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FRIDAY - NOVEMBER 16TH, 2018

75 CENTS

PIECES OF MISSING PLANE FOUND

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Twelve divers early Thursday afternoon persevered and found pieces of the six seater plane of missing pilot Byron Ferguson.

Less than an hour after setting off and just .2miles from where the Aztec went down, the divers found a piece of the tail of the aircraft, the nose, the battery and Ferguson's flight plan which had his name, the airport he left from, the time he left which was 9pm and details of the aircraft.

On the efforts made by Defense Force officers who allegedly searched this same area, Boat



Parts believed to be recovered from the aircraft of missing pilot Byron Ferguson (Journal file photo)

See PIECES / page 2...

M.O.W. HAS TOUR OF GOLDWYNN CONDO-HOTEL & RESIDENCES CONSTRUCTION SITE



Minister of Public Works, the Hon. Desmond Bannister (centre), along with Director of Works Melanie Roach, toured the GoldWynn Condo-Hotel & Residences construction site, opposite the Cecil Wallace Whitfield Centre, on Wednesday, November 15, 2018. Construction Manager Alexander Reed facilitated the tour. Groundbreaking for the \$120 million beachfront development took place in May of this year. It is the vision of Paul Wynn of The Wynn Group of Companies. (BIS Photos/Patrick Hanna)

See M.O.W. / page 2...

BPL consumers outraged

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

The soaring cost of electricity has many Bahamas Power and Light (BPL) customers outraged. The angst and frustration of many of the callers into Love 97's daily talk show "Issues of the Day" yesterday came from around the Bahamas.

"We've been having 50-year-old problems in

this country. The Bahamian people have been saddled with this issue of electricity generation," one caller said.

"For 50 years, a half of century, and now it has gotten to the point where it is unsustainable for Bahamians. My fuel charge for one month is \$356.00," he added.

"How can a monopoly

See BPL / page 6...

Morton Salt Workers To Stage Strike Vote

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Industrial Manufacturers and Allied Workers Union (BIM&AWU) is planning to stage a strike vote, according to the Union's President, Jennifer Brown.

Ten months ago, executives of BIM and AWU met with Morton Salt Limited to negotiate a

new industrial agreement. That agreement expired February of this year.

Since then, the parties have exchanged proposals; but the union is not satisfied.

"On August 30th, Morton Salt, gave a final wage package which includes 1.5 per cent in the first year, 1.5 in 2019,

See MORTON / page 3...

Tech Summit adds over half million to GB economy

According to Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Senator Kwasi Thompson, it has been estimated that the 2nd Grand Bahama Technology Summit has added over a half million dollars to the Grand Bahamian economy.

During his opening remarks at the 2nd Grand Bahama Technology Summit on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, at the

Grand Lucayan, Minister Thompson noted that the Summit has exceeded expectations, resulting in the Office of the Prime Minister having to close online registration due to spaces filling up quickly.

"For this we are truly thankful," said Minister Thompson. "Our journey has just begun and we look

See TECH SUMMIT / page 2...







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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

PIECES OF MISSING PLANE FOUND

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Owner and Organizer of this search Gina Knowles is questioning whether officers actually searched for the missing plane.

"I think if they did actually search, they would have found it because we have enough people on our forces to do the same thing we did, because we only had 12 guys," she said.

After the search was completed for the day, one of which was JCN Cameraman Rayvon Morrison, the team started their journey to Montagu Beach where they had planned to turn their findings over to the family and update the media.

While on their way, a law enforcement vessel intercepted the Search Boat and ordered them to pull into Harbour Patrol where officers confiscated the findings for evidence. According to Mrs. Knowles, she anticipated this much.

"When we were coming in the harbor, they pulled up on the side of us and it was funny because they said that it



The dive team lead by Gina Knowles (center) moments after discovering pieces believed to be of Ferguson's missing aircraft (Journal file photo)

wasn't us, they thought it was a party boat.

