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VOL. 30 - NO. 270

WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 28TH, 2018

75 CENTS

DOCTORS STRIKE

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Consultant Physicians employed by the Public Hospitals Authority are on strike. The group of about 120 senior doctors made good on the results of the October strike poll and withdrew their services.

Consultant Physician Staff Association President Dr. Locksley Munroe's said this stems from issues dating back to 2016.

"We submitted our templates up to the manner in which physicians should be reimbursed and yet this is one year later and we still have not come to any sort of resolution or conclusion to the matter of

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▶ Consultant Physician Staff Association President, Dr. Locksley Munroe's
 (File photo)

Junior Doctors support CPSA

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Standing in solidarity with the Consultant Physicians in their strike action, The Bahamas Doctors Union President Dr. Melisanda Bassette said they have actually been in talks with the CPSA to ensure that

emergency health care services are not withdrawn.

"We will support our consultants in ensuring that they are duly compensated for the hard work that they do and when we do get our approval for our strike

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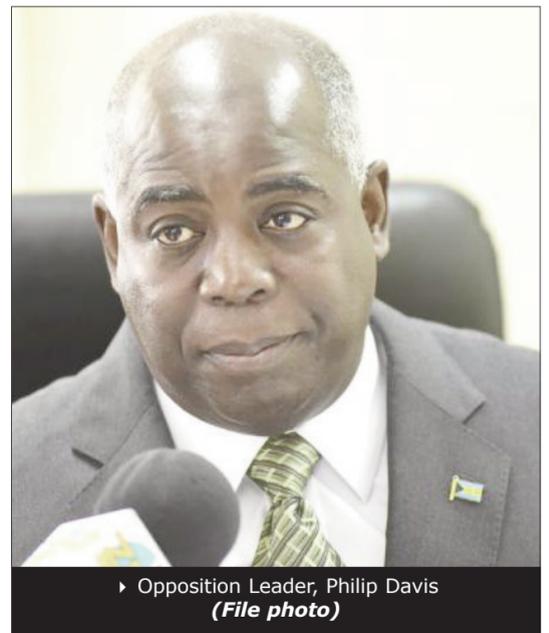
Opposition Calls Doctors Strike "Regrettable"

The leader of the official Opposition, Philip Davis calls the strike action taken by Consultant Physicians "regrettable."

In a press statement he said, "Doctors should not have to take to industrial action to get the full attention of the government.

"We in the PLP appreciate the care that has been taken by the Doctors to minimize the impact of the industrial action but at the end of the day, it is the government that must answer for what is happening."

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▶ Opposition Leader, Philip Davis
 (File photo)

Gov't signs \$1.5 million to repair GB Courthouse



▶ Minister of Public Works, the Hon. Desmond Bannister (second left) shakes hands with Mr. Maxwell Henry Quant of Noula Investments Ltd., during a contract signing on Monday, November 26, 2018, for work and renovations to be carried out on the Garnet Levarity Justice Centre. The contract was signed during an official ceremony on the grounds of the Justice Centre. Also on hand for the Contract Signing was Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Senator Kwasi Thompson (seated, left); Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Public Works, Iram Lewis (standing, third left); Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Pakesia Parker-Edgecombe (standing, second left); Ambassador C.A. Smith (standing left); MP for Pineridge, Frederick McAlpine (standing, third right); and Mr. Maurice Moore (standing, right).

(BIS Photo/Andrew Miller)

B.U.T REQUESTS STRIKE VOTE

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Union of Teachers (BUT) yesterday announced that a letter requesting a strike vote has been sent to the Minister of Labor, marking the first step towards industrial action.

This occurred after nearly six months of unanswered complaints and no action from the Ministry of Education.

Acting union President Joan Knowles Turnquest said the list of grievances at the C.H. Reeves High

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ABACO COUPLE REMANDED

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

An Abaconian couple could very well be spending both Christmas and Valentine's Day behind bars.

Warren Ellis, 43, and April Dawkins-Ellis, 36, of Central Pines Abaco are accused of one count each of removing the

proceeds of crime and attempting to export restricted goods.

It is alleged that the couple was found with over \$13,000 – \$10,000 on the husband and \$3,000 on the wife – at the Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA) on Monday

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

Gov't signs \$1.5 million contract to carry out repairs on GB's Courthouse

FREEPORT, Grand Bahama -- The courthouse in Grand Bahama is set to get a major, much anticipated facelift, thanks to the Government of The Bahamas and the Ministry of Public Works.

