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VOL. 30 - NO. 231

TUESDAY - OCTOBER 2ND, 2018

75 CENTS

Group Condemns Children's Eviction

The Vice President of Rights Bahamas Joseph Darville has hit out at government over the manner in which Bahamian families are reportedly being evicted from their homes because of overdue mortgage payments.



▶ Vice President of Rights Bahamas Joseph Darville (Journal file photo)

Mr. Darville said a more humane process could have been found, and called it unbelievable that the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation (BMC) would take such harsh measures without any provision being made for children who might be affected.

■ See GROUP / page 2...

"NO VISION FOR HEALTH-CARE," SAYS DR. DARVILLE



▶ Opposition spokesman on Health, Senator Doctor Michael Darville (Journal file photo)

The Opposition's spokesman on Health matters, Senator Doctor Michael Darville has denounced what he calls "the nonsense and political pollution thrown out in the press about the PLP and healthcare and the Prince Margaret Hospital and the Rand in Freeport and the clinics throughout the islands."

"As usual, when the FNM

■ See NO VISION / page 4...

Water Disconnections "Comes off as Cruel", Says Davis



▶ Opposition Leader Philip Davis (Journal file photo)

Opposition Leader Philip Davis says "it comes off as cruel and inhumane" with the mass disconnections of people who owe monies to the Water and Sewerage Corporation.

In a press statement the Progressive Liberal Party leader said, "let me make it clear, we must all pay our bills. However, it is incumbent upon the Government to ensure that where there is the supply of an essential commodity like water, that we do not cause more harm than good by disconnecting the water supply."

Mr. Davis said the Corporation should make

every attempt to work with customers, particularly families with children to ensure that the water supply stays on.

"Here is the issue with the FNM: dismissals in the thousands from the public service since they came to office; disconnections from the power supply; people being expelled from their homes by the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation; police out en masse fining people for minor infractions at elevated levels and now mass disconnections of water,

It simply comes off as a cruel and inhumane," he said.

Cause of Boat Explosion Undetermined

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

The report into that tragic Exuma boat explosion is complete, however its find-

ings were not determined with absolute precision, according to The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA), the body instructed by the government to con-

duct the investigation into the incident.

The boating accident back in June, ended in death

■ See BOAT EXPLOSION / page 2...

Accused Serial Robber Remanded

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

A twenty-year-old man yesterday today stood before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson Pratt on 9 counts of armed robbery and one count of attempted armed robbery.

The court heard that on April 8th, Edward Colebrook of Soldier Road, armed with a shotgun, robbed Brenton

Dames of one Apple iPhone valued at \$700.

He also managed to steal \$50 cash and one 2008 pearl white Toyota Camry valued at \$9,000.

That same day, the accused allegedly robbed Alexander Hall of one Michael Kors watch worth \$499, and one diamond ring valued at \$600.

Just two days later,

Colebrook, armed with a shotgun robbed Evanique Stubbs of one Apple iPhone 7 valued at \$900, one black HP laptop valued at \$350 and \$250 cash.

On May 23rd Colebrook robbed Gardaina Lightbourne of one Alcatel 3 plus cell phone valued at \$300 and one grey 2015 Kia

■ See ACCUSED / page 4...

OVER-THE-HILL FACILITATE STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP ON HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION



▶ A Collaborative Technical Mission between the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization and the Over-the-Hill Unit of the Office of the Prime Minister will stage a Stakeholders Workshop on Health, Water and Sanitation Components of the Over-the-Hill Community Development Partnership Initiative. The workshop will take place at the National Training Agency on Gladstone Road, Monday, October 1 to Thursday, October 4, 2018. On Monday, facilitators of the workshop paid a Courtesy Call at the Office of the Prime Minister, Cecil Wallace Whitfield Centre, Cable Beach. Pictured front row left to right are: Mrs. Samita Ferguson, Over-the-Hill Unit, Office of The Prime Minister; Antoinette Thompson, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Works; Dr. Esther de Gourville, PAHO Country Representative; Nicole Campbell-Miller, Permanent Secretary, OPM; and Rene Glington, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health. Pictured standing back row from left are Antonius Vlugman, Engineer, Caribbean Sub-Regional Senior Advisor for Water, Sanitation and Environmental Health, PAHO; and Dr. Daniel Buss, PAHO Advisor for Climate Change and Health, PAHO. (PHOTO/OTHU)



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Group Condemns Children's Eviction

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"It is beyond belief that they would simply put Bahamian children in the street," he said. "The fault for any failure to make mortgage payments falls squarely on the shoulders of the parents and if the government insists on taking action, it

must insure that the interests of innocent minors are protected."

Calling for Social Services to be involved in the process, Darville pointed out that the BMC could also have sought to enter into reduced, fixed-term payment plans or found other alternative solutions for as many delinquent homeowners as possible.

"We understand that the proper judicial processes have been followed and that in some cases, their is no choice but eviction," Darville said. "Still, we call on the government to have compassion and humanity – especially as the homeowners who have been evicted so far represent only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to

this nation's longstanding mortgage crisis. Other families across the nation are now terrified that they will lose all they have worked for in an instant.