"Then they circled again and when they did, they saw the pieces of the plane. When they saw the pieces of the plane, they said yes that's them,

because there are the pieces of the plane. So then they came over and said you all need to follow us," she said.

Shortly after arriving to the scene, the mother and brother of Ferguson

came and cried uncontrollably after seeing pieces of the plane that officers previously said couldn't be found.

Ferguson's mother thanked everyone who assisted in the search

effort, as it brought the family close to achieving closure.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Clayton Fernander along with other high ranking Royal Bahamas Police

officers were on scene, but refused to brief the media unless they said Eye Witness News was present.

Meantime Knowles said they will not stop until they find a body.

Tech Summit adds over half million to GB economy

Continued from / PAGE 1...

forward to new initiatives in the coming months.

"As we embark upon these three days (at the Summit) and we chart the way forward I encourage

us to move forward with the mindset of 'go big, or go home'. In Grand Bahama we can't afford to think small or be small-minded. I believe, way down in my spirit that big things are about to happen

but only if we are prepared to think big, believe big and Go big!"

Minister Thompson pointed out the fact that Information Technology empowers.

Adding that it levels the

playing field, and brings the world's leading companies to an Island that some said would never recover. Information Technology is a part of business, it is a business and it attracts business.

The Minister of State for Grand Bahama said that the Government is concentrating on the revitalization of Grand Bahama's economy by giving renewed energy to restoring well-known industries and expanding those newly budding.

"Though we have not yet fully achieved it, make no mistake about it, full restoration is in our grasp," said Minister Thompson.

"Last year's Summit led to the formation of the Technology Hub Steering Committee tasked to produce a strategic plan for Grand Bahama. This committee is comprised of various stakeholders with an aim to create a framework for addressing legislative changes, private public partnership, and policy reform. Efforts to engage in the promotion of Grand Bahama as a technology hub for our region also began. This was evident through our direct involvement in international trade missions designed to promote The Bahamas, and Grand Bahama."

Minister Thompson pointed out that one year later, since the launch of the first GB Tech Summit, Grand Bahama has new partners, new businesses, new jobs and new programs.

He said companies like GIBC Digital, which established an office in Grand Bahama only a few months ago, has invested significantly in Grand Bahama, but more importantly in Grand Bahamians. They have trained and hired 30 Bahamians as well as they continue to be good corporate citizens.

Also, the Minister highlighted Itelbpo, a tech call center, which has been in Grand Bahama since 2013, but which recently announced its expansion and hiring of 100 additional Bahamians, 25 of whom have already been hired.

"We also welcome the principals of international tech companies like Dev Digital and Skyward Techno who have recently applied to the Government to set up offices in Grand Bahama, proving that Grand Bahama remains attractive to international tech companies," added Minister Thompson.

"We welcome all international companies and will shamelessly be courting you for the next three days to come to Grand Bahama.

"We cannot forget, that this Summit is all about highlighting Grand Bahama as a place to live, play, work and Invest. We have brought the world to Grand Bahama to give them a taste of who we are and what we can offer. We are open for business and we want your business."

Minister Thompson noted that this year's Summit was bigger and better, not just in terms of numbers of attendees and participants, but in terms of its focus. With education the main focus of this year's Tech Summit, Minister Thompson welcomed to the Bahamas international learning partners like Cisco Systems and Comptia, who have training modules with Certificates on Corporate Digital Transformation, Cyber Security, Networking and Programming.

He also made special mention of companies like Red Hat, Oracle, Dell, Palo Alto, Veeam, IDB and Cheryl Bayer, all of whom will conduct smaller learning sessions on topics like Next Generation Firewall,

Tools to Fund technology and Innovation Projects, Preventing Advance attacks, Cyber Crime, and Solving everyday problems using Technology.

"We also welcome high level Government contributors particularly our Prime Minister who has been the driving force in our digital transformation and the Minister for Education, who has made significant progress in developing our human capacity," said Minister Thompson.

