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# The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

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# FNM MPs APOLOGIZE

Two of the four so-called "rebel backbenchers" of the governing Free National Movement apologized this past weekend in a party conclave for their behavior over the last several months.

The Journal confirmed that Pineridge Member of Parliament Frederick McApline apologized to Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis "if he offended him" and Bain and Grants Town MP Travis Robinson in his remarks offered a blanket apology to the party.

An FNM Council



▶ Bain and Grants Town MP, Travis Robinson (File photo)



▶ Centreville MP, Reece Chipman (File photo)

■ See FNM / page 4...

## BPL Enters Deal With Shell North America

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

Bahamas Power and Light signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOA) with Shell North America – the reported first step in the state-owned power company

■ See BPL / page 7...

## PLP WANTS TO WORK WITH GOV'T TO SAVE FINANCIAL SECTOR

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Deputy Leader Chester Cooper says his

party is prepared to work with the government to save the financial sector of the country. In a statement released yesterday, he noted the outcome of the recent

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) plenary in Paris that found The Bahamas listed in its "compliance document", with implied threats of further action.

Mr. Cooper noted that this is an unfortunate, but "not unexpected given The Bahamas' history of being targeted".

"The PLP stands ready to

work constructively with the government in efforts to protect the country's financial services sector," he said.

■ See PLP / page 7...

## Wilchcombe Tells Gov't: "Renegotiate With Sunwing"

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

Former Tourism Minister Obie Wilchcombe thinks the government will have to revisit the decision to allow Sunwing Travel Group to pull out of Grand Bahama next year.

He predicted this much considering that the travel group is still a major contributor to the country's tourism growth.

"Sunwing, we must remember not only flew into Grand Bahama, they fly here (in New Providence). They supply a tremendous amount of rooms here with visitors, so I don't think that we're understanding the issue as we should, because Sunwing is already a partner.

"Now for Grand Bahama, they were also not only the tour operator, but they were

■ See WILCHCOMBE / page 4...

## Public Service Retirees Lauded as 'True Nation Builders'



▶ Dorothy Ward-Johnson, Trained Teacher with 49 years of service in the Public Service (right), receives recognition from the Governor General and Minister Brensil Rolle. (BIS Photos/Letisha Henderson)



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# National Training Agency Graduates a Strong Cohort

After completing fourteen weeks of training in Hospitality Services, Office Procedures and Information Technology, 79 students received their certificates during a graduation ceremony at the National Training Agency (NTA), Thursday, November 1, 2018.

The training, which included 10 weeks of technical skill training and mandatory work force preparation, has equipped the young people for the country's workforce.

Gadville McDonald, Executive Director, NTA, said from all indications and according to results, Cohort 9 this was the "best" cohort in the history of the agency.

Mr. McDonald commended the students for their success in the new Information Technology (IT) skills training, for the 100 percent passes in the Office Procedure external City and Guilds exam, some obtaining credit and special credit, and for their achievements in the hospitality discipline.

"This cohort has been a part of many firsts. You've been able to participate in the launch of our digital certificate block search using block chain technology, which is a first for The

Bahamas and this region. This is a big deal. No longer will you have to walk around with your physical certificates but you can actually carry them around in your smart phones.

"You've benefited from our intentional strategy of reducing the train the trainer ratio resulting in smaller classes with greater attention being placed on learning outcomes specific to your success in the workforce," said Mr. McDonald.

He remarked that the NTA is a leader in competency based training in The Bahamas and is fulfilling its mandate of creating a training and job placement system that is dynamic and responsive to the demands of The Bahamas workforce and employment.

"We are considered a go-to agency for employers who are seeking qualified, entry level employees. The staff can tell you that our phones ring off the hook every day looking for qualified Bahamians who can serve at entry level efficiently in various departments," he said.

In the keynote address, the Hon. Elsworth Johnson, Minister of State for Legal Affairs, who represented the

Hon. Dion Foulkes, Minister of Labour, said the Bahamas Government is committed to creating a highly productive, competitive and competent workforce.

He told the graduates that the government continues to invest in them because it understands the need for ongoing competency-based training.

"We believe that every Bahamian should have the best chance to participate in our economy, regardless of academic or financial status."

