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THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 15TH, 2018

75 CENTS

"Curb Power Cost"

Says BPL Union leader

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

The spike in Bahamas Power and Light (BPL) electricity prices has left quite a number of Bahamians in a bind, and the President of the Bahamas Electrical Workers Union yesterday urged the government and the company to take action.

The electricity company has gone on record saying that this 22 per cent increase is due to hefty oil prices leading to an increase in the fuel surcharge.

Union President Paul

C. Maynard suggested what he would do about the situation if he were in Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis' shoes.

He said, "If I were prime minister, I would talk to Shell and I would indicate that I'm in crisis mode. I need you to help me out short term.

"Shell is the largest distributor of LNG (Liquid Nitrogen Gas) and propane in the world. Leave it to them, they'll deal with it," he added.

BPL is currently in negotiations with Shell North America to provide power generation for the



► Bahamas Electrical Workers Union President, Paul C. Maynard (File photo)

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Gov't To Revamp Immigration Policies

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Discussions on the framework and regulatory procedures to encourage and support crypto currency assets and related instruments will be a key talking point at the Grand Bahama Technology Summit, as Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis says steps must be taken to position the country as a technology centre of the region.

While presenting the keynote address at the

Tech Summit, Dr. Minnis said that companies utilizing the blockchain technology as a basis for products and services "represent the genesis of a new wave of innovation".

"There is no reason why these new blockchain technology companies that have their eyes on global markets cannot have their base of operations here in The Bahamas.

"A recent release by

■ See GOV'T / page 3...

BCPOU FILES TRADE DISPUTE AGAINST BTC



■ BTC STAFF AT LUNCH DEMONSTRATION ON NOVEMBER 12TH, 2018

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union (BCPOU) yesterday filed an industrial trade dispute with the Department of

Labour against the Bahamas Telecommunications Company Limited (BTC) as the company continues downsizing.

In a press release issued last night, The BCPOU noted that BTC

has failed to bargain in good faith and to renew the Industrial Agreement which has been expired for twenty (20) months.

The statement said, "BTC is in violation of the collective bargaining agreement and in breach

of section 41 (1) (2) (3) of the Industrial Relations Act, Chapter 321."

This past Tuesday Union President Dino Rolle said "enough is enough," adding that the

■ See BCPOU / page 4...

PLP LEADER HEARS VENDORS CONCERNS



■ Philip Davis, Opposition Leader, yesterday visiting the Downtown Straw Market to speak to vendors

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

Calling it a "fact finding mission," Opposition Leader Philip Davis, yesterday visited the Downtown Straw Market to speak to vendors about their various concerns.

Some of the issues include being without light for over a year, and

the seizing and dumping of items from stalls of delinquent stall owners.

Mr. Davis argued that the "backbone" of the tourism industry has challenges and the government should understand that.

"With the rising cost of living, with 12 percent

■ See PLP / page 4...



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Gaming Operators And Gov't At Impasse

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

The Attorney General's office and gaming house operators are at an impasse in a legal dispute over taxes.

Attorney General, Carl Bethel, who spoke to reporters before a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday said, "we are in discussions with the attorneys for the Gaming house operators. We don't accept their interpretation of the law, we are still seeking to agree a framework on the last

remaining issue which is the stamp tax on deposits by gaming patrons," Bethel said.

"Now I think that we'll have some further meetings this week and then it will either be that we will have an agreement, or if not, we'll go to court and we will have to fight it out.

"But that being said, if it comes to that, we expect that the law that has been duly passed by parliament will be fully enforced, even though there's a joined legal issue, the law is the law and it must be obeyed."

Last month, the government and gaming bosses went back to court, as gaming house operators continued their fight to have the court grant an injunction against new taxes imposed on the industry.

Those taxes include a sliding scale tax on the industry, as well as a five per cent stamp tax on gaming patrons.

In a last ditch effort, gaming operators in September, filed a suit in the Supreme court seeking leave for an injunction as well as a judicial review in the matter.