"We welcome other senior government officials particularly Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister Elise Delancy, who is responsible for Modernization, Digitization and E-Government, whom I am privileged to work with. This initiative has the potential to change the Bahamas Government as we know it.

"This Summit has also attracted important Regulators like Christina Rolle of the Securities Commission, who will lead discussions on Crypto Currency Regulation for the Bahamas, a topic which has attracted an enormous amount of attention nationally and internationally.

"This presentation will be highly anticipated given the success of our first Blockchain and Crypto currency conference and the recent release of the draft framework by the Bahamas Central Bank."

Minister Thompson announced that the government will be partnering with the YMCA and BTVI teaching Coding to 100 young Grand Bahamians in a new youth ICT program.

They are also in the final stages of an App Development program, which will train and fund participants in App development.

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One Eleuthera Foundation and Centre for Training and Innovation Sponsor College Boot Camp

Eleuthera, The Bahamas

-- On Thursday November 8th, 2018, Preston H. Albury High School (PHAHS) hosted a college boot camp at Centre for Training and Innovation (CTI), Rock Sound. The event was jointly sponsored by One Eleuthera Foundation (OEF) and CTI.

The event, under the theme "The Tassel is Worth the Hassle" was attended by over seventy (70) 11th and 12th grader from PHAHS and Windermere High School. This was the brainchild of Mrs. Fontella Knowles, principal of Preston H. Albury High. Featured speakers included college representatives from Eleuthera and Nassau.

The event began with a brief devotional by PHAHS students, Alicia, Alisha, Valentino, and Nathalia. The students led the group in various songs and recited a powerful poem, "And Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou. Principal Knowles gave the charge and reminded students about the importance of this event and why "The Tassel is Worth the Hassle."

The first presenter of the day was Clara Turnquest from CR2 Society and College Ready Bahamas who conducted her presentation virtually from her office located in Nassau. Mrs. Turnquest walked students through the entire process of applying to college and highlighted the timeline each student should follow.

Deborah Cartwright, Guidance Counselor at PHAHS stated, "The event was organized for our students because we know how difficult it is to navigate the whole process of choosing a col-



Presenters (L-R) - Irina Key (BTVI), Debbie Cartwright (PHAHS Guidance Counselor), Gwendolyn Patram (BAMSI) and Willamae Johnson (LJM Maritime Academy)

lege, the application process, and especially paying for college. We wanted to do something that would get students to focus seriously on the process."

Out of Nassau was Willamae Johnson who represented LJM Maritime Academy whose theme is "Anchoring Dreams and Piloting Careers." Ms. Johnson listed the programs that are available at LJM and outlined the requirements for each program. She urged students to work hard, prepare and enjoy learning and exploring. She further stated, "We wanted to participate in this boot camp because LJM Academy is a fairly new academy and we wanted to make sure students know about the options for this career. LJM recognizes that there is a shortage of seafarers in the world, not just here in The Bahamas."

Representing the Bahamas Technical &

Vocational Institute (BTVI) was Irina Key. Ms. Key talked to the students about all of the diverse programs that BTVI has to offer and the differences between BTVI's certificate courses and professional development courses. She outlined the application steps as well as tuition for each course. Ms. Key wanted students to know that "BTVI encourages students from the Family Islands to review their many options and apply." She emphasized "Not only is BTVI located in Nassau, we have other locations in Abaco, Freeport, and Andros."

Gwendolyn Patram served as a local representative from the Bahamas Agriculture & Marine Science Institute (BAMSI). Mrs. Patram spoke about what BAMSI has to offer and the opportunities available locally on Eleuthera. She took this time to also recognize two former PHAHS stu-

dents who will be attending BAMSI in the near future.