According to Minister of Public Works, the Hon. Desmond Bannister, just recently Cabinet gave approval to the issuance of a contract to Noula Investments Limited, operated by Maxwell Henry Quant to carry out extensive repairs and renovations to the Garnet Levarity Justice Center buildings in the amount of \$1,994,154 (VAT inclusive).

"The Justice Center in Grand Bahama is named after a distinguished Bahamian patriot and if we appreciate the sacri-

fices that Garnet Levarity made for his country, then we must ensure that an edifice that bears his name must stand as a shining example of the pride and dignity of the Bahamian people," said Minister Bannister.

An official contract signing to carry out renovation works on the courthouse was held on the grounds of the Justice Center on Monday, November 26, 2018.

During his address Minister Bannister noted that it was in April of this year when he, along with a delegation of technical officers from the Ministry of Public Works visited Grand Bahama and made a stop at the Garnet Levarity Justice Centre.

"To my dismay, I was

able to witness firsthand the deplorable conditions that Judges, Magistrates, Court personnel and the general public are faced with every day, as they dispense and seek justice in our courts," said Minister Bannister.

"We promised you then that the condition of our courts would be restored to its appropriate dignified, imposing and stately presence in this community. Technical officers of the Ministry of Public Works collaborated with stakeholders to develop a scope of works and in July, contractors were invited to submit tenders."

The Contract was awarded to Noula Investments Limited.

The scope of repairs and renovations will

include exterior repairs and painting, major interior repairs and painting, and mechanical, electrical and plumbing works. More specifically, some of the works will include:

- Replacement of the flat room system and minor repairs to existing metal standing seam roof.
- Mitigation against increasing hurricane activities and the severity of damage incurred; all windows and exterior glass doors will be replaced with hurricane impact windows and doors.
- The removal of termite infested wooden column claddings to be replaced with high density polyurethane foam claddings.

• Eradication of bee colonies throughout buildings.

- Making the building handicap accessible.
- Removal of carpeting to be replaced with porcelain tiles or hardwood engineering flooring.
- Reconstruction and renovation of all office spaces.
- Upgrade to staff breaks areas.
- Upgrade to prisoner's holding cells.
- Servicing and replacement of A/C units.
- Servicing of firm alarm systems

"A provisional sum has been included in the contract so that during the renovations project, there will be extensive mold removal and reme-

diation to the building," added Minister Bannister.

"The construction period will be nine months, during which time we will all experience some inconveniences; however, it is anticipated that the end product is one that we will all be proud of.

"All of us have a duty to ensure that the courts are able to carry out their mandate, since the administration of justice is of critical concern for every person."

Just before concluding his remarks, Minister Bannister hinted that on his next trip to Grand Bahama, he is expected to bring good news about possible renovations for the island's main post office building.

DOCTORS STRIKE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

physician reimbursement. "The implications of that is what triggered this meeting today. The body as a whole is frustrated and feels that they are not valued in any way by the authorities," he said.

Two years back, the CPSA submitted a proposal to the PHA to address their issues, but according to Dr. Munroe, the authority's counter proposal sought to settle a deficit between the junior and

senior physicians' salary.

The CPSA was at the time assured that it would not be left at a disadvantage, but according to its president, that's exactly what happened.

"In 2001, a letter of concerns was written to the then managing director and that deficit was corrected.

"For the following three- five-year industrial cycle, they have not addressed that issue.

"So the funds that they provided really and truly

were to correct the deficit that they created, because they did not honor the promise of transition from the ministry of health to the PHA.

"As far as actually improving our base salary, which was the whose principle behind the exercise, from 2016 has not been addressed," he said.

As for where things are now, Dr. Munroe gave an account as to what that a withdrawal of services means.

"Primarily all electives

procedures will be the first to go off the books. As far as provision of services; emergency services will be covered in one way or the other.

"The idea is that these services can be withdrawn in the various organizations where these consultants work.

"In other words they can be done in Freeport, they can be done in Princess Margaret Hospital as well as the Sandilands Rehabilitation Center," he said.

Opposition Calls Doctors Strike "Regrettable"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mr. Davis said, "The Minister of Labour, indeed the Prime Minister, must act with haste and dispatch to ensure that matters are brought to normal within the shortest possible time.

"I stand ready to use

my good offices to ensure that there is a speedy result.

"It is simply unacceptable for the Government to have allowed the situation to get to this.

