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THURSDAY - OCTOBER 25TH, 2018

75 CENTS

"BRAZEN CORRUPTION"

Minister in Conflict, Says FNM MP

In a scathing attack against corruption in government, the Member of Parliament for the Golden Isles constituency Vaughn Miller said yesterday that the Free National Movement government's resolution to lease the Town Centre Mall from a Cabinet Minister "is a continuation and perpetuation corruption."

In his lengthy debate on the resolution, the maverick backbencher said, "the core issue here is the chronic inability of successive Governments of the



▶ Vaughn Miller, Golden Isles, MP (File photo)

■ See BRAZEN / page 3...

Symonette declares interest in Mall

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

Minister of Financial Services Trade and Industry Brent Symonette yesterday declared his interest in The Town Centre Mall – the proposed temporary site of the General Post Office.

The mall has for years been plagued with one issue after another, leading to reduced work weeks and consequently millions of



▶ Minister of Financial Services Trade and Industry Brent Symonette (File photo)

■ See SYMONETTE / page 4...

NEW SHIFTS FOR NURSES



▶ Managing Director, Public Hospitals Authority, Catherine Weech (seated third from left) announced a new shift system for all nurses employed by the PHA effective Monday, December 10, 2018 during a press conference at her office, Wednesday, October 24, 2018. Seated from left is: Nursing Services Advisor, Lillian Black-Charlton; Valerie Miller, Principal Nursing Officer, Princess Margaret Hospital; Mrs. Weech; Deputy Managing Director, PHA, Lyrone Burrows and Thelma McKenzie. Principal Nursing Officer, Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre. (BIS Photo/Raymond A. Bethel Sr.)

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

The Public Hospitals Authority yesterday announced the implementation of a new shift system for all nurses employed with them effective Monday December 10th 2018.

This came after the PHA implemented a five-on, two-off shift system for night duty nurses to eliminate the nursing shortage with hospitals in New Providence and Grand Bahama.

Acting Hospital Administrator for the Princess Margaret Hospital, Sonia Rose said, "the new shift system will eliminate the inequity cost of the four nights on, four nights off shift system, which results in night duty nurses working only 157 days per year on average, compared to 234 days per year on average for all other nurses."

This new system will establish a 40 hour work

■ See NURSES / page 4...

Minister Calls Mall "A Wonderful Solution"

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

Bamboo Town Member of Parliament Renward Wells yesterday said The Town Centre Mall offers a wonderful solution to the dilemma that the government finds itself in for a General Post Office.

Mr. Wells made the comment as he opened debate on a resolution allowing the



▶ Renward Wells (File photo)

■ See MINISTER / page 8...

MINISTER EXPLAINS ASSISTANCE FOR UWI MEDICAL STUDENTS

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Education Minister Jeffrey Lloyd yesterday in Parliament addressed long-standing issues with Bahamian medical students, particularly those enrolled at

the University of the West Indies.

In June of this year, 49 medical school students graduated from the university with a total of 40 post graduate training opportuni-

■ See MINISTER / page 4...



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



The Bahamas is moving towards e-Government



► Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Senator Kwasi Thompson recently returned home after attending a seminar for executive training for Caribbean policymakers and Managers. The event, which was held in Estonia, gave Ministers attending deeper insight into the effective workings of e-government. In photo, Minister Thompson (right) greets Estonia Minister of Entrepreneurship and Information Technology, Rene Tammist. (File photo)

Minister of State for Grand Bahama Senator J. Kwasi Thompson and Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister Elise Delancy were invited to participate in an Executive Training for Caribbean policymakers and managers, sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank, which took place October 15th and 19th, 2018, in Tallinn, Estonia.

The aim of the Executive Training was to provide Caribbean policymakers and managers with the necessary tools to develop and strengthen participating countries and nations' capacities in digital government and make a wider and more efficient use of ICTs in the public sector.

"The training program will help to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Government and to identify best practices and knowledge to improve the quality of government services and, therefore, increase citizen satisfaction," said Minister of State for Grand Bahama,

Senator Kwasi Thompson.

The executive training exposed Sen. Thompson and PS. Delancy to E-Estonia and their achievements in E-Government Services. In Estonia 99% of their Government Services are online services, which are available 24/7. They provide their citizens with e-services such as e-school, e-banking, e-police, e-health, e-tax, e-business, I-voting and e-Cabinet.

Estonia is considered to be the world leaders in E-Government.

"We have embarked on making Grand Bahama a tech hub," noted Minister Thompson. "If we truly want to see real results, we must begin to make giant leaps to catch up with the rest of the world on how we provide Government services for our people.

"We should begin to take steps to make Government offices paperless and integrated, which means all of our offices and Ministries be

connected online and all can be accessed online.

"At present all Ministries have made progress to varying degrees on digitizing their services, but we must begin to integrate those services online to make it easier for Bahamians. If we move towards a system of integration Bahamians would not have to bring a paper birth certificate or passport to every government office where they conduct business. If the service is online they can access these services from their homes. It would forever change the way we do business and finally give our family island communities the same access to service."

Minister Thompson noted that in Grand Bahama e-Government will be a necessary factor to attract international Technology companies to invest in Grand Bahama and improve the island's economy.

Access Accelerator Small Business Development Centre Family Island Rollout Begins with Exuma

The Access Accelerator Small Business Development Centre has kicked off its Family Island rollout on Exuma, meeting with the Exuma Chamber of Commerce and holding a town hall meeting in Georgetown, where dozens of excited entrepreneurs and would-be entrepreneurs gathered to hear about the new entity and to sign up.

Access Accelerator Executive Director Davinia Blair was a featured speaker at the Exuma Business Outlook as well. She spoke to the crowd about what the data said about Exuma's Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs).

Town Hall

One attendee at the town hall meeting was enthusiastic about the advent of the Access Accelerator, though she lamented that such an entity took so long to come to life.

"If this had been around when I was first starting out, I'd be a millionaire," she said.

Another attendee summed up the need for the Access Accelerator when she described her frustrations trying to get her business idea off the ground.

She said, "I couldn't find the right people to get into contact with."

In addition to discussing the services the Access Accelerator will begin offering Exumians today (Tuesday), Ms. Blair acknowledged what some attendees said, that MSME development did not appear to have kept pace with the development of the island overall, even though by some measures, MSMEs in Exuma are outperforming the larger businesses.

Ms. Blair reiterated that the government has committed that 20 percent of its procurements would be reserved for MSMEs. She said in addition to that commitment, there must be a commitment to include local MSMEs in the supply chain for foreign direct investment (FDI)

opportunities.

"Bahamian MSMEs – and for Exuma projects, Exuma MSMEs – must be at the table as heads of agreements are being negotiated," Ms. Blair asserted.

Rollout

Later in October, the Access Accelerator will be in Abaco, where the Access Accelerator team will meet with the Abaco Chamber and hold a town hall meeting to introduce the Access Accelerator and connect with the local entrepreneurial community.

In November, Blair is expected to speak at the Long Island Business Outlook, and other islands to which the Access Accelerator is bound before taking a break for the Christmas season include Andros and Eleuthera.