He encouraged them to be the greatest model of what is good about the Bahamas' workforce: courteous, hard-working and disciplined.

"Employers today constantly complain about the entrants to the workforce. Please make the NTA proud, make me proud – be positive at all times, show up for work every day, no matter how you feel, go the extra mile and most importantly never stop learning.

"The National Training Agency continues to be a trailblazer in soft skills training and the overall development of our young people. In its short life span, the agency has trained 5,000

young Bahamians. For this year alone, some 600 young persons have been trained, inclusive of the seventy-nine graduating tonight.

"In addition, the agency is currently training more than 260 youth under the Citizens Security and Justice Programme, a key government initiative geared towards increasing employability and employment among at-risk youth between the ages of 15-29. The first part of this training is scheduled to conclude within the next two weeks," he said.

Thirty-nine percent of the graduates have already received full-time employment and the NTA is making efforts to ensure that the remainder of the graduates are successfully employed.

They will be placed in the Ministry of Labour's Public Employment Services database to ensure their successful placement in the workplace.

The students received certificates, pins and special awards in the various disciplines including food and beverage service, food preparation, housekeeping, butler services, office procedures and IT.



► The Hon. Elsworth Johnson, Minister of State for Legal Affairs, speaks at the graduation ceremony of Cohort 9, National Training Agency. *BIS Photos/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr.*



► The Hon. Elsworth Johnson, Minister of State for Legal Affairs (right) presents a special award to Dwayne Williamson for his achievements in Information Technology as Gadville McDonald, Executive Director, looks on. *BIS Photos/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr.*



► Trenelle Robinson shows off her trophy for her success in butler services. The trophy was presented to her by the Hon. Elsworth Johnson, Minister of State for Legal Affairs (right) and Gadville McDonald, Executive Director. *BIS Photos/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr.*

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## The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

### CLARIFICATION

The Bahama Journal wishes to make a clarification in the article entitled "Florida Men Arraigned for Fraud," that appeared in our Tuesday October 23rd, 2018 edition. Alexys Vanderford was never charged with the crime.

# British Legion and Defence Force March to Rawson Square

The British Legion-Bahamas Branch (BLBB) in collaboration with the Royal Bahamas Defence Force will pay homage to all Bahamian military veterans who served during World War 1 in a wreath laying ceremony at Rawson Square on Sunday November 4th at 2:30 p.m.

Officers and Marines from the Royal Bahamas Defence Force will parade from the Western Esplanade near Arawak Cay to Rawson Square in downtown Nassau. This event will be done as a tribute to the 30

soldiers who marched from East Street to Rawson Square and onto Prince George Wharf in 1914. There, they boarded a ship, which took them to Jamaica to undergo further military training in preparation for the war.

Attending the ceremony will be the Minister of National Security, the Honorable Marvin Dames, Bishop Cephas Ferguson, Chairman of the British Legion - Bahamas Branch and his Executive Officers, and Commodore Tellis Bethel, Commander

Defence Force, his Executive Command, and members of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, and families of World War 1 veterans.

Three wreath laying ceremony is in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the ending of World War 1 on 11th November 1918. Wreaths will also be laid near the Queen Victoria statue as tributes to servicemen, who served 100 years ago during the reign of King George, and to veterans including the late Sir Etienne Dupuch and Mrs. Mary

Moseley.

Sir Etienne Dupuch volunteered from the Caribbean Region to join the War efforts. He served in the West India Regiment and returned to his beloved Bahamas on 1st April, 1919 after the War. He would join his family's business, The Tribune, and would begin his journalism career, among many other civil and humanitarian international interests. He was knighted three times for his tireless local and international work during World War II and in time of peace.

Mrs. Moseley served as Chairperson of the Belgian Relief Fund in Nassau. It was during 1914 that Miss Moseley left The Bahamas for England to offer her assistance to the Great War Relief efforts. There, she formed the Ladies' Committee of The West Indies, Bahamas Chapter. This was established in 1915 in London as the women's wing of the war sub-committee. It was through her work with this Fund that she was able to raise thousands of Pounds for the Belgian War Relief effort.

According to RBDF Reservist Adina Munroe-Charlow, British Legion Executive Secretary and RBDF Representative, The Bahamas sent approximately 700 of its sons to participate in this War; six were killed in action, three died from wounds, and 28 from other causes.

