB/86/18	Smith Feodor St. Vincent Road Nassau, Bahamas	"No Name" 11ft Crystal Kayak	D	1	Rental
NB/87/18	Smith Feodor St. Vincent Road Nassau, Bahamas	"No Name" 11ft Crystal Kayak	D	1	Rental
NB/88/18	Smith Feodor St. Vincent Road Nassau, Bahamas	"No Name" 11ft Crystal Kayak	D	1	Rental
NB/89/18	Smith Feodor St. Vincent Road Nassau, Bahamas	"No Name" 11ft Crystal Kayak	D	1	Rental
NB/90/18	Smith Feodor St. Vincent Road Nassau, Bahamas	"No Name" 11ft Crystal Kayak	D	1	Rental
NB/91/18	Smith Feodor St. Vincent Road Nassau, Bahamas	"No Name" 11ft Crystal Kayak	D	1	Rental
NB/92/18	Smith Feodor St. Vincent Road Nassau, Bahamas	"No Name" 11ft Crystal Kayak	D	1	Rental
NB/93/18	Smith Feodor St. Vincent Road Nassau, Bahamas	"No Name" 11ft Crystal Kayak	D	1	Rental
NB/94/18	Smith Feodor St. Vincent Road Nassau, Bahamas	"No Name" 11ft Crystal Kayak	D	1	Rental
NB/95/18	Smith Feodor St. Vincent Road Nassau, Bahamas	"No Name" 11ft Crystal Kayak	D	1	Rental

**RENEWAL OF JET SKI
UNDER THE COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT ACT
NEW PROVIDENCE - 2018**

REG NO.	APPLICATION	BOAT NAME	CLASS	PASS	USE
PIW 338	Wright Frankie Nassau, Bahamas	"No Name" 9ft Jet Ski	D	2	Rental

3

**BOAT REGISTRATION ACT
RENEWAL MASTER'S LICENCE-FAMILY ISLANDS - 2018**

REG NO.	NAME	CLASS
8881	Rolle Alfred Farmer's Cay Exuma Bahamas	A

**BOAT REGISTRATION ACT
RENEWAL MASTER'S LICENCE-NEW PROVIDENCE - 2018**

REG NO.	NAME	CLASS
8993	Burrows Brent J. II P.O. Box EE-16551 Nassau, Bahamas	A
9405	Major Mario P.O. Box SS-5702 Nassau, Bahamas	A
8230	McKenzie Jerrad P.O. Box SS-5545 Nassau, Bahamas	B
9135	Miller Jevonte J. Star Estates Nassau, Bahamas	A
9200	Nixon Julian P.O. Box N-10359 Nassau, Bahamas	B
9604	Patton Peter Buttercup Lane Nassau, Bahamas	A
9409	Poitier Rashad A. P.O. Box N-969 Nassau, Bahamas	B
1145	Smith Ellis H. P.O. Box N-7776 Nassau, Bahamas	A
9355	Wallace Phicol Nassau, Bahamas	A


E. Raymond King EdD
Commander, RBDF
Acting Port Controller

WARNING SHOT



By Jerry Hutchinson

An Interview with the Chairman of New Party

Warning Shot (WS): Good morning Chairman. Founding a new political party is a bold move by you is it not?

Chairman of New Party (CNP): Yes, it is but, we need to change this country and move it in a direction which benefits the entire Bahamas.

WS: Is not a new political party a bit dangerous? After all other than the PLP and FNM all other parties have been short lived.

CNP: That's true but, our polling and research indicates that the electorate is wary of both. After all, the FNM for an example arose from a leadership squabble between Pindling and Wallace-Whitfield. Their political philosophy is one and the same. Same garbage different bucket.

WS: Okay then what's your party's platform?

CNP: Our approach will involve addressing Freeport, the economy, education, national development, national security, the public service, crown land and corruption, tourism, government Boards and the Ministry of Works.

WS: Why Freeport?

