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# The Bahama Journal

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TUESDAY - OCTOBER 16TH, 2018

75 CENTS

# MINISTER VOWS TO TRANSFORM PMH

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK  
 Journal Staff Writer

The Princess Margaret Hospital's (PMH) undergoing a renaissance in health and that calls for breaking up the existing model and starting over.

On the infrastructural front, beds have been taken out of commission, the children's and maternity wards have been redeveloped and a new Cat Scan is to be installed.

Speaking on the financial woes of the facility, Health Minister, Dr. Duane Sands said for one, there is a policy that dictates that civil ser-



▶ Minister of Health, Dr. Duane Sands (File photo)

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## PRISON CHIEF ADMITS "BAD APPLES"

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

The Acting Prison Commissioner Charles Murphy yesterday spoke out in the wake of an influx of prison offers caught on the wrong side of the law.

According to Mr. Murphy, three officers were found with "illegal items" on them --- one found on the street and two found on duty.

Over the past week, The

■ See PRISON / page 6...

## DOMINICANS FACE CHARGES AFTER SHOOTOUT

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

Some one hundred and twenty Dominicans are being closely guarded by Bahamian law enforcement officials and are expected to be charged after a shootout on the high seas. The incident resulted in the capture three Dominican mother-ships this past weekend by the Cuban Border Patrol.

From all reports, the

Dominicans illegally entered Cuban waters after being pursued by the Defence Force for poaching in The Bahamas.

It all began this past Wednesday, when the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter "Vigilant" sighted a Dominican fishing vessel north of the Republic of Haiti.

The Dominicans indicat-

■ See DOMINICANS / page 2...

## Another prison officer arraigned on drug charges

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK  
 Journal Staff Writer

Less than a week later and another prison officer has been arraigned on drug charges.

The accused, 21-year-old, Dennis Watson and his cousin 23-year-old Jamal Cartwright, were charged before Deputy Chief Magistrate, Subusola Swain, on one count each of possession of dangerous drugs with the intent to supply.

The court heard that on Friday October 12, in New Providence, the men were found in possession of 9.5 ounces of suspected marijuana.

Both pleaded guilty to the charge and as a result were fined \$2,000 or one-year

■ See ANOTHER / page 7...

## Two men arraigned for stealing thousands

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK  
 Journal Staff Writer

Two men were yesterday charged with 13 counts each of stealing by reason of service.

Farris Neely, 40, of Charles Drive and Maurice Sullivan, 51, of Gladiator Road were formally charged before Magistrate Ambrose Armbrister.

It is alleged that on Thursday July 5th, the two stole \$15,600 from Yvonne Rolle by reason of their service.

On that same date, the two allegedly stole \$28,000 and \$9,000 from Rolle.

A few days later and on Monday July 16th, Neely and Sullivan, according to Police, stole another \$8,000 from Rolle, the following day, \$15,000 and on Monday July 30th, \$12,600.

Three days later, on

■ See TWO MEN / page 3...

## Busy Weekend at sea for the RBDF



▶ (Top Photo) Two Dominican vessels alongside HMBS Coral Harbour which were involved in an attempt to escape by ramming HMBS MADEIRA. (Bottom Photo) Haitian Migrants after they were apprehended in Bahamian waters. (RBDF file photos)



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# BAMSI STUDENTS DIVE AGAINST DEBRIS



▶ The student dive team was able to collect nearly 80 pounds of debris during this initial dive. (File photo)



▶ While diving for debris is serious business, the students also enjoy their time in the water. (File photo)

FOR MANY people marine debris is out of sight, out of mind. Thankfully however, divers have the unique ability to bring to the surface what is going on beneath the waves...and this is exactly what the student dive team of the Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Institute (BAMSI) has been engaging in over the past few weeks. The project is part of a global initiative called 'Dive Against Debris' which was first launched in 2011.

The dive team, accompanied by Dr. Vallierre

Deleveaux, head of BAMSI's marine science division and a PADI open water scuba instructor, removed debris from Captain Bill's Blue Hole located in Blue Holes National Park in Central Andros. As a popular tourist attraction on the island the team felt it was important for the community to present the best possible image. At the end of the day the team collected nearly 80 pounds of garbage and debris from the blue hole.

Also working with the dive team - who are all

open water and advanced open water certified - was a student snorkel team who provided surface support by collecting the debris-filled mesh bags from divers at the surface. The clean-up project removed several bags of debris, totalling 250 articles and weighing about 80 pounds. The largest offenders in terms of materials included glass, aluminium products and plastic materials. Beer bottles and cans formed the vast majority of these articles.

The main objective of the clean-up initiative and simi-

lar projects that BAMSI's Student Affairs division is planning, to raise awareness and educate the students and the community at large about the importance of keeping the island's environment clean. It only takes a small effort and consistency to work towards creating a cleaner and pristine environment for this and future generations.

Additionally, a second Dive Against Debris was conducted with a small dive team under the supervision of Dr. V. Deleveaux on October 3 at Uncle

Charlie's Blue Hole in North Andros. The site showed promise as marine debris pollution was found to be minimal within the blue hole. Further, the site had healthy aquatic fauna with a population of crabs and a blind fish species being present. The aquatic site exhibited relatively little anthropogenic impacts when compared to the first dive site.

The student dive team's clean up initiative was encouraged and future efforts are planned to clean up other marine environ-

ments around the island of Andros.