The Royal Bahamas Defence Force has partnered with the British Legion- Bahamas Branch since 2011, and is presently assisting in preserving the memories of the the men who served in World Wars 1 and II.



Photo show Defence Force Marines on parade (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 Indra Demeritte-Francis, President of the Industrial Tribunal, at 10am on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 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

# FNM MPS APOLOGIZE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Member said the two were part of four maverick backbenchers who voted against the government in the House of Assembly on the portion of the budget to increase Value Added Tax and a resolution to lease the Town Centre Mall for the General Post Office from Minister of Financial Service, Trade and Industry, Brent Symonette.

While the other two disgruntled MPs, Golden Isles MP Vaughn Miller and Centreville MP Reece Chipman addressed the conclave, they did not apologize.

The Council Member who offered comments about the outcome of the conclave on the condition of anonymity said, "the consensus was that there is a communication problem between the government and supporters of the party.

The four dissatisfied MPs were accused of acting like opposition members."

He said many who attended the conclave were shocked that the four were not verbally attacked.

"There must have been agreement before the conclave began not to attack the disgruntled MPs. On Friday,

when all parliamentarians were present, the tone was one of team sport; tow the party line or separate. The good thing was that people got the opportunity to vent," he said.

FNM members gathered in large numbers as the party kicked off the conclave on Friday at the Mackey Street Headquarters and at the Holy Trinity Activity Centre in Stapleton Gardens on Saturday.

The two-day conclave, under the theme: "21 st. Century governance: committed to the cause" was held to conduct a "critical

and frank analysis and assessment of the party in keeping with its manifesto, party principles and philosophy of governance".

The party also met to set a long-term strategy for the development of a think-tank, the ongoing development of new parliamentarians and party officers, and an improved communications program.

According to a statement released yesterday, "this critical assessment of the party included all aspects of the FNM including: leadership, the conduct of members of parliament and the

performance of the party in government in discharging the mandate given by the Bahamian people" since the moment they took office.

This past Friday, the closed session included only members of the "parliamentary caucus".

The session was opened by the Prime Minister and Party Leader Dr. Hubert Minnis.

In his address, Dr. Minnis noted that today the party's vision is one of innovation and transformation.

He said that its mission is "to bring about fundamental and far-reaching

change to The Bahamas".

The prime minister told conclave attendees, "In just a year and a half, the party is already witnessing a new direction for the country, and that the government was succeeding on many fronts".

The prime minister also admitted that the party made mistakes, and as a result the FNM's accomplishments were overshadowed because of them.

He then reiterated the party's need to improve its communications program, which he noted that he is committed to doing.

# Wilchcombe Tells Gov't: "Renegotiate With Sunwing"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

providing airlift and rooms.

"So that is why there was an arrangement made, because they owned the hotel at a particular time, so they had to bring visitors in and they had to supply the bookings, food and everything else.

"Now that's changed, they're going to negotiate

and negotiate hard as they always do, but you have to remember now Sunwing is one of the leading brands now in the Caribbean.

"They have seven or eight hotels that they operate in the Caribbean. So we should still be talking with them and I think the government is going to have to talk to them again in the future," he said.

As Mr. Wilchcome sees

it, there are a few additional things that can be done to help boost Grand Bahama's depressed economy.

"Carnival has a deal with the Bahamas government. Let's get that going, that's \$700 million, several hundred million that could be put into the ground right now and create opportunity; and of course let's work with John McDonald and the project in West End and get

some more rooms their going.

"If we do that correctly and we work on getting the numbers and then we go after ensuring that we get airlift, really good airlift by using Bahamasair, by using Caribbean Airlines and other airlines, then we can get more people into the island and we can then cause for Grand Bahama to turn around.

"Then of course let's look at agriculture. Grand Bahamas has farm land that's not being utilized effectively and Grand Bahama could be a producer for the local market," Mr. Wilchcome said.

Sunwing claims its decision to sever ties with Grand Bahama has everything to do with having reached an impasse with the government.

However, the government counters that Sunwing's demands were unreasonable.

Sunwing has for years operated Memories at the Grand Lucayan Resort and provided airlift to the property.

The travel group has been operating on that island for six years and has invested tens of millions of its own money into the revitalization of that island.

