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# The Bahama Journal

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75 CENTS

# Wheelchair bound mother alleges police brutality

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK  
 Journal Staff Writer

A 50-year-old wheelchair bound mother is suing the government and the Royal Bahamas Police Force for police brutality. Eloise Canter of Dignity Gardens claims that she and her son 17 year old son Omar Canter were beaten by Police. He says Omar has been targeted by police, even in front of his own son. "They handcuffed my son, kicked him in his mouth, kicked his teeth out his

mouth, burst him in his mouth, put their elbow in his face while he's in hand cuffs," she said. "Then I told them, I said y'all shouldn't do this in front of this little boy, this little boy has to go to school. "I said for y'all to do this to his daddy in front of him, that'll traumatize him. "They screw me up and hit me in my face, and lick me down out my wheelchair, they took my phone and took his phone, and tell me say I

■ See WHEELCHAIR / page 2...

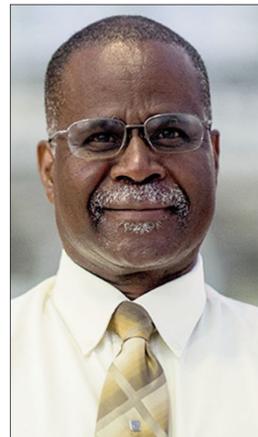
## SENIOR PHYSICIANS FEEL DISRESPECTED

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

Consultant Physicians with the Public Hospitals Authority say they are not respected in the process of seeking better salaries and working conditions. Following a walk out recently, two officers of the Consultant Physician Staff Association (CPSA) yesterday spoke out again

on Love 97's Radio and JCN Television programme Jones and Company. The CPSA President Dr. Locksley Munroe and Treasurer Dr. John Dillett made it clear that they will push ahead for a strike vote this week. Dr. Dillett said, "to go ten years or more without

■ See SENIOR / page 2...



▶ CPSA President, Dr. Locksley Munroe (Journal file photo)

## Suspended B.U.T Officers To Appeal

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

Three of the four suspended executives of the Bahamas Union of Teachers intend to appeal their suspensions from that body. President of the Union Mrs. Belinda Wilson says they are following the process and will consider all available options to have the matter resolved as soon as possible.

The Executive committee of B.U.T last week agreed to suspend Mrs. Wilson, along with the union's Treasurer Lorriane Knowles; Secretary General, John Musgrove and Trustee, Mizpah Munroe for two months after allegedly paying themselves without authorization.

The union officers were reportedly paid in excess of \$200,000 between 2015 and 2016, representing back pay for a time when they were suspended.

In addition they allegedly paid themselves for Christmas bonuses, gas allowance, casual leave and vacation pay.

It is further alleged that Mrs. Wilson authorized payments of \$50,000 to herself, \$50,000 to Ms. Knowles, and \$5,259 to Ms. Munroe on July 12, 2017.

Another form shows that Ms. Knowles requested a cheque for \$63,726.09 to be paid to Mrs. Wilson on July 4 for "back pay".

Another form revealed that on July 4 Mrs Wilson requested a cheque for \$60,774.18 to be paid to Ms Knowles.

■ See SUSPENDED / page 2...

## PM RETURNS FROM 73RD U.N. ASSEMBLY



▶ Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis, pictured centre, upon return to the capital Saturday, September 29th, 2018 from his trip to the 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York. (BIS Photo/Yontalay Bowe)

## Gag Order In Shane Gibson's Case

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

A gag order has been put in place on the high-profile extortion and bribery case of former Progressive Liberal

Party Cabinet Minister, Shane Gibson. Supreme Court Justice Indra Charles on Friday morning gathered the media, legal teams for both the crown and the defense and

the accused himself to point out that the case should have never been discussed in the media.

She added that the reason behind this is to ensure that Mr. Gibson has a fair trial.

She also said that newspapers, talk shows, TV news and even social media have all been talking about the matter, which can affect the merits of the case.

As a result, Justice

Charles said an order will be drafted preventing the further dissemination of information in this matter unless it goes to trial. A breach of

■ See GAG ORDER / page 2...



**DONATE A DOLLAR FOR BREAST CANCER WITH BAF IN OCTOBER**  
 CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF DENIM DAY



# WHEELCHAIR BOUND MOTHER ALLEGES POLICE BRUTALITY

Continued from / PAGE 1...

must shut my mouth they are the law."

Ms. Canter said she's tried several times to contact the relevant authorities, but nothing has been done, she's now battling nightmares.

"I put in long time to see Commissioner Greenslade when he was there, they don't want me to do it. I put in to speak to this commissioner, they don't want me to see the commissioner,"

she said.

"Nothing has been done, and all we're doing is just getting brutalized, the police them will come and screw me up, I'm in a wheelchair.