CNP: We believe that supporting Freeport and honouring the terms of the Hawksbill Creek Agreement is the key to restoring Freeport and generating jobs for Bahamians. Our research has indicated that successive governments have breached the terms of the agreement and created the mess there. We will ensure that the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) honours its commitments to develop and promote Freeport. By the same token, our government will honour its undertakings and give the support necessary for its success. We do not believe that the central government should be micro managing Freeport. It worked quite well without them and we believe that the responsibilities of the GBPA has been usurped and we have seen the tragic results. We intend to reset the agreement, remove political interference, and let them do what they do best; create economic opportunities for investors and Bahamian, offer our tourist a magnificent, diverse experience and restore the dream which made Freeport the Magic City.

The Economy and Public Finances:

Our party will address these issues as one. Our Public Finance group believes that the current state of the country's finances is due in large part to a lack of credible financial information. Qualified accountants in the group are at a loss as to how some of the figures posited by government officials have been arrived at. We note for an example that while non-contributory pensions are shown as a liability no provision appears to have been made for legal judgements made against the government. These are numerous and stretch back for as much as 20 years. We intend to clear up these suits as a matter of priority. In addition, Blockchain and other technologies will be employed to upgrade government accounting systems and provide real time information to users.

Education:

The education system is a disaster. Experienced teachers tell us that they have never seen the likes of its failures. We intend to review the entire curriculum and see what best suits the Bahamas going forward. A national grade of "D" just won't do in a globalized economy. The good news is that to have a "D" there must be quite a few "A" students in the system. We intend as a first step to disaggregate the grades of our schools and publish the grades by school. We can then scale the schools by performance and take whatever corrective measures necessary. Our research shows that the University of the Bahamas is an expensive joke which in the long term may have a disastrous financial impact on the country. No one knows what the annual costs are; we will not continue subventions unless we know what it is.

National Security:

We totally disagree with the current approach to crime prevention and management. As tragic as murders are, murders are either planned or spontaneous. To say that you can control these crimes is therefore asinine. We will adopt a total approach to crime prevention. Our approach will therefore deal with traffic crimes, public incivility, house breaking, burglary and all those crimes which impact negatively on the quality of life of Bahamians. We also believe that the security forces have more than adequate funding to do this. In this regard, we will put in place time proven patrol and management systems which make our officers accountable and responsible for the current situation.

The Public Service:

Our research concludes that the major impediment to the delivery of quality, consistent service is political interference at all levels of the service. We will bring order to the service and make it the meritocracy that it once was. Government will set policy and allow our committed and talented Permanent Secretaries and technocrats to run the ministry's. Ministers will not interfere or try to micro manage their ministry's. We will leave the administration of the ministries to the professionals and those trained to perform the tasks necessary.

Crown Land:

The group of professionals tasked to examine this issue have now concluded their oral presentations.

Generally, they have found several very troubling situations which date back to at least the 1950, s. We just cannot measure or locate all of the Crown Land held for the Bahamian people by the Treasurer. There may or may not be the amount of Crown Land that we think we have. Also, it is

unclear if the Crown Land leases have complied with the terms and conditions under which the leases were granted. Remember these are leases; no one has the right to sell these lands. We will make the resolution of this important national concern a priority.

Corruption:

Our research has looked at this matter in some depth. Whilst there is cogent anecdotal evidence that corruption exists especially in areas of the public service we are still trying to quantify it. Currently this means that we are looking at the reports by the Auditor General relating to loss of funds by various government departments. The amounts are troubling; especially as no one appears to have been brought to account for it. For the present, we will not comment on the cases of former politicians currently before the courts. My party's position however differs from the current governments on corruption. There is corruption but, we do not believe that everyone especially public officers are corrupt.

Tourism:

Our research group has concluded that the Bahamas tourism product is winning the race to the bottom. Focus groups conclude that visitors are unhappy with the cost and choices available to them. As an example, tourist is seeking a Bahamian experience which should include cultural events such as junkanoo, indigenous foods, art and tours of historic sites. One visitor responding to the focus group said "if I wanted to see Disney World I would have stayed home" Visitors also complained about derelict public buildings and what they termed "price gouging" in Nassau and the Family Islands. We will fix this by responding positively to these concerns. We will also ban foreign straw products over a period of three years. Our Family Island Affairs group note that many islands especially Long Island produces quality straw products but currently have no market. We intend to encourage family Island straw production by making a market available to them. It is estimated that through this initiative many Family Island communities and their craftsmen and women will become self-sustaining over time.