## Educational Tours of the Senate - Launched



Minister of Education the Hon. Jeffrey Lloyd, Speaker of the House of Assembly the Hon. Halson Moultrie, President of the Senate the Hon. Katherine Forbes-Smith and other Senate Members joined a number of educators and interested persons for the Educational Tours of the Senate Launch, on November 1, 2018. Acting Chief Clerk of the House of Assembly David Forbes gave attendees his insight into the history of the Senate, as well as shared little-known anecdotes about the Parliament and British history. The on-going initiative, which is in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, is an opportunity for schools, educators and the general public to learn more about the Senate and its history. Persons interested in taking part in future tours are encouraged to contact the House of Assembly for further information.

(BIS Photos / Eric Rose)



# QUESTIONS EXECUTIVES SHOULD ASK TO AVOID PITFALLS

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.

One of the pitfalls business leaders experience is that they set a goal and identify strategies to implement, but they fail to review their organizational components to ensure they line up with the goals and strategies. That's not a winning formula for success.

Fashion mogul Peter Nygard's fifty years of success came from doing the opposite. He focused on every related part that impacted his ability to reach his goals.

Nygard has always had a goal of always being the best at everything he does. From the time he was a teenager competing in sports, to being a sailing champion in Canada, all the way to his fifty years in business. To that end, he was prepared to do what it takes to ensure his number one position.

That meant practicing free throws every day after basketball practice when all of his teammates went home for dinner. It paid off not just in basketball, but in all the sports he played in high school. Nygard received the Male Athlete of the Year award at his high school graduation.

In sailing, Nygard learned everything there was to learn about the sport that led to him winning a number of sailing championships. In business, he applies the same dedication to learning everything there is to learn and paying close attention to all of the details required for his business success.

With a goal of always wanting to be the best, it means that every part of your organization has to work in unison to maximize its effect. Peter Nygard's strategy was to distinguish himself from the competition in every way he could. It meant looking at ways to improve all of his organizational systems.

One core approach Nygard used was to create his own fabrics. While everyone else went around to fabric fairs to choose fabrics for their upcoming seasons, Nygard would go abroad and work with the fabric makers: first learning everything there was to learn about creating fabrics, then picking out the best yarns for creating the best fabrics.

When it came time to then align his systems, in addition to training the manufacturers on his standards of production, he structured his operations to work as teams so that designers, merchandising, and production could all be on the same page in executing. Because a goal such as being the best in your

## 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.

business requires a high level of alignment to achieve it.

When the financial services company—we talked about previously—decided to offer more financial products targeting millionaires, they didn't review their systems to make sure that all of the components were supporting their goals and strategies.

Questions executives should have asked to avoid the pitfalls they encountered include:

- What structures, systems and processes are required to achieve our goal? What structures, systems and processes are required to effectively implement our strategies?
- What structures do we now have in place and how do they differ from the ideal that's needed? What is the status of our system and processes, and what tweaks are needed to have them align with our goal and strategies?
- How do our structures, systems and processes impact each other? Are they helping or are they hindering our efforts in any way?
- What changes do we need, if any, with our human resources? What drives them toward achieving our goal?
- How best can we support the achievement of our business goal?

These are the types of questions you must ask in your business to ensure that when you establish a business goal and identify strategies for achieving them that you can increase the likelihood of your goal being achieved.

Coming up, we'll look at what it looks like to apply this type of a review to your organization.

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## E D I T O R I A L

### This call to Action

Today, tragically, too many people in power are projecting the worst. Many are cowardly, complicit enablers, acting against the interests of the United States, our allies and democracy; encouraging extremists at home and emboldening our adversaries abroad; and threatening the livability of our planet.

We are in a struggle for who and what we are as a people. We have lost what in the military we call unit cohesion. The fabric of our nation is under attack, while shame — a timeless beacon of right and wrong — seems dead. Chesley B. Sullenberger III.

This cry from the heart is today being echoed and relayed around the whole wide world.

We heard it and for sure, we hope that it is heeded tomorrow as tens of millions of Americans vote in a slew of elections at the local, state and national levels.

In a sense, as they vote, they give their yea or nay to all those matters touched by Donald John Trump.

