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VOL. 30 - NO. 242

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 18TH, 2018

75 CENTS

# THORNY CITIZENSHIP ISSUES UNRESOLVED

**H**uman Rights Lawyer Fred Smith says "the thorny issues for citizens in waiting in the Bahamas remain unresolved" as a result of the dismissal of an appeal in the Jean Rony Jean Charles immigration case before the Court of Appeal.

Mr. Smith said his client will appeal the decision to the Privy Council.

The Queens Counsel told the Journal, "the Justices of Appeal did not deal with the



► Human Rights Lawyer, Fred Smith, QC (File photo)

## Fire Destroys Ministry of Education Warehouse

BY JAMEELA MISSICK  
*Journal Staff Writer*

A raging fire and heavy smoke left the Ministry of Education completely out of a store warehouse.

In a communication to

members of the House of Assembly yesterday morning, Education Minister, Jeffrey Lloyd, noted that initially three units were dispatched to the scene around 11:25pm.

This was followed up by

another unit from the airport.

However, visibility proved a serious problem coupled with gaining access.

Lock cutters and the jaws of life had to be used.

■ See FIRE / page 2...

## JEAN RONY-CHARLES APPEAL DISMISSED

BY LEAH COOPER  
*Journal Staff Writer*

Bahamian-born Jean Rony-Charles was reportedly drawn to tears following the verdict of his case in the court of appeal yesterday.

The Justices of the Court of Appeal, Sir Hartman Longley, Sir Michael Barnett and Mr. Justice Jon Isaacs allowed an appeal by the Attorney General, who was the appellant along with the Minister of Immigration Brent Symonette, William Pratt, in his capacity as Director of Immigration and Tellis Bethell, in his capacity as Commodore of the Bahamas Defence Force.

The Attorney General appealed an Order of Justice



► Jean Rony-Charles (File photo)

## TOWN CENTRE LEASE CALLED "NAKED CONFLICT ON INTEREST"



► Minister of Immigration, Brent Symonette (File photo)



► Chairman of the PLP, Senator Fred Mitchell (File photo)

The Chairman of the Progressive Liberal Party Senator Fred Mitchell calls a decision by the government to lease the Town Centre Mall from Immigration Minister Brent Symonette "a shameful naked conflict of interest."

In a press statement yesterday, Mr. Mitchell said: "The Government now feathers the nest of the Minister for Immigration with the lease for five years of the Town Centre Mall for temporary quarters for the Post Office. What a shameful

naked conflict of interest that no parliamentary or constitutional device or sleight of hand will disguise. This is open and brazen self-dealing."

Saying that the PLP opposes this action, Mr. Mitchell said: "The Government seeks here to invent the wheel. When they came to office all the heavy lifting had been done. The traffic studies, engineering reports, social impact studies, traffic pattern studies

■ See TOWN CENTRE / page 8...



► CARICOM Ambassador HE Reuben Rahming addressed the audience on World Food Day 2018 at Kendal G.L. Isaacs Gym on Tuesday. Also present were Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI) President Tennyson Wells, and Ministry representatives. (BIS Photos/Derek Smith)

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# Stiff penalties Suggested For Poachers

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK  
*Journal Staff Writer*

Poachers in the Bahamas should pay a hefty price, according to Marine Resources Minister, Michael Pintard, after three Dominican motherships were captured with a crew of 124 and over 60,000 pounds of seafood.

"There is a commitment to ensure that in that legislation there is increased penalty for especially the boat captain.

"We are also committed to pursuing diligently home and abroad the owners of these vessels, some of whom may be American, Dominicans and quite possibly even Bahamians," he added.

"We will investigate and

we'll spare no effort to do so.

"There is a call that is consistent with the view of many of my colleagues that a number of these vessels should be sunk and to be made reefs in Bahamian waters."

Mr. Pintard commanded Bahamian fishermen, asking them to continue to work with the ministry, because after all, they're all in this together.

"The call was made for fines to be hefty, the court delivered a remarkable set of fines, ranging I believe somewhere in the vicinity of \$2.3 million, some rounded off which I like very much, to \$3million," he said.

"And that lasted, that created enthusiasm for a few days before persons went



► Marine Resources Minister, Michael Pintard (File photo)

back on the warpath," he added.

"This cannot be a moving goal post, progress is being made, are we there yet, no, are making progress yes."

The Minister commended the Royal Bahamas Defence Force and all those who assisted with the capture of the poachers.

As for the 120 plus Dominicans caught, no word yet on when they will appear before a magistrate.

Under the law, Bahamian fishermen have the right to carry arms the high seas; a real assurance considering things sometimes get violent.