Action

With the new name and branding, the Access Accelerator Small Business Development Centre has three critical new hires which highlight the tremendous momentum generated by the official launch on September 20, and carried into the first two weeks of operations, including the graduation of the first classes of entrepreneurs from the two-week introductory course, both in New Providence and Grand Bahama.

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

Executive Director Blair announced that the SBDC had hired a Senior Business Development Specialist, an

Associate Director of Operations and had contracted someone to design and build the Access Accelerator website.

Mr. Nicholas Higgs is the Centre's new Senior Business Development Specialist, tasked with providing business development advisory services to MSMEs and assisting the Executive Director with overall operation of the program.

Mr. Higgs is responsible for providing counseling on all aspects of small business operations including but not limited to management, financing, operations, marketing and personnel. He will have a special emphasis on capital advising for small businesses. In addition, Mr. Higgs will conduct client counseling, assist in the development and implementation of training events and workshops, promote Access Accelerator services, network with community organizations involved in small business and economic development, and assist in maintenance of data in the Access Accelerator Client Activity Training System (CATS).

"I view my role as one of the most important in fostering and growing startups, small and medium companies in the country. My role specifically is to assist companies with sharpening their financial swords to fulfill their goals of raising funds, expanding their companies or to simply become a more efficiently-run company," said Mr. Higgs, who sees the Access Accelerator, and by extension himself, as something of a Jedi master for Bahamian startups.

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

"I am very excited, because we will be able to focus on a section of the market that I believe has been untouched. Entrepreneurship is a big thing, especially among young people – even in passing you can hear peo-

ple talking about their entrepreneurial dreams. Being able to provide support and guidance to those persons will be amazing, especially to assist that process from start to finish," she said.

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

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

The new hires come after

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



Public Notice

Roadworks Parliament Street

The Ministry of Public Works/Bahamix in conjunction with Island Pavers, has scheduled road works for Parliament Street. The Milling and surface preparation of Parliament Street will begin on Wednesday, October 24, 2018, between the hours of 7:00p.m. and 3:00a.m. for two (2) nights.

The Paving works is programmed for Friday, October 26, 2018, and Saturday, October 27, 2018, between the hours of 7:00p.m. and 3:00a.m.

Provisions will be made for local traffic where necessary. Motorists are asked to avoid the area if possible. Please 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 telephone numbers (242) 361-3886 or (242) 341-3886.

Bahamix apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

"BRAZEN CORRUPTION"

Minister in Conflict, Says FNM MP

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Commonwealth of the Bahamas to maintain the public offices where public servants have to perform their duties to the public.

He said the decision of the government to bring the resolution to Parliament seeking approval is a brazen insult to his integrity.

"Over the years there has developed a culture, where publicly owned buildings and office spaces are allowed to deteriorate for years without sound repair, until dilapidation reaches a crisis point.

"An emergency situation is then created, where it is patently clear that staff must be moved immediately.

"And it is this contrived emergency that is used as justification to run to the private sector to lease office space.

"In the hustle and bustle of dealing with this contrived "emergency", politicians seek out party-loyal landlords, by-passing standard practices and safeguards, and brushing aside any objections, because of the "emergency".

Invariably, Mr. Speaker, all the governments of the Bahamas have, by and large, leased from their political associates, irrespective of race, class, religion or creed," said Mr. Miller who was fired as a Parliamentary Secretary when he voted against the government's decision to increase the rate of Value Added Tax recently.

He told the House of Assembly, "all the governments of this country, since

Independence, have failed miserably to maintain the People's real estate assets; and many constructed government buildings have been found to be sub-standard."

He said, "right across the street from us, the Adderley Building in front of the Churchill building, where Cabinet meets, has been condemned for years. Old shutters have been seen hanging dangerously on one hinge from the 4th floor at the height of Junkanoo parades. And cars parked next to this building have been damaged by falling pieces of concrete during heavy rains.

"Then there is a dilapidated office complex The Rodney Bain Building, just South of us on Parliament and Shirley Streets, where the Registrar-General was housed. It has been abandoned now for years.

"Now it stands unkept, unrenovated and ridden with vermin while the People's money is being spent to rent office space for the Registrar-General in privately owned quarters.

"We have the Immigration Department, a most interesting example, in leased premises on Hawkins Hill, where the government has paid rent for decades. I'm almost sure that the Government could have built its own Immigration office complex with all of this rent money.

"We have the Passport Office that moved decades ago from public offices on Bank Lane and Bay Street, and has wandered from rented space to rented space to their present location on

University Drive," said the MP.

"The Ministry of Tourism, from the time they left the run-down public offices opposite The Hilton Hotel on Bay Street, many years ago, has gone from rented space to rented space also. Many people are not even sure where Tourism is now, their having moved, like a jumping jack, from one landlord to another, for literally an entire generation.

"Agriculture recently left the government-owned Levy Building on East Bay Street and split in two, with one half going to rented space in the Out Island Traders Building on East Bay Street, and the other half going to some obscure building at the foot of the hill on Gladstone Road and only the ground floor of the Levy Building is now being used.

"Very recently, Road Traffic moved from the Clarence A. Bain Building to the National Stadium because the structure was allowed to deteriorate and now remains an empty eyesore with a ghost town look.

"There are too many more examples of this culture and at some point the public needs to know how many government-owned buildings have been allowed to rot while tens of millions of dollars annually is being squandered by the practice of renting private offices.

"The renting of private office space should be the exception, Mr. Speaker, not the rule," he said.

Mr. Miller noted that, "successive governments of

the Commonwealth of the Bahamas never implemented a plan for the upkeep and construction of public offices. Many of these officers from time to time over the years have been declared substandard by the very people working in them, and the major complaints have been mold infestation, insects, rodents and poor ventilation. Very little attention has been paid to the health standards in these offices.

"The provision of office space for public servants has been a racket for years and we have all accepted as the norm that the people who pay in the end are the ever-trusting voters who, for generations, have just been hoping and praying for decent leaders.

"Bahamian voters are hoping for men and women in Parliament who do not take joy in scheming to get their paws in the public purse; men and women who would not act like greedy pigs at the public trough or like untrained dogs in the master's meat shop; men and women who are instinctively abhorred by conflicts of interest in the conduct of public affairs; enlightened, upright men and women of character who did not come to thief, but to bring relief.

"This is not some half-baked theory that I have come up with just to provide an argument against this Resolution Mr. Speaker.

No! Quite to the contrary! "The Resolution itself is an indictment against all the Governments for this scam, this system of corruption by

neglect," Mr. Miller said,

"Mr. Speaker, We see clearly in paragraph 1 of the Resolution that the building on East Hill Street was ALLOWED to deteriorate; it was DELIBERATELY neglected, by successive Governments, PLP and FNM, for a number of years; and dilapidation developed to such an extent that Paragraph 2 of the Resolution states that the Post Office staff took repeated industrial action complaining that conditions were inhumane and insufferable.

"Yet, Mr. Speaker, nothing was done. There was no urgent concern on the part of any Government, for years, about the health issues, particularly black mold infestation.