Wrapping up the presentations for the day was Derrinique Elliott from CTI. Ms. Elliott spoke about the professional development courses that CTI currently offers, their Learn and Earn Program, and future courses soon to come on stream. She placed emphasis on sparking students' interest in solar panel installation training and the benefits of going solar.

Accompanying Ms. Elliott were current students of the CTI's Learn and Earn Program, namely Edrick Munroe (Carpentry) and Peaches Sweeting (Hospitality).

The two students talked about their experience with the program and proudly displayed examples of the skills they've developed. Munroe displayed his miniature model of a house and Sweeting demonstrated her skills in dining table setting for students to observe. "CTI is happy to host such a forward-thinking event on our campus," remarked Ms. Elliott. "It's a delight to teach students about higher education pursuits in soft skills, trade skills, and the many other options available to them here at home with emphasis on the process of pursuing whatever form of higher education best suits them."

Students had these comments about the event:

"I think this event is very helpful to students who don't have a lot of information about college. I was able to gain a lot of knowledge about the college process, especially the timeline leading up to going away to college." Randino Yee, PHAHS Grade 12 student.

"I thought the event was very interesting. I learned a lot of key points that will help me finish off my applications to college. My advice for 11th graders is that they should be more organized with their process and take the SAT as soon as the opportunity is given." Stated Giltavia Goodman, PHAHS 12th grade student.

"I thought the program was very enlightening for students who are not aware of the college process or where to start. A major thing I learned is how to strategize my college and scholarship applications." Charline Dort, PHAHS Grade 11 Student.

Guidance Counselor, Deborah Cartwright had this parting message to say, "It's our hope that the information being presented by other professionals in a different environment would have a greater impact on our students. We hope that the students will have what they need to prepare, apply, get in, and pay for the college of their choice."

Morton Salt Workers To

Continued from / PAGE 1...

and 1.7 in 2020," Brown said.

"These final figures are less than the cost of living, particularly when you take into consideration the increase in electricity, the proposed increase \$2 deduction from wages, NHI and 12 per cent VAT, plus the exorbitant price increase in medical and life insurance," she added.

"We came to the conclusion that the final offer that has been offered yesterday is designed to create major industrial action at Morton Salt plant in Inagua.

"It is a deficit agreement, unheard of in this part of the world, and it is an insult to our workers and the union cannot allow this to stand," she said.

Now, once the Union's voted for a strike and have

secured a strike certificate, Ms. Brown said they will meet and determine when they will reduce their level of enthusiasm or withdraw labour.

To avoid all this, the Union is calling on the government to intervene.

"The last strike we took was a two-week strike, so whatever we do now, we're going to make sure that it's more effective than before," she said.

"We cannot say at this time exactly what we're going to do, but it will be more effective.

"And it will not be go back to work as usual and we expect for these things to be resolved, they have to be resolved before we continue, that is the position that we're going to take," Brown said.

A disappointed President of the Bahamas Trade Union Congress

(TUC), Obie Ferguson said this is an insult to Morton workers.

"We call on the workers of Morton Salt, every single worker ought to be out there on Tuesday morning at 8am to cast their vote, to make it legal," Ferguson said.

"Because once that is done, the employer cannot fire you, you are now protected by law," he added.

"The constitution of The Bahamas gives you that right, the Industrial Relations Act gives you that right, so don't listen to garbage, come out and stand for yourself."

Morton has a workforce of 124 employees, of that figure, 91 are members of the union.

Voting is slated for Tuesday November 20th at the hall opposite the Methodist church in Matthew Town, Inagua.



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

Symphony of the Seas completes inaugural voyage to Port of Nassau



■ The Symphony of the Seas sits docked following arrival at the Port of Nassau, Wednesday, November 14, 2018. (BIS Photo/Kemuel Stubbs)

Royal Caribbean International's "newly minted" Symphony of the Seas completed its inaugural voyage to The Bahamas with a call on the Port of Nassau Wednesday (November

14, 2018).