Government Boards:

Government boards have long been a dumping ground for failed political candidates and political operators. No consideration is taken as to whether they contribute positively to the organization. Indeed, there is evidence to suggest that many appointees do more harm than good through abuse of their new-found power. We intend to change this especially on boards that require specialized expertise such as the Central bank, Aviation and other specialized areas. We are serious about progressing the Bahamas, so board members selected must have the necessary expertise to progress the government's policy agenda.

Ministry for Works:

By statute the Ministry of Works is responsible for the maintenance of all public buildings, road construction etc. Successive governments have in our view operated ultra vires authority by dismantling this ministry and replaced it with a Hodge Podge of inefficient, expensive entities who do not appear to be accountable to anyone save the politicians who gave them their contracts. One of the urgent recommendations of our public works group is that the Ministry of Works be reconstituted as a matter of urgency. An examination of works contracts appearing in the newspapers over the last 15 years leads them to believe that a savings of at least \$5 billion was possible if the works were done in house. Reconstituting this ministry will also ensure valuable, long term, good paying employment for nearly every tradesman/woman who graduated from BTVI in the last 5-7 years as well as overseas.

In addition, we intend to employ Bahamian men and women in the professional, technical fields including all phases of engineering, architecture, environmental sciences, marine management and town planning. We will also renovate and refurbish public buildings which are now laying derelict and used because of neglect and lack of maintenance. Buildings identified were, the Rodney Bain building, the Clarence Bain building and the Post Office. Our Public Works group point out that these are historic buildings which in a historical sense are irreplaceable. Also, the Legal Team note that these buildings are vested in the Treasurer so, no minister can arbitrarily "implode" them without a review panel process being carried out as required by law. The costs saving by renovating and refurbishment is estimated at 25% of the cost of replacement.

WS: Phew. That's ambitious; where will you find candidates to win an election and carry out your party's programmes?

CNP: You would be surprised at the wide section of Bahamian professionals who want to serve. We are looking at patriots who are serious about making our Bahamas great again. None of the persons we have spoken to so far relate to any current political party. They carry no political baggage and are clean slates politically.

WS: When will you announce the party's name and candidates?

CNP: Soon. That's all I will say at this point. However, I am assured by many of my advisors that you are a secretive person who really knows how to keep a secret. So just guard my identity until I am ready to reveal it to you first, then the public.Thanks.

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Wendall K. Jones
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimalee P. Jones
Vice President/Operations

E D I T O R I A L

Things: AS THEY ARE!

ACP Clayton Fernander said police are looking for a dark man who "...appeared to be very young, slim built" and between five feet and 5'6..."
ACP Clayton Fernander also said:--- "We believe some persons may have seen exactly what happened and if they saw, we're asking them to please come forward and assist in identifying this individual. He don't need to be out a next hour. We are on a manhunt at this time. Everybody is out trying to find this individual and we will."

If there is one thing we know for sure concerning Prime Minister, the Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis is this: He does not mince his word and thus –once the mike is on- the nation's chief becomes as expansive as a man of the people could ever wish.

Indeed, the Chief was in fine form as he recently reiterated his plea for the country to unite against criminality as he underscored the psychological toll murders wrought on the nation.

As we note, the PM was of the view that: "... The country would be destroyed by the traumatic impact of violent crime unless its citizens and residents collectively waged war on criminality and dishonesty. The entire Bahamas needs to declare war on criminality and dishonesty if we want to save this nation..."

In truth, while we duly acknowledge the prime minister's deep resolve, we must admit that we are far less panicked by the criminals –whether those in the streets or their feral brothers and sisters on the streets.

And thus we know: Thieves hurt when they steal; robbers hurt when they rob; accounts hurt when they embezzle funds; teachers hurt when they short-change their students and [of course] there are all those bureaucrat-types who routinely short-change their publics.

In sum, therefore, there are all those dumb ones who loot, shoot and kill at street-corner level and their really smart criminally-minded counterparts who do their thing from the comfort of their plush suites!