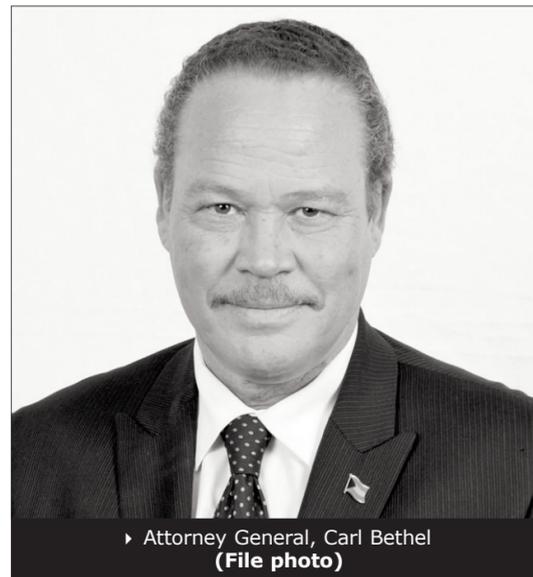
But that did not happen, as the court needed more time to fully consider the arguments on either side.

The government, however, agreed to hold off on imposing the taxes.

Supreme Court Justice, Indra Charles, also invited the two sides to meet and talk over the issue.

The government hopes to pull in tens of millions of dollars in gaming taxes this fiscal period.

Representing operators are Queens Counsels Alfred Sears and Wayne Munroe.



► Attorney General, Carl Bethel
(File photo)

Minister Presents Junior Junkanoo Seed Monies



► Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture the Hon. Lanisha Rolle and stakeholders at the ceremony for the 2018-2019 Junior Junkanoo Parade Seed Monies Presentation, at her Ministry, on University Drive, on November 12, 2018. (BIS Photo / Eric Rose)

During the Ceremony for the Junior Junkanoo Parades 2018-2019 Seed Monies Presentation, on November 12, 2018, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture the Hon. Lanisha Rolle, said that Junkanoo is the conduit through which the creativity of the Bahamian is showcased, the story of the nation's heritage is told, and the imagination of its people is made manifest to the world.

"The Junior Junkanoo Parades of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas were established in 1988. And more than a parade, Junior Junkanoo is a living and breathing cultural experience which has developed into a vibrant cultural teaching and learning program that serves a multi-purpose," Minister Rolle said, at the event held at her Ministry's head office, on University Drive.

Among those present included Acting Permanent Secretary Rhoda Jackson; Deputy Director of the Division of Culture Dereka Deleveaux-Grant; Senior Education Officer Jennifer Miller (Performing Arts, Ministry of Education); General Manager of Sol Petroleum, Ltd., Keith Grinton and Sol Petroleum representatives; National Junkanoo Committee Co-Chair Kishlane O'Brien; Coordinator of Junior Junkanoo Henry Higgins; Percy "Vola" Francis; other government officials, Ministry staff members and special guests.

Minister Rolle noted that Junior Junkanoo "educates the 'next' generation of our most spirited cultural heritage exhibited in what is known as Junkanoo".

"Secondly, it serves to allow the younger generation to display their talents and creativity," she added. "Tied directly with the local school system, the program is further structured to ensure that students have the opportunity for personal development through their engagement in healthy competition at the national junior level and, most significantly, the program serves as a feeder system for the senior Junkanoo groups, to secure the consistent growth and development of the Junkanoo product and to preserve in the annals of history the combination of those artistic expressions that best defines our cultural identity."

Minister Rolle announced that the seed funding to all schools registered to participate in the Junior Junkanoo Parade 2018-2019 is \$350,000.00

"I am pleased to advise that seed funding is being forwarded to administrators, district superintendents and our Ministry Family Island coordinators for Family Island schools participating in junior Junkanoo parades on their respective islands," Minister Rolle said.

Minister Rolle also lauded the partnership with the Ministry of Education and Sol Petroleum, Ltd. -- the

title sponsor for Junior Junkanoo.

Minister Rolle stated that it was her hope that the recently-established Cultural and Education committee, will work with "determined haste" to submit their recommendations of a viable and sustainable long-term educational program and curriculum that will strategically target the cultural education of the nation's students.

"With this renewed focus, on the skills, techniques, resources, the disciplinary and organizational components required to create this cultural event we seek to ensure that Junkanoo [develops] even further," Minister Rolle said. "It will not only intrigue local onlookers, but fascinate the world through the uniqueness of the Bahamian inspired artists and artisans and cultural expressionists."