Senior government officials, led by Minister of Tourism and Aviation, the Hon. Dionisio D'Aguilar, officials of the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation, and

tourism industry stakeholders and partners, were among those on-hand to welcome the Symphony of the Seas to the Port of Nassau. Minister of Health, Dr. the Hon. Duane Sands,

Minister of Housing and the Environment, the Hon. Romauld Ferreira, and Minister of the Public Service and National Insurance, the Hon. Brensil Rolle, were among the senior govern-



■ Onlookers & Captains during ceremonies. (BIS Photos/Kemuel Stubbs)

ment officials in attendance.

The latest addition to Royal Caribbean International's fleet of cruise vessels, the Symphony of the Seas is being hailed as the largest cruise ship on record, with the capacity to accommodate a whopping 6,680 guests.

Tourism officials say the presence of this "new, recording-breaking ves-

sel" in the Port of Nassau speaks to the depth and quality of relationship between the Government of The Bahamas and Royal Caribbean International, one of the world's leading cruise lines.

More than 25 million people, globally, took cruises in 2017. Forecasts call for continued, healthy, growth in cruise tourism.



■ Minister of Tourism and Aviation, the Hon. Dionisio D'Aguilar exchanged gifts with Symphony of the Seas Captain, Rob Hempstead, during ceremonies aboard ship Wednesday. (BIS Photo/Kemuel Stubbs)



■ Minister of Tourism and Aviation the Hon. Dionisio D'Aguilar gets a guided tour of the various amenities found onboard Royal Caribbean International's Symphony of the Seas, which completed its inaugural voyage to The Bahamas with a call on the Port of Nassau, Wednesday. (BIS Photo/Kemuel Stubbs)

In 2017, The Bahamas welcomed a total of 6.1 million visitors -- air and sea visitors combined. RCI vessels and others brought 4.6 million guests to the country's shores, a figure that represents 70% of total visitor count. Statistics indicate that cruise tourism annually makes an economic impact of over \$400 million in the desti-

nation. The cruise industry accounts for some 9,000 jobs in The Bahamas.

Industry officials say the Islands of The Bahamas provide the perfect playground as the backdrop to a Royal Caribbean Cruise Vacation: a stunning bevy of islands, 700 to be exact, scattered over 100,000 square miles of

pristine, cerulean seas; year-round sunshine, attractive tourism-centered infrastructure on many of the islands; the warm hospitality of the Bahamian people and a national Government that is committed to enhancing the vacation experience of the cruise visitors to the Islands of The 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

WHY MOTIVATE EMPLOYEES

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.

In a number of companies, executives feel that giving employees a salary for their work should be motivation enough to perform. That couldn't be far from the truth, unless those executives are prepared to settle for mediocre performance and experience a hit or miss with achieving business goals.

When we reviewed the various components of organizational alignment, we discussed the importance of ensuring that staff members are on the same page as executives, that they are capable of carrying out strategy, and that they are motivated to pursue the company's business goals. This is an essential part of ensuring that executives set the right foundation for achieving business goals.

We also explained that executives should ask themselves a series of questions to ensure that they are assessing what is needed to support their strategy implementation and remove any blocks to success. With respect to human resources, executives should ask the following:

What drives employees toward achieving our goal? What changes do we need, if any, with our human resources?

Our sample goal is to increase the business income by 20% for the upcoming fiscal year. We have chosen the sample strategy of offering customers add-on items to product sales.

With any goal that you are trying to achieve, employees need to be motivated to help you. In many organizations, the standard practice among employees, who don't feel motivated to assist a company in achieving business goals beyond their work tasks, is to stand aside and watch executives fail or succeed.

For example, in an organization where an organization development (OD) practitioner was conducting an assessment, she discovered this exact situation. She was brought in to conduct an assessment to discover why employee morale was so low.

In interviews with staff, the OD practitioner encountered a young lady who had a reputation in the company for being very smart and competent. The young lady discussed some of her department's challenges and solutions for fixing them. Solutions that

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.

appeared valuable.

