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NPO BILL TO BE REVISED

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Civil Society Bahamas (CSB) and Attorney General, Carl Bethel met this past Saturday with agreement that the controversial Non-Profit Organizations Bill will be revised in order to comply with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The Attorney General also expressed his intention to continue to review the bill to shrink damage to the capacity of this important sector.

In a release, the CSB said that the bill is now scheduled to be debated in the senate in January

2019.

While the government is mindful of the many clauses suggested by CSB, including clauses from the 2015 CSO Bill, the Attorney General advised that wide scale changes requiring the bill to go back to the lower house, delaying the objective of developing regulatory standards in the sector would not be considered.

According to the release, "The government was prepared to consider using the St. Kitts and Nevis model of the formation of an advisory council to help with the form-

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PASTOR SAYS "GOV'T OVERREACHING WITH NPO BILL"

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Pastor of Kingdom Life Church, Cedric Moss yesterday said the recently passed Non-Profit Organization Bill "has difficult and troubling provisions."

However, he said that he is grateful that there seems to be wider consultation among non-profit organizations, churches in particular.

He added that he is most concerned about

section one which requires all organizations to register with the government in order to operate. This, he says, is a complete overreach.

He said, "If a group of individuals decides that they want to band together to start a church and propagate their religion, the constitution says you can do that without hinderance."

He added, "to require them to apply to be approved to do that seems to me to be going above

the constitution. Now, the other provisions in the bill, I believe many of them are certainly constitutional, and I would also say that I think some of them are good."

The Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) eighth recommendation asks countries to review the adequacy of laws and regulations relating to NPO's, which the country has identified vulnerable to terrorist financing

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Another Homicide In Triple Shooting

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

One man is dead and another two injured as a result of a triple shooting off Robinson Road on Saturday night.

According to police, shortly before 8:00pm, three adult males were standing in front of a home on Roland Street, Ridgeland Park West, in the area of Christ The

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Eleven In Custody For Drugs and Guns

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

Police have recovered a quantity of dangerous drugs and firearms in separate incidents over the weekend, resulting in three adult females and eight adult males being taken into custody.

According to police reports, the alleged suspects were taken into custody in three sepa-

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BPL Gives Christmas Reprieve

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Bahamas Power and Light is providing a much-needed Christmas gift for the thousands of consumers struggling to keep their lights on.

The company's Chairman Donovan Moxey on Friday announced that those customers in arrears can pay 25 per cent of their outstanding bills to avoid disconnection.

On an equally positive note, customers

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H.E. BASIL W. BARNETT, PRESENTATION OF LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS



On Thursday 13th December, 2018, H.E. Basil W. Barnett, Non-Resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, presented his Letters of Credence to His Holiness Pope Francis, at

the Apostolic Palace, Vatican State City. Ambassador Barnett joined Ambassadors from Switzerland, Malta, Cabo Verde, Iceland, Turkmenistan, Grenada, The Gambia, Qatar and Estonia who also presented their Letters of Credence to

His Holiness.

During the Ceremony, the Holy Father's message was focused on reminding the Ambassadors of the tragedy of the First World War and encouraging them to use this opportunity in service of their nations to continue securing peace

based on justice and charity, and promoting the means necessary to attaining it. Further, the Holy Father reminded the Ambassadors that in 2018, the international community celebrated the seventieth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations'

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guides the efforts of global diplomacy to secure peace in our world and to promote the integral development of each individual and all peoples.

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

Meetings and Signings at ICAN 2018, Attended by Minister D'Aguilar

The Hon. Dionisio D'Aguilar, Minister of Tourism and Aviation, led a delegation to the 11th session of the International Civil Aviation Organization's negotiating event, ICAN 2018 where he attended negotiations on air services in Nairobi, Kenya, 10-14 December 2018. The Bahamas conducted some 24 meetings over the five-day period, where Minister D'Aguilar signed 10 Air Services Agreements (ASAs) and seven Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) during the meeting.

This brings a sum total of 19 officially signed ASAs and 18 MOUs between The Bahamas and other countries to date. It is expected that ASAs will be concluded in the near future with those countries with whom MOUs were signed.