"This is a newly independent developing country; a country where for many, the measure of sovereignty and meaningful citizenship is home ownership. Today our

middle class is struggling, still suffering the shockwaves of a global financial crisis that was not of our making.

"Rights Bahamas calls on the government to recommit itself to finding solutions that will not end the dreams of empowering home-ownership of so many Bahamians at such an early stage in our

development.

"Our members stand ready and willing to help in whatever way we can to protect homeowners and especially their children in the face of this crisis. No innocent child should end up without a home; no son or daughter should have to watch their parents degraded and shamed."

Crystal Palace demolished



BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

The Cable Beach skyline has a brand new look, as the area where the Crystal Palace Casino stood for 35 years is now dust and rubble.

As tourists and employees looked on, the planned induced collapse of the three towers – the Casino, the Marlin and the Hibiscus -

began at precisely at 7:30 yesterday morning and was all complete in about 90 seconds.

According to Lenovo Construction Senior Project Manager, John Moretto, the successful exercise employed the best safety practices and industry standards with limited impacts to the surrounding areas.

Further, various safety inspections were immediate-

ly completely.

Yesterday morning's demolition is just the latest in Baha Mar's massive multi-billion-dollar plan for the popular western strip.

The high end property already features a collection of world renowned hotels like The Rosewood, The SLS and The Grand Hyatt.

The now vacant spot will be home to the property's water park.

Cause of Boat Explosion Undetermined

Continued from / PAGE 1...

for American, Maleka Jackson and serious injuries for her husband Tiran and several others, who were airlifted to The United States.

According to Managing Director and Bahamas Maritime Authority CEO, Captain Dwain Hutchinson, shortly after setting off, a substantial explosion took place in vicinity of the starboard pontoon in way of the midship of the craft.

"The force of the explosion caused two passengers to be ejected from the craft and two passengers to be trapped in the debris, while the remaining eight passengers and crew were able to evacuate the craft before it was engulfed in fire," he said.

"We consider with a high

degree of probability that the explosion occurred in the proximity of the starboard fuel tank.

"This resulted in the release of a blast wave on the starboard side, the force of which appeared to have been concentrated beneath the front three rows of seats.

"The magnitude of the blast wave had sufficient energy to result in one loss of life, and severe injury to other passengers and to lead to catastrophic damage to the craft itself."

Captain Hutchinson admitted it was difficult identifying "the precise cause of the explosion because of the damage to the craft and the physical structure, identifying exactly that was difficult, but we made a technical assessment using the expertise of the United

States Coast Guard and their technical bodies and with what we had available, we came to what we believed to be the most probable cause."

The BMA's findings further revealed that the craft had not been registered with or inspected by the port department of the Bahamas, both which are required.

In conclusion, the BMA recommended that all water crafts operating in the country should be registered and inspected.

4C's Adventure Tours, defied a cease and desist order following the deadly explosion which resulted in a team of police and defence force officers, as well as port officials detaining the unregistered and unlicensed vessel found operating charter tours just two days after the accident.

Man drowns in Grand Bahama

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

An apparent drowning is under investigation in Grand Bahama.

According to reports, a group of people were in the area of Silver Palm Street after 1:00 Sunday afternoon when a man jumped into the canal.

After he did not resur-

face, another man went into the water and retrieved him.

CPR was administered, but the man never regained consciousness.

He was later pronounced dead at the Rand Memorial Hospital.

That evening around 9:00pm, police were called on to look into reports of an attempted armed robbery.

According to reports, two masked gunmen entered a business in Hunters, held up a security guard and a female employee and demanded cash.

An attempt to escape into the bathroom ended with the employee being shot in the leg.

Both bandits escaped on foot without any cash.



MINISTRY OF FINANCE

PUBLIC TENDER

VESSEL FOR PURCHASE

The Ministry of Finance advises that the following vessel has been forfeited to the Crown following breaches of the Fisheries Resources Jurisdiction and Conservation Act and resulting in the selling by Tender:

Vessel	Description
Name of Vessel:	Brailyn
Manufactured By:	Unknown
Make:	Unknown
Model Year:	Unknown

*The Brailyn is a 53ft. fibreglass hull fishing vessel with extensive modifications. This vessel is equipped with Twin Detroit 6V Marne Diesel engines and one (1) four cylinder Cummins 35kw generator.

Interested persons may view the vessel by visiting the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Base, located on Coral Harbour, between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Friday from September 10, 2018 to September 28, 2018.

Bids should be addressed in a sealed envelope to **The Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance, 1st Floor Cecil Wallace Whitfield Building, West Bay Street by 5:00 pm on September 28, 2018.**

The face of the envelope should bear the words "Tender for Confiscated Vessel".

Each successful bidder will be required to make full payment to the Public Treasury, Nassau, Bahamas by cash, certified cheque, or credit/ debit cards for the vehicle being purchased within ten (10) working days of being notified by the Ministry of Finance. The successful bidder will be responsible for making full arrangements for the removal of the vessel within two (2) working days after full payment has been made.

The Ministry of Finance reserves the right to reject any or all bids and the items are being sold "as is where is" with no warranty to be implied or inferred. For vessels that are not registered in The Bahamas no guarantee is given as to its eligibility for registration elsewhere.