"Yet more suffering by the poor public now ensues under this FNM Government." Said Mr. Davis.

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2018 Hero World Challenge



► 2018 Hero World Challenge press conference with event host, Tiger Woods today at Albany. The exclusive golf event of the world's top-ranked golfers, November 29 to December 2, 2018 takes place at Albany for the fourth consecutive year. The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism coordinates and plays a major part in its success. Photo shows Tiger Woods (left) and Pawan Munjal, Chairman, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Hero MotoCorp (right). Also, Woods at press conference. **(BIS Photos/Kemuel Stubbs)**

Junior Doctors support CPSA

Continued from / PAGE 1...

vote, they will support us as well.

“There are many issues that we face that we all share together and we can’t provide the best healthcare to the public if we are disadvantaged,” she said.

Dr. Bassette said the BDU has made application to the Department of Labour for its own strike certificate.

“There have been some hiccups with that. We are seeking legal advice as to how we can proceed, because we’ve met all the legal requirements to get an approval but it has not been forthcoming.

“Something as simple as ensuring that junior doctors are paid the legal and constitutional double time for working holidays,

we have to battle administration for,” she said.

This comes months after the BDU staged a demonstration at the Princess Margaret Hospital saying they are being ill-treated and that they are being denied certain key benefits.

The junior doctors said that they are being denied maternity benefits. They also demanded holiday pay and that medical licenses have been revoked because of changes to licensing requirements.

In response to this, Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands said he would not be able to intervene.

Dr. Sands also said that he hopes the matter could be successfully resolved, but that has not happened as yet.



The Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Alexander Minnis
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

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**ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT ZONE ACT
2018 TOWNHALL MEETING**

» DATE WEDNESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER, 2018

» TIME: 6:30PM – 8:30PM

» VENUE: GRANT'S TOWN WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH HALL

» LOCATION: BAILLOU HILL ROAD AND MEADOW STREET

ABACO COUPLE REMANDED

Continued from / PAGE 1...

November 26th, 2018.

The two pleaded not guilty to the charges when they appeared before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt.

They were granted \$8,000 bail each, with one suretor.

The two were remanded until February 19th, 2019.

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

Areas included in the Over-the-Hill Zone are:

Delaney St. North to Wulff Rd. South and Nassau Street. West to Collins Wall in the East.

Tax Concessions for the Development of Property and for Businesses under the Economic Empowerment Zone Act 2018:

- Custom Duties Discounts
- Business License Fee
- Exemption on Real Property Tax
- Exemption on Excise Tax
- Stamp Duty

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*Subject to approval upon submission of required documents to the Ministry of Finance.

Ferreira Touts Bahamas' Commitment to a Sustainable Blue Economy

NAIROBI, Kenya – At the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, Minister of the Environment and Housing the Hon. Romauld Ferreira told the international audience of The Bahamas Government's initiatives in Marine Protected Areas and reducing marine pollution.

“In 2014, The Bahamas established the Bahamas Protected Areas Fund Legislation, 2014, and committed \$2 million BSD to The Bahamas Protected Areas Fund,” Minister Ferreira said at the conference that was held November 26-28, 2018. “We announced the significant expansion of our marine-protected areas system to at least 10% protection, increasing the marine protected area inventory by 11 million acres.”

He noted that, in 2015, the Bahamas Government successfully achieved that goal. Since then, he added, the government committed to advancing the declaration and legal establishment of the remaining 10% of marine protected areas.

“This would represent 43 newly-proposed marine protected areas, covering more than 8.1 million acres of clear, blue ocean,” Minister Ferreira said.



► Bahamas Minister of the Environment and Housing, the Hon. Romauld Ferreira, delivering remarks in Nairobi, Kenya. (File photo)

“This new commitment will assist The Bahamas to meet its target as a member of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative to set aside 20% of marine protected areas by the year 2020 and the

goal as envisioned by SDG 14.”

Minister Ferreira pointed out that, in an effort to address solid waste which can affect the ocean, in April of that year, The

Bahamas committed to banning selected single-use plastics and styrofoam by 2020.

“Among the selected single use plastics for eradication are plastic

bags, straws, food utensils, styrofoam food containers and cups,” he said. “In addition to the ban, and in furthering our efforts to curb marine pollution, legislation will be

introduced, making the release of plastic balloons into the air illegal.”

Draft legislation for the ban will be circulated to the public by early 2019, Minister Ferreira stated. He noted that the enactment and coming into force of that legislation is expected on January 1, 2020.