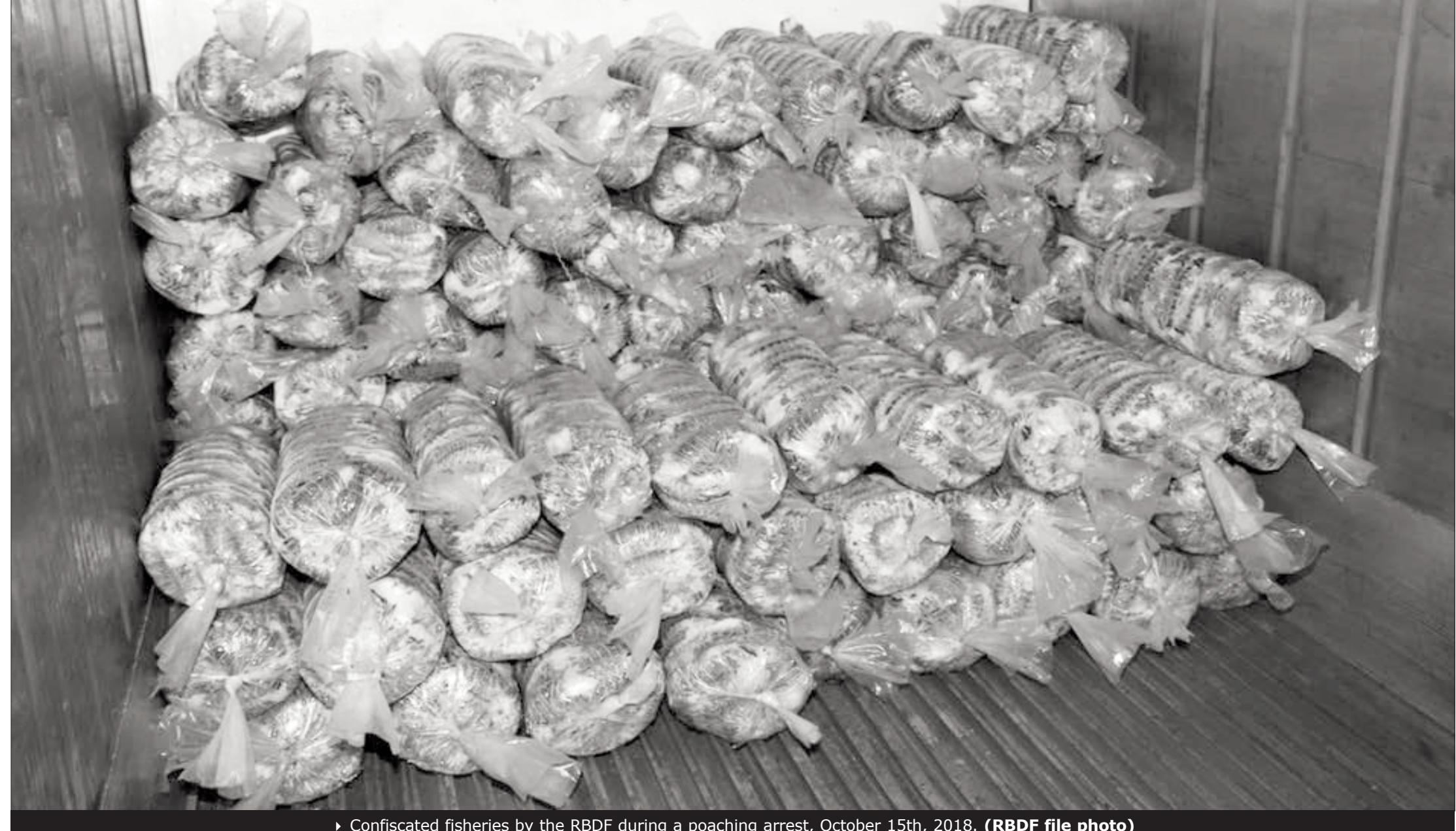
Case in point, the shoot-out between Dominican and Defence Force Officers this past weekend.

Local fishermen argue that this is something that they have long had to contend with, still, Foreign Affairs Minister, Darren Henfield urged the group not to take matters into their own hands.

"Please do not engage these fishermen on the high sea, when you encounter them call the authorities who are trained and suited and equipped to deal with them.

"And to assure them that we're doing our best to protect our fisheries resources, not only for them, this generation now but for generations of Bahamians yet to come," he added.

"That's our job, that's our sworn duty and that's what we're going to do," said the Minister.



► Confiscated fisheries by the RBDF during a poaching arrest, October 15th, 2018. (RBDF file photo)

## BAHAMIAN CLERGY HEADING TO HAITI

BY LEAH COOPER  
*Journal Staff Writer*

In the wake of Haiti's devastating 5.9 magnitude earthquake two weeks ago, the Bahamas Christian Council President Bishop Delton Fernander announced that the Bahamas National Baptist convention is set to

send a delegation to Haiti next week Monday.