Marlon Johnson
(Actg.) Financial Secretary

DPM: "Credit Union, safe and practical way to explore financial possibilities"



► Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest, was the keynote speaker during ceremonies to celebrate the opening of the Grand Bahama Co-operative Credit Union's sub-office in Port Lucaya, on Wednesday, September 26, 2018. (BIS Photo)

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest says that based on what he has seen over the years, he can affirm that the credit union concept is a safe and practical way

for Bahamians to explore financial possibilities.

The Finance Minister believes that one of the most important choices a person can make is finding the right institution in which to invest.

He said the various financial institutions available offer different opportunities for consumers and choosing the right one is critical to how an individual positions himself financially throughout his

lifetime.

The Deputy Minister's remarks came during his keynote address at the opening of the Grand Bahama Co-operative Credit Union's new sub office in Port Lucaya on Wednesday evening, September 26, 2018.

The opening of the office, the Minister said, was a signal of the growth of the Co-operative Credit Union over the years.

"What I appreciate about credit unions is that they were created to benefit people," said Minister Turnquest. "They are non-profit organizations that focus on the financial success of their members, rather than profits. This means that the money earned is directly invested back into the membership. Talk about getting more for your money!"

"Co-operative Credit Unions hold a rich tradition throughout our Bahamas and worldwide. By all accounts, the Grand Bahama Co-operative Credit Union continues to be a successful shining

light within that tradition.

The stories of retired workers who are still able to live comfortably because of their savings and financial planning, the family cars, children's school fees, home ownership, vacations, health care emergency loans and general financial security issues, are all attached to what this credit union has been able to offer over these many years."

Minister Turnquest said that salaries are in a constant juggle of needs versus wants, as people seek to determine what is best for themselves and their families. He pointed out that in an attempt to free themselves from financial restrictions, many people go further into debt by acquiring loans that they may not be able to afford.

Government employees, in particular, he added, are the most targeted group of people for these loans.

"The unfortunate need many of us have to out-do the neighbor, or to be the envy of our friends, causes many Bahamians to accept

loans for lavish vacations, top-of-the-line vehicles, a new front room set, even private education," said Minister Turnquest.

"While such spending is good for the economy overall, I think we can all agree that during this time, the greatest demand on our spending should be to employ disciplined budgeting and prioritizing our medium and long-term financial decision making.

"I encourage residents to take advantage of this community-centric organization. This is what credit unions are about, helping communities grow."

Minister Turnquest said he was proud to note Grand Bahama's steady increase in development, and that the opening of the Co-operative Credit Union's new sub-office was one of several business additions over the past few months adding to Grand Bahama's economic growth organically.

GOV'T MOVING FORWARD WITH NEW TAXATION

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

According to Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, the country faces challenges with regard to the increase of second home residents renting their facilities to tourists on the Family

Islands.

The Prime Minister made this remark this past Saturday at a press conference upon his arrival into the capital following his trip to the United Nation's 73rd General Assembly.

He said, "the tourism product is changing. As

opposed to hotel rooms, we would have bed and breakfasts and rental facilities."

He added, "if we do not take charge of that arena now, we will lose the Family Islands."

The prime minister also shared that he had an interesting and productive dis-

cussion with the CEO of Airbnb, Brian Chesky.

Dr. Minnis added that they discussed the challenges with the company that were unique to The Bahamas.

He said, "he had offered that they keep a register of

all rental facilities within The Bahamas, and if at any point we introduce any taxation, we can have some type of funds generated from these rental facilities that they would collect and afterwards repatriate the necessary funds."

The Minister of State for Grand Bahama Kwasi Thompson was also in attendance.

The prime minister said that Mr. Thompson will follow this through so that the government can begin collecting funds.

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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"
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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:

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 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

Bahamas On The Right Track In Tech Industry, Says GB Minister

Minister of State for Grand Bahama Kwasi Thompson says the Bahamas is on the right track with developing a technology industry. He was among those in and out of meetings in New York last week, and upon his arrival in the capital this past weekend, he spoke with reporters about business meetings that can potentially boost the Bahamian economy.

He said, "We've heard from the CEO of Ford. We heard from the CEO of IBM. We heard from the CEO of one of the largest Chinese search engines in the world. They have 30,000 employees.

"What it showed was that the world was moving in the direction of technology, and that in order for us to grow the economy, we must move in this direction. So, we're really on the right track."

Mr. Thompson also said that one of the takeaways brought back from New York was that The Bahamas should focus more on industries already in existence.

He said, "for example, the Tourism, Financial Service Industry, and Maritime should be able to attract tech



► Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Kwasi Thompson
(Journal file photo)

businesses in those specific areas, and that is the way we can really carve our niche out."

He added, "It also spoke

to training. So, as far as the Prime Minister indicated, we really were on the right track as far as making BTVI free of charge, so that we can pro-

vide Bahamians with an opportunity to be trained in these tech areas."

Another big area discussed, he said, was artificial

intelligence.

He added that there was much concern over whether artificial intelligence would displace jobs.

He said, "one of the things that countries are now doing, which The Bahamas must continue to do, is to train and retrain its people so that when this comes, and it will come, we as a people are prepared for it and become leaders in it."