'Dive Against Debris' includes two parts: debris removal and reporting. Removing rubbish improves the underwater habitat. Reporting any findings helps reveal the extent of the global marine debris crisis. Without debris data, scientists and conservationists cannot advocate for change. Since its initial launch, more than 30,000 divers in 50 plus countries have geared up to protect the ocean and the creatures who live there.

## DOMINICANS FACE CHARGES AFTER SHOOTOUT

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ed they were en route to the Bahamas.

The Defense Force was subsequently notified and the HMBS Madeira was directed to intercept the vessel, in the event it entered Bahamian waters.

The HMBS Madeira later sighted the three vessels at daybreak on Saturday with skiffs in the water near Cay Lobos - a small cay on the southern edge of the Great Bahama Bank.

A team was deployed to apprehend the motherships before they entered Cuban waters.

This is when things turned violent as the Dominican fishermen opened fire on the team.

In self defense, Madeira's boarding party returned fire, hitting one of the three steel-hulled vessels that eventually ran aground in Cuban waters while trying to escape.

None of the Defense Force boarding team members were injured during the

incident, and the RBDF got assistance from the Cuban government in apprehending the vessels with 124 crewmembers.

This is not the first such apprehension involving the HMBS Madeira.

Back in July, it apprehended another Dominican fishing vessel attempting to again flee into Cuban waters.

The captain and 46 crewmembers were subsequently caught, charged and fined \$53,000 each totaling more than \$2.3 million dollars.



## 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

**GOT NEWS?**  
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Journal's News TIP  
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# The 23rd Annual International Cultural, Wine & Food Festival (ICWFF)

► The 23rd Annual International Cultural, Wine & Food Festival (ICWFF) was held at the Botanical Gardens over the weekend and was well-attended. At official ceremonies, Minister of Education, the Hon. Jeff Lloyd addressed the audience and recognized persons who have innovated and made the festival the success it is today. Two of those persons are the Rt. Hon. Janet Bostwick, CB, and the late James Catalyn. Minister Lloyd is pictured conducting ceremonies with the assistance of festival organizer and CEO of the Tourism Development Corporation Janet Johnson. Members of the diplomatic community and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are pictured with Minister Lloyd on the dais.  
*(BIS Photos/Derek Smith)*



## Two men arraigned for stealing thousands

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Thursday August 2, the two accused allegedly stole \$31,000 from Maureen Wallace, and another \$6,000 from her four days later.

That Wednesday August 8th, the pair allegedly got another \$13,000 from Wallace.

The court heard how the very next day, the two allegedly stole \$3,500 from Wallace, and on Tuesday

August 14th, \$17,000.

Further, between August 28, and Friday September 7th, the two allegedly took nearly \$40,000 from Yvonne Rolle.

Neely was also arraigned on three separate counts.

According to reports, on Friday September 14th and Wednesday the 19th, he stole allegedly \$4,500 cash, the property of Cecil Mackey, and on Monday September 24th, \$1,500 the property of Bernice

Sweeney, and on Thursday October 4, \$2,000 from McSweeney.

Both Neely and Sullivan pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The pair was remanded to The Bahamas

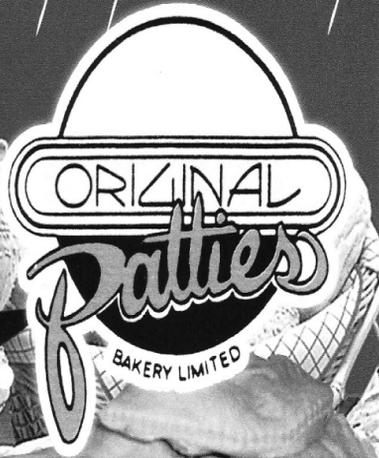
Department of Corrections until trial.

Both will return on December 4th.

However, Neely will appear again on December 5th for his additional counts.

mmmmmm...patties, cakes, breads, pastries..

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Gazzada, Sugar Buns

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### GOVERNMENT NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS: SALE OF TUGBOATS

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"  
Sold Where Is, As Is

Interested parties may view the said vessels at the following location from 24 September 2018 to 5 October 2018 between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday:

Port Department  
Prince George Dock  
Nassau, The Bahamas  
Telephone No. (242) 322-8832

Bids are to be submitted in triplicate (3) in a sealed envelope marked "Bid for the Sale of Tug Snapper and Tug Amberjack, addressed to:

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 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018.

Bids will be opened at 10:00 am on the 16<sup>th</sup> 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

# Ministry of Works Holds Educational Lectures During Lunch Breaks

Lunch breaks are typically used for grabbing a bite, collecting kids from school or socializing with colleagues but for the past several months the staff at the Ministry of Public Works (MOPW) have swapped traditional lunch activities to hone in on lectures on a broad array of stimulating subject areas.

Since March, each Thursday, the Ministry has created a forum where outstanding speakers present their views during a Distinguished Lecture Series.

The 30 to 45-minute presentation sessions organized by staff are facilitated in an informal setting in the Conference Room.

Melanie Roach, Director, said the lecture series was established to present specific and general knowledge applicable to all sections. She said the information is provided for everyone to enhance their knowledge base and productivity.

Since its launch, speakers have included employees and private sector representatives who have presented on topics of common interest including Potholes, Drainage, Hurricane Preparedness, Auditing Capital Projects, Road Maintenance and Traffic Management, the Hawk Pedestrian Crossing, and Good Design and Your Role. "Knowledge is not static," said Ms. Roach. "It's continuing every day and every day you have new discoveries and technologies. It's very important for the staff of Public Works to always be in a learning environment. Most of us

would have graduated some 4, 10, 30 and 40 years ago. We can't just rely on knowledge that was gained in school. We need to be able to share our experience as we do our jobs and learn from others."