When asked if she shared her perspective with the department manager, she said no. When asked why she didn't, she simply replied, "He's the manager; not me. Besides, he never asked."

Here's what this tells you: the young lady in question was clearly an asset to the department and had contributions that could potentially save the company money with respect to issues they were experiencing. However, she did not feel valued or included.

What helped to create this situation is the company's perceived promotion policy. It was widely rumored that individuals were generally promoted based on their friendships with senior management, and promotion decisions tended to favor men over women.

If this were true, this is a major hindrance to the company being able to achieve business goals. And whether or not it is in fact true doesn't matter. Perception is reality. Since employees perceived it as true, and as it was demonstrated with incompetence of managers in some instances, it is the reality for employees.

You can see from this employee example how it is necessary to get your people on board with your strategy implementations and working to help if you want to achieve business success.

This begins with setting the right foundation, which starts with always communicating what's going on. Now you can see the importance of fashion mogul Peter Nygard's practice of going before his associates twice a year and sharing the company's vision, direction and upcoming strategies.

Associates have even shared how the bi-annual message from the chairman and the bi-weekly updates make them feel a part of the company and a part of what's going on.

Coming up, we'll explain why it matters and how it all works to motivate employees.

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The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimaley P. Jones
Vice President/Operations

E D I T O R I A L

'NOW' MATTERS

The Bahamian people now know far more about the Most Honourable Hubert A. Minnis and his team than they did in the weeks and days preceding their trek to the polls.

When it was –as they say 'then'–the people tuned into the FNM's artfully constructed promises.

As like goes, THEN is gone and we are today obliged to live with NOW!

Just think about it: When you boil matters economic down to their NOW-ESSENCE, you would soon discover that today's Bahamas remains that kind of hard place where monopolists like the ones who 'sell' electricity to the public can apparently charge whatever they see fit.

The same general principle applies to the monopolist's economic kin; thus we find that there are situations where two suppliers work together to –as the word goes–'fix' prices.

It therefore follow that the same piratical principle does apply in those circumstances where a precious few [the builder of oligopolies] also are able to dump high prices down on the head of their publics.

They call it all business. We call it grand-theft legitimated by the State Authority!

This too is now part of that larger set of challenges now besetting today's besieged Bahamas.

By way of some technical jargon comes this deeply poignant conclusion: "...The lack of competition may give a monopolist less incentive to invest in new ideas. Even if the monopolist benefits from economies of scale, they have little incentive to control their costs and 'X' inefficiencies will mean that there will be no real cost savings compared to a competitive market..."

Evidently, today's Bahamas Power & Light operations is a key example of monopoly power on naked display!

It has come to this in today's deeply distressed Bahamas: Tens of thousands of people are today absolutely flabbergasted as they awake to the prices they must pay for all of life's necessities.

Thus whether the focus is put on food, shelter and a bare minimum of protection, the prices charged continue to spiral upward.

Evidently, the same applies for essentials like electricity and water; and thus today, the vast majority of those people who thought that they would benefit from having their own People's Time administration are now sucking on sorrows, some of it tinged with the bitterest of regrets.

What is as interesting is that other side of the street clique who seem to be enjoying whatever fat of the land remains.

It is this deeply troubling reality which is now reaching what seems a boiling point.

Thus whether we reference the cries of angry women and distressed men or for that matter, whether we look in on some of what is happening to hard-working people like nurses and doctors, the brute facts of the matter remains: The People feel as if they have been duped and left in the lurch.

In sum, then: Whether reference is made to the troubles currently engulfing the Public Hospitals Authority, the Ministry and the Department of Education, the Royal Bahamas Police Force, their Defence Force comrades or for that matter, most other Government entities, the result would be the same: The funk is settling in!

And then, of course, the VAT+ debacle now run the risk of being eclipsed by troubles now embroiling the Departments of Immigration and that office where they do the nation's passports.

