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# The Bahama Journal

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# PM: "We're doing the right thing."

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK  
 Journal Staff Writer

**P** rime Minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis said yesterday that his government is "doing the right thing" with the acquisition of the Grand Lucayan Resort. In a detailed report in the House of Assembly, he went to great lengths outlining why talks with the Wynn Group collapsed and why his government instead opted to get into the hotel business and temporarily own the Resort. The government first sought to have a private group purchase the Grand Lucayan hotel, this however fell through. In July, the government



▶ Prime Minister the Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis (Journal file photo)

## Resort Purchase Is About PM's Ego, Says Cooper

The Member of Parliament for Exuma and Ragged Island, Chester Cooper says purchase of the Grand Lucayan Resort by the government is not about saving the Grand Bahamian economy, as there is no clear plan presented to do that. He said, "I have heard nothing that addresses the fundamental challenges of the Tourism product in Grand Bahama." Making his contribution in a debate in the House of Assembly on a resolution for the government to borrow an



▶ Chester Cooper, MP for Exuma and Ragged Island (Journal file photo)

■ See PM / page 8...

■ See RESORT / page 6...

## Davis Tells Gov't, "Come Clean"

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK  
 Journal Staff Writer

For the Opposition, the Grand Lucayan deal is not all the government purports it to be. Progressive Liberal Party leader Philip Davis blasted the acquisition in the House of Assembly as desperate, ill-advised and an inadequate band-aid approach to address the state of Grand Bahama's economy. "In our view, it is another



▶ Opposition Leader, Philip Davis (Journal file photo)

■ See DAVIS / page 8...

## Doctors And PHA Impasse

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

The Consultant Physician Staff Association yesterday again expressed their dissatisfaction with the progress of negotiation with the Public Hospitals Authority. Just two weeks ago, the

CPSA with the support of other trade unions expressed their concerns, filed a trade dispute and gave the PHA and the government five days to respond to their cries. According to CPSA President Dr. Locksley Munroe nothing has happened as yet.

"You cannot force a response from them, but just the same way you cannot force a response from them, from a statutory stand point we have mechanisms by which we can express ourselves and we are going to

■ See DAVIS / page 8...

## Long Island Descendants Receive British Empire Medal for Service



▶ Julie Bingham, daughter of Captain Vernon Ritchie, recipient of the British Empire Medal, is pictured with Her Excellency the Most Hon. Dame Marguerite Pindling, Chancellor and Governor General. (BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# Minister Calls Resort Purchase “Critical”

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

The Minister of Tourism Dionisio D’Aguilar says it is critical that the government acquire the Grand Lucayan Resort in Freeport, Grand Bahama. He said it had no other choice but to intervene. He then referred to the Royal Oasis which closed its door more than a decade ago.

Supporting a resolution in the House of Assembly yesterday, the Minister said, “it would be an act of sheer cruelty and neglect toward the people of Grand Bahama for the government to idly stand by and let the Grand Lucayan, a prime hotel prop-

erty go the way of the Royal Oasis.

“I would like to make a quick reference to the Royal Oasis comparison. The Royal Oasis closed its doors sometime in 2004. It remains closed today. The International Bazaar which adjoins the hotel is now a ghost town, full of derelict and abandoned buildings.

“It’s state of near total disrepair is proving that once you make the fatal mistake of allowing a hotel to close, it is very very difficult, if not impossible to get it reopened,” Mr. D’Aguilar said.

He pointed to remarks made back in 2008 by then

PLP opposition MP Fred Mitchell who said that the then FNM government should have considered purchasing the Royal Oasis Resort.