The delegation along with other leaders of the Baptist faith will convene for an assessment and meeting in Haiti.

Bishop Fernander said, "we are also a member of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship. After that

meeting, headed by the Rev. Dr. William Thompson, they will then tell all of us what it is that Haiti is in need of."

He added, "I'm excited as the President of the Bahamas Christian Council that this denomination has already made movement so that they can have those

reports ready and we can do our part as a Christian Council."

Bishop Fernander said all denominations plan to do the same with committees and representation.

He added that the Council plans extend the olive branch to those affected by Hurricane Michael in

the southern United States.

Bishop Fernander also addressed concerns that the council isn't helping The Bahamas, labelling such comments "erroneous".

He said, "every time there's a hurricane locally, in fact let the record show that we have just assisted Crooked Island just the

other day, when all others would have turned their backs. The Council sent a check down there and we didn't go to the press."

He added that total donations to The Bahamas following these devastating hurricanes add up to about \$10,000.

## Fire Destroys Ministry of Education Warehouse

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

"Upon entry, a large number of paper material, including files, cleaning, office and toilet supplies, were engulfed in flames," Minister Lloyd said.

"Because of the set-up of the warehouse and the chain link fencing of its interior, it proved difficult to extinguish the multiple seats of fire," he added.

"Shortly before 5am this morning, myself and many other persons, senior personnel from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Youth Sports and Culture, came to assist in the extinguishing of that fire."

However, up to 9:30 yesterday morning, the fire raged on.

"It was determined by the senior officer, Officer Knowles, on the scene that

the building and its contents were completely destroyed."

The late night call came several hours after firefighters wrestled a massive blaze at the John Chea Foodstore, Carmichael Road location.

According to Fire Director, Chief Superintendent Walter Evans, in that case, two ladies were taken to hospital presumably for smoke inhalation.

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

# Tourism Workshop Addresses Visitor Safety and Security

Officials of The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation, Wednesday, hosted an inaugural one-day Tourism Safety and Security Workshop for tourism industry stakeholders and members of the country's law enforcement agencies. It was designed to elaborate on strategies to bring about greater safety and security for visitors to the country's shores.

Held under the theme: "Tourism Safety and Security, Enhancing Safety and Security Strategies for Our Number One Industry," the workshop, at the British Colonial Hilton, was facilitated by the Ministry's Visitor Safety and Security Department.

The workshop tackled areas such as Visitor Safety and Security; the Role of Partnership in Crime Prevention for Visitor Safety

(facilitated by Sr. Assistant Commissioner of Police, Royal Bahamas Police Force, Stephen Dean); and Challenges and Solutions to Visitor Safety and Security.

Participants were also provided with a Statistical Overview of Visitor Safety and Security, in addition to hearing tourism industry partners' views on the subject. Presenters for this segment included Chief Superintendent Bernard K. Bonamy, Jr. (Officer-in-Charge, Central Police Station, Royal Bahamas Police Force); Sr. Lieutenant Andrew Bowe, Harbour Patrol Unit, Royal Bahamas Defence Force; and Douglas Hanna, Vice-President of Security, Atlantis Resort.

Minister of Tourism and Aviation, the Hon. Dionisio D'Aguilar said the focus of the workshop was "critical."

"We assure our visitors,

that our islands are where they need to come and spend their vacation because we in The Bahamas can offer them a thoroughly satisfying, safe vacation experience," Minister D'Aguilar said. "All businesses sell products or services. The primary product of our country's number one industry – tourism – is an experience. We are in the business of offering an overall vacation experience that visitors will find memorable.

"Today, in spite of the best efforts of all tourism industry stakeholders, our tourism product confronts a threat, which if not effectively addressed, can sabotage our entire tourism enterprise. Ladies and gentlemen, I speak of crime in general and crime that can possibly threaten the safety and security of our visitors."

Minister D'Aguilar said personal safety and security is the number one concern that resonates with all human beings.

"As such, the threat of crime can no doubt compromise the safety and security of our visitors and possibly nullify the offer we make to our guests that they will have a satisfying and safe vacation experience in The Bahamas. It is important that we confront the issue of crime soberly and realistically."

Mr. D'Aguilar said The Bahamas has built a well-defined brand in the tourism marketplace after years of cultivating a positive reputation as a glamorous resort destination. The Tourism and Aviation Minister said there continues to be a "strong desire" among travel consumers for a Bahamas vacation.

"But alongside this glamorous reputation, we are aware that a darker one can come about should crime and its associated threats be allowed to fester and, yes, oftentimes the internet and social media make more ado of situations than what really exists in reality. But we cannot escape the actual fact that perception to onlookers is truth. We are then forced to ask ourselves the very hard question: 'Do we really feel that we have done enough to combat the perception that The Bahamas is possibly a high crime destination?'