The Hon. Desmond Bannister, Minister, said the lecture series is about bringing the talented staff of the MOPW together and allowing them to have an appreciation for the purpose of the Ministry, the focus of the Ministry, what the staff does, where they can go with it, how far they can take it and how dynamic the Ministry really is.

"I've been sitting in and learning and learning a lot. This is a Ministry where you can learn something new every single day.

"That focus has been provided by exemplary, outstanding staff members who I am really proud to say that I work with; people who are tremendous leaders and who are coming into their own as outstanding leaders in this Ministry and in the community and country.

"The other aspect of it is very important as to putting people together so that staff appreciate -- notwithstanding the diverse nature of their duties and the fact that every day they go off on their own different directions and seemingly focus on their own little projects -- when you look at it from the perspective of an organization, it all comes together.

So you have the quantity surveyors working in one corner, you have the architects doing their thing, you have all



▶ Minister of Works, Desmond Bannister (File photo)

these people doing diverse tasks and they don't necessarily see that there is one big picture. It comes together beautifully in this Ministry when they work together.

"This series brings them together so they can appreciate the amazing things that they do. It is to a great extent unappreciated in our community because we don't have a Ministry where there is boastfulness, where we provide the kind of public relations as we should, but the people in this Ministry do amazing work and if they didn't do what they did every single day you would see this whole society just dropping down, falling apart.

"I think the series is going to get many of them to appreciate the scope of where they

can go if they work towards achieving their potential."

Antoinette Thompson, Permanent Secretary, said the Ministry is progressively looking to transform the way it does business by equipping staff with the required skills and competencies.

"The MOPW is minded to not only develop our staff professionally, technically and otherwise from an industry standards perspective, from a benchmarking perspective in the wider arena and in the wider public service, but we are also minded to empower -- that relates to putting them in a position where they can embrace both challenges and opportunities to progress themselves professionally, personally and otherwise.

"This Distinguished

Lecture Series is a testament to that because it allows for exposure, knowledge transfer, and it allows for knowledge acquisition," said Ms. Thompson.

The lunchtime lecture series is growing and evolving. Feedback from staff is positive.

"When we started in this room there were just a few persons. We have to take it to Physical Planning [building across the street] because it's expanding.

"People are noticing and noticing more. It's like a chain effect. The word is getting around," said Nandi Maynard, a member of the organizing committee.

"People have a perception about the Public Service that there is a knowledge deficit, the people are unprofessional and you have to fight to survive. I won't say it is a survival of the fittest but you have to equip yourself with the necessary knowledge and skills to survive and see your job through.

"From the administrative side, this is a whole new world to me. I would always see the job getting done, but I never understood the processes behind how all of it happened. This has afforded me the opportunity to gain exposure, to network and to just be informed."

Elouise Fernander, Quantity Surveyor and committee member, said the series is helping to strengthen camaraderie in the Ministry. "We get beat down in the Ministry. We are hard-working people but we don't get a good report out there."

Bahiyah Hepburn, said the trend at the Ministry is to foster and environment of learning and growth.

"As one of the Assistant Engineers, I'm greatly benefiting from this. I'm interacting; not just understanding what's going on in different sections, but learning about what's going on in different Ministries. The most rounded civil servant is the civil servant who has interacted with the rest of the civil service.

"This is an environment for people who want to grow. In a multi-sector -- a team of different backgrounds -- when you are able to appreciate what the next person is doing you increase your efficiency," added Ms. Hepburn.

Speakers are selected based on needs.

"We have architects and all the various disciplines of engineers. We now have to start looking at administrative people. This is a technical ministry but administration helps us to execute our jobs."

She continued, "We're literally the last line. We have to hold the line. As shaky as it seems that we're not holding the line, we have to. We are it. When hurricanes come, we make sure emergency crews are out there and clear the road. We are it.

"We are public servants who are dedicated to the public safety of everybody in The Bahamas. This lecture series reminds you of that. It reminds you who you're working for, how important you are and what your role is. Sometimes you forget because you just do it," said Ms. Hepburn.

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# NYGARD'S WINNING BUSINESS STRATEGY EXAMPLES

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

What's a surefire path to the decline of your business? To bury your head in the sand when a new competitor—who poses a threat to your business—arrives on the scene.

If you want to counteract the negative impact of new competition to your business, it is important to first decide on a specific goal and then on strategies that will help you achieve it.

The goal and strategy you identify have to be geared towards what you are trying to achieve. In this case, we are trying to avoid the threat to the business of losing customers to a new competitor.

Previously, we identified the specific goals (and SMART—specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound—goals) that would help to address the threat of new competition. Here are the two SMART goals we identified.

- Maintain business customer base of 150 current customers throughout the current fiscal year. Or, increase the business income by 20% for the upcoming fiscal year.

Next, we have to identify strategies for achieving these business goals.

Beginning with the first one of maintaining your existing customer base of 150 customers, you have to ask yourself, 'what can I do to ensure this?' Let's review the following illustration:

One of the things fashion mogul Peter Nygard appears to be really good at is strategizing to not just address any threats to his business but to also take advantage of opportunities to be number one in his industry. Looking at examples from Nygard's business, here are some strategies he employs for ensuring customer loyalty:

- He conducts 360 degree surveys—conducts actual customer surveys, conducts regular meetings with sales people, and reviews fashion trends as well as best sellers and worst sellers—all in an effort to determine what his customers' desires and needs are.