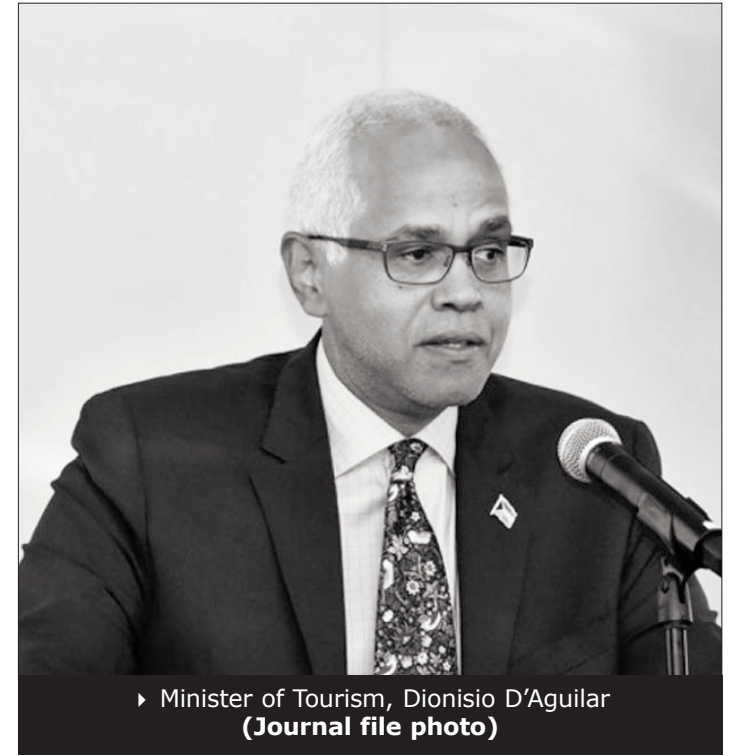
Mr. D’Aguilar said, “the FNM government was chastised by Mr. Fred Mitchell the then opposition PLP MP for Fox Hill to do more and was quoted in the Nassau Guardian on the 16th of August 2008 as saying, and I quote, ‘the FNM government ought to consider taking special measures to ensure that the Royal Oasis property in Freeport is opened, including buying and developing it if necessary to put people back to work.’”

The Minister then offered up the assurance that the administration will not be timid in making a decision.

“The government will act decisively in the best interest in the people of Grand Bahama and the people of The Bahamas.

“The numbers revealed a tourism sector that has received some traumatic body blows and we were elected in overwhelming numbers to do what is necessary to reverse the trend,” he said.

Mr. D’Aguilar said reopening the Grand Lucayan Resort is not just about the hotel, but about the prosperity of the nation.



► Minister of Tourism, Dionisio D’Aguilar  
(Journal file photo)

# GB International Bazaar’s Burnt Straw Market Demolished

## Eyesore, NO MORE!



► August 30th, 2018, GBPA and Sanitation Services began the demolition of the burnt straw market located at The International Bazaar. The site, destroyed by fire earlier this year, had become an unauthorized dumpsite and eyesore in Grand Bahama. **Pictured L-R:** Rico Cargill, Senior Environmental Inspector, Building and Developments Services Department, GBPA; Jason Albury, Landfill Manager and Landscaping and Heavy Equipment Coordinator, Sanitation Services Company.

Freeport, Bahamas - The Building and Development Services Department of The Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA), Limited demolished the remnants of the previously burnt section of the International Bazaar’s Straw Market on Thursday, August 30th, 2018. The memorable blaze that ripped through the market in March of this year, left at least a dozen straw vendors displaced. The burnt structure created an eyesore, which later progressed to an unau-

thorized dumpsite. Residents voiced their concerns over the past months, noting that something needed to be done to address the deteriorating impact that the burnt structure posed to the area, which was being abused by individuals for the disposal of debris.

Although many shared the sentiments of simply “knocking” down the structure, the process to arrive at such a decision was anything but simple. Key representatives of the GBPA, worked in

tandem with The International Bazaar’s Tenant Association, setting in motion a rigorous process, which involved careful assessments, conducted by teams led by members of the Building and Development Services Department, confirming the extent of the damage to the grounds and deeming the edifice as structurally unsound.

Troy McIntosh, GBPA Deputy Director & City Maintenance Manager of Building & Development

Services stated, “We are sensitive to the concerns of Freeport residents; however, we must ensure we act in accordance with the byelaws. The process involves having two assessment reports completed: one by our team, and the second by an independent engineer. The two must conclusively agree that the building structure, is structurally unsound, i.e. the building is unsafe for habitation. We then must notify the owner of the property, allowing them the opportunity to

make the necessary repairs. In the event the owner is unable to bring the property up to building code compliance, we then begin legal proceedings to have the building demolished.”

McIntosh further stated, “These laws are here to protect both property owners and the GBPA. For the 2018 year, residents of Grand Bahama would have seen two major demolition projects that are now fully completed: Pioneers Professional Plaza and Silver Sands,

which now allow for new business opportunities to take its place.”

It is never the first choice to demolish a building. Rather, it is done when all other efforts have been exhausted and there is no other choice or option available. GBPA shares the views of many residents, that the removal of structurally unsound buildings allows the city of Freeport to position herself in a state of readiness and remain attractive to new opportunities to the island.