The answer is an easy one, a resounding no. That is why we are gathered here today for a meeting of the minds, to elaborate strategies to bring about greater safety and security for our visitors."

Mr. D'Aguilar said the

issue of visitor safety and security does not exist in isolation.

"The larger context surrounding this issue is crime in general – a menace that affects the entire population of The Bahamas. We all agree that crime is a social ill and as such must be approached in a holistic manner with a multi-pronged strategy that will yield desired results in the short, medium and long term.

"Ladies and gentlemen, travelers will not put their safety and security in jeopardy. They will simply bypass high crime destinations and opt for places where they feel safe (and) so we in The Bahamas do not have the luxury to wait for medium to long-term solutions to crime, and in particular, crime that affects the safety of our visitors."



► Minister of Tourism & Aviation the Hon. Dionisio D'Aguilar addressed a Ministry of Tourism Workshop on Visitor Safety and Security for stakeholders of the industry, October 17, 2018 at the British Colonial Hilton. (BIS Photos/Kemuel Stubbs)

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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 Public Works Training Session Instructs Employees on Anger Management

Staff of the northern compound of The Ministry of Public Works (MOPW) participated in an Anger Management training seminar Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at the Department of Physical Planning.

The one-day interactive session, led by Reuben A. Mounts, Counselor, was entitled "Emotional Stability for an Effective You" and focused on managing emotions on a daily basis.

Mr. Mounts informed the

staff, who represented various departments, that the longer they are frustrated over a situation, the inevitable will happen which will eventually lead to anger. He said anger is detrimental to one's mental and physical health and affects performance and productivity in the workplace.

He encouraged the employees to "become a better you" by assessing what is and is not within their control and moving on as

opposed to internalizing matters and becoming frustrated.

The session is one of a series of training opportunities offered by the Human Resource Department of the Ministry of Public Works. Other upcoming sessions include: Ethics in the Workplace, Financial Planning, Project Management, Handling Disabled Employees, Reducing Your Debt, and Retirement Planning.



► Reuben A. Mounts, Counselor, leads the session on Anger Management.  
(BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna)

## BTVI's Deputy Chairman Invests in School

Deputy Chairman of the Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute (BTVI), Peter Whitehead recently made good on his promise to donate an Apple computer to the institution.

The Apple iMac computer is to be used in further improving and maintaining the institution's brand by way of desktop publishing.

Mr. Whithead has been a board member for the past six years and believes proper use of the Apple iMac will go a long way in enhancing and promoting BTVI's product.

"BTVI is a remarkable institution that's working

actively towards preparing its students for the future. With this donation, I hope to help keep BTVI up to date with the ever-changing technological industry," said Mr. Whitehead.

As a part of this donation, Mr. Whitehead also pledged to support the training of the recipient of the iMac to ensure that the individual takes full advantage of all its features.

BTVI's Associate Vice President of Fund Development, Alicia Thompson expressed thanks for Mr. Whitehead's investment in the institu-

tion and is excited to utilize the new technology.

"This underscores the importance of public-private donations to help BTVI operate more efficiently and effectively. We are truly happy to have persons like Mr. Whitehead on board to support our vision. We hope this donation sparks the beginning of extended support and investment in BTVI from industry," said Ms. Thompson.

BTVI President, Dr. Robert W. Robertson noted that the donation will further build and maintain the institution's image.



► Pictured left to right are BTVI's Associate Vice President of Fund Development, Alicia Thompson; BTVI's Deputy Chairman, Peter Whitehead and BTVI's President, Dr. Robert W. Robertson. (Photo: Shantique Longley)

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# The Rough Cut

By Felix F. Bethel

## “...that Tuesday past...”

Surely some revelation is at hand--- Surely: The Second Coming is at hand.

I believe that Jamal Kashoggi is dead.

Turkish officials say evidence has been found in a Saudi consulate that confirms a prominent writer was killed there.

A CLEANING crew entered the Saudi consulate in Istanbul where journalist Jamal Khashoggi is believed to have been killed before Turkish authorities investigated the scene.

I also believe that Jamal Kashoggi was murdered.

I also believe that Donald John Trump knows who killed this Washington Post reporter.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo traveled to Saudi Arabia to talk to King Salman and the 33-year-old crown prince about the fate of the journalist who wrote critically about the Saudis for The Washington Post.

While it was all smiles and handshakes in Riyadh, one prominent Republican senator said he believed that the crown prince, widely known as MBS, had Khashoggi “murdered.”

“This guy has got to go,” said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, speaking on Fox television. “Saudi Arabia, if you’re listening, there are a lot of good people you can choose, but MBS has tainted your country and tainted himself.”