## 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.

- He ensures that the products he designs and produces don't just meet the customers' needs but exceed their expectations and addresses things that the competition doesn't pay attention to.

One of the reasons Nygard became 'king of polyester' back in the '70s, was because he focused on ensuring his product exceeded expectations. For example, he made it easily washable and with no need for ironing. He also focuses on making his products feel good to a woman's touch and making the woman look and feel good in them.

- Nygard also ensures a great customer experience in shopping by providing comfortable waiting areas for husbands so customers don't feel pressured to leave the store quickly;

- He has several annual VIP events for customers that reward them for loyalty with special gifts and discounts and other benefits. Loyal customers also get advanced notice of new arrivals.

- Nygard was also the first in his industry to make shopping more convenient for customers by providing a kiosk in his stores for ordering different sizes and colours not available in the specific store.

- Additionally, he created a program of home parties for friends to get together to try on his clothing—with support and encouragement from each other, it would result in sales.

Nygar would continually surpass the competition with new ideas for achieving his goals.

We'll continue with looking at strategies you can employ to address the threat of new competition.

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Wendall K. Jones  
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

The Bahama Journal  
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Kimaley P. Jones  
Vice President/Operations

## E D I T O R I A L

# Echo & Resonance

Any and all who would govern effectively should remember [as Parmenides, a Greek philosopher once quipped] "Nothing comes from nothing."

In truth, then: Growth can't be legislated or wished into existence; it needs to be produced.

Understand this and prosper; ignore it and suffer the consequences which ensue.

Note also that: One of the more interesting political-economic facts that does matter has to do with the extent to which today's economic order is driven by a type of foreign direct investment which—wonder of wonders—is propped up by Bahamas Government guaranteed subsidies and subventions.

In other words, then, we pay foreigners who set up shop in our country; they reap their profits and once they are sated, many of them pack up and leave.

Clearly, this way of doing business, whilst totally beneficial to those business elites with whom they worked back in the day; today's reality demands a brand new approach to how we go about building a Bahamas that is commodious to all of its peoples.

Put simply: What we need now is a model of development which is geared towards putting more Bahamians 'up-there' where they can have real dominium in what they are told is their land.

In this regard, we note [as we have been taught]: "...Real economic growth only comes from increasing quality and quantity of the factors of production, which consist of four broad types: land, labor, capital and entrepreneurship; and that, saving and discovery are the two basic ways to improve or increase the factors of production. Saving occurs when present consumption is delayed, and those resources are instead used to enable capital investment..."

Evidently, the most important of those factors of production which matter, inclusive of land and capital, none is as important as the human factor.

It is against this backdrop we challenge as follows: Imagine a place which is one of the most beautiful archipelagoes in the whole wide world, a place where some of the richest people in the world own their very special paradise-islands!

Sadly, that supposedly paradise-place is also home to tens of thousands of Bahamians for whom their Bahamas is fast becoming a very frightening set of badlands!

What we now have on our hands are ghost towns to the south, places like Acklins, Crooked Island, Long Cay and Mayaguana where the people have left; and to the north, Grand Bahama where the people have not arrived.

Put simply, we now on our shared hands troubles galore for the masses of Bahamians who live in New Providence.

One of the more interesting aspects to this matter of distress piled upon distress has to do with the extent to which a clever few amongst us still happen to live like pashas and moguls.

Evidently, this situation where the rich and the powerful live cheek to jowl with the poor and the distressed can and will only lead to an efflorescence of crime not only against property, but also a plethora of offences by the struggling poor against their neighbors, family and friends.

In other words, today's deeply challenged Bahamas is fast becoming a place where life itself is being inflected by hurt, harm and brutish abuse by some against far too many others!

And thus, the troubles now engulfing so very many of our youth-men and women, many of whom now slave to help their families—especially—their harried mothers make ends meet.

In very many ways, then, today's sufferings wreak of yesterday's myriad of slave-based sufferings; thus our conclusion which suggests that: One of the more galling historically-grounded facts that continues to matter so very much to so very many of our people has to do with the cruel extent to which slavery and colonialism continue to benefit the few at the expense of the many.

And thus, today we remember that once upon a time it was the enslaved African population in these Americas which embodied in their persons two of the factors of production, namely as labor and as capital, albeit as chattels or commercialized property to their European masters.

Evidently, those situations continue their dread echo and resonance!

## Letter to the Editor

### Hands off Nassau Harbour!

Dear Editor:

I read with horror the news that Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines has a bid before Government to redevelop Nassau Harbour. It seems that under Prime Minister Minnis, we risk being completely taken over by the gaudy, tacky theme park nightmare that is cruise ship tourism.

Lighthouse Point for Disney, a new port for Carnival Cruises in Grand Bahama, and now this? If he is not careful, Dr. Minnis' legacy will be transforming the Bahamas into the republic of neon lights, silly games and plastic water-slides.

While there is no question that Nassau Harbour and downtown in general is in need of an urgent upgrade, this is not the only option. As I recall, the Downtown Nassau Development Association had a

great plan for developing the area into a premier port destination, including revamping the cruise port. These are local businessmen who have a stake in downtown and who want to see it succeed, for their own benefit as well as the country's.

I would much rather this plan than yet another surrender to a foreign entity that has no real skin in the game. Please, Dr. Minnis, don't let this Request For Proposals to develop downtown become another rubber stamp for the 'All Powerful' cruise ship companies.