# Labour on the Blocks Job Fair Returns

The Bahamas Department of Labour, after hosting seven successful ‘Labour on the Blocks’ Job Fairs, prepares to host another, Saturday, 22nd September, 2018.

The ‘Labour on the Blocks’ event will be held at CV Bethel High School, East Street South and will include the constituencies of Bamboo Town, Pinewood,

South Beach, Garden Hills and Nassau Village.

Staff of the Department and twenty two local businesses, including Cruise Ship Recruiters, Training Companies and a special booth for individuals between ages 16 – 29 interested in paid internship opportunities, that foster on the job and in a classroom

training.

These Partners will meet, interview, sign up and where possible, hire on the spot. The event takes place from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at CV Bethel.

The Minister of Labour along with Senior Executives from the Ministry and Department of Labour will be in attendance to meet and

assist jobseekers.

Patrenda Brice, Deputy Director of Labour, encourages all businesses to partner with the Public Employment Services Unit (P.E.S) of the Department of Labour by participating in the ‘Labour on the Blocks’ initiatives.

“This is an event where we are successfully answering the needs of jobseekers

as well as employers by effectively connecting eligible candidates with the right jobs” she said.

The Department of Labour encourages all jobseekers in The Bahamas or abroad, and employers with vacancies, to register in the Department’s recruitment database: [www.jobseekers.bahamas.gov](http://www.jobseekers.bahamas.gov.bs)

v.bs

Persons attending the ‘Labour on the Blocks’ Job Fairs are asked to bring their NIB Smart Card, a valid Government-issued ID such as a passport or voters card and resume copies. Registering in the database in advance is highly recommended.



**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
Manufactured By:	Unknown
Make:	Unknown
Model Year:	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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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

The Ministry of Public Works/Bahamix, has scheduled Milling and Paving works for Bernard Road from 9:30a.m. to 2:00p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning September 19th 2018, for 21 working days.

The resurfacing of Bernard Road will extend from the "Village Rd/Wulff Rd/Soldier Rd Junction" to the Roundabout at Fox Hill Freedom Park.

Bernard Road will be divided into eight (8) paving sections to minimize traffic congestion. The paving Sections are listed below:

Wulff/Village/Soldier	– Thompson Street
Thompson Street	– Hillside Park Road
Hillside Park Road	– Windsor Street
Windsor Street	– Adderley Street
Adderley Street	– Grant Street
Grant Street	– Cockburn Street
Cockburn Street	– Rahming Street
Rahming Street	– Fox Hill Roundabout

There will be east and west bound lane closures implemented for the sections and for the duration of the works. Traffic diversions will be put into effect for each "section".

Provisions will be made for residents and businesses where necessary. Motorists are asked to avoid the area if possible.

You are asked to be aware of and acknowledge the posted traffic paving signs in the area.

If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact us at telephone numbers (242) 361-3886 or (242) 341-3886.

Bahamix apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

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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.

2. 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.

3. The quotes must be itemized to show the following:  
a) Increased Value  
b) Protection and Indemnity

4. 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  
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# NOTHING BUT HEART

The 2018 series salutes fashion mogul Peter Nygård's Golden Jubilee detailing his rags to riches story and incredible business success over these past fifty years. The Clifton Review will take an inside look at how he did it.

What does it say about an individual who seems to never stop giving? It says that he is truly committed to helping others.

During a week of 50th Anniversary celebrations, fashion mogul Peter Nygard showed his heart once again. His company's press release shared the following:

**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.**

Nygar's commitment isn't just financial; his continuous inclusion of breast cancer survivors in every fashion show reveals his dedication to their cause and strong belief in celebrating their lives.

Nygar once said, "You can't take it with you", which helps to explain his generosity. This is such a welcomed perspective when we are bombarded with examples of selfishness and greed.

One grave example was the 2008 financial crisis that came about as a result of what many would describe as 'greed'. The fallout was a domino effect that impacted world markets.

So, what makes a person generous of heart as opposed to selfish and greedy? Well, who can say for sure. One thing we can say is that most of us were brought up to be more giving.