And as Sullenberger sagely advises: "...To navigate complex challenges, all leaders must take responsibility and have a moral compass grounded in competence, integrity and concern for the greater good..."

Yes, we also say and thus also on this blessed day: Yes, we insist.

With this resounding YES as our background to this day's commentary, we quote some of what the "Hero of the Hudson" Chesley B. Sullenberger III, [who steered 154 passenger Flight 1549 to safety in 2009] recently advised by way of timely warning to the American people: "...The fabric of the United States is under attack with too many people in power — cowardly complicit enablers — projecting the worst qualities. This is not the America I know and love. We're better than this..."

Absolutely!

As Sullenberger also reminds: "...On our famous flight, I witnessed the best in people who rose to the occasion. Passengers and crew worked together to help evacuate an elderly passenger and a mother with a 9-month-old child. New York Waterway took

the initiative to radio their vessels to head toward us when they saw us approaching. This successful landing, in short, was the result of good judgment, experience, skill and the efforts of many..."

Evidently, this is truth on the rebound; and thus, we wholeheartedly endorse this great man's conclusion: "...To navigate complex challenges, all leaders must take responsibility and have a moral compass grounded in competence, integrity and concern for the greater good."

The question, then, remains: Is Donald John Trump this kind of leader?

Whilst we might [for reasons absolutely diplomatic defer judgment] let it be known that, while some we know and respect might claim that things are as they should be in that America where Donald John Trump is its Commander in Chief; we know for a fact that there are yet hundreds of millions in that great country who are appalled at what is now happening in their once great nation.

For our part, we, too, continue to stand in amazement as day by day, things seem to be falling apart in that great land which once upon a time dared to describe their country as the home of the brave and the land of the free!

Alas! Today's United States of America is deeply divided and apparently troubled to the depths of their collective souls.

This is surely amazing because in what I seems a long ago time, that country was headed by Barack Hussein Obama, the quintessential opposite to the man who just two years ago swore that it was his goal and that of his followers to 'make America Great Again'.

Sadly, that large wish has been dashed against the rocks of racism, anti-Semitism, misogyny and quite frankly upon a seething vortex of hate!

Mercifully, the time is now when the American people might —by way of crucial majorities in any number this coming Tuesday's nation-wide elections show that, they do not care for the kind of politics now being driven by Trump and his rabid acolytes.

We wait and hope for the best.

**THE BAHAMAS**  
Sun, Sand, Sea .... and the  
**The Bahama Journal**  
NO BETTER READING

## Letter to the Editor

### WHAT DID THE SEVEN FNM REBELS SEE?

Dear Editor:

Not so long ago the FNM displayed exactly what kind of prime minister we would get if self-imposed The Highest Most Honourable Hubert Alexander Minnis was given the reigns of power.

The seven rebels, or that is what Minnis called them, saw something glaring from the inside of the Free National Movement that they could not risk giving their party to Minnis, much less the country.

History has already said that the majority of his own colleagues decided that they could not support his leadership or lack thereof.

But in two separate attempts, after much machinations, and trickery from former leaders, dissidents of old, the monied people, i.e. Lyford Cay, the Eastern Road and the movers and shakers of the party, they jived and connived until Minnis was leader and the country was plunged into the mess we now have today.

Thousands have been fired by this government. Ministers celebrated and even said how happy they were. Taxes were raised 60% and heaped on the backs of the poor.

Minnis hollered about democracy when the infamous seven, called "trump" in their card game. But this same man today, has plucked all of the feathers out of democracy and left it as a scalded chicken.

Confucius said, "real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance".

Today, members of his party are being dragged over the coals, and threatened to be "tarred and feathered" for attempting to have an opinion that did not fall in line with the party's message.

The now "Disenchanted Four" have been targeted, so much so, that no less a person than dinosaur Maurice Moore, of all people, is schooling them how to be team players.

Amnesia is one of the definite ailments that we all will experience in our later days, but deep in his forgetfulness, he must try his hardest to recall his behaviour when he and seven others left the PLP. Talking about selective memory.

Democracy never lived in the Bahamas, because there is something called the party whip, I wonder what that means. Honesty does not live in party politics, but some parties allow dissension more than others.

Finally, I applaud the "Disenchanted Four". If they allow the mercenaries in the FNM to frighten them from being men, their political lives would be over.