Interestingly enough, then, we are coming to what seems a most salutary occasion and instance where –contrary to last's week's near instant stereotyped depiction of a youth-man who was

thought to have killed Police Officer, Carliss Blatch, we are now being made to understand that the police are currently being assisted by a 48-years old senior man.

This is most interesting- this being so precisely because it so neatly scotches that now sorry story as to how young Black men are waging some type of secret war against the police.

Indeed, the takeaway from this latest twist in this story concerning the officer who was shot and then dragged out of his care; and who [as we know] was killed is surely that you should not jump to conclusions.

In other words, let it be known: Haste makes waste!

The truth of the matter is surely that we shall always have a need to contend with our own wrong-doings and with criminal species of actions taken by these people.

And thus today: Whilst we are quite happy with how the police have conducted themselves to date, we still feel obliged to caution all and sundry who might be tempted to go over-board as they pipe in about how 'we' must get even tougher with the so-called criminal element.

In this regard, then: Please be advised that as bad as the street-corner level thug might ever become, there are always any number of other far more silent types who do their very big share of causing hurt and harm to their fellow-Bahamians.

How utterly awful. Where does it end?

Truth is: It never ends.

And for sure, let it be known that precisely because the heart of man is exceedingly evil—wrong doing will always find its way to the nation's ongoing agenda recounting things to be done.

That's just the way things are!

THE BAHAMAS
Sun, Sand, Sea ... and the
The Bahama Journal

Four Bodies Claimed
Brush Fire Scorches Acres of Land
22ND MURDER VICTIM Identified
GO TANKLESS
Debris Hinders Business For Ferry Operators

NO BETTER READING

Bahamas Faces Burdens Of External Standards

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Finance Minister Peter Turnquest said when it comes to the financial sector, The Bahamas, like any other small nation, must cope with the burden of external standards set by the world's larger countries.

The Deputy Prime Minister said this sometimes happens without regard for national sovereignty or international cooperation that should exist.

Mr. Turnquest said that this is a challenge which the country must acknowledge and address.

He said, "we cannot be satisfied to only anticipate or adapt to changes. Importantly, we must mobilize with our regional counterparts, and engage at the highest levels to shape the nature and direction of change in the industry. We must take a



▶ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest

seat at the table when it comes to shaping international standard."

The Deputy Prime Minister explained that much of this work is done at the inter-governmental level and requires strong

leadership.

Back in May, he said, the government formulated a comprehensive strategic plan to secure the viability of the industry.

Under ten categories outlined in the plan, he

said strengthening international collaboration as an important strategic priority.

To enhance the country's presence in the international arena, Mr. Turnquest expressed the

need to strengthen its international capital with specialized skills.

He added that small jurisdictions like The Bahamas are committed to international standards not just because it's in their

economic interest to comply, and not because larger international partners can deploy their influence to exert pressure over the entire industry.

The DPM said despite the country's historical reputation, The Bahamas doesn't make it easy for individuals or entities seeking to launder proceeds through criminality, or those who might expose our society to the risk of terrorism.

He said, "This is an international code of practice, but in a domestic context, we place our own value on an environment that has integrity, that is competitive, robust, well-regulated and safe."

The spirit, of cooperation, he said, is based on shared values and outcomes, and respect for the sovereignty of nations which must underpin the system of international codes of conduct.

Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) Confirmed Two New Hires

Two critical new hires highlight the gathering momentum being generated as the new Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) races toward its official launch on September 20. Executive Director, Davinia Blair announced on Thursday, September 13 that the SBDC hired an Associate Director of Operations and had contracted for someone to design and build the SBDC website.

The SBDC is the product of a tri-partite arrangement between the Government, through the Ministry of Finance, University of The Bahamas (UB) and the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employer's Confederation (BCCEC). The Centre will work to guide the development, funding, growth and evolution of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises ("MSMEs") in

The Bahamas.

Ms. Bianca Lee is the new Associate Director of Operations, tasked with oversight, supervision and administration of the SBDC's business operations.

"I am very excited, because we will be able to focus on a section of the market that I believe has been untouched. Entrepreneurship is a big thing, especially among young people – even in passing you can hear people talking about their entrepreneurial dreams. Being able to provide support and guidance to those persons will be amazing, especially to assist that process from start to finish," she said.