He also mentioned that the country participated in the UN meeting on blockchain and crypto currency.

He said, "one of the things the government has been focused on, and why it was so important for us to be there is that we are now finalizing the regulations with respect to blockchain businesses and cryptocurrency businesses here."

He noted that The Bahamas faces the same challenges as other countries in this regard.

He said that this is a new, rapidly growing area, but it's also an area that one must approach with caution as there is potential for cyber-crime.

He assured that the government is moving cautiously and deliberately with respect to implementing regulations for cryptocurrency.

"NO VISION FOR HEALTHCARE," SAYS DR. DARVILLE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

and its leaders are in trouble they sing the same old song, "Blame The PLP", he said.

The former MP for Pineridge said in a statement, "this mantra is tiresome and it has no traction.

"I decry the use of a public servant's correspondence to support Dr. Sands' propaganda campaign.

"Healthcare in The Bahamas is in trouble today because of FNM bloody mindedness and lack of vision," he said.

"Dr. Sands should try again. If he cannot do the job, then I know a party and some individuals who can do the job. We will be ready on day one.

"The plan to fund healthcare in The Bahamas was

carefully executed and laid out by the PLP. The infrastructure, the funding mechanism, the blueprint were all left there for the FNM.

"Indeed, the PLP's success in health is clear for all to see. During the PLP tenure in office, the Bahamian people saw unprecedented growth in our Public Healthcare system. They saw the expansion of the Child and Adolescent unit at Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre, the relocation of of the Community counseling and Assessment service to a new state of the art facility on Collins Avenue, the expansion and modernization of all the clinics in Grand Bahama, including the construction and modernization of the West End Clinic. We also saw the launch of a plan to

refurbish, modernize and construct new facilities in a number of the Family Islands," said Dr. Darville.

He said, "Indeed, between 2012 and 2017, we witnessed the largest expansion ever of our Emergency Medical Services (EMS) with the purchase of nineteen new Ambulances. At the Princess Margaret Hospital, we left in place the blueprint for a significant upgrade to the Accident and Emergency Department, the Obstetrics and Gynecology wards and others. A contract was executed, and a deposit paid for significantly upgrading Imaging Services at the Princess Margaret Hospital and the Rand Memorial Hospital in Freeport. In fact, before we left office some of the equipment had already been

installed.

"The Progressive Liberal Party rewarded the hard working doctors and nurses in the Public Hospitals Authority. Before we left office, with increased remuneration packages and increases in the number of nurses at the three Public Hospitals, we oversaw the largest promotion ever in the history of healthcare in The Bahamas. So we can appre-

ciate why Minister Sands is trying to distract from his dismal record as Minister of Health.

"He will probably go down in history as one of the worst Ministers of Health in our modern Bahamas. The Minister knows that there is no malfeasance and no mismanagement. What we know is that the health care plan we left in place is simply another victim of the

stop, review and cancel programme of the FNM", said the Senator.

"The people of the country now know that the FNM does not care for their health and well being. We are finding it out every day. As the system collapses around Dr. Sands due to his own mismanagement, it does no good blaming the PLP. Simply fix the problem minister," said Dr. Darville.

Accused Serial Robber Remanded

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Sportage sports utility vehicle worth \$25,000.

One week later, the accused also robbed Vincent Mackey of \$140 cash and one Nissan Murano valued at \$11,000.

On May 30th, Colebrook robbed Alfred Rolle of a black Nokia valued at \$100.

That same day he is also accused of robbing Oswald

Moss of one BLU cell phone worth \$800, and one champagne Nissan Sylphy.

The accused serial robber also robbed Jeffery Butler of a white 2000 Ford Taurus valued at \$2,000, a Samsung s7 worth \$500, a \$250 Alcatel A3 plus, an Alcatel pixie cellphone valued at \$180, two iPhone 6's valued at \$300, and a Galaxy Tab valued at \$159.

He also robbed Khadijah

Deveaux of \$420 and one Gucci bag, of which the value is unknown.

Colebrook is also accused of attempting to rob Courtney Hall of one silver 2007 Honda Accord.

He was not required to enter a plea and was remanded to the Bahamas Department of Corrections until December 18th, for service of a voluntary bill of indictment.

Defense Force Celebrates Anniversary

This past weekend marked an important day in the life of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF).

On Saturday, September 29, 1979 - 39 years ago, Princess Anne conferred the title "Royal" on the force and designated its newly occupied base as Her Majesty's Bahamian Ship Coral Harbour.

Among those attending that ceremony were Lady Dorothy Cash, wife of the late Governor General, Sir Gerald Cash, the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, the late Sir Lynden Pindling and Lady Pindling, then Health Minister Perry Christie and Mrs. Christie, then Transport Minister, Philip Bethel and former

member of parliament for Pinedale, the late Milo Butler Jr.

The RBDF became an official entity six months later on March 1980 by an act of parliament with Commodore William Swinley, the first Commander of the Defence Force.

