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75 CENTS

Prince George Wharf To Be Redeveloped

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Tourism Minister Dionisio D'Aguiar said that the government has released to public domain the request for proposal for the Prince George Dock.

He said that this will transform the Prince George Wharf into a premier cruise destination in the Caribbean.

He added that the real challenge is not getting more tourists here, but getting them to spend more



▶ Minister of Tourism Dionisio D'Aguiar (File photo)

■ See PRINCE / page 2...

GB Urban Renewal Audit Report Released

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

An audit into Grand Bahama's Urban Renewal Office shines the light on glaring errors with the system.

In a 10-page report, Auditor General, Terrence Bastian found there were a number of instances where the payment amounts recorded on requisitions differed from the amount recorded on the batch register at GB's

Urban Renewal Department. The audit, conducted over the fiscal period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017, also found that there were 23 instances totaling \$463,000 where sup-

■ See GB URBAN / page 7...

Weakness Found In MOF Audit

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

number of irregularities have been found in audit report of the Ministry of Finance. There were lease agreements given to Atilio Holdings Company (AHC) and it was discovered that "in August 2017, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) executed at least

one residential apartment lease agreement with AHC limited, a Bahamian entity incorporated the month before."

"Atilio was found to be an affiliate of Bahamas Striping, a well-known Bahamian contractor involved in road work and airfield maintenance, among other businesses," it added.

The audit prepared

by U.S.-based business advisory firm, FTI Consulting, also revealed that at the time the lease was executed, Atilio had no business history or evident qualifications as a real estate broker or leasing agent.

It also found that payment records and documentary evidence indicate

■ See WEAKNESS / page 2...

Labour Ministry Expects The Point To Honour Agreement

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

The Director of Labour John Pinder said that following the completion and opening of Seven Entertainment at The Point Development, the

Ministry is expecting workers to now comply with the Heads of Agreement.

The Agreement signed last year between the government and China Construction America stated that the ratio of Bahamian workers to for-

eign workers be 70-30.

He said, "we expect to now see them close that gap as relates to the ratio of Bahamians to foreign workers."

■ See LABOUR / page 8...

Gerald Cash Primary Explore Cuban Drumming



▶ Students of Gerald Cash Primary School showcased musical talents and learned about Cuban drumming when renowned percussionist Eduardo Cordova visited their school as part of a cultural exchange delegation, on October 17, 2018. The students performed Rake-n-Scrape and Junkanoo rhythms and had a "jam session" with Mr. Cordova at the end. Among those present for the event were Senior Cultural Affairs Officer in the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture Sonovia Pierre, Music Education Officer for Primary Schools Antoinette P. Thompson, Resident Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas Her Excellency Ismara Mercedes Vargas Walter, Cuban visual artist Jose Luis Cicilio, and other cultural and Cuban stakeholders. (BIS Photos / Eric Rose)

COALITION AGAINST DISNEY'S DEVELOPMENT

"DON'T DO IT," is the stern advice given to the Prime Minister by the Coalition To Save Clifton on the proposed Disney Development at Lighthouse Point, Eleuthera following a recent visit to the site by members of the Coalition.

In a Press Statement the Coalition has unequivocally stated its fundamental opposition to the establishment of private Tourism enclaves operated by the Cruise Lines in the Bahamas. "Not only is this

■ See COALITION / page 8...



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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

Prince George Wharf To Be Redeveloped

Continued from / PAGE 1...

money here.

"There are 91 under constructions right now, so cruise ships are looking for additional parts that are bigger; so we need to expand our facilities here to accommodate additional cruise

ships. But it's not just getting the bodies here, it giving them something to spend their money on when they get here, that's the real tough nut to crack.

"We need to figure out how to get them to come off the ships and to spend money in our country and were hoping that with that

redevelopment it would expand their number of retail options for them and also the number of food and beverage options.

"We're hoping that with this significant investment in the port that it will start to move to Bay Street and start to bring about a transformation in the quality of offer-

ings on Bay Street," said the Minister.

Mr. D'Aguilar added that the government has cut out incentives to cruise lines that visit The Bahamas.

"We've scrapped all those incentives; we don't have any incentives anymore. We're not paying any cruise line to come here,

they should want to come here; there should be something wonderful for them to be here.

"If you think about it, God has geographically blessed The Bahamas. We are the closest port to the world which is Miami, Ft. Lauderdale and Canaveral.

So if you're going on a three day cruise, then you are coming to Nassau. So I don't think there needs to be incentives," he said.

Around 3.6 million cruise passengers visit the Bahamas yearly, and the Tourism Minister said the Port is expected to be redeveloped by 2022.

Weakness Found In MOF Audit

Continued from / PAGE 1...

that while MOF executed only one lease agreement by signature, it initially made payments to Atillio for up to three apartments.

"Each leased for \$5,500 per month. The sole lease executed by signature is for a three-year term, thereby amounting to \$198,000 in

total contractual value."

Meantime, two other unexecuted leases existed for a second property.

However, FTI did not identify any lease for the third property.

"FTI identified no evidence that the housing needs addressed by the Atillio properties were subject to competitive bidding or put before the Government

Tenders Board (GTB) for consideration despite a requirement in the financial administration and audit act that contracts of such value be put before the GTB."