Ms. Lee will provide financial, administrative and operational support to the Board of Directors, the Executive Director and, where required, to the Business Development Advisors. In the Associate

Director of Operations position, she will also provide leadership to the efficient interconnectivity with related government agencies, University of The Bahamas (UB), the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation (BCCEC), the OAS and other partners.

Meanwhile, the SBDC has selected Travis Miller of Thought & Method to develop the SBDC website, which is expected to be launched for public use in mid-December 2018.

Said Miller, "I'm excited about the SBDC because the initiative will allow entrepreneurs more opportunities to get their ideas out there and develop or refine their businesses and likely get access to funding to help make their dreams a reality. I believe what SBDC will provide will impact the landscape for entrepreneurs for years to

come."

The website will be a critical tool in the SBDC's efforts to create public awareness and promote its work. The site will be an avenue through which the SBDC will work to inspire and inform the pre-entrepreneurial and entrepreneurial communities, motivate those in the community with ideas for business to materialize dreams into reality, and provide assistance for those already in business to strengthen and refine their business models.

Miller discussed his personal goals for the site.

"I think it is important for entrepreneurs to get access to reliable and clear information. A lot of information about what to do and where to go when starting your business in The Bahamas is still scattered and cumbersome. A personal goal I would like to achieve with the new website is to streamline

tools, information, and resources on one place that will allow entrepreneurs to make decisions faster and with more clarity so they can focus on the actual business itself," he said.

An important aspect of the website will be delivery of various online training seminars and live webcasting of events. Equally important, the SBDC plans to use the website to disseminate research on the small business sector in The Bahamas.

The new hires come after the appointment of the SBDC Board of Directors, chaired by Geoffrey Andrews and Deputy Chair Dr. Olivia Saunders, two weeks ago. The new board includes Merrit Storr, Ellison Delva, Clifford Johnson, Hank Ferguson, Tyrina Neely, Gina McKenzie, Remelda Moxey, Kristie Powell, Christopher

Sawyer and Pedro Rolle.

The government of The Bahamas has created an MSME Policy to provide a framework for development of the sector. The "Seven Pillars of MSME Sector Policy" call for improvement in the enabling business environment for small business; increasing direct financing to the MSME sector; enhancing both business and development support for MSMEs through innovative programmes; supporting entrepreneurship and MSME development within marginalized groups; fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation; removing or minimizing political interference within MSME enabling agencies, and promoting linkages between Bahamian MSMEs and the international export segments of the economy.

'Shred Day' To Support Bahamas Sickle Cell Association

On Thursday September 27, 2018, Sunryse Information Management will host its 11th Annual Shred Day event at the Western Esplanade near Arawak Cay. Each year, the company invites members of the public to shred up to 100 pounds (lbs) of confidential documents free of charge. In exchange, Sunryse donates \$1 for every 10 pounds (lbs) shredded to a local charity of their choice. Proceeds from Shred Day 2018 will support the ongoing efforts of the Bahamas Sickle Cell Association

Chris Sawyer, President of Sunryse

Information Management launched the initiative more than a decade ago to shed light on the importance of protecting confidential records. "From the very beginning our goal has been to educate both private citizens and businesses on how to properly dispose of confidential records. For businesses, in particular, it is critical to their overall operations. Shredding is not only an environmentally safe way to discard documents no longer in use but it is also one of the most responsible ways to protect companies from security breaches."

He continued, "We

have seen the support for Shred Day grow as the event continues to evolve. This year, we are partnering with the Bahamas Sickle Cell Association and will continue to support the amazing work that this organization does in our community. We look forward to making Shred Day 2018 the biggest fundraiser to date. We're also encouraging members of the public to take this opportunity to learn more about the organization's goals and to drop off a monetary donation of any size to assist the Bahamas Sickle Cell Association."

Lady Sonya Longley,

President of the Bahamas Sickle Cell Association thanked Sunryse for the opportunity to participate in Shred Day 2018. On the day of the event, the group will be onsite at the Western Esplanade to share information about sickle cell anemia and to highlight the support provided through the association. "September is Sickle Cell Awareness month and every year our organization is focused on spreading useful information to the general public and particularly to persons living with sickle cell anemia," Longley said.