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What Are You Trying To Accomplish In Business?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE CLIFTON REVIEW

By P. J. Malone

The Clifton Review is a bi-weekly column that examines the question of the Clifton project along with the evolution of the war between two billionaires, the links to unsavory characters, the use of the courts for personal agendas, the involvement of the Government opposition party (the FNM), and the attacks on the Government of The Bahamas.

also lead to increased sales and customer loyalty)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Bahama Journal Is An Independent Newspaper - Published Week Days
By The Communicators & Associates In Affiliation With Jones Communications Ltd.

East St. North - P.O. Box N-8610
Telephone: 242-325-3082 - Fax: 242 -356-7256

The Bahama Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimaley P. Jones
Vice President/Operations

EDITORIAL

This Fiscal Folly

In what must now seem a most curious inversion of politics in this time of economic challenge there is no end of anecdotal evidence suggestive of the conclusion that the current administration now finds itself smack dab in the middle of a major fiscal mess.

This crisis must be seen as one which borders on the order of the existential.

Simply, put: Everything is now on the line!

This sense of impending dread finds echo and resonance in the Hon. Philip 'Brave' Davis who has presciently claimed: "...There is no doubt, and it is very scary. I share the view of my colleagues that the competence of this government has to be called into account..."

In truth, no matter ones partisan affiliation, there is no doubting the fact: We are in a bad way; and clearly, too: Practically everyone we know has a sense as to what can and does always ensue when- as it were- you throw good money behind so-called 'bad' money.

What happens is this: You moon-walk towards both penury and poverty.

With this in mind, please note: One of the more interesting facts which matter in today's deeply challenged Bahamas has to do with how any administration spends the people's money.

Another consideration which must be taken into account has to do with deciding how to treat with projects and proposals which whilst they would provide much needed jobs, come laden with collateral costs to now-pristine lands and waters.

We make these observations against a backdrop where -as we learn- a recently published IDB analysis of Bahamian agricultural and fisheries policy called on the Government to reduce the role it plays in a sector that generates just 1.6 percent of annual GDP!

In a sense, then, this is precisely what the International-American Development is now saying as regards public money spent on agriculture and to a lesser extent, concerning the fisheries sector.

As the IDB team reports: "...Despite their relatively small GDP contribution, the agriculture and fisheries industries still represented a key source of Bahamian economic diver-

sification if their potential was fully exploited.

And as we also learn: [The IDB] found that support provided to Bahamian farmers was equivalent to 19.08 percent of gross farm receipts between 2012-2014, with government policy resulting in consumers "paying higher prices" for local produce!

Clearly, it follows that: This is especially damaging for low income households.

This is a crying shame!

[and therefore]: Try and hope as they might and for sure as they actually did, the fact remains: The Bahamas has never been able to establish a permanently viable commercial agricultural sector.

This story of perpetual failure goes back to those days when the Bahamas was a British colony.

Indeed, available evidence shows that: Bahamian-styled [agricultural] failure: "... is first reflected in the failure of the plantation system in islands throughout the archipelago..."

And clearly, too, "...investment in both pineapple and citrus production was not successful in the long term even though the export market was exploited..."

And thus, today, we feel obliged to repeat: "... There have been crucial decisions that were made and they were not supported by the science..."

Thus it follows in these hard times: They who would pontificate and promise whatever they wish, should have the decency and good sense to ground their grand ideas in plans that are fiscally sound!

Sad to say: Facts on the ground show all too well how 'successive' administrations have committed themselves to projects [destined to fail] which -as the record shows were grounded in nothing more than hope tinged and tinted with fantasy.

As interesting are those facts which show that such projects [whilst widely popular] routinely fail; thus saddling the people with debt piled upon even more debt!

And thus today, we call on the current administration to do all that it can [and must] to bring this fiscal folly to an end!

GOT NEWS?

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

THE BAHAMAS

Sun, Sand, Sea and the

The Bahama Journal

NO BETTER READING

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY CALLS ON HER EXCELLENCY



Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Eta Psi Omega Chapter, and International President, Tennessee State University President Dr. Glenda Glover, paid a courtesy call on Governor General, Her Excellency the Most Hon. Dame Marguerite Pindling (seated centre) on Friday September 28, 2018, in the Drawing Room of Government House. (BIS Photos/Derek Smith)

Bahamas Waste Supports Cancer Fight with Susan G. Komen Partnership

For the ninth year in a row, Bahamas Waste Ltd. is teaming up with Susan G. Komen Bahamas Race for the Cure® for its annual breast cancer fun run/walk. Each year, Komen Bahamas honors breast cancer survivors and remembers those who have lost their fight to the disease. Bahamas Waste, a leader in waste management, has been there from the beginning, offering support to not only Komen Bahamas, but its sister event, Marathon Bahamas.

"Cancer Awareness is something that we are very

passionate about" explained Managing Director Francisco De Cardenas. "We are proud to support the efforts of this, and other organizations which encourage our people to get regular screenings while simultaneously supporting live saving research" he said.

Despite the advancements made, various forms of cancer, remain prevalent, affecting both men and women in The Bahamas and around the world. In fact, according to global statistics there will be 23.6 million new cases of cancer

each year by 2030. As a responsible corporate citizen, Bahamas Waste has led the way in its commitment to fighting the disease.

"While we've done a lot to support various cancer awareness initiatives, I think persons in the community are most familiar with our Cancer Awareness Truck," De Cardenas said. "Not only is it a great way to remind people about the need for screenings, but we've used it to honor one of our employees who is also a cancer survivor."