The audit also found that MOF made over \$124,000 in rental payments to Airfield Maintenance Services (AMS), another affiliate of Bahamas Striping, in lieu of Atillio.

"Because Atillio had only recently been incorporated and did not yet have bank accounts, it requested that the MOF make initial payments to AMS and MOF did so."

The report revealed that as of March 13, 2018, MOF had made approximately \$160,000 in payments, collectively, to AMS and Atillio.

"Duane Ellis, a former MOF Financial Officer

responsible for processing the initial payments to AMS stated that all such payments were approved by his superiors," the report said.

However, it said neither Ellis nor MOF produced any documentary evidence of payment approvals.

"After the leases were executed, Ellis recalled that Atillio submitted an invoice for apartment furnishings,

which he rejected because the leases called for the apartments to include furnishings.

"FTI's own research suggests that the Atillio leases represent a questionable value for money as comparable apartments for rent advertised online are listed for substantially less rent

See WEAKNESS / page 6...

"Renowned Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon Shares Advancements of Adult Congenital Heart Disease



Dr. Immanuel Turner, Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon and Congenital Heart Surgery specialist (File photo)

The Grand Bahama Medical & Dental Association (GBMDA) invites Dr. Immanuel Turner, Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon and Congenital Heart Surgery specialist, from Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, part of Memorial Healthcare System in South Florida, to the 18th Annual Scientific Educational Conference to be held the 18th and 19th of October in The Pelican Bay Resort, Lucaya, Grand Bahama, Bahamas.

As every year, the important conference will be receiving doctors and specialists from all over the world, to share with their

colleagues the current "cutting edge" procedures in all the many different medical specialties, surrounding this year theme for the conference: "Universal Health: United to Fulfill the Vision".

Dr. Immanuel Turner, from United States, will be representing his institution in South Florida: Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. This time, Dr. Turner will have a very important presentation during the activity, where he would be speaking about the Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD).

The incidences of Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD) have been critically growing lately. Dr. Turner

will be sharing studies on theories surrounding this fact, and why possibly there is been an increase on Congenital Heart Disease in the adult population. The specialist will also be talking about the best results and outcomes he has been having with his patients.

"I feel very enthusiastic about this visit to the beautiful Bahamas. It is always a great experience being able to share the patient's outcomes with our colleagues". Dr. Immanuel Turner said.

Congenital Heart Disease affects 8 to 10 of every 1,000 children around the world. Some of this cases are easily detected at the moment of

birth, but sometimes the symptoms begin to appear later in the years, becoming a high risk heart condition for adults including: congenital valve defects, atrial and ventricular septal defects and many others.

With the conference just around the corner, Dr. Vincent Burton, current President of the Grand Bahamas Medical and Dental Association stated: "The association goals remain the same. The improvement of health care in Grand Bahamas, the promotion of health lifestyle in the community and the continuing medical education of members."

LONG ISLANDERS HOPE CRIES ARE HEARD AT TCL GROUP'S BUSINESS OUTLOOK

Although Long Island has been able to re-bound since the devastation caused by Hurricane Joaquin in 2015, without the construction of a new airport, increased airlift, foreign investment and island-wide water supply, its economy remains stunted.

From recent views expressed in the media, these are the developmental challenges expressed generally by Long Island residents. It is expected that this will be the consensus of opinions voiced at the fourth annual Long Island Business Outlook, which is scheduled for 8 November 2018 at the Clarence Town Community Centre.

Joan Albury, president, TCL Group and chief organizer of the seven-island Business Outlook Series said she anticipates that the 2018 Long Island Business Outlook theme: 'Creating A World-Class Long Island' will help tackle the island's challenges.

"It will create a forum for not only islanders to make their concerns known, but also, hear possible solutions from government representatives and industry experts while engaging them in dialogue," said Mrs. Albury.

Long Island MP and Chairman of the Water & Sewerage Corporation, Adrian Gibson will be the keynote speaker. Other presenters will include: Zhivargo Laing, Chief Negotiator for The Bahamas' Accession Process to the World Trade Organization; Sherry Albury-Smith, The Nature Conservancy and Davinia Blair, Executive Director, Small Business Development Center.

Cheryl de Goicoechea, Long Island Chamber of Commerce President and Ramona Ritchie-Taylor, President of the Long Island Cancer Society, both agree that Long Island primarily needs an airport to fix its broken economy.

"First off, I can tell you that the only way that Long Island will achieve first class is if we have an International Airport," said de Goicoechea.

"Everything is hinged on the airport," said Ritchie-Taylor.

Another issue, according to the Chamber President, is lack of airlift and accessibility.

"We need a way for people to get here on a timely basis and for the frequency to

be better. Currently, Southern Air and Bahamasair are the only two airlines that fly here daily," she said. "But both of them depart Nassau at the same time."

De Goicoechea pointed out that while Bahamasair recently launched a direct flight from Miami to San Salvador, but that flight has to be shared with Long Island travelers, limiting the number of people able to travel to and from the island. She added that the only other option is to charter a plane which can cost a minimum of \$1,000 on a one-way ticket.

According to Ritchie, a better health care system and the revitalization of the local fishing and agricultural industries are also needed. But those matters also hinge on the completion of the water project and the airport.