"So, the crisis became deeper and more critical, bringing the matter closer and closer to a precipitous point, where the Government responding to this so-called "emergency" created by wilful Gogernment negligence and dereliction of duty, suddenly began frantically to look for an alternate site.

"So, the argument now is that we need to find a place urgently; and in the urgency, we should dismiss propriety and transparency and integrity; we should not concern ourselves with avoiding "the very appearance of evil". We do not have time to search for and inspect possible sites. Time has run out on us and our wilful neglect.

"And fortunately Mr. Speaker, our good Cabinet Minister has an ideal building in an ideal location,

which he is offering at ideally very attractive rental rates.

"All during the years of deterioration and staff industrial action, no serious attempt was made to repair the Post Office building incrementally and to identify a temporary re-location site, if that was indeed necessary, earlier in the process.

The questions then are:

I). How many other Government offices are run-down or are running down?

II). How long have they been in this state of disrepair?

III). What efforts have been made to effect incremental repairs immediately?

IV). What efforts are being done to address ALL the black mold infestation in ALL Government offices?

V). Does Cabinet have a budgeted property management plan for all government offices?

VI). Is this plan effective enough to reduce the Government's wasteful propensity to lease office space from the private sector, while its own properties lie empty and condemned?

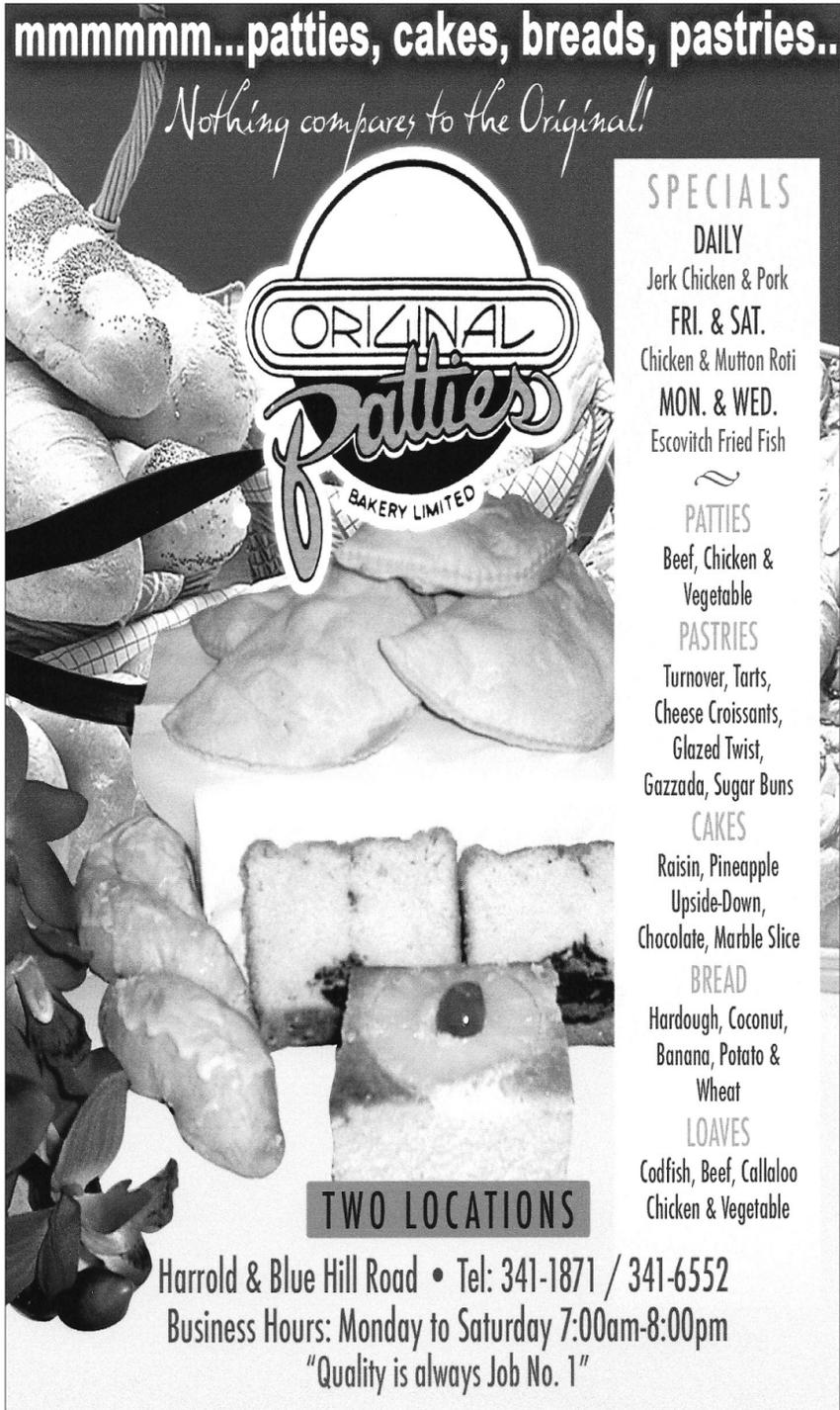
"In the very marrow of this culture of successive governments allowing the People's buildings to deteriorate and then running to the private sector to rent space, is foul and putrid corruption.

"Simply put, you donate

See COB'S ADVISORY / page 2...

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The Government of The Bahamas is inviting bids on the following vessels owned by the Port Department, Ministry of Transport & Local Government.

-Sale of the Tugboat "Snapper" and Tugboat "Amberjack"
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The Chairman
Tenders Board
Ministry of Finance
Cecil V. Wallace Whitfield Building
Cable Beach
P. O. Box N-3017
Nassau, The Bahamas
Telephone No. (242) 372-1530

No later than 5:00 pm on the 12th day of October, 2018.

Bids will be opened at 10:00 am on the 16th October, 2018 at the office of the Tender's Board, Ministry of Finance.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS.

E. Raymond King, EdD
Commander, RBDF
Port Controller (Acting)
Port Department

Symonette declares interest in Mall

Continued from / PAGE 1...

dollars in losses.

Tabling documents, Mr. Symonette, the Member of Parliament for Saint Annes, yesterday disclosed the shareholders of the Blue Hills Road Shopping Centre (BHRSC) Limited.

"For the record, they are myself, 81 shares, my wife one share, Dion Dean, Laura Smith, and Randy Smith at one share, BHRSC Holdings Limited 9,610 shares out of 10,000 [and] Furniture

Plus...71 percent of Holdings Limited."

Annual statements for BHRSC holdings filed on November 21, shows 5,000 shares.

According to Mr. Symonette, of that figure, he owns 2,496, his brother, 2,500 shares; and there are three nominee shares.

Mr. Symonette added that having declared his interest, the House could do what it wanted.

House Speaker, Halston Moultrie, ruled that having declared, the Free National

Movement member was exempted from vacating his seat in the lower chamber, quashing the opposition's bid for this to happen.

However, Opposition Leader, Philip Davis said, that on their side, as members of the House of Assembly, they did not deem it just, to allow the member not to vacate his seat as a result of the disclosure.

He added that they said no to the exemption for reasons that they would provide during the course of debate on the resolution.