"I tell you I just come out the hospital, I had stitches in my hip and I come out the hospital the second day after I had surgery and them police come in my house and they throw me in the air and when I land, all the stitches came out and the blood spout out my hip."

The Journal reached out to Assistant Commissioner of Police, Clayton Fernander, who said he was unfamiliar with the matter, and as such could not speak to it.

He did however suggest Ms. Canter visit the complaints unit or personally contact him for assistance.

Ms. Canter meantime said she will be visiting the complaints unit on Monday.

She plans to sue the government.

# SENIOR PHYSICIANS FEEL DISRESPECTED

Continued from / PAGE 1...

an increase in pay, with no health insurance, with no pension plan; its not humane. It's inhumane. We wouldn't treat persons that we think are valuable to our organization like that."

He added, "I know that Dr. Munroe and his generation have been fighting for the rights of patients, for nurses, for junior doctors, and we just wish to follow in his footsteps."

Dr. Munroe also pointed out that he would be able to make much more money outside of the public healthcare system, but a lot of Bahamians cannot afford the services he provides.

He said, "that is why persons like myself, Dr. Delton Farquharson, Theo Ferguson; all of us who are particularly in surgery, we stay in the Princess Margaret Hospital."

He added, "not because we are being paid in any kind of way. Not because we cannot use our time in another way, but you are providing services to people from Acklins, Crooked Island, and Andros that they would not be able to afford outside of Princess Margaret Hospital."

Last week the PHA held a press conference explaining that they simply cannot afford to accommodate the association's concerns.

Dr. Dillett explained that senior physicians have put forward plans to bridge the \$206 million deficit in the PHA so that staff can receive what they deserve.

He said, "there are low-hanging fruits. Things that are already being done at the hospital that simply can easily be collected for and Dr. Munroe has talked about this. From signing of insurance forms and other things."

He added, "there are a number of things that can be done, but here is the problem. They are not listening to the senior physicians. They are not listening to the experts on the ground who see this every day, who understand the system and makes suggestions.

"Part of the problem is physicians have been marginalized and x-ed out of the decision making, and that is why we continue to have these problems because they don't have the solutions. The person who have some of the solutions they are not listening to," he said.

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis this past weekend said he understood the association's plight, as he was once a member. Back from of his recent trip to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, he said that he has all intentions to meet with the Physicians soon.

# Bahamas Makes In-Roads For Added Airlift

The Bahamas' attendance at the 2018 World Routes Conference in Guangzhou, China was very successful and exceeded our initial goals and expectations," said Tyrone Sawyer, Sr. Director of Airlift Development for the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation (BMOTA).

The Conference brought together hundreds of airlines executives from the Far East, Europe, Canada, North America and the United States, to meet, develop and create business opportunities with vendors from various destinations.

"Geographically, The Bahamas is located thousands of miles away from China, but our presence at this conference, strong networks and our accessibility to these airline operators, made the location of the Conference, itself, inconsequential."

According to Sawyer, meetings were held with representatives of China Southern Airlines as well as China Eastern Airlines on improving schedule connectivity between its U.S. and Canadian alliance partners to 'open the gate' for The

Bahamas to receive more stopover arrivals from China.

Meetings were also held with The Bahamas' long-time partner, American Airlines (AA). AA provides more flights, from more gateways to more destinations in The Bahamas than any other airline. Commencing this winter season, on 22nd December, 2018, AA will add non-stop Saturday-only flights to The Bahamas, to its already significant routes, including Chicago to Nassau, Charlotte to Marsh Harbour, Abaco and New York (LaGuardia) to Nassau. Further, a second daily non-stop flight from Miami to George Town, Exuma is being added on 22nd December, 2018. The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation is also working with AA on joint promotions with its European and Latin American sales and marketing team to synergize flights and increase passenger connections from those areas to The Bahamas through AA's Miami hub.

Sawyer also met with The Bahamas' long-time partner, British Airways, which provides non-stop, scheduled B-

777 jet services to Nassau from London's Heathrow airport with connections from key gateways like Milan, Paris and Geneva.

Over the past year, The Bahamas has experienced strong visitor growth from Canada, and in this regard, meetings were held with Air Canada and West Jet, to further build on this upward trend. Both airlines have added more seats from their respective gateways into The Bahamas. Air Canada provides nonstop jet service to Nassau from Toronto and Montreal, and to San Salvador from Montreal. West Jet provides nonstop jet service to Nassau from both Toronto and Calgary.

Sawyer also took time to meet with several other airline partners for The Bahamas, including JetBlue, Southwest Airlines and Copa Airlines. JetBlue contributes a significant number of air stopover arrivals to Nassau from JFK and Fort Lauderdale. Southwest Airlines, the largest domestic airline in the United States, with its brisk passenger loads into The Bahamas, recently added an additional daily jet service to its Fort

Lauderdale/Nassau route, using its connecting feeder routes in Nashville, Tennessee, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas and St. Louis, Missouri. Copa Airlines, which provides non-stop services into Nassau from Panama City, has experienced a sharp turnaround in passenger load factor performance as a result of its joint marketing campaign with The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation and

its Industry partners.