Minister Rolle pointed out that, based on the feedback from stakeholders, chief among them being the partners in the educational sector, the Ministry had advised that junior Junkanoo would best be held on a date and time that does not conflict with the established examination calendar; and, according to the senior Junkanoo leaders, it would be more effective, if held at a time after the senior parades in December to allow them the opportunity to be involved in the necessary mentoring process during the juniors' preparation period.

"Thus, the date as recommended for this year's Junior Junkanoo Parade is Thursday, 31st January, 2019," she said.

Minister Rolle referenced the fact that the year before, the coordinators for the first time hosted the parade on Arawak Cay.

"Based on the many challenges with that venue, particularly in terms of logistics, area structural design and the complications presented by the parade's close proximity to the sea, there has been an overwhelming cry and support for its return to Bay Street," she said.

"To this end, the parade will commence at 6:00p.m. With the pre-schools leading the way. I am advised that last year the junior parade began on time, the children were on key and spectators and participants alike enjoyed a wonderful time together," she added.

As it relates to the New Providence parade, Minister Rolle noted that, as of that date, 18 schools were registered, two of which will be from the Family Islands -- the South Andros district and Tarpum Bay Primary.

"Moreover, the ministry has already purchased start-up materials in bulk, which are now being distributed to all participating schools in New Providence and the Family Islands," she added.

Minister Rolle announced that junior Junkanoo parades will be held on Grand Bahama, Abaco, Eleuthera, South

Andros, San Salvador, and Cat Island -- after a two-year break -- and, for the first time, on Acklins, Mayaguana and Inagua.

She said: "I would like to extend a special welcome to newcomers Jordan Prince Williams High School and First Step Academy who have come on board and wish them and the new islands mentioned all the very best on this their maiden voyage. To all returning schools, we only ask that you all give your very best -- or, as they say 'Leave it all on Bay'."

Minister Rolle said that she would like to especially thank lifelong title sponsor Sol Petroleum for their continued investment in the children of The Bahamas and in an event necessary for the preservation of Bahamian culture. She also made special mention that their investment stems back to year before the inception of the junior Junkanoo parades in 1988.

"Sol Petroleum reassured me just moments ago, that they remain committed to supporting junior Junkanoo and we are, indeed, thankful," she said.

Minister Rolle extended gratitude and public recognition to the school principals, teachers and Junkanoo coordinators in preparing students for the parades, in both public and private schools.

"Being ever so mindful of the time, patience, dedication and extremely hard

work necessary to prepare schools for these parades," she said. "And to our parents, the number one fans, and to the individual sponsors of the participants, our nation says thanks to you."

Minister Rolle expressed gratitude to the Ministry of National Security and, in particular, the officers of the Royal Bahamas Police Force, who "through their valiant efforts continue to ensure the parades are adequately secured and our little darlings and onlookers are kept safe".

"Indeed, we are aware that the security and safety of our children is a most important factor to all in attendance," she added.

Minister Rolle pointed out that the parade will be launched under the theme 'Education is the Key.'

She stated: "With this in mind, I will end these remarks by commending to the coordinating team of this year's Junior Junkanoo Parades, the same words as I have with the seniors.

"The year 2018/2019 and its junior Junkanoo parades is a season we have not seen before, and it is indeed a season, a display, a show, an event, we will never see again. So let us in the spirit of unity and patriotism, come together with one common goal. Ladies and gentlemen, Junkanooers, Junior Junkanooers, let us have a great time, and everyone enjoy a great day. "

“Curb Power Cost” Says BPL Union leader

Continued from / PAGE 1...

capital. This means that the company will eventually buy generation from the North American firm as soon as the year 2020. Mr. Maynard also suggested that the public

pressure their respective MPs to curb the climbing cost of power. He said, “Electricity is the life blood of this country. Forget phones, because electricity drives everything. If you don’t have electricity, you’re shutting down practical-

ly. “We need to have a cheap and reliable supply of electricity. Excuses time is over with. We need to get with it and get busy and get the work done. “You cannot have mothers deciding whether

they are going to feed their children or pay their light bill. That’s wrong! You cannot have our small businesses closing down. Without small businesses, the country is nothing ,because these businesses keep employment going. If they have to close down

as a result of the power problem, we are going to have a problem,” said the Union leader. In the meantime, the union president gives Bahamians tips on how to save on electricity. These included switch-

ing incandescent lights to more energy efficient lights, switching old television sets to flat screens, and opting for gas water heaters and stoves as opposed to electrical ones. Mr. Maynard was the guest speaker yesterday for the Rotary Club of Southeast Nassau.