MINISTER EXPLAINS ASSISTANCE FOR UWI MEDICAL STUDENTS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

offerred in the Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH).

However, this time around, "44 or more are" expected to enter the industry seeking training opportunities in the healthcare system.

Minister Lloyd said, "The system has stretched and bent and twisted to accommodate. It is at the absolute limit and possibly beyond. Simultaneously we have, as a country, continued to offer scholarships to more and more prospective UWI medical students, but we have not strengthened the capacity for post-graduate medical attention."

He added, "without training opportunities in post-medical school, these physicians cannot practice."

In August, Director of UWI's School of Clinical Medicine and Research in

The Bahamas, Dr. Robin Roberts, sent a letter informing university officials that The Bahamas' limit for scholarships this year in medicine would be 25.

Mr. Lloyd said UWI officials received the letter, however the notice was not transmitted to students.

He said, "as of this moment, here and now, all prospective UWI students or candidates seeking admission into the medical, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, or veterinarian programs, once accepted, must first receive approval in writing from the Ministry of Health before the Ministry of Education will consider or approve tuition assistance for any candidate in either of those aforementioned fields."

Considering the notice was not transmitted to students, he said the government is prepared to act.

Mr. Lloyd said, "the government will pay the subvention for all first year Bahamian medical students now enrolled at the University of the West Indies."

He added, "we will pay that official list that will be provided by the university."

As it stands, the government is paying \$9.4 million this year of the \$17.8 spent on all scholarships which totals 53 per cent.

Mr. Lloyd said that this means that more than half of the money allocated for scholarships goes to the University of the West Indies.

The Bahamas' relationship with UWI began in 1962 for the training of doctors, teachers and lawyers.

Over the years, it has included other disciplines like dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, and social work.

NEW SHIFTS FOR NURSES

Continued from / PAGE 1...

week and an 8 hour daily shift as opposed to the current 10 hour shift for night duty nurses.

In consideration of this, the PHA agreed with the

Bahamas Nurses Union to pay all nurses scheduled to work between the hours of 6pm and 6am, \$1.75 in addition to their standard base hourly pay.

While the PHA admitted that this has been a long time

coming, Ms. Rose said that they are confident that this will open the door to better staffing in their patient wards, with the hope of having better patient outcomes, as a result of the improved staffing levels.

EDITORIAL

WARNING SHOT



By Jerry Hutchinson

The National Honours Dilemma

By Jerry Hutchinson

"Honour is like an island, rugged and without shores; once we have left it, we can never return"

- Nicholas Boileau -

So, National Honours have been bestowed in two tranches on Bahamians believed to be entitled to them. The second exercise like the first has left many puzzled, angry and confused. The notable exceptions are honours to Bishop Walter Hanchell and Father Sebastian Campbell. This confusion is probably because some appeared to be so deserving that they appeared on both lists. There is a reason for this reaction and it is this. Bestowing honours are inherently a political exercise, and, in this, the Bahamas is no different from other countries that have an honours system. As an example, Jamaica established its own honours system in 1969 with the passage of the National Honours and Awards Act, followed by Barbados and Saint Lucia in 1980, the Solomon Islands in 1981, Belize in 1991, Antigua and Barbuda in 1998, Papua New Guinea in 2004 and Grenada in 2007. So, we have lots of company in this area and will experience many of the problems that these countries have. Britain has long struggled to craft a transparent, fair honours system. Indeed, the British discomfort with the lack of transparency in the existing honours system was so acute that a House of Commons Public Administration Committee formed in 2012-2013 suggested radical reform of the system. The committee stated that:

"We believe that no-one should be honoured for simply 'doing the day job', no matter what that job is. Honours should be awarded only for exceptional service above and beyond the call of duty. This would result in a far higher proportion of honours being awarded to people who devote their time to the local community, instead of to politicians, civil servants, and celebrities. There should be no special privileges or quotas for groups of society or certain professions: instead the honours system should be fair and open to all".

The same comments have been made by observers in other countries which have national honours. The confusion and criticism churning around these awards come from several points of view.

Let's explore these Firstly, what is the meaning of National Honours Awards? According to Oxford English Dictionary, is described as "of a nation," "owned or supported by the state," a citizen of a state. Honour means "great respect", a dear sense of what is morally right, "a privilege", "an award for achievement." Award is to "give officially as a prize or reward", "something awarded", "the act of awarding". From all these explanations a National Honour Award, is a national state-owned respect or award of achievement, or to give officially a prize or reward, to someone.

On the face of it, some of the current awardees may struggle to meet these criteria. Notable exceptions are Bishop Walter Hanchell and Rev. Sebastian Campbell. The opposition to some of the awardees is also generational. It is unlikely that any black Bahamian who experienced the overt racism, lack of job and educational opportunities, social mobility and systemic denial of basic human rights in the Bahamas of the 1950's and early 1960's by a British supported oligarchy would agree that any of its proponents, enablers, or beneficiaries deserve an award of any kind. In fact, many of my era see the awards to some persons as a cynical and dangerous attempt to rehabilitate some awardees political and social legacies and rewrite our history. And, we have only ourselves to blame.

Many Bahamians avoid the reading or open discussion of this countries social and political history as assiduously as the devil avoids holy water. Many believe that history is an "old Story"; which has little or no impact on their past or continued existence. However, a casual browse of Bahamian History websites for an example Bahamianology.com, would almost certainly result in an epiphany or transformation depending whether they wish to embrace new ideas or understandings.

We also know through experience that a national award will never satisfy the drive of some Bahamians for recognition and validation. This sense of entitlement permeates the whole exercise. In some cases, it's only a stepping to what they really want. They want the Holy Grail of awards; something, a title, trinket or bauble from the Queen. In pursuit of this elusive prize, they will sacrifice pride, compromise themselves and lose whatever honour they have left, and possibly sacrifice their first born.

What is abundantly clear is that we successfully divided the Bahamas into political tribes. This is a shame.

Bahamians, working together built this Bahamas we enjoy today against all odds and predictions that we would fail. Bahamians in cooperation with each other transformed areas long considered "behind Gods back" like Carmichael Road and the surrounding areas into thriving commercial and residential areas. Political tribalism and its wicked handmaiden political cannibalism has all but this destroyed social cohesion. National Awards, which I am sure are intended to unite us has divided the country even further.

This lack of social cohesion now endangers national patrimony and the economic and social growth we require for a stable nation. In addition, a "spoils system" encouraged by political tribalism virtually ensures that this would not happen. The required skilled and experienced workers seen or believed to be a supporter of one political party or another are either purged or marginalised. Astoundingly, some of our children have been fed outright hatred of our political parties with their mothers' milk. Consequently, as adults, they avoid any information which would represent an alternative point of view because this would be an inconvenient truth. Irrational and largely unsupported hatred of politicians of any stripe makes it near impossible for them to see the enormity of what is really at stake in the Bahamas.

A poisonous political environment makes it easier to foist a so-called National Honours Awardee on Bahamians without the necessarily rigorous and fair scrutiny of their social and political antecedents as well as their record of public service. Party supporters therefore stand idly by as all manner of retrograde actions are taken especially if these actions visit hardship and pain on the families and children of their political opponents.