But beyond all of these there are all those other reports concerning the extent to which rampant misery is now riding high on the hoof on this island of New Providence, on Grand Bahama to the north and then southward towards hard-hit areas like Mayaguana, Inagua, Crooked Island, Acklins and Long Cay.

The people are hurting.

The people are angry. And clearly, after but one year and a few months, tens of thousands of our people now despair.

Thus in this moment: NOW MATTERS

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THE BAHAMAS

Sun, Sand, Sea and the

The Bahama Journal



NO BETTER READING

BPL consumers outraged

Continued from / PAGE 1...

be broke? How a monopoly can't deliver good electricity service and reduce cost; a monopoly you don't have any competition, but you're malfunctioning so much," said another caller.

"I really wish election used to be every two years, five years is too long sir," he added.

One of the callers said his friend's, who's a business owner, electricity bill was as high as \$10,000.

"Ten thousand dollars I see on the statement from BEC, \$10,000, I say what you running? He said I had some generators and some stuff, some coolers and all that; but I never see my bill like this. He said I almost fall out in front of the woman."

"I have been faced with a \$1200 light bill that my husband is fully responsible for every end of the month," said one caller.

"When I saw his face, it

was in such disbelief. Our light bills are normally under \$400, the look on his face tells me something was wrong. He said babes, look at this, I said look at what honey?" she said.

"He said this light bill is now \$1200; our bills are zero balance people, something is wrong, I am hot like a pot."

There were some, however, who said despite the electricity bill hike, at this point, it's still manageable.

"Mine has gone up, but from \$180 or so, and the wife told me it was \$300 last time, and we were running air conditioning during the summer, so obviously that had something to do with it," he said.

"But I've never had a \$400 light bill, and if my light bill goes up to \$800 then something has to be wrong."

Some callers even gave suggestions on how BPL

consumers can reduce their electricity costs moving forward.

"What I do is, I turn off the water heater at night. I put energy saving bulbs in, when I leave, I make sure all the fans and lights are off, and so I monitor my bill," said one caller.

"Now I could be letting these things run, letting the AC run, and then complain about it after 12 months, or after a month, but I choose not to do that," he added.

"But I'm seriously saying though, if somebody lives in an average home, and their light bill is \$1200, they have every right to complain.

"If your light bill is \$900, you have every right to complain, I've never seen such a light bill, that's crazy."

"One of the things I feel that we can imitate is California's title 24, which is their energy policy, and in adopting a policy like that. A lot of

times when these new homes, government buildings, new schools are being designed, we can start to incorporate occupancy centers, dimmer switches throughout the schools, classrooms, ministry buildings, in order to bring down the electricity," said another

caller.

"If you were to dim down a light by 10 per cent, it is very difficult for the human eye to even notice that; but your energy savings is being reduced significantly," he said.

"Just swapping out a regular incandescent bulb

for a compact fluorescent bulb or LED light is not a sufficient savings that we as Bahamians are looking for."

Speaking to Rotarians this week, President of The Bahamas Electrical Workers Union, Paul Maynard, gave tips on how to save on electricity.



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 thenamarche@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

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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

“Bright Future” for Grand Bahama Amidst Tech Revolution

FREEPORT, Grand Bahama – “Grand Bahama has a very bright future” stated Prime Minister of The Bahamas, Dr. the Most Hon. Hubert Minnis, during a ‘Pop-up Chat’ with Parliamentary Secretary Pakesia Parker-Edgecombe on Wednesday, November 14.

Prime Minister Minnis had just completed opening remarks for the 2nd Grand Bahama Technology Summit at the Grand Lucayan when he was invited to sit for a brief interview with Mrs. Edgecombe. He said, while looking at the room of some 600 Summit participants, guests, investors looking for opportunities -- he sees a bright future for Grand Bahama.