Author Judith Johnson shares this perspective with the Huffington Post through her article entitled "Generosity or Greed — It's a Matter of Choice":

**All major religious and spiritual traditions urge us to live our lives from the inside out, expressing outward into the world instead of in reaction to externals. We are urged to ground our consciousness in the core of our being where we find a oneness with others that allows us to be together in a loving, caring and coopera-**

## THE CLIFTON REVIEW

By P. J. Malone

The Clifton Review is a bi-weekly column that examines the question of the Clifton project along with the evolution of the war between two billionaires, the links to unsavory characters, the use of the courts for personal agendas, the involvement of the Government opposition party (the FNM), and the attacks on the Government of The Bahamas.

five manner.

Whether one believes that this core of our being is God or love or something else, when we touch into this place an urge to unite is aroused. Some fear that this urge to unite is diametrically opposed to personal material wealth and comfort. Others suggest that as in the two parables of the loaves and the fishes where Jesus is said to have fed a multitude with just a few small barley loaves and fish, compassion creates possibilities that are invisible to those driven by self-interest. (March 15, 2012)

Clearly, Peter Nygard gets it as it continuously demonstrates his compassion and desire to continuously give.

The 100-thousand-dollar donation was made during Nygard's 50th Anniversary opulent gala event that featured VIPs from around the world:

**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.**

(" NYGÅRD Donates \$100,000 to CancerCare Manitoba")

Sep 17, 2018 | Nygard, Nygård for Life, Peter Nygard, Philanthropy, Press Release)

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## E D I T O R I A L

# Plea & Plight

*"...We've sat at the table and we've asked for these issues to be addressed but they have not. There is no reason why in the 21st century we should be battling you for basic human rights and basic human dignity. We ask that you sit with us. Talk with us sensibly, truthfully, honestly and deal with these simple issues that no Bahamian worker, whether they're for a private entity or much less the government, should have to face..."*

Like a whole lot of Bahamians who this past week who watched and witnessed as junior physicians demonstrated in front of Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH).

And as in the case of those very same Bahamians, we winced when they claimed that they are being ill-treated and that they are being denied certain key benefits.

This is most concerning, precisely because we sure did expect that these hard-working people [most of them Bahamians] would get their due from The Hon. Duane E. Sands, himself once upon a time a junior physician just like them!

Alas! Like them, we also feel as if those fine men and women are precisely right as they now cry out for some modicum of justice.

With that said, note that we do agree with the junior physicians when they conclude: "...The government of The Bahamas has consistently shown its utter disregard for the worth of junior physicians..."

Making matters even worse is the doctors' claim to the effect that: "...They are being denied maternity benefits..."

If true, this is nastily concerning!

And thus in the same vein, we are understanding that: Said junior doctors are also demanding holiday pay and allege that medical licenses have been revoked because of changes to licensing requirements, and that contracts have been issued in a manner that is not in line with their industrial agreement.

This is just so very wrong!

Evidently, this and all else just like this speaks volumes as to how easy it is to promise the people the moon and sixpence as opposed to doing your best to match east words with direct and proper performance.

As we say in the culture: "...mout' can

promise anything and everything!

In this regard, then: Cold hard facts on the ground now reveal to all who would know the truth and say what they know would help them conclude that the junior doctors are [so to speak] being disrespected to the max.

And thus as if from the depths, junior physicians now cry out for some little measure of relief from an administration where two medical practitioners, the Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis and the Hon. Dr. Duane E. Sands now serve in positions of some power and authority.

Truth is both men have disappointed a broad cross-section of health care professionals who just like them now demand their just desserts.

Instead ---as we read and report from their own mouths---these junior ones are incensed, disappointed and for sure, simply sick and tired of having to make do with bromides, easy promises and a brimming slew of warmed-over platitudes.

As they lament: "...In a field where eating Christmas dinner from a Tupperware container or celebrating special events vicariously through photographs has become the norm, it is unfair and outright criminal to be denied holiday pay. It is shameful that we have to go to such lengths to obtain the basic right that are afforded to us by law..."

Echo shouts:---It is unfair and outright criminal to be denied holiday pay. It is shameful that we have to go to such lengths to obtain the basic right that are afforded to us by law.

Yes, it is shameful!

And yes, there is no doubt about the matter at hand, the junior doctors are clearly sick and tired of it all as they struggle with what seems their plea and their unwarranted plight.

**GOT NEWS?**  
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**THE BAHAMAS**  
Sun, Sand, Sea .... and the  
**The Bahama Journal**  
**NO BETTER READING**

# Resort Purchase Is About PM's Ego, Says Cooper

Continued from / PAGE 1...

additional \$35 million for the acquisition, Mr. Cooper said the purchase of the Grand Lucayan Resort in Freeport "is not about helping the people of Grand Bahama."