In this atmosphere, we seem to forget that we are all Bahamians; in a crunch, we have only each other to rely on. It also makes it difficult and nearly impossible for any government to craft an awards list devoid of controversy. Whether or not historical factors are considered before selection is unclear; I believe that they should be.

If not, then, we ignore the caution by George Santayana that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

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The Rough Cut

By Felix F. Bethel

“...this damned day...”

Somewhere I read: When asked about the causes of crime and violence, many Bahamians will cite substance abuse, unemployment, poverty, poor parenting, teenage pregnancy, absentee fathers, and the breakdown of social capital (defined as the capacity to transmit positive values to younger generation).

This is why, I am absolutely convinced that: One of the concepts which should matter to all of my people is that bloody reality which suggests that today's Bahamas is rippled through and through with violence.

Whilst some of the wrong done by this or that Bahamian is direct and coldly brutal as in those cases where rape, robbery and murder take place.

But yet, there are all those other instances where the hurt done emanates from policies made by men and women who wield real power over the lives of their fellow-Bahamians.

Evidently, this type of violence is wielded by magicians parading as pastors; by men and women who sell dreams and of course, by any number of for-the-moment pashas who can and do heap tax after burdensome tax upon the already heavy-laden heads of widows, their orphans and all others weak enough to have this kind of stuff done them.

This is obviously cut from that same bolt I label as THE VIOLENCE!

Take note: The murder rate has more than doubled in the last 10 years.

Note also: The primary victims of murder are young males (18-25 years old), killed with a firearm as a result of unresolved conflicts and retaliation.

First, it's yikes for you now; and second, you can bet your bottom dollar that this brutally wrong thug-delivered instance of violence is but one face of that much deeper definition of wrong and stink violence done some Bahamians upon others they describe as their fellow-Bahamian.

Indeed, there is a case to be made that violence done some is right-there and as big as Billy in the Government's Budget; in the decisions made by employers when they figure out how much they are to pay their workers and clearly, also, there is that larger violence which took

root almost five hundred years ago that—as the world now knows—was rooted, grounded and founded in the treacherous wrong which led to the enslavement of a vast horde of Africa's men, women and children.

That violence is the foundation upon which the great nations of today's so-called Civilized/Modern/Western World is known as Capitalism.

To this day, Africa still bleeds.

To this day, our African brothers in the Republic of Haiti still reel and bleed from wounds inflicted upon them not only as they fought for and won their Independence, but which dog them to this damned day.

Whilst yesterday's nigger-yard was bad enough in its myriads of bitters, sweets, sorrows and sufferings; I do declare that today's nigger-infested Bahamas has become one of those nasty places where some who are sick as ever never get the help they deserve and need—this being the case precisely because their highly-perched family, neighbours and friends routinely hide their mentally ill relatives from the prying eyes of doctors and other medical personnel who could—if given the chance—protect and help them heal.

And thus these sick ones are allowed to wreak their own special kind of distress on some of us---

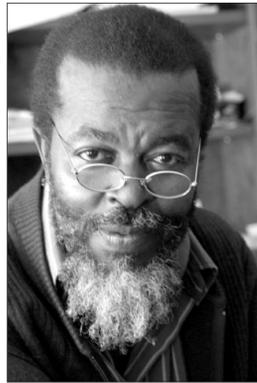
It is now as clear as day: there are two justice systems currently extant in today's crime-saturated Bahamas, with one being of the street and thus headed by hard men who—for better or worse—control the dispensing of their cold, hard version of justice.

The other system is that one where bewigged judges routinely preside over matters referred to them by the police.

Evidently, the men who head these two systems are quite aware of how serious their work is; and clearly, they who are the head niggers in charge are armed to the teeth.

It really is as simple as that!

Now imagine this: A 34-year-old man was acquitted of murder in June of this year; that the man was recently shot and killed off West Street this Sunday night past; another man is in hospi-



tal after being injured in the shooting.

And thus, the sum of the matter remains: Shortly before 10pm this Sunday past, two men who had just arrived at a house on Dorsett Alley when an armed man shot them before running off.

There you have it: Two 'justice' systems at work, one run by the State Authority and the other by judges, juries and executioners doing their share of the violence at street-corner level!

Evidently: As metaphors go, none is perhaps as apt as that one which warns about the inerrant efficiency of the long arm of the law.

At the highest level of Authority, we know it for fact: You can't do wrong and get by; this being the case precisely because if you escape judgment on this side of the grave, you will face it on the judgment day!

And then of course, the so-called long arm of the law can—when used by smart dudes in uniform or plain clothes—crack the coldest of cold cases.

But yet, there are those other instances where the long arm of the law is owned and controlled by thug-masters and gunmen who do their own exquisitely precise version of the justice-thing; thus—on occasion when they turn up: They resort to meting out capital punishment!

Today's oh/so-very-stink Bahamas is just that sort of place that can set your teeth on edge as you seethe in anger borne on the wings of madness/ and by damn, I tell you this: Today's Bahamas is now dominated by any number of god-forsaken idiots, charlatans, con-men, gunmen and magicians.

Indeed--and for sure, please believe me when I say: We are embarked on a mad road to destruction.

This is precisely what is happening today as in today-right-now in our crime infested Bahamas.

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The Bahama
Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimaley P. Jones
Vice President/Operations

E D I T O R I A L

Fighting Crime?

"We will continue to do whatever is necessary within the framework of the law to ensure that Bahamians and those who visit our shores are safe. We're introducing new technologies, refining the current technologies that we have on hand, we're building relationships with our local stakeholders as well as external stakeholders so there are a number of things current happening that we are extremely pleased about, and we will continue to do that as we work towards making the Bahamas safer." Marvin Dames, The Honourable Minister of National Security.

We dare say: No Minister of National Security can—no matter how mightily they might wish—'ensure that Bahamians and those who visit our shores are safe'.

Safety and security are themselves the good result which ensues when people care about each other; when they respect each other and of course, when they pull together for the achievement of the common good.

Thus when schools fail and parents fail and business owners fail and thus when the notion takes root that it is a dog eat dog world, so-called 'crime' flourishes,

This is the root of the entire matter concerning crime, a phenomenon we have on occasion described as 'the fever chart of a sick society.

Reform the key institutions of state, church and family---rescue the people, caring for the dying, save the nation!

For as much as we know, wrong-doing and corruption are deeply rooted in Bahamian society [with this being the case across the centuries] thus our suggestion that crime and wrong-doing will only trend down when Bahamians turn from their crooked ways!

Evidently, therefore, crime defined as breach of this or that law has its correlate in that other notion, 'sin'.

Thus there is ample opportunity for practically everyone to discover on examination that they have offended either the law of God or that of the state.

Fighting either is a life-long challenge.

Evidently, there is on both sides of this wrong-doing coin that other reality where

some who sin in a very serious way routinely slide out of the reach of 'the law'.

It is this side of the ledger where cynicism flourishes especially in those circumstances where some who do wrong are able to prosper whilst some of their less well connected fellow Bahamians are obliged to pay the price for the slightest of their infractions.

This is surely of the existence of a built-in set of biases favouring the rich over the poor and of course, by extension, the strong over the weak!