Give us a chance to have a world class destination in Nassau Harbor, spearheaded by Bahamians who actually care.

Kind Regards,  
Essy Bootle

THE BAHAMAS  
Sun, Sand, Sea ... and the  
The Bahama Journal  
NO BETTER READING

# BAHAMIANIZATION AND THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF BTC

In my second installment of commentary on the evolutionary of the iconic telecommunications behemoth, the Bahamian Telecommunications Company, BTC (formerly Batelco), I address the impact of Bahamianization on the growth and development of BTC over the last fifty years.

First, a short history on the birth of telecommunications in The Bahamas.

With the connection of the first submarine telegraph cable in The Bahamas at Goodman's Bay, Cable Beach from Jupiter Florida, and the era of telecommunication officially began in The Bahamas.

The year was 1892.

With just 150 subscribers, the first telephone system was introduced on the 5th October, 1906.

By an Act of Parliament in 1966, the Government of The Bahamas incorporated the Telecommunications Department as the Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation, popularly known by its acronym, Batelco, a quasi-governmental corporation.

The year 1968 ushered in the era of Bahamianization at Batelco with the appointment of R.E. Knowles, the first Bahamian General Manager. Sir Arthur Foulkes was appointed Communications Minister in 1968 and spearheaded much of Batelco's growth and development during the corporation's formative years under Bahamian management control. Sir Arthur Foulkes took the bold policy decision to cancel the Management Contract between the Bahamas Government and Page Communications and put an all Bahamian Management Team in charge of the day to day operations of Batelco.

Mr. Robert Bartlett, another Bahamian, was appointed General Manager of the corporation on October 15, 1979. Mr. Bartlett superintended the relocation of Batelco from its rented headquarters in the former Chase Building on Thompson Boulevard to its own iconic corporate offices located on John F. Kennedy Drive.

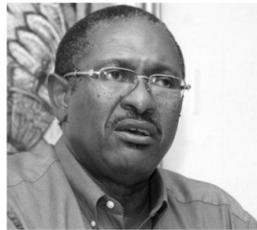
With the retirement of Robert Bartlett in 1990,

Bahamians continued to lead and direct the growth and development of the telecommunications corporation when Barret Russell took the reins of Batelco. Mr. Russell would be credited introducing fiber optics technology to Batelco's operations in February of 1992. This new technology enabled precipitous system upgrades throughout the archipelago, including Inagua where service was introduced just one month later.

2018 marks the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Bahamianization of the Management of the Batelco, now known as BTC.

As we reflect on how far BTC has come, we reflect on the contributions of not only R E Knowles, Robert Bartlett E George Moss and Barret Russel, but other telecommunications leaders at the corporation such as Albury Curling, T V Arnett, Errol Leach and Leon Williams to name a few.

I must note that over the last half century, sizable sums of money have been spent on education and training not only at BTC, but at BEC/BTC



Commentary by:

**BRADLEY B. ROBERTS**  
**FORMER CABINET**  
**MINISTER AND MP**

and WSC.

But lo and behold, where are we now Fifty years later? BTC is under a management contract with a foreign Chief Executive Officer. Jobs formally held by Bahamians are now being outsourced to provide jobs for others in foreign countries. Work permits continue to raise.

I SUBMIT THAT THE PRETEXT OFFERED – THAT OF KEEPING BTC ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF GLOBAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY - WAS AND CONTINUES TO BE A FARCE.

It's an affront to the work of the PLP and Sir Arthur Foulkes 50 years later.

One case in point I addressed in detail in part one of my column was the country's current communications capacity and how it remains stagnant as the country grows and seeks to become more competitive in an increasingly volatile and dynamic global marketplace.

I was heartened to see Senator Fred Mitchell address this issue during remarks at

the official opening of the PLP's Aspirant Candidates Modular Training Workshop in Freeport on Friday 28 September. He delivered a stinging rebuke of the performance of the current leadership in the communications sector.

He rightly pointed out and alerted all and sundry that the state of telecommunications and data communication in The Bahamas was in decline and nobody is minding the proverbial shop. He called the sale of BTC by the FNM to CWC a mistake. He said sector regulator URCA has no presence to speak of while Aliv and BTC were busy extracting profits with no discernible future developmental prospects while the quality of communication continues to deteriorate.

Dropped calls are excessive and it is difficult to get a connection at home or when Bahamians travel overseas for that matter said the Senator. He surmised that overcrowding in the bandwidth stands at the root of the problem. 4 G just

isn't cutting it anymore; the world is going to 5 G and The Bahamas had better get moving.

I agree wholeheartedly with Mitchell's observations and decidedly stinging rebuke of the current sector leadership. He said some 800,000 sites will be needed to accommodate the country's growing communication demands as opposed to the 200,000 which presently exist in the United States.

The record clearly shows that the communications sector was more progressive and dynamic under Bahamian ownership and leadership. The rise and fall of the once great BTC must be a sober, painful and shameful lesson for the FNM government as they ponder the fate and future of WSC, BPL and any number of ports of entry in this here fair commonwealth.

FOR THOSE OF US CAPABLE OF LEARNING, HISTORY REMAINS OUR GREATEST TEACHER! A WORD TO THE WISE IS SUFFICIENT!

## PRISON CHIEF ADMITS "BAD APPLES"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Bahamas Department of Correctional Services conducted several raids at the Fox Hill facility.