And now, that Jamal Kashoggi is presumed dead—I remember That Special Tuesday Past [November 08/2016] in the evening hours, when as I now recall: I was invited to mix and mingle with some of this land’s best and brightest sons and daughters [and if –per chance- they were not really the best and the really-brightest] these dudes and ladies nibbling on American made hospitalities seemed to relish playing the parts they played/ all as they enjoyed the sweet ambience of the American Ambassador’s residence on Prospect Ridge—yes! Yes! Yes—that same Prospect Ridge where this Black Bastard was born some sixty seven years ago to Sylvia Sands, his already blessed and sainted mother—that young Black woman who in that same time been visited by that same Gabriel-Messenger who said this time around as he did that

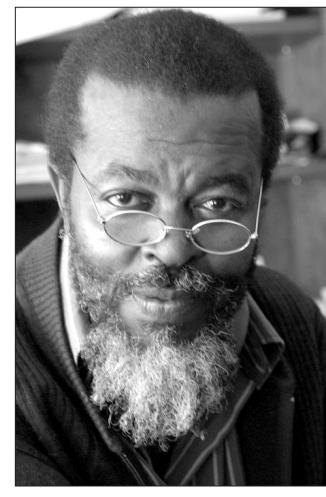
other time around:—Fear not, Miss Sylvie---and so it came to be that, in these times – a Black Bastard was born; grew in stature and in wisdom; and did live long enough and well enough to have been invited to mix and mingle with some in this land who are considered to be among this land’s best and brightest—

Oh boy, am I getting carried away even as I was supposed to be coming home with the dread message that, Donald Trump –a most dangerous psychopath in the opinion of people who should know that species of man- is set to become the 45th. President of the United States of America; and that he has achieved this feat with a degree of brutality which –all things considered- is akin to what a bull-dozer man does whenever he is called to take out hills, mountains and anything else [for that matter] which stand in the way of that bulldozer-man and his agreed-upon goal and task.

As the record shows, Donald Trump did his brutal thing his brutal way; and that, his supporters cheered and roared their approval of each and all of his deeply troubling plans, proposed policies and projects for his agenda once he got their approval.

And thus it came to be this Tuesday past that I became sick to my stomach –as it dawned on me- that America the Great had set its sights on becoming great again as that once upon a time great place where freedom reigned to becoming a morbid reminder of that other set of facts which –taken and shaken together- revealed that there is that other America where bigotry, racism, hate, misogyny – mixed in with the filthiest of bloody lucre- could and did spawn genocide, murder and blood-red terrorism as it paraded itself with its burning crosses and their myriad of memories of Black men and women crucified on this or that lynching tree.

Put simply, the entrance and ascension of Donald Trump is little more than an announcement to the effect that, there is out-there that other rabid America that would consume itself in hate; that would ride rough-shod over any and all who would dare shout ENOUGH!!! To the fascists –like Trump- who with their teeth of iron



and with the aid of their forked tongues – now seethe with anger at the white likes of Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton and at the very thought of that darkie Barack Hussein Obama who dared think that America the Beautiful was now the face and smell of a day that would persist.

They were wrong to the max!

Alas, that day is ended; Donald Trump is large and is fated to become large and in charge on January 20th. 2017---Heaven help us all!

And so, today, with the help of my buddy, Steven W. Thrasher, I advise as follows:—Hold tight. This is the beginning of a sad chapter for our nation, and for the world. The system, and our government and parties, have failed. This will become a frightening, vengeful, unjust land. And an angry white electorate, now using the levers of government, is not going to be kind to any of us not deemed integral to making America “great” again.

So hold tight to the ones you love, please – because all we’ve got is each other.

Hold tight! Donald John Trump is an American businessman and the President-elect of the United States. He is scheduled to take office as the 45th President on January 20, 2017.

For all I know or yet get to know, I do now know that in the opinion of Oxford scholar, Dr. Kevin Dutton:--

“...Both great and terrible leaders score higher than the general population for psychopathic traits, but it is the mix of those traits that determines success. On factors including social influence and fearlessness Trump outperformed Hitler and Clinton did better than Roman emperor when assessed for “Machiavellian egocentricity.”

Jamal Kashoggi is dead!

**GOT NEWS?**  
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## E D I T O R I A L

# Thugs -in- Uniform

First, this news: Dennis Theophilus Watson, 21, and his 23-year-old co-accused Demal Daniel Cartwright were sentenced after pleading guilty to one count of possession of dangerous drugs with intent to supply.

Watson was the prison officer.

And now, he has been found guilty of a drugs-related offense.

As a direct result, he now faces a life-time ahead where he would be obliged to remember that time when he allowed himself to be seduced by the mystery of evil.