Thus when reference is made to the causes of crime, note is given to things like substance abuse, unemployment, poverty, poor parenting, teenage pregnancy and absentee fathers.

Interestingly enough, here we find biases tending to suggest that crime is a force that pervades the environs of the poor and the sufferers.

Perhaps, much of this way of thinking is directly connected to that very special species of ideation which calls on the police to fight crime.

Thus the public is routinely made to understand that the police are hard at work; but yet we wonder, hard at doing what?

And then, as if out of the blue, the tough new report: "...A man was killed last night and another injured in a double shooting at Parker Street, off Meadows Street.

"The incident came on the same day that Minister of National Security Marvin Dames said that officers were pleased that serious crime was trending downwards—while acknowledging there was "a significant amount of work" to do in fighting crime."

Obviously, the bloody beat goes on.

[and thus]: With this cruel fact in mind, we insist that we are not impressed with all of that chat concerning how crime is trending, whether downward, upward or sideways.

As in the case of the vast majority of right-thinking people in this country, we yearn for the soon-coming of that day when the hard men with the guns understand that, they do themselves, their family [especially their praying mothers and fathers] no end of sleepless nights, heart-ache, hurt and harm.

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

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Senior Meteorologist Benefits From Aviation Weather Center Training in Florida

Trevor Basden, Senior Meteorologist and Director at the Bahamas Meteorology Department recently completed a comprehensive one-week training at the Aviation Weather Center (AWC) in Kansas City, Missouri. The test bed experimental training, which incorporated the modernization tool and strategies for aviation weather services was an agreement reached between The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation (BMOTA) and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) during the recent EAA Air Venture Conference in Osh Kosh, Wisconsin.

The test bed training,

understands and appreciates the uniqueness of our geographical make up, and that for instance, if one of our islands in the south is affected by a hurricane, it does not mean that our central or northern islands are impacted by such adverse weather conditions.”

“Additionally, we are appreciative of the relationship we have established with NOAA and are delighted to take full advantage of their tools and resources, including the special test bed training of the new GFA expansion tool, which, is expected to give more accurate information on current and forecasted weather conditions, including wind tur-

National Weather Service (NWS) offices along with our internal Aviation Weather Center forecasters to see some of the new research that may make it into operations. We also conduct testing of our products with a number of users, including pilots and air traffic personnel, and partner with the FAA so that we can gather feedback on any products and services that may be of benefit to both the NWS and the FAA in the future to ensure safe and efficient flight”.

“The number one thing we needed before moving these products into full operation is a user assessment and Trevor was a big part of



► Meteorologists at work evaluating and testing new GFA tool, to predict more accurately, weather conditions and better design flight plans. (Photo: AWC Staff)

marked the first time that personnel from the Bahamas Met Department participated in such a training, which included research in experimental Graphical Forecasts for Aviation (GFA) tool, atmospheric modeling, regional forecasting and the issuance of significant Meteorological information (SIGMETs). The Bahamas was also added to the global forecast chat, whose expanded GFA covers the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean and will in early 2019, include the Pacific Ocean beyond Hawaii and the Alaskan region.

The GFA is the foundation upon which future advancements are built and provides the entire aviation community with the latest advances in aviation weather services along with the National Weather Service, the authority on aviation information. On the completion of its experimental evaluation phase, the GFA will replace the outdated text-based forecast with a more detailed graphical forecast in terms of the amount of information for flight planning.

Ellison “Tommy” Thompson, Deputy Director General, BMOTA who made the training agreement with NOAA, said, “The 700 islands of The Bahamas, spans a large geographical area of more than 100,000 square miles. Tourism is our economic lifeline and the safety of our visitors and residents is paramount. It is imperative therefore that they are knowledgeable and prepared in advance, for any potential and life threatening weather conditions that may be affecting their areas. Likewise, it is equally important that the media and the world at large, knows,

bulence, weather, thunderstorms, storm warnings, etc. which, we know will ultimately benefit our country and its people,” he said.

In 2016, The Bahamas was awarded the first “Weather Ready Nation Ambassador” status from NOAA for its commitment to the education, preparedness and protection of its citizenry, visitors and communities during extreme weather conditions.

According to Ed Holicky, International Federal Partnership Chairman and Senior Aviation Meteorologist at NOAA/NWS/AWC, “The Bahamas’ participation at this training will benefit its forecasters greatly. Having Director Basden here was instrumental in getting his perspective on products that impacted his region. He was able to assess how the Experimental GFA performed for the Caribbean Region and provided excellent feedback. He also learned how we issue aviation SIGMETs significant Meteorological information for The Bahamas and how we conduct our global chats with countries around the world, of which The Bahamas is now a part,” he said.

Facilitator and AWC’s Techniques Development Meteorologist for the one-week training, Dr. Steven Lack said “it was a great opportunity for The Bahamas and Trevor Basden to participate in this training as it provided him with direct connection to the tool being developed. Each year we conduct training in research, and invite researchers from the U.S. and around the world that work in atmospheric modeling. We bring in aviation forecasters from different

that process, especially for his region. He provided us with direct feedback on how his team might use the tool and ideas for improvements on the current tool as well as finding some bugs in the current tool. Having the developers in the same room as a critical user is invaluable in getting the best product possible out to the end-users. It also establishes a future relationship where it is easy to share new advancements and get instant feedback,” said Lack.

“The Gulf and Caribbean are critical aviation markets for tourism, offshore platform operations, and search and rescue and this new relationship with Trevor is only going to enhance our levels of service for that area,” he said.

Basden said he is appreciative of the training, which he knows will substantially benefit aviators flying into The Bahamas.

“Meteorologists look at weather conditions differently from pilots, so I was especially pleased that I was afforded the opportunity to evaluate the new GFA tool and align it with the complex components and weather variables for our area, develop weather forecasts and flight plans in advance and then compare those plans with actual weather conditions, with a 90% or greater degree of accuracy. This new graphical system will significantly aid general aviators in planning their flight and understanding weather conditions enroute to and around The Bahamas,” he said.

“Commencing the first week in November (2018) I will begin one-on-one training of the new GFA tool, with our met team in The Bahamas,” he concluded.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAHAMAS

Consultancy Services For A Project Pension Feasibility Study for Transition of Defined Benefit Scheme to Contribution Scheme in the Public Sector

Background

The Government of the Bahamas is seeking proposal to conduct a feasibility study for a transition of the defined benefit scheme to contribution scheme in the Public Sector. This study would assist government in a factual finding to support consideration of the Government’s initiative for reduction in expenses for the public sector and a planned approach to achieve significant cost savings over time.

Procurement Method

The procurement of service will be conducted under a national competitive bid process.

All tenders will be published on the national press of The Bahamas and on the government website.

Successful firm(s) will be those who meet the standard requirements set out below and who meet the firm with the most competitive price.

Where there is a tie between firms on the specification and price the Ministry of Finance may choose to a firm based on the following criteria:

- Firm establishment (how long the firm has been in business in The Bahamas).
- Delivery timelines
- Ability to ensure service level agreement for service.