In 2019, Bahamas Waste

will once again lend logistical support to both Komen Bahamas and Marathon Bahamas. The company will provide portable toilets, which will be placed along the race routes and at the start and finish lines.

"Bahamas Waste came on board big time for Sunshine Insurance Race Weekend and in 2013, the company agreed to nearly double the previous years' requests with trash bins, toilets and dumpsters" said Race Weekend Marketing and PR Chairperson, Rogan Smith.

"Race Weekend is so

proud and indeed fortunate to have Bahamas Waste as a partner for our two-day event. You would not believe the amount of garbage that is generated over that weekend. So, it's important that we work with a waste management company that not only knows what it is doing, but operates at a high level and with integrity."

She continued, "We thank Francisco de Cardenas and his entire team. They have become like family over the years and we look forward to

working with them for many years to come."

Komen Bahamas takes place on January 19th, 2019. Sunshine Insurance, which is the lead sponsor and organizer of the event, says 100% of the net proceeds are shared locally between four cancer charities.

Meantime, Marathon Bahamas, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary, takes place the following day on January 20th. To register, visit www.komenbahamas.org and www.marathonbahamas.com.

MITCHELL CALLS PPP POLICY CONFUSING



Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Fred Mitchell (Journal file photo)

After reviewing the new policy of the Bahamas Government on PPPs (private public partnerships), Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Fred Mitchell calls it "simply too confusing."

In a press statement Senator Mitchell said, "It seems incredibly complicated and unnecessarily so. This complicated document on PPPs is entirely in line with the practice of this Government to confuse written policies, in minute details on volumes of paper as a substitute for sensible actions.

"The written policy as now revised is simply too confusing to be understood," he said.

"There was actually no need for it.

"If such a policy had to be written, all that was needed to be said was that private sector individuals who have access to capital and have a proposal for the government to help in its infrastructural work should submit the relevant proposals to the Ministry of Finance for reviews on the merits of the proposals," said the former Fox Hill MP.

"There could also be a provision for the Government when it needs access to capital to make specific requests for proposals (RFP).

"This could all have been said in two pages.

"The level of bureaucracy that these present proposals envisage is frightening and would discourage anyone from trying to access an agreement with the government," said Mr. Mitchell.

"The policy certainly also seems to discriminate against Bahamian businesses in favour of foreign businesses. Unless the playing field is leveled where Bahamian businesses are allowed to freely access foreign capital at competitive rates, the choice will always be in favour of the foreign business because US capital is cheaper than B dollar lending rates.

"I also think that there is a record of this FNM government cancelling contracts and not honouring the terms of contracts that they enter into in addition to a record of not paying contractors the monies owed. This does not bode well for any future arrangement.

"The PPP is a way to empower Bahamians. Unfortunately this new policy document will not help with that. That latter sentiment is of course no interest to the FNM," Senator Mitchell said.



Olympic Gold Medalist and (need her title in relation to Marathon Bahamas) Tonique Williams-Darling poses along with Bahamas Waste GM Francisco de Cardenas and Bahamas Waste CFO Disa Campbell in honor of the ongoing partnership in the fight against Cancer. (Photo/Ronnie Archer/Barefoot Marketing)

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

Defence Force Personnel participate in Annual Base Fitness Test

In its ongoing effort to ensure all Officers and Marines of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force maintain highest levels of fitness standards, members of the Defence Force recently completed their annual physical fitness test that was held over a three-week period.

All Officers and Marines are required to complete a set amount of push-ups, sit-ups, and pull ups, followed by a timed 1.5-mile run, a 300-

meter swim, treading water for three minutes, and a 12-foot dive to retrieve an object from the seabed.

Many RBDF men and women push themselves to the limit, and feel a great sense of pride when they 'make the 400 Club'--an exclusive Club for those members who achieve 100-percent scores in all categories of their fitness test, in addition to successfully completing the swim and dive

segments.

The Commander Defence Force, Commodore Tellis Bethel, who made the 400 Club, stated, "Life in a military Force that provides support for almost 20 government and nongovernment agencies can be very demanding. Our men and women serve in all environments--on land, at sea, in the air, and even under water as military divers. It is therefore important for our hard work-

ing members to remain fit at all levels--from Commander Defence Force to Marine Seaman--in securing our borders; this Annual program helps us to accomplish this objective."

He also commended the Officers and Marines, who gave the exercise their best, and expressed appreciation for the outstanding work done by the Training Officer (Acting), Senior Lieutenant Origin Deleveaux, the

Director of the RBDF Fitness Training School, Chief Petty Officer James Darling, the Training Instructors and staff in coordinating the entire event for over 1400 people.