Minister D'Aguilar expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of meetings, pointing out that these agreements pave the way for future economic growth and stimulus



Photo shows some of the proceedings.

through the aviation sector. He noted that amongst the MOUs signed in Nairobi was one with the Government of Turkey designating Turkish Airlines to fly officially to The Bahamas, and a code-share with the Netherlands. Productive discussions were also held with Guyana and Tanzania, resulting in both countries and The

Bahamas initialing agreed Minutes. Additional fruitful meetings were also held with the United States, United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA). During the meetings, the Minister said views were also exchanged on best practices, lessons learned and

opportunities for technical assistance and cooperation. He further expressed his appreciation for the strong partnership and support provided by ICAO in helping countries to further their aviation goals and to the Government of Kenya for the warm welcome extended to The Bahamas delegation.

ICAN provides States

with a central meeting place to conduct multiple bilateral (regional or pluri-lateral) air services negotiations or consultations. Since its inception, it has served as an efficient platform for conducting air service negotiations. So far more than a total of 142 States have participated in and benefited from ICAN at least once.

Other members of the delegation were Ms. Sharon Brennen-Haylock, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Captain Charles Beneby, Director General of the Bahamas Civil Aviation Authority, Ms. Julia Brathwaite-Rolle, Manager of Safety Oversight of the Bahamas Civil Aviation Authority and Mr. Shane Miller, Assistant Director of Legal Affairs of the Office of the Attorney General.

Discussions will continue in the coming months to finalize the ASAs with the remaining countries, as soon as those countries have finalized their internal approval processes. Both The Bahamas and the relevant countries expressed the hope for the official signings to take place before the end of 2019 either in the margins of upcoming meetings, or at the ICAO Assembly in Montreal September/October, or during the 12th Session of ICAN, which is to be held in Jordan in December 2019.

NPO BILL TO BE REVISED

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ing of protocols and regulations to make sure that

the sector is Strengthened and invigorated."

They also intend to

simplify the registration process by requiring only organizational information and removing the

requirement to provide financial requirements as previously indicated. The time for registration will remain at 90 days.

Reviewing the language relating to Know Your Customer (KYC) is also a key point as the intention is to shrink the non-profit organization's compliance burden, and bring it in line with other non-financial sectors.

The government also intends to waive fees for existing Non-Profit Organizations who wish to register.

It will also exempt individuals exercising personal charity from the act, so that they can continue

their work without fear of a fine or imprisonment.

They, therefore, will not be considered a non-profit organization under the act.

The government will also raise the level of reportable donations and disbursements from their current level.

According to the release, "to retain the power of the registrar to impose fines, although the level of those fines will be reduced, and jail time would remain a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year. There will now also be no fine for failure to pay registration fees."

It added, "the cost of conducting on-site inspections will now also be met by the registrar."

They also plan to review the right to appeal to make it less onerous on non-profits to challenge the decision of the registrar.

Subsequent to this constructive meeting, CSB is cautiously optimistic that the drafting language of the bill will be improved to remove ambiguities that could cause problems to the sector.

Once the bill is redrafted and circulated by the attorney general, CSB said that they will report again.

PASTOR SAYS "GOV'T OVERREACHING WITH NPO BILL"

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abuse.

It also asks for countries to provide focused, proportionate measures in line with the risk-based approach to protect NPO's from such abuse.

Pastor Moss said, "I think the government, in my view, has gone beyond what they've been asked to do on two measures.

One, they have taken a shotgun approach to all NPO's instead of saying, 'We are going to target these particular ones and here are our reasons'."

He said, "come to the churches and say they you believe we are vulnerable to terrorist financing abuse and you want to regulate us. No church, in my opinion, is. Then even if you identify as being

so, let it be proportionate."

He noted that the government may not expect for a church to fund terrorist organizations. However he recommend that there be different stipulations for churches.

Pastor Moss was a guest on Love 97 and the Jones Communication Network's talk show, Jones and Company.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Paving of East Bay Street

The Ministry of Public Works/Bahamix, has scheduled Milling and Paving works for East Bay Street from 9:30a.m. to 2:00p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning December 10th, 2018, for 5 working days.