Plans are also in the works to increase airlift into Grand Bahama Island.

Sawyer took the opportunity to brief airline partners on the impending new and exciting developments ahead for the Grand Lucayan Resort and for the island of Grand Bahama; and used the opportunity to solicit new and additional airlift service to that destination.

"We were especially excit-

ed to see the level of interest and excitement expressed by the airlines and their desire to partner with us by adding more flights to Freeport, Grand Bahama, as consumer awareness builds in advance of the hotel's opening."

"The distance to travel for this conference was indeed far, but the trip was most gratifying. We feel confident that these efforts will bear much fruit for The Islands Of The Bahamas," he said.

# Suspended B.U.T Officers To Appeal

Continued from / PAGE 1...

On August 2017 documents reportedly show a transfer of funds from the B.U.T's account to Ms Knowles' account of some

\$32,418.80 and to Ms. Munroe \$1,800 were made signed by Mrs. Wilson, Ms. Knowles, and Mr. Musgrove.

Mrs. Wilson has been engaged in controversy over union funds before, as

she was suspended before from her role as president.

Despite a series of suspensions, she managed to pull off a landslide election victory against her biggest opponent, Zane Lightbourne.

# Gag Order In Shane Gibson's Case

Continued from / PAGE 1...

this order could result in a person being in contempt of court.

Judge Charles said she will be contacting the Commissioner of Police to assist with carrying out this

order and that the draft order will be served to all media outlets.

Mr. Gibson is just one of three former PLP MP's facing charges over alleged malfeasance while in office.

Mr. Gibson - the Former Minister of Labour and National Insurance in the

Christie administration - stands accused of soliciting more than \$250,000 from Johnathon Ash in 2017.

Justice Charles took over the case following the sudden death of former Chief Justice Stephen Isaacs in August.



## 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

# BAHAMAS TO ADD ASIAN SHIPS TO ITS REGISTRY

BY LEAH COOPER  
Journal Staff Writer

Transport Minister Renward Wells said The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA), with one of the largest ship registries in the world, contributes about 5.4 million dollars to the consolidated fund.

He said, "the government doesn't put anything into the BMA, and the authority puts money back into the economy because of our registry, and a lot of countries are pleased that we are on the IMO's governing body."

He added, "the Prime Minister wanted us to continue and to secure and ensure that we remain a part of it."

The Bahamas has been a part of the Group C Commission of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for twenty years and in order to be on that board, other countries across the globe have to vote at the IMO meeting.

Back in November, the country was selected as the 20th nation to be on that board.

Mr. Wells said, "I was asked to go to the UN and we had bilateral meetings with a



► Transport Minister, Renward Wells  
(Journal file photo)

number of countries from whom we were seeking support. So, when the vote comes up again, they would vote for The Bahamas to remain on that council."

The minister said he had a lot of bilateral meetings with countries like Bulgaria, Croatia, and Djibouti discussing with their foreign ministers their support for The Bahamas during the upcoming IMO vote.

He said, "as a result of our work in the maritime sector, because The Bahamas is a registry that a lot of ships in Asia are requesting to become a part, we realize

that we can expand the business that the BMA is involved in by opening up an office in Tokyo."

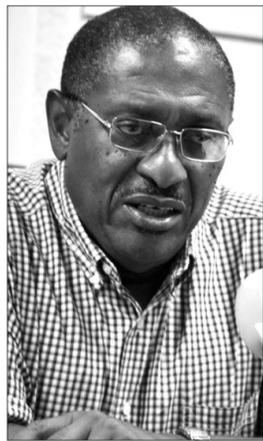
He added, "there's even talk of perhaps doing one later on in Korea, but we're going to move into the Asian market very very aggressively."

The minister said the office in Tokyo will be open as early as November 10th-16th.

He along with Deputy Prime Minister Peter Turnquest is set to go with members of the BMA that are expected to man that office.

## The disastrous legacy of the FNM continues under Dr. Hubert A. Minnis

Commentary by Bradley B. Roberts, Former Cabinet Minister and MP



Hall meeting back in November 2010 – some eight years ago and five months before the ill-advised sale of the telecommunications giant in April 2011. In retrospect, I am simply amazed at the number of fair warnings I gave the FNM government and how many of the same became self-fulfilling prophecies.