Addressing the direction the world is taking with technology, he remarked, if The Bahamas is to attract investors or encourage businesses, the country must, and the people, businesses and government ought to be prepared for the technological era.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Cisco Systems and Cisco Networking Academy, at the summit, to expand IT



■ Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Hubert Minnis, on Wednesday, November 14, is pictured in brief chat with Parliamentary Secretary, Pakesia Parker-Edgecombe following his opening address of the 2nd Grand Bahama Technology Summit at Grand Lucayan resort. The three-day event has attracted some 600 participants under the theme, “The Future is Now.” (BIS Photo/Andrew Miller)

training in Grand Bahama. In the Pop-Up Chat with Mrs. Edgecombe, the Prime Minister said it was vital to train young people in the country if we are going to be a part of technological revolution.

He noted, “We recog-

nize that there are a lot of Bahamians who cannot afford to pay the necessary school fees to improve their knowledge and become a part of this new wave, this innovation that is occurring in the world.”

Recalling his own

experiences, Prime Minister Minnis said the government does not want marginalization of Bahamians who cannot afford higher education. This is why, he continued, it was decided that education at Bahamas Technical & Vocational

Institute (BTVI), with its progressing IT curriculum, be free to all Bahamians.

The government, he said, is now going into high schools and getting the students involved with technology before they graduate.

He noted too, with respect to the annual student summer work programme: rather than spend money to pay students to be employed during the summer, receiving adequate salary but doing remedial or very little work -- summer programmes will change: “We will employ our students, but our students will attend courses to uplift their education.”

He added: “What we will also do is pick some of the best students from the various high schools, and those students will be paid to assist those students who have fallen behind so as to uplift them. What I find is students respond better to student teachers.”

Prime Minister Minnis noted with interest how important it is for the country -- as part of the technological revolution -- to become solarized, as dynamic changes are very quickly taking place. He noted, for example, that Ford Motor Company is moving their vehicles towards electrical power. Implications are that “Our parking facilities will not only have to become solarized but have the necessary sockets so that as our cars pull in, they can be recharged.”



MINISTRY OF LABOUR
THE PRICE CONTROL ACT, 1971
CHAPTER 339
THE PRICE CONTROL (GASOLINE & DIESEL OIL)
(AMENDMENT) () REGULATIONS, 2011

The public is advised that prices as shown in the Schedule for LEAD FREE GASOLINE and ULTRA LOW SULPHUR DIESEL OIL sold by RUBIS Bahamas Limited will become effective on Monday, November 5, 2018 and Monday, November 12, 2018 respectively.

SCHEDULE

PLACE	ARTICLE	MAXIMUM WHOLESALE SELLING PRICE PER U.S. GALLON		MAXIMUM RETAIL SELLING PRICE PER U.S. GALLON (VAT Inclusive)
		MAXIMUM SUPPLIERS' PRICE \$	MAXIMUM DISTRIBUTORS' PRICE \$	
PART A				
NEW PROVIDENCE				
		INCLUDING SEA FREIGHT		
	LEAD FREE	4.21	4.21	4.82
RUBIS Bahamas Ltd.	ULSD	4.34	4.34	4.72
PART C				
GRAND BAHAMA (NOT FREEPORT)				
		INCLUDING SEA FREIGHT		
	LEAD FREE	4.10	4.28	4.86
RUBIS Bahamas Ltd.	ULSD	4.20	4.38	4.76
PART D				
ABACO, ANDROS ELEUTHERA				
		NOT INCLUDING SEA FREIGHT		
	LEAD FREE	4.21	4.45	4.99
RUBIS Bahamas Ltd.	ULSD	4.35	4.53	4.91
PART E				
ALL OTHER FAMILY ISLANDS				
		NOT INCLUDING SEA FREIGHT		
	LEAD FREE	4.22	4.47	5.03
RUBIS Bahamas Ltd.	ULSD	4.36	4.53	4.92

PERMANENT SECRETARY



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