Bahamix will resurface a section of the road way between Mackey Street and Fowler Street.

There will be single lane closures implemented for the duration of the works.

Provisions will be made for residents and businesses where necessary. Motorists are asked to avoid the area if possible.

You are asked to be aware of and acknowledge the posted traffic paving signs in the area.

If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact us at telephone numbers (242) 361-3886 or (242) 341-3886.

Bahamix apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

GOT NEWS?
Please call The Bahama
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LINE at 356-7254
and let us know!

Bahamas Business Outlook 2019 Highlighting the New Year

Under the theme "Connecting Resources, Maximizing Opportunities: Transforming the Bahamas", the 28th Annual Bahamas Business Outlook (BBO 2019) is on target for its January 17, 2019 launch at Baha Mar. BBO is The Bahamas' premier business and economic conference, attracting hundreds of the nation's

stakeholders.

Prime Minister Hon. Dr Hubert Minnis will bring the keynote address, leading a speaker slate that is expected to bring necessary focus to the issues, opportunities and plans that will shape the new year for business and the Bahamian economy.

"We are honoured and most pleased that Prime Minister Dr Minnis has

agreed to bring the BBO keynote for the second time. The year 2019 is shaping up to be a pivotal one as regards the economic and social life of The Bahamas. It is essential to learn of our government's plans for making the year an improved and profitable one, and who better to inform us of those plans than the nation's leader himself," said Joan Albury, presi-

dent, TCL Group and chief organizer of Bahamas Business Outlook Series.

"As we will reveal shortly, filling the BBO speaker slate will be an array of talented presenters. A number of them are key players in local business and economics who attract major attention when they speak of national affairs. Those who attend the forum can

expect thought-provoking statistics and projections, along with a host of amenities that are a standard part of our forums.

Bahamas Business Outlook 2019 is one of a seven-island series, which takes place each year, covering challenges and opportunities relating specifically to each locale. In addition to New Providence, the islands include Abaco, Andros,

the Eleuthera group, Exuma, Long Island and Grand Bahama, where the next Business Outlook forum will held on February 21.

Persons interested in attending BBO 2019 may contact Margaret Albury at The Counsellors at malbury@tclbahamas.com or at Telephone (242) 322-1000 or register online at www.tclevents.com.

Another Homicide In Triple

Continued from / PAGE 1...

King Anglican church, when the sounds of gunshots were heard.

All three of the men were shot and transported to hospital, where one of them later succumbed to his injuries.

Police are now appeal-

ing to the public for their help in solving this shooting incident. Police press liaison Assistant Superintendent Shanta Knowles shared with reporters that police "are working with surviving victims to ascertain as much information as possible".

"It is believed that occupants of a Nissan March may be responsible for the shooting incident at Ridgeland Park, as it was seen leaving the area at a high rate of speed shortly after the shooting," ASP Knowles said.

Police have not offi-

cially identified the male who succumbed. However, this Journal understands he is Omar Butler, alias Smokey.

Police asking anyone with information about this incident to contact the Central Detective Unit at 502-9991/2, Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS

(8477) or the nearest police station. All information will be held in the strictest of confidence. Investigations are ongoing.

Just last week Acting Commissioner of Police Emerick Seymour touted that crime was trending down with the murder

rate at 83 at the time.

Mr. Seymour added that the police force "hope to ensure that, that stays as low as possible for the next two weeks of the year".

This latest homicide pushes the murder count to 87 for the year, according to the Journal records.

Eleven In Custody For Drugs

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rate incidents.

Police say in the first incident, shortly after 5:00pm, Saturday, Mobile Division Officers were on patrol on Tonique Williams-Darling Highway, when they observed a male and female driving in a white Suzuki car.

The occupants upon seeing the officers, began acting in a suspicious manner. Officers were able to stop the vehicle,

conducted a search and recovered a quantity of suspected marijuana.

The drugs weighed one pound with an estimated street value of \$1,000.