I said then that the sale of BTC to Cable and Wireless (CWC) called for a thirty percent staff reduction, or 333 employees. Since that sale, more than 737 Bahamians at BTC have lost their jobs and the downsizing continues. As a matter of fact, BTC has less staff than Cable Bahamas/Aliv. The

company was basically stripped of its profits by its new owners who bought it at a fire sale price. They flipped it to another company while technological advancement to 5G remain non-existent. After a consideration of \$204 million to the Bahamian government, CWC paid a net cash outflow of \$148 million to acquire 51% of the BTC.

I predicted eight years ago that CWC was preparing to sell itself and in 2015 while I served as Deputy Chair of BTC, CWC sold itself to Liberty Global for \$7.4 billion or 10 times EBITD. BTC's EBITD stood at \$121.8 million, placing its market and resale value at \$1.3 billion.

The vision of the PLP was for BTC to become a major player in the regional telecommunications market. As part of our \$60 million 150 gigabyte inter-island submarine cable installation project, we built fiber optic cable to Haiti as a first step and the Christie administration was in negotiations to build a fiber optic cable network to Cuba when our vision for technological advancement and regional supremacy was interrupted by our electoral loss in 2007. A change in telecommunication policy saw the exit of BTC's President and the fire sale. BTC had the money to expand as it held \$170 million in current assets in 2008,

a full three years before privatization. This expansion would have also increased well-paying jobs and expand the technological literacy of The Bahamas. Additionally, the call centers would have remained in The Bahamas, greatly assisting and diversifying our economy.

The FNM government and Cable and Wireless Communications (CWC) had other plans however. The new owners had absolutely no intentions of committing huge capital outlays to expand and advance the technological footprint of the Bahamas throughout the Caribbean. There was no intention of competing with 14 other Caribbean countries

for the \$400 million annual CAPEX budget rather than the stand-alone \$100 million of BTC.

Eight years after privatization, we are still at 4G. The Bahamas will need 5G if we are to realize many of our national developmental goals as technology will drive much of our future growth and development. For example, cell phone users still complain about the excessive number of dropped calls. How would our surgeons perform surgeries remotely without the required bandwidth capacity? Do we see the erection of additional towers to facilitate this?

■ See LEGACY / page 8...

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### MINISTRY OF HEALTH

#### NOTICE

#### INVITATION TO BID

The Ministry of Health, Department of Public Health invites Tenders for the provision of Janitorial Services during the evenings, five (5) days per week at South Beach Health Centre, East Street South.

Interested persons can contact the Administrative Officer at the said facility for permission to inspect the premises. To obtain a copy of the Scopes of Work and additional information, please contact any of the following telephone numbers: 502-47004780/4831.

All Tender documents are to be placed in a sealed envelope marked: "To Tenders Board" Janitorial Services at South Beach Health Centre, East Street South c/o Financial Secretary Ministry of Finance Cable Beach Nassau, Bahamas

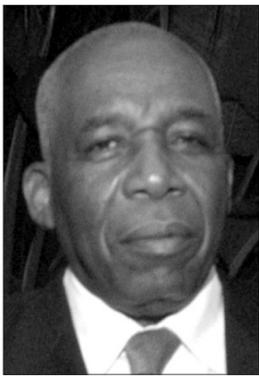
Companies should submit bids no later than Monday, October 1, 2018. Only persons with a valid Business License, Tax Compliance letter, Registration Certificate and Letter from National Insurance (NIB) stating your company is in Good standing need apply. Bids will be opened on October 2, 2018. Bidders or Representatives will be requested to be in attendance.

**E D I T O R I A L**

**Eneas Files** *By* Godfrey Eneas

**WTO Membership: Yes Or No?**

*Whoever commands the trade of the world, commands the riches of the world, and consequently the world itself. -- Sir Walter Raleigh.*



**Background**

It is expected that by the end of 2019, The Bahamas will be a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO came into existence in 1995 as the global entity to regulate trade. That was 23 years ago.

The WTO is an organization in which 164 countries of the world are members. The United Nations' community is comprised of 192 countries, so 28 countries are not members and The Bahamas is one of them.

In 2001, China became a member. Its membership has been one of the principal factors that the United States has alerted the world to China's trading practices and the threat that it poses to the WTO if the WTO does not take the necessary steps to rectify the situation.

The question for us as a country is whether or not we should seek membership at this critical juncture in the atmosphere surrounding the WTO? I say this is the wrong time for a service-based economy like The Bahamas to seek membership in an entity which is oriented towards the movement of goods valued in the trillions of dollars.

**WTO Structure**

The WTO is not, in the real sense of the word, a democratic body. It is dominated and controlled by the major global traders and the markets they seek to penetrate. Trade is the chief vehicle for economic growth and development; it is responsible for wealth accrual. It is this background that has created the inequalities in the WTO as it is controlled by the Big Four Traders:

- \* The United States (US) as the number one economy on the planet
- \* China as number two
- \* Japan as number three
- \* The European Union (EU) with its 500 million people high value market.