GOV’T TO REVAMP Immigration Policies

Continued from / PAGE 1...

The Central Bank of The Bahamas on crypto assets stated that we must ‘enhance the sector’s competitiveness without compromising the integrity and international reputation of The Bahamas, or undermining the financial safety of Bahamian households’,” Dr. Minnis said. Dr. Minnis added that in an effort to make The Bahamas more attractive to blockchain tech companies, immigration policies and procedures will be revamped. “My Government is revamping our immigration policy and procedures

to support our desire to attract new enterprises to our shores. “We will make our immigration policy more attractive for investment. We are now considering draft legislation to create a special BH1B Visa in keeping with recommendations made by the Grand Bahama Technology Steering Committee,” Dr. Minnis said. And as the government puts Bahamians in a position to take greater advantage of technology, Dr. Minnis recognized Grand Bahamians enthusiasm for their island to become a technology hub. “This year, my Government made The

Bahamas Technical Vocational Institute (BTVI) tuition-free for qualifying students. We have seen tremendous results from this decision. “In Grand Bahama, overall enrollment has increased by some 70 percent. I am extremely pleased to report that in ICT courses, the increase was 97 percent.” Dr. Minnis further encouraged attendees at the summit to take advantage of programs such as associates degrees and certificates in Business Office Technology, Information Technology Management, and Software and Network Engineering, which are free of charge to all

Bahamians who qualify. “My Government is also committed to making The University of The Bahamas, including its ICT Programs, free of charge beginning in 2019. “Under our administration, every Bahamian who qualifies, will have the opportunity for free tertiary education, including ICT qualifications,” Dr. Minnis said. The three-day summit is being held under the theme “The Future is Now”. Participants will hear from a full slate of global speakers on various aspects of current world digital transformation. The tech summit closes out on Friday, November



Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis (File photo)

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**COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS
IN THE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL**

NOTICE OF CALL OVER

TAKE NOTICE that the following Industrial Tribunal Matters have been set for call over in the Industrial Tribunal in the City of Nassau before the Honourable Indira Demeritte-Francis, President of the Industrial Tribunal, at 10am on Wednesday 21st of November 2018.

YEAR	NO.	APPLICANT	RESPONDENT	ATTORNEY/ REPRESENTATIVE	APPLICANT'S ADDRESS
1.	2018	NES/120 OMALATESHA DEAN	BAHAMAR (SKY WARRIOR LTD)		FIRE TRAIL ROAD EAST
2.	2018	NES/56 CLARICE MURPHY	LITTLE LEARNING CHRISTIAN ACADEMY & BARBER WORLD		SUMNOR STREET OFF SOLDIER ROAD
3.	2018	NES/106 JAROME JOHNSON	BET VEGAS CASINOS		FOX DDAIL CANDIA CREST
4.	2018	NES/130 FREDRICK HEILD	OAKES FIELD SHOPPING PLAZA		EAST STREET SOUTH

BCPOU FILES TRADE DISPUTE AGAINST BTC

Continued from / PAGE 1...

mission statement appeared to be "cutting expenses rather than growing revenue."

Mr. Rolle said, "the Officers of the BCPOU have demonstrated extreme patience with the CEO and executives of BTC and we came to the bargaining table in good faith. What we've received

in return are excuses and delays. The livelihood of our members is at stake and we must remain steadfast and ensure that their rights are protected."

He added, "the proposals that BTC have submitted for consideration are unreasonable in this economic climate. They are expecting to run a corporation by cutting costs at the expense of the

staff."

In addition to the delays with the renewal of the Industrial Agreement, Mr. Rolle outlined a number of issues "crippling the morale of staff at BTC which include: delayed payments to staff for approved and worked overtime; the increase in the hiring of foreign labour, particularly in the Retail, IT and Finance areas, in an

attempt to make the roles of his members redundant, and; the breach of the Purchase Agreement by CWC with BTC's attempt to close the local Call Center and ship those Bahamian jobs overseas."