"On behalf of our board of directors and members, we would like to thank the team at Sunryse for their continued support of our efforts. Through donations from Corporate Bahamas and private citizens, we are able to assist our members with funding for medical procedures both here and abroad. We are able to sponsor attendance of our members on a yearly basis to a Summer Camp in New York. The support we receive enables us to provide care packages to our members, and assist our membership wherever possible."

To date, Sunryse has shredded an estimated 50,000 pounds (lbs) of confidential documents free of charge, donating more than \$16,000 to local non-profit organizations as a result of the initiative.

Shred Day 2018 will be held on Thursday September 27th at the Western Esplanade parking lot at Arawak Cay. The team will begin shredding documents onsite at 7 a.m. and will end at 6 p.m. Event cosponsors include National Workers Cooperative Credit Union, Caribbean Bottling and Limeade.

NYGÅRD Donates \$100,000 to CancerCare Manitoba



NYGÅRD International, in keeping with its commitment to support cancer research, on Friday presented a \$100,000 donation to CancerCare Manitoba. NYGÅRD Vice Chairman Jim Bennett presented the donation to CancerCare Manitoba president and CEO Annitta Stenning, as part of the company's 50th anniversary celebration event. In addition to the financial contribution, NYGÅRD donated 1500 mammography gowns to the Breast Check and mammography unit at Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg.

The event featured a stunning fashion show showcasing vintage

NYGÅRD fashions from five decades as the leader in Canadian women's fashion, and put the spotlight on 25 breast cancer survivors on the runway.

Guests were treated to a special performance by legendary country music performer Tanya Tucker, as well as a world-class magic show from Las Vegas magician and mentalist Simon Winthrop. Over 1800 guests attended the event, including 300 VIPs who traveled from locations around the globe, including Kenya, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, the United States of America, and Peter Nygård's home country of Finland.

PLP Searches For Candidates

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Headquarters beginning at 7 p.m.

Senator Mitchell said, "We are looking for good men and women of all ages and demographics who support the progressive cause and are interested in public service at the level of running for national or local office, for serving on statutory boards and corporations and who wish to serve as diplomats.

"In order to run for the Progressive Liberal Party, the aspirant candidate will have to have been certified as having participated in this module.

"This is being put on for people in the Northern Bahamas: Grand Bahama, Abaco and Bimini," said Mr Mitchell.

Minnis Addresses Psychological Impact Of Crime

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"And then we see the impact 10-20 years later, and then we wonder why individuals are disturbed, why they're disturbed psychologically, why they're behaving this way."

The Prime Minister who spoke at the National Skills Symposium, said if we are to save the nation, Bahamians must not just look at overt criminality,

but how they can help stop what will occur in the future.

"Bahamians must be more open, must become involved and understand that the nation you see today will deteriorate tomorrow if you're not involved," he said.

"That the stability that you see today in the young people, you will not see tomorrow," he added.

"And then you wonder

why our kids go astray, they go astray because we've caused psychological damage to be inflicted on them 10 years ago and then we're seeing the after effect 20 years later.

"So we must become involved today and save our nation, not just from the overt criminality that we see, but the hidden criminality that they inflict on our society."

Bahamians Asked To Obey Immigration Laws

Continued from / PAGE 1...

there are opportunities.

"And therefore as mature citizens, we must respect the law and apply for them properly.

"You apply properly, there is a system and they will be dealt with fairly," he said.

Dr. Minnis said Bahamians have a responsibility and if the law is

broken, illegal immigrants as well as the Bahamians encouraging it, should be prosecuted, and the immigration department he said has been working to do just that.

"The immigration department, they have taken Bahamians before the courts to be prosecuted, and they will become even more aggressive.

"The message must be loud and clear, we cannot

have a system of catch and release, catch and release.

"We must become involved, we must become law abiding citizens, we must apply for individuals legally, and they will be dealt with properly and legally.

"But if we continue to break the law, and the message goes out that The Bahamas is an open society, individuals will come from all over the world."

POLICEMAN'S KILLER NO STRANGER TO POLICE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

killing being the result of an armed robbery.

The island wide manhunt for a suspect saw officers go above and beyond the call of duty, and Mr. Fernander also touted the overwhelming support members of the public.