All of these countries have industrialized economies valued in the trillions of dollars.

There is a part of the membership equation which deals with Developing Countries whose economies are agriculturally based or are being transformed to industrialized economies i.e. India, Brazil, South Africa and others. All are shackled by Agricultural Sectors dominated by small farmers who seek to sell their commodities or look for preferential treatment in the markets of the Big Four.

This past July, President Trump circumvented the WTO rules and regulations to impose high tariffs on a range of goods by passing the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO. This act provoked a global trade war, initially between China and the US but with global repercussions.

**WTO and The US**

The US has strong objections to the manner in which the WTO presently operates. Some of the objections are as follows:

- \* WTO Appellate Board is perceived to be unfair to the US, hence the Trump Administration has sought to withhold nominating judges for the Board.
- \* The EU and Japan have been discussing with the US reforming the WTO.
- \* With reference to the modus operandi of China as a global trader based on its trading practices, China's state-owned (government-owned) enterprises have muddied the field and its huge subsidies have distorted markets causing market gluts and destabilization. China's foreign direct investment policy mandates that US and other foreign firms seeking to operate or are operating in China are required to disclose their intellectual property as a condition for access to the Chinese market.
- \* China is against reforming the WTO and it is its intention to keep the organization as it is. From the Chinese perspective, the WTO provides a stable trading environment for China because of its rules and regulations.
- \* Mr. Trump is distrustful of multilateral organizations; he supports bilateral arrangements.
- \* China demands that foreign firms form joint-venture partnerships with Chinese firms. The US has complained and objected that US firms should not turn over their technologies to Chinese joint-venture partners.
- \* To obtain agreement on any matter before the WTO has to be unanimous and this fosters gridlock.

The above are some of the objections the US is complaining about. In a nutshell it boils down to important factors like:

- \* Reining in Chinese export subsidies to state owned (government) enterprises.
- \* Controlling pattern violations via unauthorized use of intellectual property.

**The Obama Approach to Global Trade**

The Obama Administration's approach was to off-set China's trading practices by creating multilateral trading partnerships outside of the WTO. Two examples are:

**The Obama Approach to Global Trade**

The Obama Administration's approach was to off-set China's trading practices by creating multilateral trading partnerships outside of the WTO. Two examples are:

- \* Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) which would have linked the US to the eleven (11) economies around the Pacific Rim including Japan and Singapore.
- \* Trans -Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership which would have linked the twenty-seven (27) countries of the EU with the US.

These two Partnerships would have established a trade and investment entity with new rules for global trade with stipulations on state-owned enterprises which are critical components of the Chinese trading system.

When China joined the WTO in 2001, it was envisaged that the Chinese economy would evolve into a Western-style free enterprise economy. This has not happened. The Chinese economy is dominated by state-owned (government) enterprises geared towards the hijacking of a country's intellectual property leading to market disruption with the eventual possibility of economic destabi-

lization.

The WTO rules are geared to curbing government subsidies to state-owned (government) enterprises in order to have a level playing field. In the case of China, the situation made China an untouchable because of the size of its economy, the diversity of its industries, the technological advancement and the wealth it has accrued over the past two or three decades because of its economic development model.

The Pacific and Transatlantic Partnerships were viewed as the vehicle to thwart Chinese global trade aggression.

The concerns about China's trading practices were shared not only by the Americans but also by the Europeans and the Japanese, so the US is not alone on this. A joint communique was issued on "unfair competitive conditions caused by large market distorting subsidies and state-owned (government) enterprises."

Steps to change the WTO have already commenced:

- \* On July 16th, 2018, the WTO launched a working group with the Chinese to deal with reform.
- \* Talks are scheduled with the Americans, Japanese and the Europeans to commence reforming the WTO as well.

There is recognition by the Big Four that the WTO needs to be reformed. With the changing global dynamics coming on stream as a result of technological changes since 1995 along with the admission of China in 2001, the WTO must change if it is to be relevant to a 21st century world.

**Global Trade Governance in Disarray**

There seems to be a laissez faire approach to global trade as the WTO is not being factored in the decision making on the tariff conflict between the US and China and it also appears to be outside of the loop on the Brexit issue.

The US and China are in a budding trade war. Both countries are violating WTO laws as the WTO is supposed to be the global trade arbitrator. The US and China are acting unilaterally without reference to the WTO's dispute resolution regulations.

The UK leaving the EU will have dire repercussions for the UK as trade will be negatively impacted. The EU is a major UK market for British products.

When it comes to the Big Four, the WTO appears impotent.

With reference to the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the US decided that it was not satisfied with the WTO as it was not working in the best interest of the US. The Americans then took the decision to renegotiate NAFTA. In this case, the WTO was involved. The UK is leaving the EU. The big question is how will the UK function tradewise after BREXIT. The WTO seems to be disengaged in the process.