"We need a boost in the economy for sure," she said. "We need something that is going to take us to that next level. Investors don't want to live in a place where they can't have basic amenities. I know of situations where if there were some improvements to the airport, it would make a difference in the interest in persons coming in to make investments into the

island."

Ritchie continued, "Our fishermen are suffering because they have to combat poaching. Our men stick to the fishing seasons. But the poachers fish all year round, causing our men to have little or nothing to harvest."

The lack of banking facilities on Long Island is a worsening challenge identified by Ritchie-Taylor and De Goicoechea. Since major banks closed shop on the island, residents now depend on money transfer companies such as: SunCash and

Omni. Scotiabank (Bahamas) Limited has an ATM (Automated Teller Machine) in addition to teller-services twice a week to non-business account holders.

On a positive note, there is one new development that is a "plus" for the 80-mile-long island – an on-going project by The Water and Sewerage Corporation of The Bahamas with the goal of supplying potable water to the entire island.

Last year's Long Island Business Outlook focused

heavily on the need for potable water, which residents claim had been promised for generations, but left un-actioned.

"To say that we are dying right now, would be an understatement," said Ritchie-Taylor. "Our people are being forced to leave to find a better way of life – to survive. Our people need to have something to come back to in order to grow the economy, which would make us attractive to investors. We need help and we need it now."

GOT NEWS?
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After just a year, the GB Technology Summit has brought positive changes

Since the initial Grand Bahama Technology Summit a year ago, Grand Bahama -- Freeport in particular -- moved to make technology aspirations a reality and is firmly on the path to becoming the nation's Tech Hub. The establishment of a Technology Hub Steering Committee was the first step.

Technology-focused companies and businesses, such as GIBC, Carnival's Ocean Medallion Project and Itelppo, among others, have either been introduced into Grand Bahama or have expanded their businesses respectively. The prospect of even more such technology-based businesses setting up

shop on the island is real and promising to come to fruition in a matter of months.

A year ago, a Bahamian government delegation, led by Prime Minister of the Bahamas, Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis, accompanied by the Minister of State for Grand Bahama and others, participated in a fact-finding trip to Texas: there, they met with top executives from well-known technology companies on prospects for opening offices in Grand Bahama, which was, at one time, only a dream.

Like a dream come true, recent establishment of an Information and Communications Technology



► Prime Minister Minnis, pictured opening the first GB Tech Summit. The Second Annual Grand Bahama Technology Summit under the theme, 'The Future is Now,' is scheduled for November 14-16, 2018 at the Grand Lucayan. (BIS Photo/Lisa Davis)

(ICT) program at Bahamas Technical & Vocational Institute -- free of charge to interested Bahamians -- yielded a number of graduates who received ICT certification certificates.

A year ago talks of making Freeport a "Smart City" had never before been raised and presented in an open forum. And now there are plans on paper to make this a reality.

All of this transpired since the launch of the first Grand Bahama Technology Summit; and even more technological advances are on the way.

The second annual Grand Bahama Technology Summit is set to take place at the

Grand Lucayan Resort, November 14-16, 2018, and expectations are extremely high. Under the theme 'The Future is Now,' the Second Annual Grand Bahama Technology Summit is expected to attract top technology experts to headline the list of speakers.

The Technology Summit seeks to achieve three things for key industry stakeholders -- connect, explore, invest. It is also intended to establish and grow the technology industry sector in Grand Bahama, similar to that of the Tourism and Financial Services sectors: the future of advanced technology is here.

Tourism Safety workshop labelled, 'great meeting of the minds'

Officials at The Bahamas' Ministry of Tourism and Aviation hosted tourism industry stakeholders and members of the country's law enforcement agencies to an inaugural one-day Tourism Safety and Security Workshop (Wednesday, October 17) that was labelled "a great meeting of the minds."

An end result of the workshop was to form a committee comprising all key security personnel within the industry to address visitor safety and security issues throughout The Bahamas.

Minister of Tourism and Aviation, the Hon. Dionisio D'Aguilar called the plan 'a most noteworthy goal.'

"Ladies and gentlemen, attendees to this inaugural workshop, this is a space where you can speak your mind without judgment. Your contribution will be highly appreciated and taken into account.

"There is much at stake. Our country's chief livelihood is under serious threat. Your deliberations today at this inaugural visitor safety and security workshop hold the key to charting the way

forward to a sustainable solution to secure the viability of our nation's number one industry.

"This workshop has set a most noteworthy goal. Your plan is to, by the end of this workshop, form a committee comprising all key security personnel within the industry. Such a committee would allow you to quickly share intelligence on crime and share best practices in combating crime."

Mr. D'Aguilar said the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation and key industry stakeholders expend tens of

millions of dollars annually promoting The Bahamas abroad.

"With our alluring advertisement, each year, we are successful in persuading six million plus travellers to bypass competing tourist destinations and come to The Islands of The Bahamas. We assure our visitors that, here, in these islands is where they need to come and spend their vacation because we in The Bahamas can offer them a thoroughly satisfying vacation experience.

"Today, in spite of the best efforts of all tourism industry

stakeholders, our tourism product confronts a vile threat, which, if not effectively addressed, will sabotage our entire tourism enterprise."