"This purchase, it appears to me, is all about the prime minister's ego.

I believe it is about an FNM desperate to deliver on something, anything, for Grand Bahama, given its lofty campaign promises, no matter what the cost.

"I have no confidence in this administration, Mr. Speaker.

It has proven brash and quick to mislead without first gathering the full facts.

It seems clear to me, that the people of Grand Bahama have no confidence either.

The people of The Bahamas have also lost confidence, in my view, and this is in part evidenced by the lack of enthusiasm in this deal.

I wonder now, if we are being presented with the full facts in this scenario.

Yes, Grand Bahama needs help.

Yes, Grand Bahamians need help.

But so does Exuma and her people.

So does Eleuthera and her people.

So does Abaco and her people.

So does Ragged Island and her people.

Ragged Island, decimated by a storm more than a year ago, and still characterized by this administration as unlivable while the residents still live there, has been crying out for help, but it was told that there was no money in this budget to help.

Now, more money, no problem. That there is no talk of any grand intervention on those islands I mentioned to help vendors or any of the other workers or ailing businesses in those communities should be telling," said Mr. Cooper, who is Deputy leader of the Progressive Liberal Party.

He said, "many Bahamians right here in New Providence need help as well, but they wait for relief.

Many Bahamians need uniform assistance for their children to attend school, but they were told the government can't do it all when a \$90,000 subvention was being discussed.

"Our youth studying at UWI are gravely concerned that they ain't get their money yet for their tuition and many small vendors and contractors complain that back to school was rough for them as they can't get paid from the Government.

But there seems no urgency from this administration to help them.

When it comes to the Grand Lucayan and its owners, however, there is fire in the belly of the Cabinet, the People's checkbook is open and money seems to be no object.

And, clearly, no demand by the owners of this property appears to be too outlandish," said the MP.

"It occurs to me that with

five seats up for grabs in Grand Bahama, the government's concerns may not be as altruistic as the prime minister indicates.

With five MPs from Grand Bahama, two senators, three Cabinet ministers, and one parliamentary secretary from that island, I suppose it not too surprising that they feel pressured to do something. There is no denying, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Grand Bahama are in need of help.

The question is: Is the government buying this hotel the answer?

I submit that it's not. There are many more creative and much, much less expensive ways for the government to help the employees of Grand Lucayan, and the vendors around the resort and the people of Grand Bahama.

Perhaps the government could have subsidized the losses of the hotel until a buyer could be found. It's paying nearly \$2 million to Hutchison to subsidize Lighthouse Pointe now anyway.

"Perhaps the government could have instituted a social welfare program tailored to the employees after it forced Hutchison to honor the union's agreement and pay out severance according to our laws.

Perhaps the government could have insisted that in order for Hutchison to continue to receive the level of concessions it does, then it would have to actively facilitate the sale of this property. But why bother explaining any of that at this time, to this administration, whose intransigence knows no bounds? Why bother giving good advice to an administration that won't listen?

Why expect consideration from an administration that can't even honor its most basic promise of transparency as it refuses to share details of the sales purchase agreement, the property's valuation and the investor prospectus with all members of this House, and by extension, the people of The Bahamas?

I offered to help the government find a buyer a few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker.

All I needed was a one-page teaser and requested the same from a member of the Cabinet. It has not been forthcoming, to date," said Mr. Cooper.

"I spoke about the failure of this administration to demonstrate a duty of care by explaining this purchase to the public before this administration spent the people's money.

I explained that in the face of the fiscal constraints of the government so painstakingly articulated by members of this administration, there is the compelling question of why the government sees the need to insert itself in the middle of a private transaction when they claim there are interested buyers.

Why this course rather than encouraging and facilitating a transaction directly with the seller?

Without details of the deal

and clarity on the structure it raises suspicions as to whether the government is removing risk at public expense to line up a deal for its special interests.

Perhaps another deal that will ultimately land in the hands of Friends, Family and FNMs.

Whatever the case, this administration's bungling has clearly resulted in a sweetheart deal for Hutchison.

"And it is starkly clear, and somewhat embarrassing to see, that the government has been outgunned in these negotiations; if you even call them that.

Why the government has acquiesced to what appears to be onerous terms to which I can see no clear benefit for anyone not named Hutchison, is still beyond me.

This resolution before us, Mr. Speaker, raises more questions than answers. Here are a few.