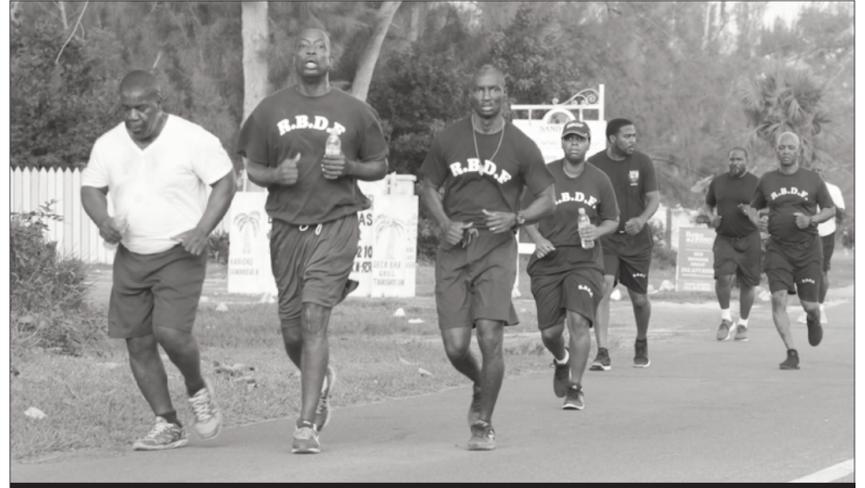
The Director and Chief Instructor for the Fitness Training School, Chief Petty Officer James Darling, was pleased with the performances from start to finish.

"With the Defence Force being the first line of defence

for the country, it is imperative that we be prepared both mentally and physically. All of the participants gave a great effort where pride and comradery was evident", said Chief Petty Officer Darling, who also noted that "Commodore Bethel was one of the first persons to complete the 1.5 mile run. So as a member of the Defence Force, all individuals are expected to participate in the exercise."



▶ RBDF Personnel participating in the sit-up exercise during the Annual Base Fitness Test at the Defence Force Base. (Photos by Marine Seaman Michael Turner)



▶ RBDF Personnel participating in the 1.5 mile run exercise at the Defence Force Base. (Photos by Marine Seaman Michael Turner)



▶ RBDF Personnel participating in the push-up exercise at the Defence Force Base. (Photos by Marine Seaman Michael Turner)



▶ RBDF Personnel jumping into the water to commence the 300 meter swim exercise at the Defence Force Base. (Photos by Marine Seaman Michael Turner)



GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
THE PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE
MONITORING REFORM PROJECT (PFM/PMR)
IT SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER POSITION AVAILABLE



Title: IT Systems Development Manager

This notice is placed on behalf of The Ministry of Finance to provide background information regarding the objectives of the PFM/PMR Project to enable interested persons who meet the stated and other criteria to determine their eligibility and respond to this advertisement to offer their services under the requirements of the project. The Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (GoB) has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) under loan #3340/OC- BH to partially/totally fund the contract cost.

SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PFM/PMR will improve the Financial Management and Performance Monitoring capabilities of the Public Sector. Component IV: Public Procurement will modernize the public procurement system, promote efficient market competition & deliver value for money. The GoB is seeking a consultant to act as the focal point for overall development and delivery of complex internal/external IT system development projects across a variety of products and technologies.

DESCRIPTION OF ENGAGEMENT

The consultancy will take place over a 12 month period in Nassau, Bahamas. A detailed work plan with timeline to achieve the deliverables must be submitted 7 working days after contract signing.

FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Specifically, the consultant, in coordination with the Chief Procurement Officer, and the PFM/PMR Component IV Coordinator, shall

- Manage the delivery of multiple complex simultaneous system development projects from design through to release.
- Understand and contribute to technical solutions from design through to code level.
- Provide progress updates and work closely with outsourced providers to ensure the management of any delivery risks or issues.
- Define, document and report on project delivery phases including activities, sub-activities, milestones, event log, issues and risk log.
- Ensure awareness, involvement and support from the key stakeholders and participants by building strong project teams robust communication on the project status throughout its life cycle.
- Participate in reviews and meetings and provide updates on project progress.
- Take responsibility for ensuring that risks/issues are identified and managed closely and drive all stakeholders to deliver on time and to the required quality standards.
- Work closely with relevant teams internally to ensure alignment and coordination across operations as part of the seamless implementation of existing and new systems.
- Contributing to post-implementation reviews helping to demonstrate success or otherwise of projects and to introduce processes to yield more predictable results.
- Drive major and significant stability and performance improvements.

EDUCATION SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor level in Software Development, IT, or other similar disciplines
- At least 5 years of relevant experience in the private sector, non-profit or public sector (preferred)
- Experience of people management and the ability to lead and influence others including, formal personal development planning and individual, team and process performance management
- Experience in a variety of software development approaches and methodologies including Agile and Waterfall
- Experience in the development of software using open source platforms as Apache, PostgreSQL, Java-based technologies and open contracting data standards, and usage of UML.

SELECTION PROCESS

The individual for the consultancy will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost for National Individual procedures set out in the Inter- American Development Bank: Policies for the selection and contracting of consultants financed by the Inter-American Bank (Document GN-2350-9). Note that the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas has the authority to reject any and all proposals without an explanation. Procurement notices will be posted online at www.bahamas.gov.bs CVs must be delivered by e-mail by **5:00pm, Friday, September 28th, 2018** to pfmpmr@bahamas.gov.bs.