Minister D'Aguilar told participants that he was confident they have the capability to develop the tactics, concepts and strategies needed to address issues related to visitor safety and security.

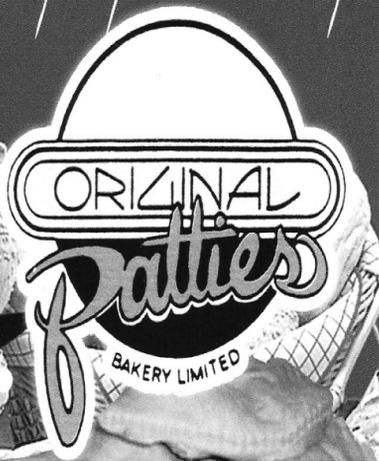
"Those who are criminally minded are limited only by their imagination. But, keep in mind that criminals do not have a monopoly on

imagination. In your work as safety and security agents, you no doubt spend a great deal of time reviewing in your mind your own solutions to security issues.

"Well, today is the great meeting of the minds. Now is your time to bring to the table all those ideas, tactics, concepts and strategies that you've been incubating. Make your contribution to the think tank today. From your collective contribution, we will craft a blue print to secure the safety and security of our guests," Minister D'Aguilar added.

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

-Sale of the Tugboat "Snapper" and Tugboat "Amberjack"
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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:

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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 12th day of October, 2018.

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

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

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



► On Saturday, November 17th at the Bahamas Union of Teacher's Building the Humane Society of Grand Bahama will host a 50th Golden Jubilee Gala, along with their title sponsor the Grand Bahama Port Authority. Pictured are the HSGB Gala Committee working on plans for the event, which will also serve as a fundraiser for the over 200 dogs and cats in the current care for the shelter. (Photo courtesy of HSGB for Barefoot Marketing)

HSGB Celebrates 50 years helping Grand Bahama Community

In 1968 the Humane Society of Grand Bahama (HSGB) was founded "to protect God's creatures in times of trouble on Grand Bahama Island." Today this mantra is the fundamental reason that the HSGB is going strong some 50 years later and firmly committed to alleviating animal overpopulation and suffering on the island.

On Saturday, November 17th at the Bahamas Union of Teacher's Building the HSGB's will host a 50th Golden Jubilee Gala, along

with their title sponsor the Grand Bahama Port Authority. "We ask everyone to join us as we spend an evening reminiscing and celebrating the past 50 years," said President Joseph Darville. "Our shelter has accomplished much for Grand Bahama animals; we will celebrate all those who have made it possible while looking to the future."

The HSGB receives no government support and continues to honour their founders by organizing free spay/neuter campaigns,

facilitate adoptions, host humane education programs and pays for rescue partnerships. "Every animal deserves a chance at life and a forever home," said Tip Burrows, HSGB Executive Director. "We try to provide that for as many as we can while maintaining a fiscal responsibility to the animals already in our care. We believe that everything we can do to increase an animal's adoptability can contribute to one more precious life saved."

The gala which will also

serve as a fundraiser for the over 200 dogs and cats in the current care for the shelter, will feature live music by well-known singer Ryan Carroll, the Panache jazz trio, and the Soul Sistas & House of Hoops and Dreams Band. The event will also feature the infamous Humane Society silent auction items and delicious heavy appetizers and buffet dinner catered by Roxy (Jasmine Roxbury). "We are also thrilled to announce that the cash bar will feature local brewer,

Bahamian Brewery's beers, as well as wine and high ball cocktails," said HSGB Board Member and Gala Chair, Lisa Pakosh. "We are pulling out all the stops and really looking forward to dazzling our guests with a fabulous night to remember."

Burrows added "the staff and animals at the HSGB are so grateful for our Fundraising Committee's hard work, and the public's support. We're also very pleased to announce that the Bahamas Minister of

Agriculture and Marine Resources the Honourable Michael Pintard, and MP for Pineridge will also be attending."

Tickets are on sale now at the Humane Society for \$75, or a table for ten for \$700, all guests will receive a commemorative "doggy bag" which contain some lovely gifts by those who continue to support the HSGB. To learn more Email hsgbgala@yahoo.com, or call 727.2477 or 439.1049 or visit their social media pages.

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INCREASING BUSINESS INCOME

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.

Effectively strategizing is key to averting threats and enjoying business gains.

Initially, we focused on achieving the goal of 'maintaining a business customer base of 150 current customers throughout the current fiscal year'.

Besides the strategies of 'building a community with your store' and 'surprising your customers with a gift', we've previously talked about other strategies for increasing customer loyalty. There are lots of loyalty program ideas that you can research that range from offering points to customers that accumulate and that can be used for discounts or free gifts all the way to offering free services for loyal clients.

Now, let's focus on the goal of 'increasing the business income by 20% for the upcoming fiscal year'. Remember, this is similar to what fashion mogul Peter Nygård focused on when faced with the 2008 recession. As he put it, he refused to join the recession and instead saw an increase of 25%.

It may be difficult to imagine such a thing—that you can actually refuse to join a recession—but Peter Nygård proved that it can be done. He appears to have a natural ability to effectively strategize to achieve his business goals, which likely greatly contributes to the reason he was able to turn his company into the multi-million-dollar success it is today.