Exactly what does this deal do for Grand Bahama?

We have heard such broad concepts, such as "save the economy of Grand Bahama". What does that mean in terms of the Grand Lucayan? Surely the government doesn't think that this hotel with under 200 rooms, was saving the economy from collapse. Half the employees now want to leave and are looking for severance from the government. That leaves 200 employees, the majority of whom do not now have full employment there.

"How does keeping it open better help the economy of Grand Bahama than many of the other tools at the government's disposal?

Is there going to be a new injection of capital into the resort and the island or does the administration think it will not lose money in the interim through sheer force of positive thinking when the state is agreeing to pay Hutchison \$1 million for its losses on this property?

"Why didn't the government just agree to cover the losses on the property rather than spending \$30 million cash, without telling the public, and incurring an additional \$35 million debt that it could least afford?

"If this property is to quickly change owners, to do a flip, then why is the government inserting itself in the middle of what should be a private sector transaction?

"If there is a buyer to flip the property to then why doesn't the government just bring the parties together and facilitate that transaction?

The Financial Administration & Audit Act 2010 call for any loan entered into by government to receive "prior" approval.

Parts (a) and (b) of the resolution indicate that the government has "paid" \$10 million plus another \$20 million "paid upon completion date.

"This, in effect, binds the government to take the loan or pay otherwise the additional \$35 million," said Mr. Cooper.

## 'TOURISM MONEY NEVER DONE' WORKSHOP

The Ministry of Tourism & Aviation and the Bahamas Development Bank sponsored a 'Tourism Money Never Done' workshop -- linking small businesses and tourism on September 13 & 14 at the British Colonial Hilton. Presenters Patrick Rahming and Brendan Foulkes are pictured conducting lectures with aspiring entrepreneurs.

The content of the workshop focused on "capturing the imagination of budding entrepreneurs who already have an inkling to start a tourism-related business and are seeking guidance and funding," as described by Minister of

Tourism & Aviation the Hon. Dionisio D'Aguiar in a previous event announcing the planned workshop. Up to \$50,000 would be available from the Bahamas Development Bank for participants, depending on the project and its potential. Technical and management support would be provided by officials from the Small Business Development Centre (SBDC), the Tourism Development Corporation (TDC), and the Grand Bahama Port Authority.

(BIS Photos/Kemuel Stubbs)



# GB Port Authority embracing digital change

As part of its continued effort to digitize key business processes and customer-related information, Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) has launched GBPA Library, a virtual document library of information relevant to the company, its licensees, and the community.

The growing library,

which currently holds over 160 documents, was created to give GBPA employees, licensees, and members of the general public quick access to official papers such as the Hawksbill Creek Agreement, zoning laws and business license applications. For ease of use, the database organizes documents into five main categories:

licensing, byelaws, forms, covenants, and restrictions. Users may choose to browse through the pages of the site's directory or locate specific entries via keyword search terms.

Free to the public, GBPA Library brings important documents together in one easy-to-access location, saving

users the hassle of scouring the internet or visiting GBPA headquarters to gain access to them. The GBPA Library does not require registration and gives users instant access to the full text of each document.

GBPA executives believe the digital library will be a valuable resource to the public as the collection holds

information relevant to existing GBPA licensees as well as potential foreign and local investors.

"The launch of GBPA Library is just one more way we are adding value to our licensees and streamlining our customer support," said GBPA President Ian Rolle. "Through this platform, we

are providing immediate access to essential documents—particularly those that were once difficult to find—and allowing users to download and print these pages right from the comfort of their homes."

To access GBPA Library, visit <https://library.gbpa.com>



► Digital Access, In the Palm of Your Hand: GBPA launched its free digital library, allowing licensees and residents instant access to over one hundred documents, such as business license applications and procedures, and the bye-laws of Freeport. This site, which is configured for both desktop and mobile compatibility, is one of GBPA's efforts to encourage the ease of doing business within the city.



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-BH1 to partially/total 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](http://www.bahamas.gov.bs) CVs must be delivered by e-mail by 5:00pm, Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to [pfmpmr@bahamas.gov.bs](mailto:pfmpmr@bahamas.gov.bs).



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# PM: "We're doing the right thing."

Continued from / PAGE 1...

continued its negotiations with Paul Wynn and another operator to the point of a draft heads of agreement for the Grand Lucayan.

However, after giving Mr. Wynn an absolute deadline, Mr. Wynn in turn presented the government with additional changes to the heads of agreement.