On the other hand, if they believe in their hearts that what they are doing is right and in the best interest of the people who elected them, then they must stand, even if they stand alone.

"The only way to vanquish cowardice is to brandish courage." - Charles M. Blow.

The country, knows who the men in the FNM are. We see them when it is time to vote in parliament, we see the cowards and we see who are singing for their supper. We can tell who are reading what they write or are being used. We know the level of ability and disability. It is simply pathetic to watch.

How do they look their spouses the face, and what do they say to their children afterwards?

"At times it is what we do not say, or not saying a thing, that says a lot about us."

"Proximity to power has an unsurprising ability to mutate a politician's spinal cord into bright yellow jelly."

They have no shame!

Remember this, "What goes around, comes across!"

Sincerely,  
Ivoine W. Ingraham

Dear Editor:

The abortion debate is once again in the news. It stemmed from comments on the subject made by a senior officer in the Ministry of Health at the 71st Session of the United Nation's Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). There is also now another debate about what the senior officer actually meant by her abortion related comments.

While I believe the official responses given by the Attorney General, the Hon. Carl Bethel, and the Minister of Health, the Hon. Duane Sands, it does appear that there have been backroom talks by some to begin a process to try to bring about the legalization of abortion in The Bahamas. If this indeed is the case, it is quite sad. Given our culture of death, evidenced by our out of control murder rate, why would any right-thinking person be seeking to further our culture of death by trying to legalize the murder of the unborn? And what does obtaining a legal right to murder unborn children have to do with CEDAW, which is supposed to be about ending discrimination against women?

In comments to the media on the subject, Dr. Sands reportedly said that the government had "no choice" but to address controversial topics, such as abortion, intimate partner violence and health services for vulnerable populations, including LGBT and sex workers. He is quoted as saying, "We are addressing them, and bear in mind that we are very much aware that any time you engage this conversation, that it creates a firestorm of commentary." Further, Dr. Sands said, "These are all, I can almost use the word 'taboo' topics in our very conservative society."

Regrettably, Dr. Sands fails to see that the controversial topics he referred to do not in and of themselves create "a firestorm of commentary". What creates a firestorm of commentary is when elected officials like Dr. Sands try to impose their contrary views on society, like his call to give condoms and contraceptives to minor students and to legalize abortion. If these issues are simply put to the Bahamian people for a national discussion, I can assure

Dr. Sands that parents will not be arguing for the government to give condoms and contraceptives to their minor children. And an overwhelming majority of Bahamians will voice their opposition to legalizing abortion and giving special rights to homosexuals and their allied groups. Further, an overwhelming majority of Bahamians will tell Dr. Sands that those who provide sex for money are NOT sex workers; they are prostitutes. And will tell Dr. Sands that they oppose the legalization of prostitution.

It is also regrettable that Dr. Sands fails to see the real reason that an overwhelming majority of Bahamians oppose giving condoms and contraceptives to minors, giving special rights to those engaged in sexual deviancy, the legalization of abortion, the legalization of prostitution, and other so called 'progressive' sexual initiatives. It has nothing to do with such matters being "taboo", or our society being very conservative. Instead, it has everything to do with our society having God-fearing convictions that are rooted in our Judeo-Christian heritage.

By and large, in The Bahamas, we believe in the sanctity of human life. We believe that life begins at conception, and that all people are created in the image of God, including babies in their mother's womb. So, we oppose abortion. And we also believe in the dignity and value of human beings; so, we oppose prostitution.

Yes, it is true that we in The Bahamas fall short in many ways from living true to our Judeo-Christian convictions, and the evidence of this is all around us. But I thank God that in the aforementioned areas, an overwhelming majority of Bahamians still hold true to our Judeo-Christian convictions. They still believe that righteousness exalts a nation and sin is a reproach to any people (Proverbs 14:34). And they still believe that we are to speak up for those who cannot defend themselves, like the unborn (Proverbs 31:8). By God's grace, we will continue to do so.

Yours truly,  
Pastor Cedric Moss

## E D I T O R I A L



### 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](mailto: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](http://www.bahamas.gov.bs)

# BPL Enters Deal With Shell North America

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transitioning into a modern utility giant.