Following in Nygård's footsteps, what strategies can we employ to increase the business income by 20%? First of all, determine what 20% is in actual dollar amounts.

Then analyze what that translates to. In other words, what does that amount represent? Does it translate to the sale of 10 of a particular product each month? What about maybe 5 more add-on items each week? Or, could it possibly mean two new customers each month?

The answer to what it translates to depends on the business you are in. The answer also determines the type of strategies that need to be employed. But before we get to that, there's this.

One of the core things businesses tend to focus on when trying to increase their bottom line is to reduce cost. This is a good place to begin if you can see how this would be possible without compromising business operations. Nevertheless, even if it's a little cost cutting, every little bit can help you achieve your goal.

Here are cost cutting areas to consider; however, keep in mind that your focus will depend on your particular type of business.

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.

- Review suppliers and shipping costs for any products you bring in.
- Consider how you can use technology more efficiently, like working toward becoming paperless and thus saving money on printing ink (which is ridiculously expensive) and paper.
- Review operational costs—find ways to be more energy efficient like powering down nonessential appliances and machinery after business hours.

Remember, it has to happen in a way that will not compromise business operations. No sense cutting costs in a way that creates additional business challenges.

For example, avoid layoffs unless you see waste and redundancy in your business. Often times, layoffs can do more harm than good because it impacts employee morale which affects the business' levels of productivity and can potentially harm sales.

Instead, enlist the support of your staff. Associates would be far more motivated to help you reduce cost in place of any layoffs.

Do you have a large office building with space that's not in use? Consider renting that space out to independent contractors who may want office space in a more cost effective way than renting on their own. Also consider renting it out to a business for storing files.

Depending on the type of business you are in, consider bartering with other businesses for items or services you would normally need to purchase. For example, airlines are pretty open to bartering if you also possess something that they need.

If you are a clothing store for example, you may not have anything to offer an airline but you can do a trade with the local television station (in terms of reporters wearing your clothes in exchange for getting free advertising).

Consider the business you are in and who could benefit from a trade with you.

Now that we've covered cost cutting, we'll focus on strategies for increasing income next.

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The Bahama Journal Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimaley P. Jones Vice President/Operations

EDITORIAL

SAY NO to DISNEY!

What do you do if having been chosen by the Bahamian people to protect and defend their interests and rights of the same Bahamian people, you wake to find yourself deliberating as regards their proposals for the development of one of their islands and that of a mega-rich set of foreigners; this time around none other than the famed and fabled Disney crew?

In truth, the mere fact that we can and do now raise this question reveals that frightening extent to which far too many of us continue to miss the boat!

For all that we know and could care, Bahamians should be given first preference when it comes to helping big up their country; and this, especially so when they can demonstrate that they have both will and capacity to stand and deliver as promised!

Thus, our considered judgment and conclusion: The Disney Proposal must be rejected.

By the same token, [obviously]: The proposal put forward by members of the Lighthouse Point Partners consortium must be approved, supported and valued!

One of the more interesting of those social phenomena extant in today's deeply challenged Bahamas has to do with that reality where so very many of our people routinely give short thrift to Bahamians who wish to be given an opportunity to make their fullest contribution to the growth and development of their own country.

What these same Bahamians seem to wish is the continuation into perpetuity of that totally pernicious idea which would have us all believe that 'foreign' is best.

It is this absolutely pathetic way of thinking that now pits Bahamians in their own

country against other Bahamians as theyicker over what the Disney people are proposing for south Eleuthera and the wonderfully-fine suggestions now being proffered by some of this nation's truest and finest sons and daughters!

Given all we know and perhaps even, given what we need not know as to whether the so-called 'fix' is in concerning south Eleuthera and Disney's cruise ship designs, we humbly suggest that a wise prime minister and his presumably also-as-wise Cabinet would reject that company's proposal.

We say no to Disney and yes a thousand times over to those fine, good and true Bahamians, inclusive of Mark Holowesko, Shaun Ingraham and their confederates in the Lighthouse Point Partners consortium.

What they are offering in lieu of Disney's monster of a package is one which [quite obviously] eco-friendly and sustainable.

As Eric Carey so rightly explains regarding the South Eleuthera environs:--"...The space lends itself to a new model of tourism in The Bahamas and, for the first time, presents an opportunity for hundreds of jobs to be created in south Eleuthera and the creation of a national park..."

We say no to Disney and its ugly cruise port idea!

To say the least and thus also as we reiterate, if the so-called 'fix' is not in, we anticipate that a truly caring People's Time Administration would do the right thing by Carey, Ingraham, Holowesko, Simmons and their confederates in the previously mentioned Lighthouse Point Partners consortium.