Like any organization,

Acting Commissioner Murphy accepted there are a few bad apples.

He said, "the vast majority of my officers are hardworking, dedicated, and committed correctional officers, who

go well beyond the call of duty."

He added, "I would like to commend them on their hard work and the sacrifices that they make daily."

Moving away from the

negative, Mr. Murphy went on to highlight the positive news coming out of the department.

He said, "we have 113 inmates now who are enrolled in the BTVI pro-

gram. We are preparing these individuals for reintegration into society."

He added, "we also have another initiative with BAMS and Aliv which will bring our agriculture pro-

gram on stream. The idea of the program is to supplement the budget of the department while seeking to prepare inmates so that when they leave here they will be able to gain gainful employment."

## 'Be A Hero' Campaign Launched to Make The Bahamas Cleaner and Safer

The Ministry of the Environment and Housing, in conjunction with stakeholders, has launched an initiative designed to foster a greater sense of pride in cleaner, safer environments.

"Be a Hero, Make Your Bahamas a Clean, Safe Bahamas" campaign was launched Monday, October 15, 2018 during a news conference at Atlantis, Paradise Island.

The second of a two-pronged approach, the "historic" initiative seeks to spur new thinking: primary and junior high school students are being challenged to influence adults to make a positive change in their neighborhoods.

"We want students to be empowered to make a difference. We need them to be courageous and to stand up to anyone they see littering including their parents," said Minister of the Environment and Housing, the Hon. Romauld Ferreira.

"We also need them to discourage their peers and grownups from throwing wrappers out of a car window or dropping fast food containers on the ground.

"Shifting a national mindset includes helping young people to be sensitive and intolerant of littered verges and sidewalks and illegal dumping in vacant, overgrown lots."

Avani Sawyer, a fourth grade student of Kingsway Academy and Sebastian



Environment and Housing Minister, the Hon. Romauld Ferreira is pictured at the launch press conference in the 'Be a Hero' cape with students, Avani Sawyer and Sebastian Major, the first two heroes, and with well-known Bahamian artists Wendy and Dyson Knight, heroes in the initiative, October 15, 2018 at Atlantis, Paradise Island.

BIS Photos/Derek Smith

Major, fifth grade student of Summit Academy were officially introduced as the first two heroes.

Participants are required to identify a project at their school or in the community to improve within a six-month period. Students will post "before" images on the 'Be a Hero' social media

pages and update images on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter as the work progresses.

Schools will present winners at the end of the six-month period.

Ten winners will be selected to replace the campaign's heroes. Local sports, music and civic heroes including

Jonquel Jones, Chris Brown, Shauna Miller-Uibo, Kirkland "KB" Bodie, Dyson and Wendy Knight, Buddy Hield, Ed Fields and Nancy Kelly will also lead as first-time heroes.

According to Minister Ferreira, the 10 new super heroes will be the winners of the project who would have

completed the best job, made the most impact on their street, neighborhood or school and have gained the largest following on social media.

"Disrespect for property transfers into disrespect for authority. When our streets and communities are clean, crime decreases, community

spirit increases, schools and students fare better and people feel liberated and happy in their environments," said Minister Ferreira.

He noted that there are statistics which support the link between clean environments and safe communities.

"Research has shown that higher crime rates and more aggressive behavior is exhibited by citizens who live in communities impacted by illegal dumping and strewn litter.

An American study revealed that crime was reduced in highly dense urban areas of low-cost public housing in the United States when there were clean, green spaces," said Minister Ferreira.

He acknowledged the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Education and other partners for their sponsorship of the programme.

The Ministry of the Environment and Housing launched the New Providence Clean-Up Campaign in September 2017.

The initial project encouraged communities to unite to clean up neighborhoods.

Another critical element of the campaign was a final resolution to the New Providence Sanitary Landfill for which Minister Ferreira said negotiations are progressing well with the expectation of a conclusion to the contractual agreement.

# MINISTER VOWS TO TRANSFORM PMH

Continued from / PAGE 1...

vants do not have to pay. However, the plan is to change that.

"What we want is to ensure that no one comes out of pocket, but the hospital and the medical staff can now send a bill to the insurance company, eliminate the co-pay, we'll cover the co-pay," he said.

"This will ensure that the hospital has the funds to provide a maintenance contract on the brand new Cat Scanner that we're going to be installing, to provide a maintenance contract on an air-conditioning system, to provide a maintenance contract on the new Ultrasound machines and further training for our staff," he added.

Dr. Sands acknowledged that only some of the staff are buying into what he is seeking to do.

"You have persons that are now bruised, damaged, feel underappreciated, disrespected," he said.

"They have seen promises come and go, they have seen politicians come and go, and the expectation is, this Sands

"fella" ain't no different than none of the rest.

"He going to come, he's going to give us a sweet story and then when he either is voted out, or when he decides to leave, we're going to be in the same position.

"The devil is a liar, Princess Margaret Hospital, the Public Hospitals Authority and the health care system in The Bahamas is going to be transformed. We have started the process," said Dr. Sands.

That aside, in recent weeks, the Minister has also been under fire having to address the longstanding concerns of the Consultant Physician Staff Association (CPSA).

Dr. Sands confirmed while a guest on the Love97/JCN weekly talk show Jones and Co on Sunday, that the CPSA's non-economic concerns have all been agreed.

Now, comes the financial end of things - stipends, salaries, on -all allowances, malpractice coverage, health insurance etc.

The government's position is that it's determined to resolve the impasse, but it must of course consider the realities of the public purse.