Minister Ferreira said that as all persons are stewards of the earth, and realizing the health of the environment and oceans is inextricably linked to the health of the planet, The Bahamas Government has embarked on an inclusion public education and outreach campaign, targeting all sectors of the society.

“We are engaging youth and women, civil society and the private sector,” Minister Ferreira said. “In fact, our private sector partners have taken the lead, by replacing many of their single-use plastic and styrofoam products with more environmentally-friendly alternatives.

“Additionally, The Bahamas will become a signatory to the Clean Seas Campaign launched by United Nations Environment Program by the end of this year.”

B.U.T REQUESTS STRIKE VOTE

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

School spans from mold in classrooms to a rat infestation.

She said, “The Bahamas Union of Teachers stands in solidarity with its members in addressing concerns of an unhealthy and unsafe working environment.”

She added, “we request that the Ministry of Education seek to correct the malfunctions that exist at the school and to look amicably at rescinding the show cause letters as the teachers are bombarded daily with adverse,

unsafe, and unhealthy working conditions.”

Area Vice President for New Providence, Vernon Rodgers, spoke on added health concerns.

He said, “one of the major problems is chemicals in the roof that burns their skin if it drips on them. The Ministry has yet to give us an answer for that. We have some teachers with psoriasis, some are breaking out, some thyroid glands are swollen because of the environment.”

As for parents who may have some concerns, Mrs. Turnquest said that

health comes first.

She said, “You can have all of the education you want, and I am 100 per cent behind that; but your health is more important than anything else.”

She added, “We take a lot for granted. We have teachers getting sick, and we have students getting sick as well. We stand in unity with our teachers. We want to do what is right.”

The union is now awaiting a response from the Ministry in terms of when and if it can take a strike poll.



MINISTRY OF FINANCE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby notified that a Public Auction will be conducted by the Customs Department on non-entered goods at the places and times listed below:-

No.	LOCATIONS	DATES	TIMES
1	Airfreight LPIA - (GFT)	3 rd December, 2018	9:00am – 12:30pm
2.	Airfreight Odyssey (GFT)	3 rd December, 2018	9:00am – 12:30pm
3.	Betty K. – Arawak Cay (GFT)	3 rd December, 2018	2:00pm – 5:00pm
4.	Mailboat – Arawak Cay (GFT)	4 th December, 2018	9:00am – 12:30pm
5.	MSC – Arawak Cay (GFT)	4 th December, 2018	9:00am – 12:30pm
6.	Tropical Shipping – John Alfred Dock (GFT)	4 th December, 2018	2:00pm – 5:00pm
7.	Congo Town, Andros (GFT)	5 th December, 2018	9:00am – 5:00pm
VEHICLES (NEW PROVIDENCE) CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS			
8.	Betty K – Kelly's Dock – Arawak Cay (HQ)	6 th December, 2018	9:30am – 12:30pm
9.	Inchape Shipping (HQ)	6 th December, 2018	9:30am – 12:30pm
10.	Island Maritime (HQ)	6 th December, 2018	9:30am – 12:30pm
11.	United Shipping (HQ)	6 th December, 2018	9:30am – 12:30pm
12.	R. H. Curry & Co. Ltd. (HQ)	6 th December, 2018	9:30am – 12:30pm
ARAWAK CAY			
13.	Mailboat – Fiesta Mail (Arawak Cay)	6 th December, 2018	2:00pm – 5:00pm
FAMILY ISLAND			
14.	Marsh Harbour, Abaco	10 th December, 2018	10:00am – 5:00pm

The above goods will be sold under the Provision of Section 201 of the Customs Management Act. The Auction will commence at 9:00 am daily with the exception of Tropical Shipping, Betty K. Agencies, Arawak Cay (GFT), which will commence at 2:00 pm.

Vehicles (New Providence) Customs Headquarters, will commence at 9:30 am daily with the exception of the Mailboat - Fiesta Mail, Arawak Cay, which will commence at 2:00 pm.

Family Islands - Congo Town, Andros (GFT), will commence at 9:00 am on 5th December, 2018.

Marsh Harbour, Abaco, will commence at 10:00 am on 10th December, 2018.

A list of the goods to be auctioned can be viewed at Customs Headquarters, Betty K. Agencies, Gladstone Road Freight Terminal, Air Freight, Arawak Cay East.

The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids tendered.

Marlon Johnson
(Acting) FINANCIAL SECRETARY