**WTO Reformation**

A new WTO is in the making. It is being done by the Big Four -US, China, Japan and the EU. Developing countries, whether we like it or not, are not in the picture. In the case of The Bahamas, our country has not been a member over the past 23 years of WTO existence. The question is

should The Bahamas join in this period of reformation? The Big Four will determine the look of the new WTO, so why join now.? Wait and see what emerges.

The main aspects to be reformed are:

- \* Notifications- Members are supposed to be able to notify others about the support which they hand out. Regulations are being put in place to make members comply.
- \* Redefine by making it easier to differentiate state-owned (government) as an arm of the Chinese government.
- \* Address the issue of subsidies, specifically Chinese export subsidies with reference to their application to state -owned (government) enterprises.

The WTO is in for a face lift which is aimed at bringing focus to three main areas:

- \* Intellectual property infringement
- \* Anti- competitive subsidies
- Review market access issues

**The Way Forward**

For small developing countries with economic limitations to engage in global trade, there is a need to consider WTO membership on the basis of interest. There are about twenty-eight (28) countries that are not WTO members. Further, The Bahamas has very little technical manpower and experience in the field of international trade and virtually no hands on experience in WTO machinations.

Rather than joining the WTO at this time, considera-

tion should be given to the establishment of a bilateral trade agreement with one of the Big Four. In our case that is the US.

The framework for such an agreement is the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) which was fashioned to promote trade between the US and the Caribbean by the Reagan Administration. Revise the CBI to meet the interest of The Bahamas as the Trump Administration is interested in forging bilateral trade agreements.

Another option is a US-Bahamas Free Trade Agreement. The economy of The Bahamas is already integrated into the US economy. 90% of our imports either come from the US or are shipped via the US. US Customs and Immigration are stationed in The Bahamas to process the millions of Americans who visit our country as tourists.

With a trade agreement with the US, The Bahamas will be able to attract foreign companies who would want to access the US market as an off-shore operation to export to the US, thereby avoiding US bureaucracy, regulatory controls and taxes.

The Bahamas has not been a trading nation during the second half of the 20th century. Prior to World War II, The Bahamas with its agricultural based economy engaged in the export of a range of commodities, i.e.: Tropical fruits and vegetables, sisal, marine products like, crawfish, salt and later aragonite on the global market. With the introduction of Tourism and Financial Services, the economy changed to a service-based economy.

When the world entered the era of globalization, The Bahamas was still tied to the Stafford Sands economic development model.

Globalization was driven by trade liberalization and fueled by the advances in technology. Cyber space was the operational environment for the new technologies which were developed via the computer and the internet. The world became borderless as the global management for the trade became difficult. In which this global explosion in trade as the major global companies are technology-based companies like Facebook, Google, Microsoft etc.

WTO membership for The Bahamas at this juncture should be placed in limbo. A trade deal should be sought with the United States. The Trump Administration recently signed a bilateral trade agreement with Mexico. It is doable.

In summary, The Bahamas does not face the challenge of finding markets. The challenge The Bahamas is up against is orienting its economy to access existing and potential markets such as:-

- \* The indigenous Bahamian (local) market
- \* The "Domestic Export" which is being generated by visitor arrivals (tourists)
- \* The CARICOM market
- \* The huge US market and, by extension, NAFTA.

This is an opportunity for The Bahamas to plot a new economic development path that is 21st century compatible and trade oriented, thereby enabling the economy to align itself with the realities of the 21st century.

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# What Are You Trying To Accomplish In Business?

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.

Since you don't want employees rowing to Miami when your intent is to head to New York, here is a closer review of how to steer them in the right direction to ensure your company's success.

Aligning employees by first setting the right foundation requires treating them like employee-partners and sharing relevant information with them, as previously discussed. You have to tell them what you are trying to accomplish.

What are you trying to accomplish? There are a number of business goals you may have set for yourself to move your business forward.

For example, fashion mogul Peter Nygård's goal to avoid the threat of the 2009 recession was to decrease cost and increase revenue. He then aligned all of his organizational components with that goal including the strategies that helped him to achieve it.

Here's a list of business goals that you may have set that you need to line up your employees with.

\* Increase the bottom line or profits (which happens by reducing cost and/or increasing sales)

\* Improve efficiencies (for example, reduce the number of workers needed to perform certain tasks)

\* Increase your market share (increase the number of customers the business has)

\* Increase sales or income (sell more of the same product or add more products for sale)

\* Improve customer service (provide better quality service to customers which can result in increased customer loyalty, increase sales and or profits, and potentially, increased market share)

\* Improve customer satisfaction with the business products and services (which can

## 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.

also lead to increased sales and customer loyalty)

\* Increase brand awareness (which can also help with attracting more customers and increasing sales) and market share)

\* Growing employee expertise (which involves training on new skills or improving existing skills which can also lead to increased sales and market share)

\* Expand product or service lines (provide by products and services for customers which can lead to increased sales and market share)

Once you decide on your business goal, you then have to make sure that you have identified the strategy/ies you want to implement to be able to achieve the goal; then you can work toward aligning your human resources with the strategies by first communicating this business goal and the strategies you want to implement.