The Minister has stressed then that while it would be wonderful to compensate the doctors and nurses at first world rates, the government's unable to and therein lies the challenge.

Yet, the government is minded, he said, to make some positive movement to accede to some of the CPSA's demands.

"The issue will be that you need to be able to deliver on what is committed and what is promised, and it makes no sense making a promise that you have no way of financing," he said.

"For instance, there are many many demands on the Public Hospital Authority.

"In the budget for 2018/2019 fiscal year, the amount allotted to the PHA was \$216 million. The request was for approximately \$256 million, and so out of the gate, you're starting from a deficit position," Dr. Sands said.

As for National Health Insurance (NHI), Minister Sands promises that more will be said about this in a few weeks.

## Another prison officer arraigned on drug charges

Continued from / PAGE 1...

imprisonment.

The magistrate further ordered the drugs be destroyed and the convictions to be recorded.

The men had no previous convictions.

Watson was represented by Allen Emmanuel and Cartwright by Tony Scriven.

Last Tuesday, 27-year-old, Antonio Harrison Cash was arraigned before Deputy Chief Magistrate, Subusola Swain, on one count of possession of dangerous drugs,

namely 11 ounces of Indian hemp.

The Doyle Street resident pleaded guilty.

The 2-year prison officer was subsequently remanded for 3 months, along with a \$2,000 fine or an additional 3 months' imprisonment.



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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)
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# High School Students Encouraged to Take Care of their Eyes

Minister of Health, Dr. the Hon. Duane Sands said the blue light found in the LED screens of computers, tablets, smartphones and other digital devices can be damaging to the eyes.

"Prolonged use of these devices can cause you to develop near-sightedness and computer vision syndrome which includes dry eyes, tired eyes, inconsistent vision, headaches and fatigue, Dr. Sands explained to high school students attending the Bahamas Alliance for the Blind and Visually Impaired 10th Annual Sight Awareness Month at the Mall at Marathon, Friday, October 12, 2018.

He noted that researchers are studying how much the blue light can negatively affect sight in later life.

"I am not saying do not use your devices, but I am saying be sure to take breaks from your devices. You should not be on them hour after hour. Every 20 minutes you should look up and look at something a good distance away for at least 20 seconds."

The Health Minister also noted that the students should consume green leafy vegetables like lettuce, cabbage and kale, crunchy carrots, sweet potato, dillies, plums, mangoes, strawberries all of these colourful fruits and vegetables help to fight off and reduce the risk of eye disease.

"They can help strengthen your eye muscles and keep your vision clear."

He said they should not play rough games nor aim for the eyes. "Fingers, hands, pencils, pens, crayons, rocks, sticks or similar objects should stay far away from your face and definitely away from your eyes.

"Your eyes are very delicate and scratches, rips and knocks from objects can cause your sight to become blurred or you could lose it altogether. Play safely and always protect your eyes."

Dr. Sands also stressed that it was important for the students to get regular eye exams to pick up on vision problems early.

He said, "I make regular appointments to have my eyes checked by a professional ophthalmologist (or eye doctor).

"The ophthalmologist examines all the parts of the eye, the parts we can see and the parts we cannot see."

Dr. Sands told the students, "You are not too young to start taking precautions to ensure that you maintain and preserve your sight."

He added, "Eat healthy, protect your eyes when you are playing, have limited 'screen time' with your devices and have regular eye exams, these are simple things that you can do to preserve your sight now and for the future."



► Minister of Health, Dr. the Hon. Duane Sands addressed the Bahamas Alliance for the Blind and Visually Impaired 10th Annual Sight Awareness Month at the Mall at Marathon, Friday, October 12, 2018. (BIS Photos/Kristaan Ingraham)

## EDITORIAL

### THE BAHAMAS AND THE NEED FOR A LAND REGISTRATION SYSTEM



**Clement Chigbo, Solicitor of England and Wales, is an Associate Professor of Real Property and Commercial Law, Afe Babalola University. Comments, opinions, suggestions and questions are welcome. E-mail: clementchigbo@yahoo.com**

Land Registration is a misleading expression. It refers to a record, not of land but of ownership of land. It could more accurately be described as a title registration but since that label is reserved for a particular kind of record of ownership, the reader is asked to accept "land registration" as the conventional umbrella term. It refers to a record created and maintained by a state, rather than private enterprise. It may be publicly accessible, to a greater or lesser extent, and the state may guarantee its accuracy. The article discusses the Bahamas' present conveyancing system, compares the system with a registered system. The article makes a strong recommendation for the Bahamas to adopt land registration so as to bring clarity and certainty to our real property conveyancing system.

There are basically two types of conveyancing systems - i.e. the Deeds registration system and the title registration system. Land registration is based upon the registration of legal estates while deeds registration is based upon the registration of interests in a land registry maintained by the state merely for evidentiary purposes and purposes of priority of interest in land while land charges are limited to the protection of mainly equitable and statutory rights. The principle significance of this is that the register tells the purchaser who owns the legal estate (whether fee simple or lease). Under a land (title) registration system, the title deeds will become redundant because the law will guarantee the title of the purchaser (once registered) and hence there will be no need to make an elaborate inquiry of the register about title.

The system, moreover, is not limited to legal estates. Subject to some exceptions (the notorious category of overriding interests), all legal and equitable interests must be entered on the register if they are to bind the purchaser. Because of this, the land charges scheme ceases to apply once title is registered and this creates certainty and security of title to real property rights and interests which play a pivotal role in the economy of any nation.