Surrounded by BPL board members, BPL Chairman Donavan Moxey told reporters this marks the culmination of efforts over the years to improve the reliability of electricity here in New Providence.

There is also the renewed promise of a decrease in power costs – a longstanding vexing issue for its consumers.

“One of the largest components of cost for any utility is power generation, and so one of the reason that we can see our cost coming down is because we’re shifting the cost of generating power now to an IPP (Independent Power Producer).

“An IPP’s sole goal is to make sure that the power that’s generated is in a cost-effective manner.

“The second component that will affect the cost is the energy that we use. Right now, we’re using what’s called heavy fuel oil or bunker C. We’re also using what is called ADO or Automotive Diesel Oil, which is fairly expensive fuel to use for power generation.

“So, when you look at the fact that BPL is getting out of

the generation business and the IPP that we’re working with, namely Shell, is looking to use LNG (Liquified Natural Gas), those are things that will go towards cost factors; so quite naturally we expect a reduction of cost,” Mr. Moxey said.

BPL’s partnership with Shell North America is also expected to lead to little to no blackouts.

“A lot of the power generation assets at BPL have been around for 34 years and quite a number of them are near the end of life.

“Some of the issues we’ve experienced with blackouts have been due to the fact that we have old generation equipment.

“In addition to that, there are also some TND issues within our network, our transmission distribution that we’re looking to fix.

“When you talk about engaging an Independent Power Producer and doing a PPA (Power Purchase Agreement), it is their job to keep generation running to the agreed level that we have essentially worked with them to establish, and so when you look at that, that’s their focus.

“So from our expectation, if they live up to that, then we should have very little to no power generation issues,” the Chairman said.

BPL CEO, Whitney Heastie added that the new power plant will use Liquefied Natural Gas, which he said has no greater risk than fuels used every day like gasoline and diesel, but it does, he said, provide a number of advantages.

“It is a more economical source of energy when compared to such fuels as diesel or LPG and is not subject to price volatility or fluctuations.

“Second, it is more environmentally friendly, because it burns cleaner than the fossil fuels that we use today.

“Third, LNG is safer and it’s easier to store when compared to the fossil fuels we currently house today at our facilities,” he said.

Former Trade and Industry Minister Leslie Miller, for years pushed for this to be introduced in The Bahamas. At the time he touted the millions of dollars in revenue The Bahamas could earn and save.

Three companies had submitted preliminary proposals for the BPL deal with Shell. However, Mr. Miller said several months ago that it was bad for the country.

Shell North America will construct a new gas power plant in the Clifton Pier area, which is expected to be completed in 2020.

# PLP WANTS TO WORK WITH GOV'T TO SAVE FINANCIAL SECTOR

Continued from / PAGE 1...

He added, “It clearly makes no difference to these international bodies which political party governs The Bahamas, as they seem to have The Bahamas in their sights for some time, while they continue to unevenly apply punitive measures related to issues of anti-money laundering and taxes to the country’s financial services sector”.

The statement stated that from numerous evaluations conducted on onshore financial centers, significant deficiencies in their anti-money laundering regimes have

been found without any punitive measures taken.

Mr. Cooper also said, “It is also documented that the most egregious cases of money laundering and terrorist financing have taken place in onshore financial centers of OECD member countries.”

Therefore, he said, “the protectionist nature of the punitive measures taken against international financial centers such as The Bahamas is compounded by the fact that most of the countries subjected to punitive measures are non-members of the OECD, despite The Bahamas in particular

having been responsive in addressing these threats against our sovereignty for years on end.”

The PLP’s Deputy Leader added, “we must continue to act, and we must do so hastily and prudently. The action plan adopted by the plenary calls for The Bahamas to produce implementation of the vigorous measures taken to address AML/CTF threats.”

He said that the PLP looks forward to speaking with the government inside and outside of parliament to address the complexities inherent with the proposed legislation.

# Public Service Retirees Lauded as ‘True Nation Builders’

Recent retirees of The Bahamas Public Service were Thursday (November 1) lauded as “true nation builders” by Minister of the Public Service and National Insurance, the Hon. Brensil Rolle.