Mr. Rolle urged BTC to develop and present "a sound corporate strategy that outlines a plan to invest in the technologi-

cal infrastructure of the Bahamas to grow company revenues."

He added, "this thoughtless approach of cutting costs on the backs of Bahamians to maintain a company is myopic and is not sustainable," Mr. Ricardo Thompson, President of the Bahamas Communications Public Managers Union (BCPMU) also spoke out

placing his support behind the efforts of his sister union, noting that the BCPMU will soon follow suite.

Mr. Thompson said, "the current leadership at BTC must embark on a mission to rebuild the company and create an environment that his members would be happy to be a part of while maintain its profitability."

PLP LEADER HEARS VENDORS CONCERNS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

VAT, with the increase in electricity, bills are being poured upon them and so there is this challenge that they have to work through," he said.

"So one would have thought that a government who cares about people, particularly the straw vendors, who are the backbone I say of our tourism product today, they would be more sensitive to their cries and have a more understanding as to the challenges they're having."

Some straw vendors admitted they were in arrears, but they had no prior notice.

The Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Leader argued that before taking drastic actions, the government should sit and talk with vendors one by one to understand what their challenges are and find a suitable solu-

tion.

"Closing down a stall doesn't bring revenue to you, it is a closed stall," he said.

"If you allow a vendor the opportunity to be in possession of the stall, to at least have that opportunity to earn a living, perhaps that opportunity will come over to you where it will be able to satisfy you," he added.

"Or if you give notice to the vendors, sufficient notice, these vendors are family, they come together at times to help one another."

Vendor and Activist, Kevin Archer, gave this suggestion on the way moving forward.

"I think there was one time when Sir Clement T. Maynard was Minister, if I remember well, he let us have a function through one of the streets where we blocked it.

"We were able to sell food, straw, and whatever it is and all that stuff and

we were able to help the persons that were falling behind or whatever the case may be," he said.

"So if that's something that they can think about, where we can let the vendors have a day, like a weekend through one of the streets or in the back here; maybe with some Junkanoo and have the vendors set up on the outside, just give us one rush.

"And we just take all of that money pool it, and try to help as many of those persons inside here as we can, to try to erase that long bill and all that stuff, if you have a heart please think."

The Straw Business Persons Society is accusing the government of inhumane treatment of Straw Vendors.

The Vendors accuse Ms. Kelly Ingraham and the Straw Market Authority of removing and disposing the vendors' merchandise.



Philip Davis, Opposition Leader, yesterday visiting the Downtown Straw Market to speak to vendors

NHI extends consultation period

In an effort to improve health outcomes for The Bahamas, the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) launched a 45-day consultation period with stakeholders on October 23rd to discuss proposed changes to the program. Today, Dr. Robin Roberts, Chairman of the NHIA Board, announced that the consultation period will be extended by an additional 10 days to provide more communities and stakeholder groups with the opportunity to share their feedback about potential ways forward for the NHI program. This means that the 45-day consultation period, which was originally scheduled to be completed by December 6, 2018, will now continue until December 16, 2018.

The announcement comes after a series of successful community meetings were held in Grand Bahama, which resulted in positive feedback and meaningful dialogue about the future of NHI, and how it can be transformed to better serve the needs of Bahamians.

"NHI Bahamas is transforming to improve the health and wellbeing of all Bahamians. I am encouraged by the meaningful and productive discussions we have had with stakeholders and members of the public during the consultation period so far, and look forward to welcoming additional voices to the table by extending the deadline for consultation. Our objective is to build a NHI pro-

gram that will act as a catalyst for change in the way Bahamians experience health care, and working with communities on a path forward is exactly how we will achieve that. It is important that Bahamians make their voice heard and contribute to the debate on the implementation of this program as we move towards universal healthcare in The Bahamas," said Dr. Robin Roberts, Chairman of the NHIA Board.