"The government must pay its 15 per cent share upfront, instead of overtime as previously agreed.

"Two, the government agrees to ensure Paul Wynn

is provided with electricity at a reduced 20 percent discount rate.

"The government must pay 20 percent of the electricity rate of the hotel, for an investor, when many Bahamians electricity is off.

"Three, Paul Wynn would be permitted to employ 420 non-Bahamians for work on the project.

"What would that do to Grand Bahama," he said.

According to the prime minister, those requests didn't end there.

There was also the demand for an annual marketing subsidy of \$750,000,

no casino taxes, a commitment from the government to purchase the Grand Bahama International Airport or build a new one within two years and pay for any losses that Paul Wynn incurred and guarantee him seven per cent return.

All things considered, the government made it clear that the requested concessions could not be agreed, yet, the government stressed that the Grand Lucayan had to be saved.

Having already made a \$10 million down payment on the property, the government is seeking to pass a res-

olution guaranteeing a \$35 million loan to complete that purchase.

"We could let the Lighthouse Point, the last remaining open section of the hotel to close," he said.

"This would lead to the economic collapse of much of Freeport, with even higher unemployment, greater despair and a loss of hope for many Grand Bahamians, for many, many more years.

"In essence Mr. Speaker, we could sit idly by and watch the Grand Lucayan sink into a state of disrepair, becoming a ghost town like the once vibrant but now

dying, International Bazaar."

Dr. Minnis said while he understands the concern and reluctance, he and his government are convinced that they're doing the right thing, and to its newest employees, the government assured that the existing union agreement and employee contracts continue.

The government is hoping to sell the hotel property, sooner than later, but according to the prime minister, the idea's not to just recruit an investor just for a quick sell.

"There are a number of entities that have expressed serious interest in purchasing

the Grand Lucayan property, and indeed discussions have begun with a number of individuals for the sale of the said property," he said.

"The board recognizes that its responsibility is to do more than ensure a swift sale of the Grand Lucayan.

"The board recognizes that it has the responsibility to identify a well-funded group with a vision to create a sustainable tourism destination to whom the assets can be assigned in an outright sale," said the Prime Minister.

# Davis Tells Gov't, "Come Clean"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

bad deal like the ill-advised and scandalous Oban affair, that's why I call upon us to commit here today, no more bad deals for Grand

Bahama."

The Opposition is demanding that the government come clean with what the deal is costing Bahamians.

"That scandalous Oban deal is a matter of which this

government is yet to come clean to the Bahamian people.

"And here again, this deal is being clouded in secrecy, and we demand that the side opposite comes clean on this deal to the Bahamian people.

"We have to first, in my view, address all of the other associated issues impacting Grand Bahama and Freeport specifically.

"The fundamentals of its economy and its tourism prod-

uct in particular, otherwise the acquisition is a recipe for failure.

"Yes, it could help the vendor, the taxi driver but buying the hotel without a strategy of having heads in beds, what

will be the consequence of that," said Mr. Davis.

The PLP said they would have supported a bailout with regard to the beleaguered resort.

# Doctors And PHA Impasse

Continued from / PAGE 1...

use those until we come to a level plain field and we all come to the table and decide on what is the best way to resolve this entire issue," Dr. Munroe said.

Dr. Munroe stated that

the CPSA has been in negotiations with the PHA for three years now, and while some progress has been made, he said it is not enough, and that the union's now at an impasse.

"Many of us have worked for more than 10 years without any changes to our

salary, no increase, and no increments.

"We work without any sort of insurance, yet every day we walk in here we are placed at risk for infections like HIV and TB because those are the patients that we have to see.

"We have no pension

plan, so upon retirement we will literally become almost like paupers," he said.

The CPSA said the PHA has not responded to them in over 10 years and their next step is to acquire a strike vote.

"The trade dispute was filed on the 6th, the Minister

may have gotten it on the 7th or on that Tuesday. He may have gotten it late in the afternoon, but it was delivered.

"So the next step after that, you have the right and the authority to apply for a strike vote certificate.

"So you're talking about

the withdrawal of services entirely, not just slowing down, not just walking out, but actually the total and complete withdrawal of services," he said.

The CPSA said that they will not allow their concerns to be silenced.

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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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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](http://www.bahamasmaritime.com)**  
**Email: [scholarship@bahamasmaritime.com](mailto: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, 28th September 2018. Qualified applicants will be contacted for interviews.