Before continuing with how to communicate your goal and strategies, be sure that you have chosen the right goals. First, make sure that you have reflected on the results of your earlier SWOT analysis (assessing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats), and consider what you want to address from your discoveries.

Then you have to answer the question, "What does success look like?" You have to define the goal—make it a SMART goal, which we'll discuss next.

We'll discuss goals and strategies with a little more depth before continuing to look at setting the right for organizational effectiveness.

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The Bahama Journal Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimaley P. Jones Vice President/Operations

## EDITORIAL

### They Despair

Statistics do not bleed; and by the same token, therefore, statistics never-ever cry out for food that is not there!

The cost of living continues to rise for Bahamians as reflected in the most recent Quarterly Economic Review (QER) released by The Central Bank of The Bahamas (CBOB), which showed a 1.2 percent increase in the average Retail Price Index, surpassing the modest 0.5 percent increase for the same period in 2017.

This data reflects the period just before the increase in value-added tax, which was implemented on July 1st 2018.

Due to rising oil prices globally, the cost of electricity increased 2 percent, while the average cost of gasoline and diesel fuel increased by 8.5 percent and 12.7 percent respectively.

The point we make here is a very simple one: While politicians and pundits, preachers, pastors and apostles might speak to how things are improving and as to how God [in His own time] will 'work it out' the fact remains: We live in a time and in a place where the burdens piled upon the unwilling backs of the so-called 'people' are reaching what seems a critical point.

And thus, as simply and as clearly as we might, we do declare that, what we are currently observing is but one instance where—as it were- THE VIOLENCE CONTINUES!

Evidently: The government itself is complicit in the violence done so very many Bahamians; this being the case precisely because of its' near- monopoly on the production and delivery of electricity to the nation at large.

It is quite clear that a similar thing will ensue when or if government assumes monopoly control over the delivery of water to the populace.

The same principle applies to that slew of licenses and permits that are routinely provided [for a fee] by the public authorities.

Simply put, wherever there is monopoly control, monopoly rents are never far off.

And thus, we argue: Instead of being a part of the solution to the people's woes, sufferings and myriad of distressed, the state authority is a major part of THE PROBLEM!

In sum, then: Poverty is on the march throughout our Bahamas; and in truth, then, this phenomenon is nothing more and nothing less than a type of social death on the installment plan where, day by dreadful day, more and more of our people find themselves reduced, diminished and humiliated.

It is perhaps this factor – among others such – that might explain some of the rage that currently saturates social life in not only today's Bahamas; but that of any number of other societies in our region.

Indeed as some of this nation's elite classes now bemoan the fact that things are not as good as they once were, there are very many other Bahamians who are – for the first time in their lives – being introduced to poverty's harsh lash.

That social scourge –as part and parcel of THE VIOLENCE-finds itself swaddled in statistics concerning the so-called cost of living.

And thus, as the cost of living increases, so too, do we find expansion in the quantum of hurt done to men, women and their children!

And thus, today, we are quite certain of two sets of facts that should matter not only to the masses of our people, but which should also give pause [and cause to reflect] on the part of the current administration.

One set of facts relates to what we would describe as the Bahamian people's deepest hope that –once they did what they thought they should do on May 10th. 2018-better days would be on the way.

Alas! The other set of facts germane to this sad story has to do with how it now arises that, the masses of our people now find themselves being frog-marched into a mire of distresses far worse than they could ever imagine.

In other words, they now despair of better ever coming!

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

**THE BAHAMAS**  
Sun, Sand, Sea .... and the  
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NO BETTER READING

The advertisement features a collage of newspaper front pages from The Bahama Journal. The main headline on the collage is "Four Bodies Claimed". Other visible headlines include "Haitian Burials Imminent", "Brush Fire Scorches Acres of Land", "22ND MURDER VICTIM Identified", "Debris Hinders Business For Ferry Operators", and "Alleged Election Fraudster A No-Show In Court". The collage also includes various advertisements such as "MODERN Men Boutique", "HANNA'S PLUMBING SUPPLIES", and "Deans Building Supplies". The background of the advertisement is a scenic view of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore.

# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Celebrates Charter Month



Fifty five years ago a young American married to a Bahamian Dentist petitioned the head office of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc, AKA, to establish a chapter in New Providence. The Late Muriel Eneas, wife of the late Dr. Cleveland Eneas, himself a member of a fraternity, had gathered together like-minded women who were committed to the high ideals of the organization. On the 21 September 1963, the National President of AKA, Julia Purnell officiated at the chartering of the first greek lettered organization in The Bahamas and the organization's 2nd chapter outside the continental United States. Other charter members were Delores Smith, Donna Donaldson Towns and Shirley Vanderpool.

"The local chapter, Eta Psi Omega, continues to give sterling service to the Bahamian community in New Providence," said local president Ida Turnquest. "This year we observed the 40th year of our scholarship programme, Honours Day through which we have given out more than 200,000 dollars in scholarships to graduating high school females", Mrs. Turnquest continued. In the aftermath of hurricane Joaquin, the chapter donated 55 doors for homes damaged in the family islands.

In recognition of the sorority's accomplishments and thousands of hours of service to local charities, the Princess Margaret Hospital, the Willamae Pratt Centre for Girls, The Bahamas Red Cross and others, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Dr. The Hon. Hubert Minnis, has declared September, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Charter Month.

In his proclamation, the Prime Minister remarked "The Alpha Kappa Alpha programme today

still reflects the communal consciousness steeped in the AKA tradition and embodied in AKA's credo, "To be supreme in service to all mankind".

In observation of its 55th anniversary, during the month of September, members devoted more than 55 hours of service collectively to charitable organizations favoured by the chartering members of the chapter.

Anniversary activities will culminate this weekend with a joint conference event with other chapters from Freeport and the University of The Bahamas; worship at the St. Marks Native Baptist Church and a Leadership Awards Luncheon. The organization will pay tribute to its members who have given loyal and committed service to the organization for more than 20 consecutive years as well as those members who have provided leadership at the regional and international levels. A highlight of the weekend will be the presence and participation of newly elected international 1st Vice President, Danette Reid and newly appointed International Regional Director, Joy Elaine Daley. They will join local members at a courtesy call on the Governor General, Dame Marguerite Pindling and the President of The University of The Bahamas.

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. was founded on the campus of Howard University in 1908 and today boasts of an international membership of more than 300,000 members in 11 countries. Its members are all college women of high ethical and moral standing in their respective communities.



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, one hundred and ten years ago, Ethel Hedgeman, a student at Howard University, Washington DC, USA, led fellow students in the establishment of the first black Greek-letter sorority for college women, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc, to create a network for black college women;

**AND WHEREAS**, the vision of nine college students on the campus of Howard University, has flourished into a globally-impactful organization of nearly 300,000 college-trained members, bound by the bonds of sisterhood and empowered by a commitment to servant-leadership that is both domestic and international in its scope;

**AND WHEREAS**, on 21 September 1963, Muriel Eneas, married to a Bahamian dentist, Dr. Cleveland Eneas along with Delores Smith, Donna Donaldson Towns and Shirley Vanderpool, all American College women, prevailed on the organization to charter the Eta Psi Omega Chapter in Nassau Bahamas. The local chapter was the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter to be chartered outside of the United States of America and the first in The Bahamas and the region. This local chapter now boasts of more than 70 active members and more than 200 members locally;

**AND WHEREAS**, the local chapter, Eta Psi Omega, since its chartering, continues to carry out the mandate of the international organization to raise the status of the marginalized, foster friendships, strengthen families and promote academic excellence particularly amongst women and young girls; Eta Psi Omega has enriched the minds of young women and the communities it serves through its programmes and services for fifty five years;

**AND WHEREAS**, the sorority has partnered with National Organizations and agencies such as The Bahamas Red Cross, the Children's Emergency Hostel, the Department of Social Services, the WillieMae Pratt Centre; Atlantic Medical, the National PanHellenic Council, Nassau and many others to provide relief for the poor, the elderly and children;

**AND WHEREAS**, through its signature programmes 'Honours Day' and 'GEMS', the sorority has provided more than 200,000 dollars in scholarships to the top graduating female student and provided guidance and training to hundreds of junior high students;

**AND WHEREAS**, the local chapter of the sorority, continues to welcome to its membership, outstanding women who are community activists, entrepreneurs, senior public servants, educators, bankers and leaders locally, regionally and internationally;

**AND WHEREAS**, September 21, 2018 marks Fifty-five years since the establishment of the organization in New Providence, and the group being desirous of honouring the legacy of its charter members will provide a minimum of 55 hours of service to selected charities during the month of September;

**AND WHEREAS**, The Alpha Kappa Alpha program today still reflects the communal consciousness steeped in the AKA tradition and embodied in AKA's credo, "To be supreme in service to all mankind";

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Hubert A. Minnis, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, do hereby proclaim the month of September, as "**ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY INC. CHARTER MONTH**".

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I  
have hereunto set my Hand and Seal  
this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018.

HUBERT A. MINNIS  
PRIME MINISTER