On November 15th, the NHIA will travel to Exuma to meet with local residents and stakeholders as consultations for NHI Bahamas continue. Exuma residents are encouraged to attend the following community meeting:

Thursday, November 15th at 6:00PM
- LN Coakley High School, Moss Town

Other upcoming visits are planned for Abaco, Eleuthera, Andros, Long Island and New Providence to hear from more Bahamians and stakeholder groups on NHI Bahamas.

Stakeholders and members of the public can also review the policy paper online and submit their feedback through the online consultation survey.

Based on the feedback collected during the consultation period, the NHIA will then present recommendations to the Government of The Bahamas on the way forward for NHI Bahamas.



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

AUTHOR AND PARKINSON'S EXPERT OFFERS MESSAGE OF HOPE

On Thursday, November 8, 2018 the novel, "The Invisible Companion", was officially launched at the British colonial Hilton Hotel. It speaks to a man's battle with the debilitating Parkinson's disease and his family's response. There were some one hundred and forty persons in attendance and based on feedback the enjoyed the event immensely. Six distinguished individuals read passages of Darling's novel: Dorothy Darling-Yearwood, gave the overview of the novel; Bishop Laish Boyd, Bishop of The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands, Pastor Trent Davis, Bahamas Worldwide Ministries; Dr. Reuben Cooper, Mission Baptist Church; Pastor Ivan Butler, Kemp Road Ministries; and Lady Hazel Scott Butler all gave enthralling reads throughout the event.

Mavis Darling, author of the captivating and inspiring novel, entitled "The Invisible Companion", was inspired by her own experience, conveys a message of hope and

understanding to the legions of Parkinson's disease sufferers worldwide. While Darling is a phenomenal writer and first hand expert on the horror of Parkinson's disease, she is as interesting on stage as a speaker as she is as a writer. Her book is available for purchase now but Darling intends to engage in a worldwide speaking tour that aims to inform and inspire sufferers, family members, and those that are not as familiar with this condition.

Darling's speaking engagements first started in the islands of The Bahamas, but with such a fantastic message with the potential to branch out to so many people, she hopes to spread her message elsewhere around the world. She intends to not only offer advice to those tackling this condition, but her speaking engagements will also seek to remind those dealing with the condition to keep steady faith in God and to stay strong and always to remember the family relationship is of utmost importance in coping with all challenges,

especially neurological challenges. Aside from her critically acclaimed novel, Darling also intends to produce videos that correspond with the novel to facilitate the dissemination of her information.

Despite her pioneering nature in the field of service and care, Darling is looking to branch out with video-taped segments of her novel to coincide with the appearance of her talking engagements on college campuses and elsewhere. Given Darling's personal story, it's no surprise that she focuses heavily on her own experiences. However, aside from her anecdotal experiences as the daughter of a Parkinson's sufferer, her educational and professional background also lends her tremendous credibility in several post primary fields.

Currently, she out-reaches her services to Parkinson's sufferer. Based on her commitment to care and serving others, it's no surprise that her spirit is much-needed in many places where this condition has taken so much from so many.



**MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND REVENUE
REAL PROPERTY TAX NOTICE for 2019**

In accordance with the Real Property Tax Act, Chapter 375 as amended, the Chief Valuation Officer hereby gives notice:-

- (a) that copies of the assessment lists are available as required by Section 7 subsection 7 of the Act, and may be inspected at the Office of the Chief Valuation Officer;
- (b) that a notice of assessment addressed to each owner of property liable to tax under the Real Property Tax Act is available at the Valuation Office, located at rear of the shops at Carmichael Plaza, Carmichael Road and may be collected therefrom by or on behalf of the owner of such property during normal working hours;
- (c) that pursuant to subsection (3) of Section 7 of the Act, upon the expiration of five days after the publication of this notice, a notice of assessment shall be deemed to have been served on every owner of property liable to tax under the Act;
- (d) that without prejudice to the provision of subsection (3) of Section 7 of the Act, the Chief Valuation Officer may at any time after the publication in the Gazette of this notice send by post, a notice of assessment addressed to any owner of property liable to tax under the Act;
- (e) that pursuant to Section 11(1) of the Act, any person aggrieved by a notice of assessment deemed to have been served under this Act may object thereto by serving on the Chief Valuation Officer within thirty days after the date on which the notice of assessment is deemed to have been served, a notice in writing of such objection stating the grounds upon which he relies;
- (f) that pursuant to Section 18 of the Act, the tax is due and payable by the owners of property not later than sixty days after the date on which notice of assessment is deemed to have been served. Accordingly, it is the duty of each taxpayer to ensure that he receives a Notice of Assessment;
- (g) that the exemption has been allowed for 2019 on those which have been declared as owner-occupied residences, and have satisfied the conditions. However, under Section 43 of the Act, the owners are required to disclose to the Chief Valuation Officer any change in the circumstances which does not entitle the property for the exemption allowed;
- (h) that pursuant to Section 10 of the Act, every owner of property shall not later than the thirty-first day of December in each year, make to the Chief Valuation Officer in the prescribed form a return of such particulars of that property as may be prescribed, for the purpose of enabling that Officer to compile and maintain accurate assessment lists, and such owner shall declare to the correctness of such return before an authorized person.