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Royal Caribbean Int'l donates \$25,000 to Bahamas Feeding Network



► Royal Caribbean International made a \$25,000 donation to Bahamas Feeding Network (BFN) during a recent visit to the Fox Hill centre. Pictured holding the cheque are MP for Fox Hill, Hon. Shonel Ferguson; Minister of Social Services & Urban Development, Hon. Frankie Campbell; President and CEO of Royal Caribbean International, Michael Bayley; BFN Deputy Chairman, Sean Moree; BFN Executive Director, Philip Smith & BFN Chairman, Felix Stubbs along with other members of Royal Caribbean International and BFN.

(Photo by Ronnie Archer for DPA.)

A world apart from the plush lounges of its luxury ships, the President and CEO of Royal Caribbean International, donned gloves, lined up with volunteers and helped serve a different clientele, those who relish the home-cooked hot meals prepared every week at Moseff House, Fox Hill Road.

For RCI chief Michael Bayley being part of the experience of Bahamas Feeding Network was "heart-warming" beyond expectation.

"The connection between Royal Caribbean and The Bahamas is as long as our history. Our first ship ever to sail from the port of Miami made its first stop in Nassau and this year we will bring 1.2 million passengers to the shores of The Bahamas. But today, our connection with the Bahamian people took on new meaning as I was invited to experience

first-hand the work that goes on in this historic community of Fox Hill where volunteers give of their time and energy to cook for others, to share friendship and to show they care," said Bayley, who heads the Miami-based brand with 66,000 employees.

"This is the true meaning of caring and our team members who are here and myself are extremely touched and moved by the work of the Bahamas Feeding Network. It is my pleasure to present a cheque from Royal Caribbean International to the Bahamas Feeding Network in the amount of \$25,000 and to offer our congratulations to Mr. Philip Smith, your executive director, to your patron, Mr. Frank Crothers, and all the directors and especially Scully and Solly and the more than 40 other volunteers – you

are a living testament to the goodness of people."

The visit to the bright yellow building next to the Fox Hill police station was a far cry from Mr. Bayley's last visit to The Bahamas when representing the public company with 60 ships and nearly \$20 billion in assets he was treated to performances by the Royal Bahamas Police Force Pop Band, a Junkanoo rush-out and a visit to Government House. During this year's visit, he wanted to know more about community efforts. Still, he brought a touch of Royal Caribbean's style with him, including a cake in the shape of a cruise ship large enough to feed 500. And hosts for his visit put on a show that included a children's choir from a neighbourhood church.

On hand for the visit were Hon. Frankie Campbell,



► Hon. Frankie Campbell, Minister of Social Services & Urban Development, Michael Bayley, President & CEO of Royal Caribbean International & Shonel Ferguson, MP for Fox Hill stand ready on the assembly line at the Bahamas Feeding Network to dish up hot meals for distribution to the more than 80 churches, feeding centres and soup kitchens that receive the meals on a weekly basis.

(Photo by Ronnie Archer for DPA.)

Minister of Social Services & Urban Development, Hon. Shonel Ferguson, MP for Fox Hill, Dr. Raymond King, Port Controller, board of directors and supporters of the Bahamas Feeding Network. Entertainment was provided by the Believers Faith Outreach Ministries children's choir.

"Today is evidence that volunteerism and altruism are still alive here in The Bahamas particularly in Fox Hill," said Hon. Frankie Campbell, Minister of Social Services and Urban Development. "I want to commend the chairman and directors and all of the volunteers of the Bahamas Feeding Network for the work that has been done, is being done and we know will continue being done here. I want to say a very big thank you to Michael and the entire Royal Caribbean family. This is not the first in

the involvement of Royal Caribbean in the local affairs of The Bahamas. I am aware that Royal Caribbean approached us and entered into an agreement to employ Bahamians on their ships and there is a memorandum of understanding with the National Training Association to ensure that these Bahamians are properly prepared and will go on their ships."

Founded in 2013 under the patronage of H.E. Frank Crothers, and with the support of numerous sponsors, The Bahamas Feeding Network has provided nearly one half million hot meals to help ease the pain of hunger in The Bahamas where one in every seven persons reports living below the poverty level of \$11.64/day. The feeding network distributes hot meals and grocery coupons through more than

80 churches, feeding centres and soup kitchens, prepping, cooking, plating and distributing some 3,500 hot meals every week. It has provided \$450,000 in food coupons to those in need throughout The Bahamas with specific campaigns to ensure that single heads of household do not face empty cupboards and feeding 5,000 over the holidays with sacks of groceries to last a family of four a full week. The program is run entirely by volunteers and its administrative costs are borne by a single anonymous donor so that all funds donated go directly to supplies and distribution. It operates out of a modest building on Fox Hill Road, the former home of the Davis family donated for the cause and the siblings who inherited and donated the property continue to cover costs.



► Shonel Ferguson, MP for Fox Hill; Hon. Frankie Campbell, Minister of Social Services & Urban Development; Philip Smith, Executive Director BFN and Michael Bayley, President & CEO of Royal Caribbean International slice into the mammoth cake baked by chef's on Royal Caribbean's Harmony of the Seas. Looking on are Dr. Raymond King, Port Controller and Dr. & Mrs. Mychal Coleman, Vice President of Human Resources, University of the Bahamas. (Photo by Ronnie Archer for DPA.)