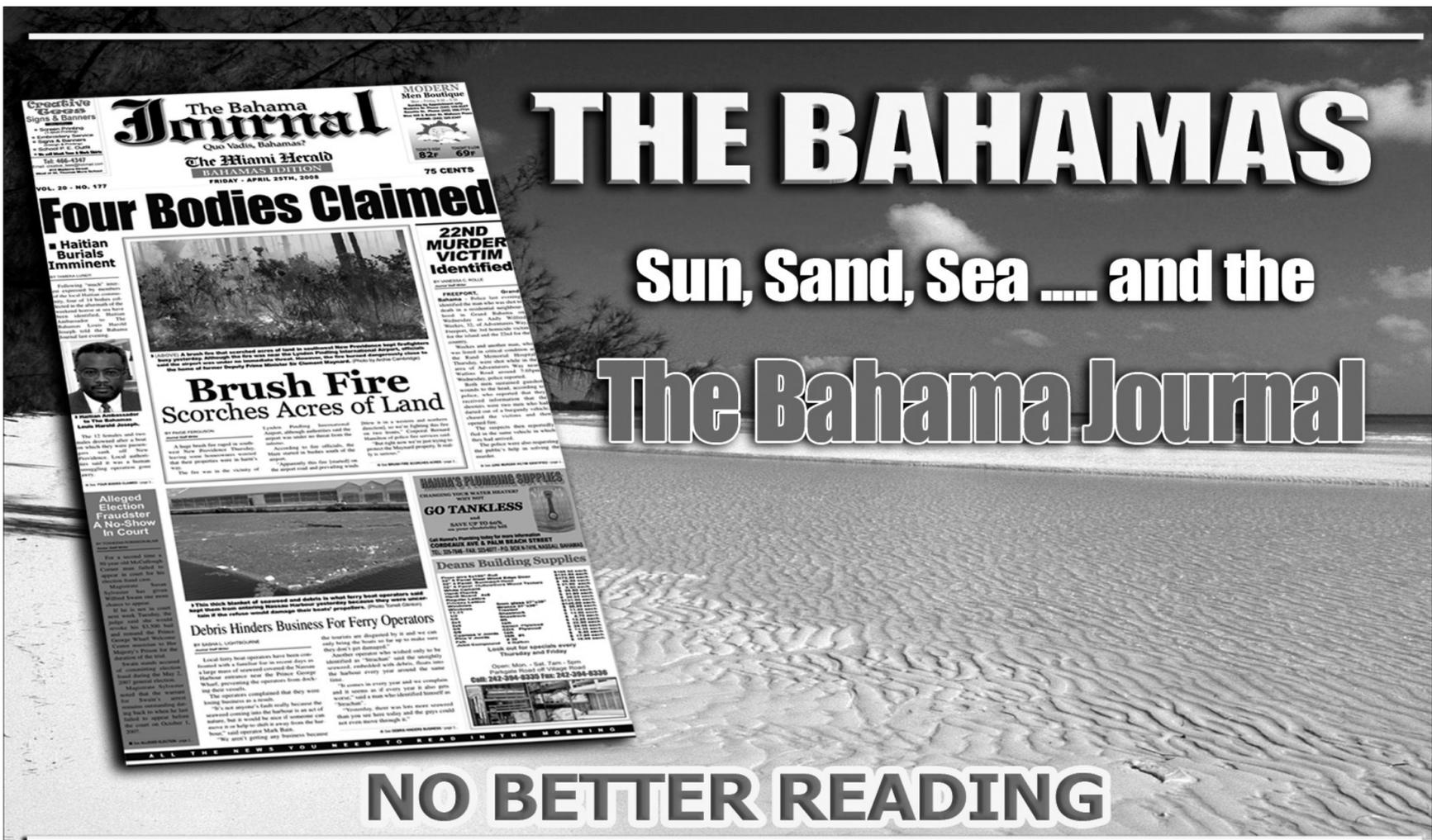
Indeed, if the so-called 'fix' is not in!

THE BAHAMAS

Sun, Sand, Sea and the

The Bahama Journal

NO BETTER READING



Eleuthera Community Support Group Present PM with 1,150 Door-To-Door Questionnaires

Members of the ECSG were able to briefly engage with the Prime Minister as he was entering the Churchill Building.

Over the last month, the ECSG has been going door-to-door in the South and Central Eleuthera community to get an idea of the level of support for

Disney Cruise Line's proposed development of the Lighthouse Point property.

The questionnaires asked residents their name, age, if they have read or heard of the Disney Cruise Line proposal and whether they support the proposed development or not. At last count, more than 95% of those who

participated in the door-to-door exercise supported Disney Cruise Line's proposed development.

Last week, during a town hall meeting with the Prime Minister, members of the South and Central Eleuthera community showed overwhelming support for Disney Cruise Line's proposed

development. The meeting, held at Green Castle Primary School, was the first time a diverse set of voices were from the community any development of Lighthouse Point would directly affect.

The ECSG will continue to work with Eleutherans to ensure they have a voice in the public discourse on

issues that affect them.

The Eleuthera Community Support Group seeks to empower the residents of Eleuthera by promoting job creation, conservation, and an overall better way of life for the people that live here. We represent Eleutherans who support the sustainable development of Lighthouse

Point by Disney Cruise Line (DCL). We have worked with DCL to ensure that the environmental and economic concerns of the people of Eleuthera are incorporated in the development plan and will work to hold DCL accountable during the construction and operation of the development.



► Yesterday, three members from the Eleuthera Community Support Group (ECSG)—Mr. Denny Rankine, Rev. Phillip McPhee and Ms. Bernadette Sweeting—presented the Most Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Hubert A. Minnis with 1,150 signed questionnaires from Bahamians living in the South and Central Eleuthera constituency (File photo)

Visitors', Locals' Safety and Security is Everyone's Business -- Tourism Director General



► Director-General at The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, Mrs. Joy Jibrilu (File photo)

Tourism is so competitive in today's world that even the most powerful countries are "putting the might of their power" behind attracting more visitors to their shores, Director-General at The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, Mrs. Joy Jibrilu said Wednesday (October 17, 2018).