In yet again one other of those sad cases where a police or prison officer is found out for the crooks they really are, we today take note of certain corrosive effects which invariably ensue as any number of so-called rotten apples in the mix-make undermine the integrity of the whole system.

But of course, kudos are also due officers who –as part of their sworn duty- help ferret out some of these cussed thugs-in-uniform crooks.

And yet we wonder whether there are other crooks who are far cleverer than this amateur thug who has been caught.

This obvious point we make as we call on the current administration to waste no time in seeing to it that, the men and women in the employ of the state are adequately compensated for their work but also that they are brought up short and made to pay when they fail.

Whilst we reference all who serve, we are especially concerned with the behavior of some of the men and women who are really and truly a disgrace to themselves and their families when – on any given day- they don their uniforms and go a-hunting for bribes and kick-backs.

Whenever a bus-load of men in the employ of the state can and do morph into a bunch of hooligans, we must conclude that we have a problem on our hands; and for sure, whenever any number of men on routine patrol in a government-owned vehicle

can and do get away with shaking down either resident or citizen—then you know that, yes, we do have a problem on our hands.

In sum, then, the same conclusion applies to any and all men and women in our Bahamas who figure out that they can get over by stealing, cheating and otherwise, by bending law-enforcement to their person use when they either seek or accept pay-offs for this or that ‘favor’ they do for this or that person.

What we are referring are all those thugs in uniform who do a living mischief to all of us as they rip and roar through some of the meanest of mean streets where the thug’s life is apparently the norm.

A 21-year-old corrections officer and his cousin were both fined \$2,000 yesterday for being caught with almost ten ounces of marijuana over the weekend that the former allegedly planned to deliver to someone at the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services.

One of the sadder fact of life that must matter to all right-thinking Bahamians has to do with how –time and time again-people in the employ of the state decide to pervert their mission.

When for example, a thug in uniform decides to use his employment as a police officer as shield behind which he hides his wrongdoing, what ensues is that we all pay a very high price.

Evidently, a part of that price is the public’s loss of faith in some of our bedrock institutions.

This happens when –as in the case cited- we find illuminated the kind of raw mischief that can be done by men and women in the employ of the state who are [literally] thugs in uniform.

Whilst unfortunate, the fact remains that there are ‘out-there’ officers who are intent on doing the right thing at all times.

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

**NO BETTER READING**

# World Food Day: "Zero Hunger World by 2030, Still Possible"

The Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources in conjunction with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Ministry of Education held a World Food Day National Ceremony at Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium on Tuesday, October 16, in observance of World Food Day 2018.

His Excellency Reuben Rahming, High Commissioner to CARICOM, addressed school students, Ministry officials and the public, saying "on this day the world pauses to focus on the growing problem of world hunger," to increase awareness of this problem and to fortify our solidarity in the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty around the world.

Speaking on behalf of the Hon. Michael Pintard, Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources, he said the world can, however, achieve zero hunger, and this year's theme, 'Our Actions are Our Future: A #Zero Hunger World by 2030 is Possible' presents a call to action to get us back on track.

In the message of FAO Director General Jose Graziano da Silva, "Zero hunger is still achievable if we join forces across nations, continents, sectors and professions, in the years that remain up to 2030. Taking action is not an option. It is a necessary step to a truly sustainable future for all. Our present actions determine our future. A Zero Hunger World by 2030 is still possi-



► CARICOM Ambassador HE Reuben Rahming addressed the audience on World Food Day 2018 at Kendal G.L. Isaacs Gym on Tuesday. Also present were Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI) President Tennyson Wells, and Ministry representatives. (**BIS Photos/Derek Smith**)



ble."

Presentations of food items were made to Great

Commission Ministries, the Bahamas Feeding Network and the Persis Rodgers

Home for the Aged to assist with efforts in feeding the needy.



## *Public Notice*

## Roadworks

**Please be advised**  
that Bahamix has scheduled milling and paving works for Cordeaux Avenue beginning Wednesday, October 17, 2018.

*Further, the paving works on Bernard Road will be suspended due to additional utility works.*

Motorists are asked to avoid the area if possible, and to be aware of and acknowledge the posted traffic paving signs.

# DPM urges IMF to provide objective data



► Deputy Prime Minister,  
Peter Turnquest (File photo)

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance K. Peter Turnquest called on the International Monetary Fund to take a more active role in developing objective, fact-based assessments of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing reforms in Caribbean jurisdictions.

During a breakfast meeting on October 14 with IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde and Deputy Managing Director Mr Tao Zhang, Minister Turnquest stressed that The Bahamas, as with other countries in the region, continue to be discredited due to negative perceptions and historical biases that do not reflect the current strength of local regulatory regimes.

"We need the Fund through its own independent research, and leveraging of the integrity of the Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP) to bring more rigorous evidence to bear on the benchmarked quality of our

regulatory regimes. This intervention must give more credence to the risk-based approach," said Minister Turnquest.