Addressing a Retirees Recognition and Presentation of Awards of Excellence Ceremony for almost 600 Public Service Retirees held on the Lower Grounds of Government House, Mount Fitzwilliam, Minister Rolle said there is no higher calling in terms of a career, than one in the public service as public service employees are afforded “an opportunity to make a difference in people’s lives and improve our great nation.”

Hosted by Her Excellency, the Most Hon. Dame Marguerite Pindling, Governor General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and Chancellor of the Societies of Honours, the

exercise was held to salute the 543 persons who retired from the Public Service during the 2016-2017 (316 persons), and 2017-2018 (227) – periods. The honourees included personnel from law enforcement and national security, accounting and finance, education, health, youth development, social services, civil aviation, the postal service and many others.

“We are assembled here this morning to express our gratitude and appreciation to our distinguished retirees for the varied contributions they have made over many years,” Minister Rolle said.

“I am honored to offer remarks at this special ceremony to salute the tenacity of those who have served and served well. I wish to commend you all for being true nation builders. We honour you for your roles as facilitators, pacesetters and standard bearers. Your lega-

cies will no doubt continue to inspire and serve as a beacon for countless other public officers.”

Minister Rolle said the Retirees Recognition Ceremony was one of the major highlights of the 18th National Public Service Week of activities – a time “when we pause to acknowledge the accomplishments that have brought us to this point in our national development.”

Other activities included a Fun/Run/Walk and Health Screening; Mock Parliamentary Debate; and a Courtesy Call on Her Excellency, the Most Honourable Dame Marguerite Pindling, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and Chancellor of the Societies of Honours, by the 2018-2019 Public Service Officer of the Year

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## MINISTRY OF HEALTH

### NOTICE

#### INVITATION TO BID

The Ministry of Health, Department of Public Health invites Tenders for bi-monthly ground maintenance services at the following New Providence Clinics:

NAME OF CLINIC
Adelaide Clinic
Adolescent Health Centre
Anne’s Town Clinic
Blue Hill Road Clinic
Coconut Grove Clinic
Elizabeth Estates Clinic
Flamingo Gardens Clinic
Fleming Street Clinic
Fox Hill Clinic
Gambier Clinic
South Beach Health Centre

Interested persons can contact the Clinic Administrator or Nurse In Charge at the said facilities for permission to inspect the premises. Also, for additional information and a copy of the Scope of Work please contact telephone number 502-4700/4818 or 502-4831.

All Tender documents are to be placed in a sealed envelope marked; “To Tenders Board”  
Ground Maintenance services  
c/o Financial Secretary  
Ministry of Finance  
Cable Beach  
Nassau, Bahamas

Companies should submit bids no later than Monday, October 22, 2018. Only persons with a valid Business License, Tax Compliance letter, Registration Certificate and Letter from National Insurance (NIB) stating your company is in Good Standing need apply. Bids will be opened October 23, 2018. Bidders or Representatives will be requested to be in attendance.



## GOVERNMENT NOTICES

### MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ROAD TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

P.O BOX N-1615

THOMAS A. ROBINSON NATIONAL STADIUM

NASSAU, N.P. BAHAMAS

The Road Traffic Department would like to remind all Franchise Holders – Taxi, Tour, Public Schedule, Private Schedule, Private Charter, Livery, Self-Drive Cars and Scooters that we are now accepting registration documents for the Bi-annual inspection period of October 2018 to May 2019.

#### The Following documents are required:

1. Passport/Voters Card and N.I.B Card (for holders not registered in the new system)
2. Up to date Franchise Receipt
3. Up to date Business License
4. Inspection Slip/Copies of expired Inspection Discs
5. Completed Inspection Forms for Companies with five (5) or more Vehicles that require On-site Inspection (forms Can be picked up at the Road traffic Department Franchise Unit).
6. Up to date Insurance Certificates
7. Vehicle Color and right/left hand drive (for new vehicles)

All Franchise Holders with a fleet of five (5) or more vehicles are invited to submit their packages to the Road Traffic Department, Franchise Unit Section 3 Eastern Grandstand of the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium. All Packages will be processed on a first come first serve basis.

#### Please note that the Department will only receive payments in the form of:

- a. Certified cheques payable to the Public Treasury (No personal or company cheques)
- b. Visa, Master, Debit, Credit Cards
- c. Cash

  
Controller

Road Traffic Department