"In this new order, safety cannot be touted as a benefit to visiting any destination. It is a basic human right. People are entitled to feel safe while running along our beautiful coastline, or dancing to their favorite song. No visitor should have to question whether or not they can trust a jet-ski operator to take them for a ride, or walk in our city centre without the fear of being victimized," Mrs. Jibrilu added.

Addressing a Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation Visitor Safety and Security Workshop held at the British Colonial Hilton, Mrs. Jibrilu said crime, and more importantly, the perception of crime, is an attack on the tourism industry -- the country's number one industry, and the cornerstone of the Bahamian economy.

Hosted by The Bahamas' Ministry of Tourism and Aviation, the workshop was held under the theme: Tourism Safety and Security: Enhancing Safety and Security Strategies For Our Number One Industry. The workshop was designed to elaborate on strategies to bring about greater safety and security for visitors to the country's shores and attracted participants from

the various tourism industry stakeholders and the country's law enforcement agencies.

Director-General Jibrilu said while it is recognized that crime is "everywhere in the world," small-island populations that are heavily dependent upon tourism such as The Bahamas, must be ever conscious of the fact that "we are competing in a world that is increasingly recognizing the value of tourism as a contributor to economic growth and success."

Mrs. Jibrilu told industry partners and law enforcement officials that officials at the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation were "ready to stand by them" in the fight

Weakness Found In MOF Audit

■ Continued from / PAGE 2...

than what Atillio offered."

The audit suggested that the origins of the Atillio leases are unclear.

"Due to the lack of documentary evidence and uncertainty surrounding the Atillio leases, FTI's examination raised significant concerns regarding the potential for conflicts of interest or other improprieties.

"Although the leases with Atillio appear to have been driven by an urgent need to house external consultants, it remained unclear why Atillio was selected as leasing agent rather than other

potentially more qualified local agents that may have also had suitable properties available for immediate lease at a lower cost.

"Moreover, FTI identified no evidence that Atillio is licensed as a real estate broker pursuant to the Real Estate (Brokers and Salesmen) Act of 1996."

The audit's findings also revealed that "MOF appears to lack internal written policies or procedures that promote awareness of and compliance with key laws and regulations governing procurement, namely the Financial Administration and Audit Act of 1973 and the financial regulations of 1975."

FTI found no evidence at MOF of any comprehensive internal written policies or procedures concerning permissible exceptions to competitive bidding, vendor due diligence and disclosure requirements or vendor payment processes and approvals.

"While not exempting its personnel from adhering to existing laws and regulations relating to procurement, this appears to represent a significant weakness in MOF's internal control environment and may expose MOF to an increased risk of procurement malfeasance or equivocation on issues of accountability," the report said.



Public Notice Roadworks

Please be advised

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

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

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

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

Bahamix apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

Visitors', Locals' Safety and Security is Everyone's Business -- Tourism Director General

Continued from / PAGE 1...

against crime.

"Ladies and gentlemen, you are not alone in your fight against crime as it is, and should be, a community effort. Our logo that 'tourism is everyone's business' means that we at the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation are ready to stand with you. We will continue to open the lines of communication to promote safety and manage impacts as they come."

Director-General Jibrilu said the workshop, facilitated by the Ministry's Visitor

Safety and Security Department (headed by Mr. Vincent Harris), was a step in that direction.

"In this workshop, it is hoped that we can put forward and elaborate valid concepts that can enhance our fight against crime and therefore secure our hospitality industry for many years to come," Mrs. Jibrilu said.

"It is meetings such as this where there is a 'meeting of the minds' and a collective will to do the right thing that we will achieve the best results and outcomes. Let us see how we can lead the way

in the region as being a safe, world-class destination where people's dream of a 'dream location' is matched by the reality they meet on the ground.

"It is my hope that this forum would present the perfect opportunity to lead to breakthroughs and ideas on how to enhance safety, not only in our tourism sector but throughout our nation thereby achieving the common loftier goal of making it truly better in The Bahamas," Mrs. Jibrilu added.

GB Urban Renewal Audit Report Released

Continued from / PAGE 1...

porting documents for small home repairs conducted on Grand Bahama did not include evidence of a bid from the contract awardee.

In these instances, the supporting document from the awardee was an invoice.

Further, there were 18 instances whereby repairs valued \$203,000 and the payment amounts recorded on the requisitions for family island contractual repairs could not be agreed with the supporting documents.

The supporting documents did not include a dollar value and the amount recorded on the supporting documents did not correspond with the

amount paid per the requisition.

It was also revealed that 95 home repairs valued at over \$1 million following the passage of hurricane Matthew.

The salaries of the department of Urban Renewal and contractual workers totaled \$1,926,050 in 2016 and \$1,971,050 in 2017.

However, efforts to confirm total annual salaries paid to Urban Renewal employees by the Public Treasury were unsuccessful as the Treasury was unable to produce payroll records for August, 2015 through June 2017.

The results of the examination were deemed not sat-

isfactory.