Two of the key research priorities: 1) independently quantifying the economic and fiscal costs posed by international financial services regimes in the region particularly to the European Union and countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); 2) quantifying how the returns to the OECD and EU from their emphasis on our jurisdictions line up with the costs they continue to impose on us relative to the tax base and financial crimes base which they seek to impact.

The Bahamas shares the international goal of combating money laundering, terrorism financing, and other illicit activities that could exploit weakly regulated financial centers. Over the years, it has made significant strides to keep up with the international benchmarks for transparency and cooperation in tax matters, and continues to do so.

However, as long as the risk-profile of the jurisdiction is perceived as static it will continue to pose the ongoing threat of eroding correspondent banking relationships (CBR), which are extremely important to the financial system and global trading.

Minister Turnquest called on the IMF to use its capabilities to play a more

defined role and add value to this space, including perhaps, playing an advisory role on related matters through the FSAP process.

"The weight of the IMF should be brought to bear on more objective, fact-based assessments of our progress on AML/CFT reforms; on more quantification of the unintended or indeed intended consequences of changing or widening scopes of international tax cooperation initiatives, on CBR outcomes and our economic diversification aspirations," said Minister Turnquest.

He referenced anecdotal evidence that suggests the imbalance of international pressure on the Caribbean region is creating growth opportunities for IFCs in other larger countries to thrive. This anecdotal evidence cannot be ignored, said Minister Turnquest, especially as the IMF's has published advice recommending that countries in the region consider, in the extreme, exiting the field as IFC.

"The call for Caribbean economies to diversify and to become more resilient must consider, more, the consequences, that black and grey lists have on access to correspondent banking, and how being on any list can, in an unintended fashion, undermine our jurisdictions' efforts to attract foreign investments that promote diversity and resilience," said Minister Turnquest.



## 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

## SPOTLIGHT ON BAIN & GRANTS TOWN

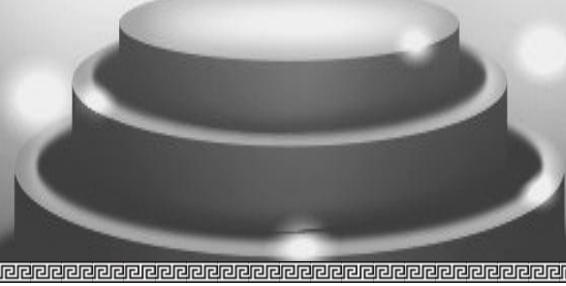
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SATURDAYS 9:00 A.M.

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# JEAN RONY-CHARLES APPEAL DISMISSED

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

Gregory Hilton in which he dismissed a habeas corpus application but granted constitutional relief to Rony-Charles.

Essentially, the Crown's appeal was allowed and the respondent's Notice/Cross Appeal was dismissed.

Sir Michael wrote: "in my judgment not only was the judge correct to dismiss or discharge the Writ of habeas corpus on the material that was before him, the judge ought not in my judgment to have caused the writ to be issued."

"The habeas corpus having been brought to an end the court ought not to have

considered any further applications in that action arising out of the detention of the applicant."

Sir Michael said, "the judge fell in error when he proceeded with the application for constitutional relief and I would set aside all orders made by him on that application."

He said, "this does not prevent the applicant from now applying for constitutional relief. He can still do so. No doubt face the issue as to whether there are other more appropriate causes of action to obtain relief such as an action in tort for wrongful arrest and false imprisonment. However, it would not be appropriate for me to adjudicate on the propriety of

those claims on this appeal. They should be ventilated in an appropriate action after proper pleadings, discovery and evidence."

Mr. Justice Isaacs in allowing the appeal in his judgment stated: "In light of my decision that the judge erred when he continued the hearing once he had determined the habeas corpus application, the respondent's Notice/Cross Appeal are unsustainable; and as a consequence, dismissed."

A while back Justice Hilton initially deported Rony-Charles causing much backlash both locally and internationally.

Upon Rony-Charles' return, the crown since appealed on the basis that

Justice Hilton based his ruling on excluded evidence and overstepped his boundaries by directing the state to grant Jean-Charles legal status.

This, while the identity of the applicant had not been determined irrefutably.

A court document read, "Prior to hearing of submissions by respective parties, the court was concerned with the applicant's name and whether it was "Jean-Rony Charles" or "Jean Charles".

In Jean Charles' absence, who was flown to Haiti on November 24th last year, there was no conclusive answer on that concern.

In the face of much doubt

of both names being one in the same, the judge erred in treating them as such in the absence of definitive evidence.

Lead defense attorney Fred Smith, AC argued that the issue surrounding his identity was unconnected arguing that a third category of people in the country find themselves in similar positions as Mr. Jean-Charles.