The police force already

met with family members of the deceased, and Mr. Fernander said they are also assisting with counselling for Blatch's relatives.

In the case of the psychological impact of such a tragedy on the officers, Mr. Fernander said they lean on Dr. Timothy Barrett and the force's chaplain, Father Davies and his team.

He insisted that yesterday's arraignment is not the end of this story.

"The matter is not completed. We are looking for swift movement through the court with respect to this. So, the evidence will be laid, and we will wait for that time as we proceed with this inquiry," he said.



GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
THE PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE
MONITORING REFORM PROJECT (PFM/PMR)
IT SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER POSITION AVAILABLE



Title: IT Systems Development Manager

This notice is placed on behalf of The Ministry of Finance to provide background information regarding the objectives of the PFM/PMR Project to enable interested persons who meet the stated and other criteria to determine their eligibility and respond to this advertisement to offer their services under the requirements of the project. The Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (GoB) has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) under loan #3340/OC-BH to partially/totally fund the contract cost.

SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PFM/PMR will improve the Financial Management and Performance Monitoring capabilities of the Public Sector. Component IV: Public Procurement will modernize the public procurement system, promote efficient market competition & deliver value for money. The GoB is seeking a consultant to act as the focal point for overall development and delivery of complex internal/external IT system development projects across a variety of products and technologies.

DESCRIPTION OF ENGAGEMENT

The consultancy will take place over a 12 month period in Nassau, Bahamas. A detailed work plan with timeline to achieve the deliverables must be submitted 7 working days after contract signing.

FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Specifically, the consultant, in coordination with the Chief Procurement Officer, and the PFM/PMR Component IV Coordinator, shall

- Manage the delivery of multiple complex simultaneous system development projects from design through to release.
- Understand and contribute to technical solutions from design through to code level.
- Provide progress updates and work closely with outsourced providers to ensure the management of any delivery risks or issues.
- Define, document and report on project delivery phases including activities, sub-activities, milestones, event log, issues and risk log.
- Ensure awareness, involvement and support from the key stakeholders and participants by building strong project teams robust communication on the project status throughout its life cycle.
- Participate in reviews and meetings and provide updates on project progress.
- Take responsibility for ensuring that risks/issues are identified and managed closely and drive all stakeholders to deliver on time and to the required quality standards.
- Work closely with relevant teams internally to ensure alignment and coordination across operations as part of the seamless implementation of existing and new systems.
- Contributing to post-implementation reviews helping to demonstrate success or otherwise of projects and to introduce processes to yield more predictable results.
- Drive major and significant stability and performance improvements.

EDUCATION SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor level in Software Development, IT, or other similar disciplines
- At least 5 years of relevant experience in the private sector, non-profit or public sector (preferred)
- Experience of people management and the ability to lead and influence others including, formal personal development planning and individual, team and process performance management
- Experience in a variety of software development approaches and methodologies including Agile and Waterfall
- Experience in the development of software using open source platforms as Apache, PostgreSQL, Java-based technologies and open contracting data standards, and usage of UML.

SELECTION PROCESS

The individual for the consultancy will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost for National Individual procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank Policies for the selection and contracting of consultants financed by the Inter-American Bank (Document GN-2350-9). Note that the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas has the authority to reject any and all proposals without an explanation. Procurement notices will be posted online at www.bahamas.gov.bs CVs must be delivered by e-mail by 5:00pm, Friday, September 28th, 2018 to pfpmpmr@bahamas.gov.bs.



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Save Lighthouse Point Attracts Social Media Influencers



► With the help of local residents, One Eleuthera and the wider environmental coalition, influencers from New Providence got a guided tour of the beautiful Lighthouse Point and its surrounding areas including the seaside cave structures on lighthouse beach. **(Photo/Michael Clarke/Barefoot Marketing)**



► The host of RET Entertainment News, Ewurabena 'Rabs' Appiah interviewing resident Botanist Dr. Ethan Freed from the Leon Levy Natural Plant Preserve - one of several environmental groups which have aligned for the campaign to Save Lighthouse Point. **(Photo/Michael Clarke/Barefoot Marketing)**

Sometimes, you have to see it, to believe it and this past weekend, some of the country's most influential social media voices got a chance to see, feel and experience the magical beauty of Lighthouse Point on the island of Eleuthera.