**(For) Controller of Inland Revenue/
Chief Valuation Officer**



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAHAMAS**

**Consultancy Services For A Project Pension Feasibility Study
for Transition of Defined Benefit Scheme to Contribution
Scheme in the Public Sector**

Background

The Government of the Bahamas is seeking proposal to conduct a feasibility study for a transition of the defined benefit scheme to contribution scheme in the Public Sector. This study would assist government in a factual finding to support consideration of the Government's initiative for reduction in expenses for the public sector and a planned approach to achieve significant cost savings over time.

Procurement Method

The procurement of service will be conducted under a national competitive bid process.

All tenders will be published on the national press of The Bahamas and on the government website.

Successful firm(s) will be those who meet the standard requirements set out below and who meet the firm with the most competitive price.

Where there is a tie between firms on the specification and price the Ministry of Finance may choose to a firm based on the following criteria:

- Firm establishment (how long the firm has been in business in The Bahamas).
- Delivery timelines
- Ability to ensure service level agreement for service.

Requirement for Bidders

The Firm responding to this proposal must have a valid Bahamas business license. At the time of submission of bid all company tax and national insurance obligations must be current, this includes at the time of issue of this RFP, but is not exclusive to:

- Business license fee
- National insurance payments
- Company Profile
- Outline of qualifications and experiences

Firm must be of good standing, i.e. no impending or current legal actions against the company or the directors of the company which may have a significant impact on the ability of the firm to deliver the service.

OFFER FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES AND PROPOSED DELIVERABLES

Deliverables should be as follows:

1. Researching and outlining current position with regard to the defined benefit pension liability of the public service and all government corporations and agencies
2. Creating a data base of key statistics including but not limited to the pension liability, number of employees, contribution amount, etc.
3. Researching and benchmarking information from similar ones that have jurisdictions and governments specifically including ones that have migrated defined benefit plans to contribution plans.
4. Outlining cost savings/ expenses associated with each plan.
5. Survey of selected plan participants in the public service s related to their perceived benefits and concerns.
6. Estimating and scenario planning out the economic impact of the plans on the government's budget.
7. Identify any legal operational and funding issues around the migration to a hybrid pension system i.e. defined benefit for older employees, contribution for newer employees.

Submission of Bids

Bid contents

Firm responding to this RFP must submit their offers using the deliverables set out in this document. Additional documentation concerning the submitting firm and the service on offer may be submitted at the description of the firm.

Method of Submission

Bids to this tender can be submitted via electronically via e-mail or posted/delivered in a sealed envelope. Electronic submissions must be made to athenamarche@bahamas.gov.bs with the subject of "Feasibility Study for Transition of Defined Benefit Scheme to Contribution Scheme in the Public Sector".

Paper submissions should be posted/delivered to the following address:

Tenders submissions
Ministry of Finance,
Cecil Wallace-Whitfield Centre,
West Bay Street,
Nassau,
New Providence.

The envelope must be identified with "Feasibility Study for Transition of Defined Benefit Scheme to Contribution Scheme in the Public Sector".

Submission Deadline

Responses to this tender must be submitted, using one of the submission methods described above, by 5.00pm November 2, 2018.

Submissions received after this date will not be considered.

Please note that the complete RFP can be accessed on line at: www.bahamas.gov.bs