Requirement for Bidders

The Firm responding to this proposal must have a valid Bahamas business license. At the time of submission of bid all company tax and national insurance obligations must be current, this includes at the time of issue of this RFP, but is not exclusive to:

- Business license fee
- National insurance payments
- Company Profile
- Outline of qualifications and experiences

Firm must be of good standing, i.e. no impending or current legal actions against the company or the directors of the company which may have a significant impact on the ability of the firm to deliver the service.

OFFER FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES AND PROPOSED DELIVERABLES

Deliverables should be as follows:

1. Researching and outlining current position with regard to the defined benefit pension liability of the public service and all government corporations and agencies
2. Creating a data base of key statistics including but not limited to the pension liability, number of employees, contribution amount, etc.
3. Researching and benchmarking information from similar ones that have jurisdictions and governments specifically including ones that have migrated defined benefit plans to contribution plans.
4. Outlining cost savings/ expenses associated with each plan.
5. Survey of selected plan participants in the public service s related to their perceived benefits and concerns.
6. Estimating and scenario planning out the economic impact of the plans on the government’s budget.
7. Identify any legal operational and funding issues around the migration to a hybrid pension system i.e. defined benefit for older employees, contribution for newer employees.

Submission of Bids

Bid contents

Firm responding to this RFP must submit their offers using the deliverables set out in this document. Additional documentation concerning the submitting firm and the service on offer may be submitted at the description of the firm.

Method of Submission

Bids to this tender can be submitted via electronically via e-mail or posted/delivered in a sealed envelope. Electronic submissions must be made to athenamarche@bahamas.gov.bs with the subject of “Feasibility Study for Transition of Defined Benefit Scheme to Contribution Scheme in the Public Sector”.

Paper submissions should be posted/delivered to the following address:

Tenders submissions
Ministry of Finance,
Cecil Wallace-Whitfield Centre,
West Bay Street,
Nassau,
New Providence.

The envelope must be identified with “Feasibility Study for Transition of Defined Benefit Scheme to Contribution Scheme in the Public Sector”.

Submission Deadline

Responses to this tender must be submitted, using one of the submission methods described above, by 5.00pm November 2, 2018.

Submissions received after this date will not be considered.

Please note that the complete RFP can be accessed on line at: www.bahamas.gov.bs

"BRAZEN CORRUPTION" Minister in Conflict, Says FNM MP

Continued from / PAGE 3...

money, time and support to a political party, the party then wins the election, and the TREASURER of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas pays you back in rental fees," the freshman MP said.

He said, "enmeshed in the fabric of this culture of corrupt and deceitful mismanagement of the People's assets, are indelible, dingy stains of kick-backs, inflated rental rates, craftily worded clauses that exempt the landlord and make the tenant liable one hundred percent; and other nefarious manoeuvres.

"But since we, the Free National Movement majority in the House came to power on an anti-corruption campaign, I have no choice but to condemn this pernicious practice and call on all Free National Movement Members of Parliament to resolve to do the same.

"We cannot sit here claiming that we are opposed to corruption, yet we are planning to support this resolution which is a continuation, a perpetuation and indeed a perpetration of an age-old, well-greased corrupt practice.

"If we in the FNM are against corruption, then we must be against it in every shape, every form, every apparition, every manifestation, every where and every time!

"This resolution is peculiar, in that a Cabinet Minister, not a back bencher, is involved.

"Following the execution of the lease, he will be called upon to make joint decisions as to public funds to be used for the complex, as well as public funds for the refurbishing of the old office.

"Clearly the minister (Brent Symonette) will be in a constant state of conflict of interest.

"Would not the minister rationally want to get the best deal for his company?"

"Would he rationally not wish for his company to expend as little as possible as the landlord, and make as much as possible from the tenant?"

This is just sound business practice," said Mr. Miller.

He stated, "once this resolution would have passed and the lease would have been executed, the Minister would no longer be just a "Minister in Cabinet", but a silent and empowered negotiator for his company, every time matters relating to the post office building comes up.

"By tradition, he would be expected to excuse himself from these specific decision-making processes and sessions; but then, he would be rendered useless as a Minister as far as all matters relating to the Post Office are concerned; and the Treasury would be paying him a portion of his

salary for nothing.

"In other words, we cannot have Ministers who are so conflicted that they cannot attend Cabinet Meetings because matters that they are involved in, are being discussed.

"Further, a Cabinet Minister, whose tenant is the Government, would be privy to information that other landlords would not have.

"Such a Cabinet Minister would be unfairly advantaged. Unlike any other landlord, he would know, in minute detail, the Government's future lease requirements, not just for the Post Office, but for all other accommodations. He would know how much Government is prepared to spend; the price the Government is looking for; the type of premises Government would wish to have; and last, but not at all least, this Minister will know what the other landlords, his competitors are offering.

"So he will be fully informed and fully empowered to out-bid everybody else and get the contracts.

The Minister will not be able to resolve this conflict, if this Resolution is passed and the lease of the Town Center Mall is executed.

"We will all be fooling ourselves in believing that one man can serve two masters.

"Mr. Speaker, This resolution is unbelievably offensive because it seeks to perpetuate a vile corrupt practice.

It is too brazen as old people would say.

"There is no shame in this shameful act, Mr. Speaker.

We in the FNM seem to be saying that corruption is defined as wrong-doing in public office, when the PLP is doing the wrong.

"This resolution is offensive because it reeks with corrupt, foolish arguments to support the wicked transfer of money out of the People's Treasury into the pocket of a Cabinet Minister, boldly and brazenly, and without shame, in broad daylight.

"All the Cabinet Codes of Ethics ever written, all the Articles of the Constitution ever enshrined, make clear that Cabinet Ministers must have ONE STREAM of income coming from the Treasury; and that is his salary and all the allowances.

"Check yourselves, Ministers! If you have or are contemplating having more than one stream of income, other than your salary, coming from the Treasury, you are breaking the rules; and that is a grave error of immorality, corruption and thievery.

"The Treasury has had too many leaks for too many years! As fast as the people can pour in the VAT and the

other license fees and taxes, it is being sucked out through well-established pipes and conduits, into the pockets of a few, yea, even Cabinet Ministers!

"And this has been going on for so long, without any check, that politicians now seem to think that this aberrant behavior is normal.

"The effrontery, the brazenness of Cabinet in bringing this Resolution to the House of Assembly, for me to vote on, is an insult to my integrity.

"It's an insult to my sense of what is right and what is wrong; an insult to what is proper and improper, what is moral and immoral.

"I have not come here as a representative of the independent, sovereign and God-fearing voters of The Great Golden Isles Constituency, to legalize corruption, or to sanction corruption, or to perpetuate corruption!

"I did not come to thief, I came to bring relief!

"After careful consideration of this whole matter, Mr. Speaker, I have come to the conclusion that the only condition under which I would give critical support to a Resolution for the Government to lease the Town Center Mall, which is partly owned by the Minister, is that he resigns his Cabinet post and join us here on the back bench to avoid the obvious, ugly and evil conflicts of interest that he will be faced with.