The auditor general then recommended that requisitions are supported by invoices for a clear audit trail, that receipts are scrutinized in a timely manner to ensure legibility, that payment amounts per the requisitions are in agreement with supporting documents for a clear audit trail, that a supervisor verifies the accuracy of check numbers to ensure that payments facilitated to the Treasury are accurate and that as the Public Treasury is ultimately responsible for salary payments, payroll details should be maintained by the treasury.

Grand Bahama's Urban Renewal Department was headed by Michelle Reckley.



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

THURSDAYS 7:30 P.M.
SATURDAYS 9:00 A.M.

LOVE 97

HOST: REV. DR. C. B.
MOSS

THE MOST UNIQUE SHOW ON
RADIO

DON'T MISS IT



Labour Ministry Expects The Point To Honour Agreement

Continued from / PAGE 1...

To ensure the agreement is met, Mr. Pinder said that there is a section of the Department of Labour that deals with investigations to ensure that all employees have good working environments and that the staff is safe.

In this case, the section will also be tasked with ensuring that the terms set down in the Heads of agreement are met.

"In this case, there is a Heads of agreement that the Point has agreed to, we have to now do as best as we can to ensure that they live up to that agreement.

"In the absence of that, we can make our report to the Minister who will make his report to I guess to the Prime Minister or Parliament and cause them to be some sort of assurance that these people live up to what's in the agreement, because the government has given concessions.

"So the one tool that the government has that they can negotiate with to ensure that large investors who sign these heads of agreement comply is the fact that they offer concessions.

"Those concessions should be able to cause them to live up to the heads of agreement, failing that the government should be able to renege on those promises made as they relate to whatever benefits they should receive from the Heads of agreement being signed," he

said. Commenting on labour relations in The Bahamas, Mr. Pinder said that it will be tough right now, as Bahamians are currently feeling economic hardship.

He added that as a result, workers expect for their unions to address their concerns. Ever since the VAT increase, a number of unions hoped that an amendment to the Industrial Relations Act would help in satisfying their members.

However, this did not hap-

pen as a number of these industrial agreements have not yet expired.

"I know the BBS industrial agreement has expired and so they should be going to the table very soon for a new industrial agreement.

"I believe it's safe for Bahamians to understand that these are hard economic times, not just in The Bahamas, but globally."

"I believe it's important for union leaders to advise their members that really we are being replaced by technolo-

gy, so we have to steer our members more toward technology more than anything else and we have to advise them that no longer can they work doing one job description. They have to be able to multi-task to keep themselves employed," he said.

Mr. Pinder added that he hopes union members would look at those views and accept that fact that the country is in a global crisis and can no longer compete locally or regionally.

COALITION AGAINST DISNEY'S DEVELOPMENT

Continued from / PAGE 1...

model of development unsustainable, but it makes little economic sense, while it is damaging to the social, cultural, environmental, and other interests in the Bahamas" said Rev. Dr. C. B. Moss, Chairman.

While visiting Lighthouse Point the delegation also visited the nearby Princess Cays Cruise Port and was shocked at the way Bahamians who wanted to share in the economic benefits were being treated. Another Cruise Ship Port, Half Moon Cay is also located only a few miles away.

Why should the govern-

ment be willing to approve a third such facility in the immediate area? In fact most, if not all, of the existing Cruise Ports in the Bahamas should be closed, or operated by or for Bahamians.

It is obvious that the Cruise Industry has bullied the government over the decades into granting it a bigger and bigger slice of the Bahamian Tourism product, in addition to increasing concessions. It is the position of the Coalition that the Cruise Industry is a partnership between the Cruise Lines and the Bahamas. Revenue generated on the Cruise ships should be for the Cruise

Lines, and Revenue generated on land should be for Bahamians. The Cruise Lines cannot keep all on board revenue as well as most of the on-land revenue.

The Government must operate from a position of strength and stand up to the Cruise Industry the statement continued and inform them to either accept the formula for fair revenue sharing or consider sailing around the Bahamas, which of course they will not do since the Bahamas is the linchpin to their billion dollar industry. They need the Bahamas more than the Bahamas need them.

Also of great concern is

the negative cultural, social and environmental impact should this ill conceived project be approved. Indeed there are local people in Eleuthera who are prepared to replace the Disney proposal with one that will provide more jobs and sooner than Disney, while not damaging the environment and maintaining the social and cultural integrity of the Bahamian people. This local project will be sustainable and very importantly will empower a great many Bahamians.

The Statement closed by calling upon all Bahamians to loudly and clearly say to the Government, "DON'T DO IT."



Students of Gerald Cash Primary School showcased musical talents and learned about Cuban drumming when renowned percussionist Eduardo Cordova visited their school as part of a cultural exchange delegation, on October 17, 2018. The students performed Rake-n-Scrape and Junkanoo rhythms and had a "jam session" with Mr. Cordova at the end. Among those present for the event were Senior Cultural Affairs Officer in the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture Sonovia Pierre, Music Education Officer for Primary Schools Antoinette P. Thompson, Resident Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas Her Excellency Ismara Mercedes Vargas Walter, Cuban visual artist Jose Luis Cicilio, and other cultural and Cuban stakeholders.

(BIS Photos / Eric Rose)



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