The breathtaking monument has been part of Eleuthera's charm and beauty for hundreds of years. The site, which is tucked away on Eleuthera's most southern tip is hailed as one of the most naturally beautiful and diverse spots in the country, and the world. Not only has its beauty to charm been untouched and unspoiled by commercial development, but the site continues to hold special significance for the residents of Eleuthera – the island named Freedom.

In recent weeks, the site has become the primary

focus of a coalition of concerned organizations whose objective is to preserve and protect the Lighthouse and the surrounding 700 acres of land from commercial development, offering instead, an option for sustainable development. Led by the One Eleuthera Foundation, the Bahamas National Trust and 8 other NGO's the coalition continues to advocate for the area to be converted to a legacy park, protected from the kind of commercial development proposed by Disney. The sustainable development option proposed by the coalition would provide more full time direct and indirect jobs and create greater economic impact for South Eleuthera. If allowed to move forward, the coalition believes that this sacred ground, will eventually be blocked to

locals, its rural, untouched beauty replaced by overcrowded beaches and its tranquil bays spoiled by concrete super docks for skyscraper cruise ships, jet skis and more.

Early Saturday morning, the influencer group which included popular social media content creator, Timico "Sawyerboy" Sawyer, former Cabinet Minister and host of the popular radio talk show "Z-Live" and producers of the RET Entertainment News segment, flew into Rock Sound Eleuthera to understand and learn more about this famed area, that has school children fighting to protect it.

"I'm very excited to have been included on this trip," said Sawyer. "I met Franchesca, Wadainya and Kristman during their recent visit to Nassau and was totally impressed by

how passionate they are about protecting this beautiful place. I have enjoyed hearing One Eleuthera's plans for not just the point but the entire area. That's something I think people don't understand, its not just about the Lighthouse, it's about the whole area."

With the help of local residents, members of the wider environmental coalition, and youth activists Franchesca Hanna and Wadainya Weinberger, the group made the hour-long journey to the site, hiking along stunning water front views to the island's southernmost tip. From atop the ocean side cliffs they were able to experience the breathtaking views which stretch for miles in every direction.

The trip was also an opportunity for the influencers to learn about the

environmental significance of the area. In addition to its stunning ocean views Lighthouse beach and the surrounding acres of land are home to some to more than ten percent of the country's endemic plant life.

"There are at least 8 species of plant life which can only be found in the Bahamas and they all grow right here at lighthouse point" explained resident Botanist Dr. Ethan Freid of the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve, operated by the Bahamas National Trust. Dr. Fried has studied the vegetation in the area and has been instrumental in cataloging the scores of indigenous plants at the site – many of which contain medicinal value.

"The intent of the coalition has always been to preserve all of the ele-

ments that naturally occur in this area – both plant life and marine life – and commercial development would do the opposite of that".

The students and the coalition hope that seeing, touching and having their own personal experience at the pointe, will help Saywer, Laing and RET Entertainment TV – through their various platforms –explain to thousands the importance of joining the campaign to protect this land for all Bahamians. Already, more than twenty-eight thousand persons have signed the on-line petition asking everyone to stand with One Eleuthera Foundation, who are asking the Government to consider an alternative to the Disney proposed cruise port and private beach.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
Grand Bazaar & Raffle
Saturday, September 29th, 2018
12 noon - 10 pm
Church Grounds: Robinson & Claridge Road
Lots of Food & Games for All Ages!

Stalls	Games
HOME COOKERY	PUNCH BOARD
JERK (CHICKEN & PORK)	TIC-TAC-TOE
CONCH FRITTERS	LOLLIPOP SURPRISE
CONCH & FRIES	WHEEL OF FORTUNE
HOT DOGS & HAMBURGERS	HOOPLA
SNOW CONES & DAIQUIRIS	CLOWN FACE
SODAS & ICE CREAM	DRESS FOR LESS
CAKES & SWEETS	BINGO
CHICKEN WINGS & FRIES	SPLAT BALL
TEA PARTY/FASHION SHOW	COTTON CANDY
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