It is crucial to note that the traditional difference in the effect of legal and equitable interests on purchasers are swept aside by land registration. Nevertheless, it is only

legal estates and interests that can be registered in the sense of being guaranteed by the states; equitable interests can merely be protected on the register. Furthermore, several legal interests (short leases and some non-express easements) are overriding interests and as such bind purchasers without any entry on the register. Equitable interests are overriding interests only if accompanied by actual occupation. It will be observed that overriding interests mean that purchasers are not able to rely on the register alone. They form the controversial aspect of registration.

Thus, for the Bahamas as a modern country there comes a time when a literate society accepts that writing is a useful evidence of a transaction especially in real property transactions. Common law systems, of which the Bahamas is one, have used the deed as the special form of writing by which certain transactions in land must be effected, and without which they are either invalid or of lesser validity. Accordingly, the "deed" of property became an almost sacred sign of ownership; title is proven genealogically by the production of documents which trace ownership back from the present, showing a chain of entitlement made up of legitimate links (in modern times a conveyance from A to B, mortgage by B to C, redemption of mortgage by C, conveyance from B to D, death of D, probate to E and F, assent by E and F to G etc.). In theory that chain goes back to the beginning of relevant legal system, but invariably law or custom prescribes a convenient limit. There are two types of practical problems here. The first is that the deeds may get lost. Without them in the common law, we resort to possession as the ancient basis of title, which can be proved in a number of ways, none of them especially reliable. The second problem is that deeds, even a full set of them, may not give the whole picture; a prospective purchaser may not be able to ascertain from them all the rights affecting the land. Deed registration guards against the first problem, but not the second, by setting up a record of deeds, so there is a public record of private paperwork.

The advantage of deed registration is that it preserves the system that people are used to. Registration of deeds under the current system in the Bahamas is merely for evidentiary purposes and for publicity which is commonly referred to in most common law jurisdictions, as the doc-

trine of notice, and does not offer inherent security of title to which it relates and neither does it perfect a title that is incurably defective.

This does not in any way generate a confident market in the real estate sector for a country like the Bahamas, hence the urgent imperative for the Bahamas to adopt a land registration system.

Another disadvantage of a deeds registration system as we have in the Bahamas is that it is cumbersome and unnecessarily laborious to operate. Individual deeds must still be found in the records in any given transaction and there may be many to find. Title is not simplified by deeds registration; and production of proof of ownership (called by conveyancers 'deducing title') is still done by tracing ownership from the present day, through the various transactions recorded in different deeds, back to a legally acceptable starting point (called, in a common law system, a 'root of title'). Thus one of the important features of a deed registration system is its index, which will make it more or less easy to find a particular document. A further disadvantage is that interests in land may exist apart from deeds; deeds registration has no effect upon such rights, and cannot make them any more secure or more easily discoverable.

Deeds registration may be merely protective as in the Bahamas, so that a deed can only have priority over subsequent transactions if it is registered, or it may also be dispositive, as in some jurisdictions, so that it is of no effect at all unless registered. Another important feature of the deeds registration system is the place of notice in the rules relating to its protective effect, expressed in the answer to the question:

Is a purchaser bound by an unregistered deed of which he has knowledge (notice)?

The introduction of title registration in the Bahamas will change the landscape of real property conveyancing in the nation and this will provide greater certainty and clarity to the purchasers of rights and interests in real property which will in turn add confidence in the real estate sector in the overall interest of the economy of the commonwealth of the Bahamas.

It should be noted that deeds take priority in order of registration and a purchase, without notice of an earlier unregistered deed takes priority over it only if his own deed is registered. The issue whether notice of whatever kind, should be relevant

despite lack of registration has to be addressed by any registration system to avoid confusion in the conveyancing system.

The twin disadvantages of the deeds registration system, is its cumbersome and its inability to be comprehensive and conclusive, which are tackled by means of two forms of private enterprise. First, there are the abstract companies like the Computitle in the Bahamas, which search the registries, often deploying specialised local knowledge of titles and their own data banks parasitic upon the public registries. Thus, the individual conveyancer does not have to search the registries; Secondly, there is title insurance whereby the risk of undiscoverable interests can be met by insurance. But both are expensive and to some extent add to the cost of real property conveyancing in the Bahamas.

Thus, in the absence of an effective land title registration system in the Bahamas, it will take a 'belt' and 'brazier' and an experienced conveyancing attorney to be able to deal with all the multitude of issues pertaining to unregistered conveyancing especially the equitable interests that may be potentially lying a legal title; where this is not expertly and effectively dealt with, purchasers of interests in real property may find out that they have not required a valid title to their property but a long drawn, protracted, time-consuming and money-consuming litigation instead.

In conclusion, it is the opinion of this writer that the Bahamas should adopt a title registration system under which registration will be dispositive, constitutive and curative - i.e. it is the act of registration that creates a valid and indefeasible (guaranteed) title, it is the act of registration that cures any inherent defect in the title and the state will compensate a good faith purchaser (the so called bona-fide purchaser for value) who loses his title for any invalidating factor like want of due execution, absence of requisite capacity to sell or convey the property on the part of the original vendor/seller, or non-compliance with any underlying requisite condition precedent to the validity of the title e.g. International Persons Land Holding Act etc. With a system of title registration in the Bahamas, sloppy conveyancing, fraudulent land dealings in land and all other real property shenanigans, acrimonious land disputes will significantly reduce in the Bahamas.