"Or Mr. Speaker, since it is alleged that the Mall is for sale, the good Minister may wish to completely divest his ownership in the entity and sell all of his shares, not to family members or members of special interest groups, but in limited amounts to every day, ordinary, indigenous Bahamians who look like me (not necessarily tall, but similar complexion), Black.

Make it a public offering! Can you imagine local, common, average, Black Bahamians having a legitimate share in the ownership of the People's Post Office?

After all it is The People's Time! Isn't it?

It is never too late to do the right thing and send the right message throughout the Commonwealth of The Bahamas!

"Throughout history many leaders of nations and persons in positions of authority had the capability to do some things that were egregious and or immoral and did not have the moral restraint to cease or desist (eg., Slavery, Apartheid, etc).

Let history judge us as a group who exercised moral restraint & integrity in challenging moments like these," said Mr. Miller.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID

The Ministry of Health, Department of Public Health invites Tenders for bi-monthly ground maintenance services at the following New Providence Clinics:

NAME OF CLINIC
Adelaide Clinic
Adolescent Health Centre
Anne's Town Clinic
Blue Hill Road Clinic
Coconut Grove Clinic
Elizabeth Estates Clinic
Flamingo Gardens Clinic
Fleming Street Clinic
Fox Hill Clinic
Gambier Clinic
South Beach Health Centre

Interested persons can contact the Clinic Administrator or Nurse In Charge at the said facilities for permission to inspect the premises. Also, for additional information and a copy of the Scope of Work please contact telephone number 502-4700/4818 or 502-4831.

All Tender documents are to be placed in a sealed envelope marked; "To Tenders Board" Ground Maintenance services c/o Financial Secretary Ministry of Finance Cable Beach Nassau, Bahamas

Companies should submit bids no later than Monday, October 22, 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 October 23, 2018. Bidders or Representatives will be requested to be in attendance.



GOVERNMENT NOTICES

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ROAD TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

P.O BOX N-1615

THOMAS A. ROBINSON NATIONAL STADIUM

NASSAU, N.P. BAHAMAS

The Road Traffic Department would like to remind all Franchise Holders – Taxi, Tour, Public Schedule, Private Schedule, Private Charter, Livery, Self-Drive Cars and Scooters that we are now accepting registration documents for the Bi-annual inspection period of October 2018 to May 2019.

The Following documents are required:

1. Passport/Voters Card and N.I.B Card (for holders not registered in the new system)
2. Up to date Franchise Receipt
3. Up to date Business License
4. Inspection Slip/Copies of expired Inspection Discs
5. Completed Inspection Forms for Companies with five (5) or more Vehicles that require On-site Inspection (forms Can be picked up at the Road traffic Department Franchise Unit).
6. Up to date Insurance Certificates
7. Vehicle Color and right/left hand drive (for new vehicles)

All Franchise Holders with a fleet of five (5) or more vehicles are invited to submit their packages to the Road Traffic Department, Franchise Unit Section 3 Eastern Grandstand of the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium. All Packages will be processed on a first come first serve basis.

Please note that the Department will only receive payments in the form of:

- a. Certified cheques payable to the Public Treasury (No personal or company cheques)
- b. Visa, Master, Debit, Credit Cards
- c. Cash


Controller

Road Traffic Department

Parliamentarians Meet Nominees for 'Public Service Officer of the Year'



► Minister of the Public Service and National Insurance the Hon. Brensil Rolle introduced the nominees for 'Public Service Officer of the Year' to parliamentarians today at the House of Assembly. The nominees are pictured outside of the House of Assembly with Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Hubert Minnis (centre right) and Minister Rolle (centre left). Public Service Week begins this Sunday with a church service at Zion Baptist Church, East and Shirley Streets, after which there will be a full schedule of daily activities. (BIS Photo/Derek Smith)

Minister Calls Mall "A Wonderful Solution"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

government to lease space in the Town Centre Mall to house Post Office.

He said the East Hill Street building has for years been plagued with one issue after another, compromising the safety of staffers and the public.

This resulted in reduced work weeks that led to millions of dollars in losses, which according to Mr. Wells, the Minister of Transport who has responsibility for the facility. The revenue dropped from \$5.5

million in 2012 to around \$2 million last year.

According to Minister Wells, losses reflected in revenue included sale of stamps, commission on postal money orders, miscellaneous postal revenue and air terminal charges.

"The lack of timely mail delivery to businesses has had a similar effect on the private sector's bottom line."

Over the years, some eight different locations were being considered as the new home for the General Post Office – among them

the Independence Shopping Centre.

That proposal however was met with rejection.

The old Phil's Food Service building on Gladstone Road was later considered ideal.

However, there were structural defects and technical issues that the government said required a massive financial undertaking at the expense of taxpayers.

Furthermore, it would take at least a year or two to complete.

The government then sees the Town Centre Mall as a temporary location for the

GPO until a permanent home is constructed via a public/private partnership.

The lease agreement would be for five years at a cost of \$12 per square foot.

Of the nearly 70,000 square feet the government's looking to lease in the mall, 56,646 square feet will be on the ground floor and 13,229 square feet on the second floor.

"We may ultimately need to rent an additional 5,000 sq ft since we are looking to enter agreements with FedEx, and DigiPrint," Wells said.

"Both entities will require

additional space and as I stated earlier, we will be adding additional post office boxes," he added.

The principals of the Town Centre Mall have indicated that they would be ready to receive contractors at a moment's notice.

An estimated \$3.5 million has to be invested into making the facility adequate.

The government was given a December 15th date to move the post office to the new location, however, it has pushed that deadline back by a week to just before the Christmas holidays.

"We therefore have agreed that The Town Centre Mall, which offers over 500 parking spaces for use by the public, is centrally located within New Providence, is a hub for numerous bus routes, and is bounded by major roadways offering multiple options of ingress and egress, should be considered," Wells said.

"The fact that Barclays Bank, Mr. Speaker, was once located in Town Centre Mall, and Commonwealth Bank is currently housed there, augers well for the relocation of the post office to that space," he added.



Public Notice Roadworks

Please be advised

The Ministry of Public Works/Bahamix, has scheduled Milling and Paving works for Cordeaux Avenue between the hours of 9:30a.m. to 2:00p.m. Monday through Friday, beginning October 18, 2018, for 8 working days.

Provisions will be made for residents and businesses where necessary. Motorists are asked to utilize the adjacent streets and 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.



NOTICE Addendum

The Royal Bahamas Defence Force invites bids to the Tenders Board for insurance coverage for The Royal Bahamas Defence Force's Patrol Crafts. In addition, the coverage must include the vessels transiting the Caribbean and the East Coast of the United States.

2. Specifications and schedules of assets can be obtained from the Ministry of Finance, Monday through Friday between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.
3. The quotes must be itemized to show the following:
 - a) The Hull and Machinery
 - b) War Risk
 - c) Increased Value
 - d) Protection and Indemnity
4. In providing quotations, in respect to the Patrol Crafts for the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, the date for commencing coverage is the 31 October 2018 to 30 31 2020. The final date for submission is Tuesday 16 October, 2018.
5. All submissions are to reach the Ministry of Finance by 10:00 am on or before the above-mentioned date and to be addressed to the:

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