He added that they do not particularly fall under certain definitions under the Immigration Act; that he was falsely imprisoned in the Carmichael Detention Centre and that he has not been charged with any offence in any court.

The Attorney General was represented in the Appeal by Attorneys Loren Klein, Gary Francis, Darcel Smith-Williamson and Hyacinth Smith.

# THORNY CITIZENSHIP ISSUES UNRESOLVED

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

constitutional issues in the case. The question was about a person born in the Bahamas, whether they can or cannot be legally deported or expelled and whether or not the Supreme Court has the power to order the government to release somebody or whether or not the Immigration Department

does or does not have the power to detain people who were born in the Bahamas who are citizens in waiting remains unresolved."

Mr. Smith reacting to the judgment of the judges said, "both the government and Jean Rony were looking forward to the real issues in the case being dealt with, as opposed to the procedural issues.

"Everybody is still up in the air about their rights, including the government and Jean Rony and thousands of people in his position. The Attorney General was looking forward to the Court of Appeal dealing with these issues. The failure of the court in deadline with the constitutional issues in this judgment has left a lot of people in limbo.

"Sadly, the nation is no closer to those thorny issues being resolved," said Mr. Smith.

Appeal Court Justice Sir Michael Barnett, one of the three judges in the matter wrote: "In my judgment as the identity of the applicant was in the mind of the (Supreme Court) judge still an unresolved issue, the court ought not to have

entertained any application for constitutional or any other relief until that issue had been resolved.

"I was obviously unfair to the respondents in the habeas corpus application to have to deal with an application for constitutional relief when that application was being made for the first time at the morning fixed for the Return in the habeas corpus

matter. They has only come before the court to deal with the habeas corpus application and the return showing that they did not have in their custody a person that may fit the identity of the person named as the Applicant."

Sir Michael said the judge fell in error when he proceeded with the application for constitutional relief.

## TOWN CENTRE LEASE CALLED "NAKED CONFLICT ON INTEREST"

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

had all been completed. The PLP decided to assist a young Bahamian, not born in one of the selected families, with a Public Private Partnership (PPP) and proceeded to advance the plans in the old Independence Shopping Centre.

"The FNM came along believing their own propaganda and canceled that project, with significant costs to the public. They announced with great fanfare they were moving to Gladstone Road without checking the facts. That proved to be a colossal error.

"Without so much as a "by your leave" they now announce this resolution, the effect of which is to abandon all that has already been done, waste all the money already spent, with a poorly hatched, cooked up scheme to fix up one of their brothers. It is embarrassing. It is

shameful," said the former Minister of Foreign Affairs.

He said, "the resolution itself is poorly drafted with unnecessary verbiage. Instead of bringing a straight resolution devoid of polemic and arguments in its recitals, they make assertions about history which are simply incorrect and false. Some of these paragraphs are to be left to be stated in the debate not in the body of a resolution. I call on the Speaker of the House to rule them out of order as wholly inappropriate and improper.

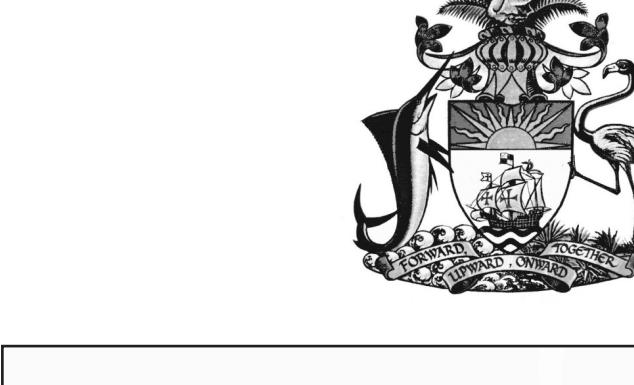
"We dispute the rate of 12 dollars per square foot as being a "generous and commercial concessionary rate". What looks like a gift, when examined may not be. For example, the building has been empty for years. Now it will be rented, so the Landlord immediately comes out ahead. In five years, Government will have improved the landlord's property and instead of a

depreciated asset, the Landlord will be left with an appreciating asset. So the Government is again arranging a benefit for one of its Cabinet ministers.

"Does the rate include the charges for other costs like air conditioning, parking and maintenance?

"A leopard cannot change its spots. The Prime Minister as Minister of Health rented a building for the Health Ministry to himself. Brent Symonette sat as a Deputy Prime Minister and negotiated an exclusive port deal in Nassau for himself and other selected families. Mr. Symonette has a previous experience in self dealing when he was removed as Chair of the Airport Authority when a company he owned received a paving contract for the airport.

"This is just like those decisions. We will not support it. It stinks to high heaven," said Mr. Mitchell.



## 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**  
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