In the second incident, according to reports, shortly before 1:00am Sunday, Royal Bahamas Police and Royal Bahamas Defence Force Officers from Operation "Strong Finish" conducted a search of a home on Kenya Avenue, Flamingo Gardens and recovered a .45 pistol, seven rounds of ammunition and a quanti-

ty of suspected marijuana.

Five adult males and two adult females were taken into custody in connection with this incident.

In the third incident, shortly after 1:00am Sunday, Mobile Division Officers were on patrol on the Eastern Road, when they observed two men driving in a grey Honda Fit.

The men, upon seeing the officers begin acting in a suspicious manner. Officers were able to stop the vehicle, conducted a search and recovered a

quantity of suspected marijuana.

The men were taken into custody and are expected to be formally charged before the Magistrate Court this week.

They are all expected to be formally charged before the Magistrate's Court this week.

Drug Enforcement Unit Officers in Grand Bahama also made several significant arrests and recovered an illegal firearm and suspected marijuana.

Police made the arrest after they discovered over 20lbs. of suspected marijuana in two separate incidents and an illegal firearm.

According to Assistant Superintendent of Police Terecita Pinder, on Saturday shortly before 6:00pm, officers of the Drug Enforcement Unit while in the area of East Atlantic Drive, took into custody a 33-year-old male of Freeport after he was found in possession of 10 lbs. of suspected marijuana in his vehicle

with a street value of \$10,000.00.

A further search of the vehicle also uncovered a .38 revolver with four rounds of ammunition.

In the second incident, officers of the Drug Enforcement Unit, acting on information, proceeded to the Gough Lane area, where they discovered in an abandoned building suspected marijuana weighing 10.5 lbs. with a street value of \$10,500.00.

No arrest was made in this matter.

BPL Gives Christmas Reprieve

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already disconnected can have their power restored just in time for Christmas. They would have to pay 25 per cent of their outstanding bills on or before Wednesday, December 19th.

BPL Director of Customer Services Peter Rutherford said, "We're trying to make an offer for those customers who may find themselves or think that they will possibly be disconnected."

"We want to alleviate those fears. So if your bal-

ances are over 60 days and you're running that risk, if you do come in and see any of our CSR's and you pay at least 25 per cent on your arrears, what we will do is make sure that you have an enjoyable Christmas and we will withhold those disconnections.

"In addition, for those persons who find themselves disconnected, whether its yesterday, whether its last week or last month, come in talk to us.

"We want to hear from you; we will work out

something where you pay the 25 per cent of your arrears and we're going to get you back on."

The promotion is only valid for a short period.

"The promotion only lasts for the month of December, but one of the things extremely important as most of our customers would know, is that BPL does have an existing payment plan where 25 percent is required to take advantage of that plan," said Rutherford.

"So those of our customers who take advan-

tage of this offer in December want to come back in January and take advantage of our payment plan they won't have to pay a second 25 per cent."

"They can simply use what they have paid here in the month of December and simply take advantage of the payment plan moving forward," the BPL Chairman said.

While getting those bills out the way is certainly important, as BPL's Chief Operating Officer Christina Alston

stressed, so is safety.

"So, one of the big things that we wanted to address is the overloading of circuits, everybody has their lights and they want to get out there with their extension cords and they want to plug everything up."

"I just want everyone to be cognizant of the fact that there is a breaker there so be cognizant of the size of that breaker."

"Also, I want to let everyone know about using electrical cords. Even in my own neigh-

borhood there's lots of electrical cords, so there's in door and there's outdoor."

"Check your electrical cords for fraying, if its worn or fraying don't use it. Make sure that you're using the indoor cords inside and the outside cords outside, this is really important," she said.

BPL's expecting a large number of its customers to take advantage of the promotion.

This considering that some 5,000 BPL customers have had their electricity disconnected.

H.E. BASIL W. BARNETT, PRESENTATION OF LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO HIS HOLINESS

The Ambassador is a devout and active member of the Roman Catholic Church in The Bahamas and attends St Francis Xavier Cathedral, where he is a lector. Ambassador Barnett currently serves as a member of the Audit Committee of the Archdiocesan Finance Committee and has previously served as the President of the Pastoral Council of the Cathedral and Vice Chairman of the

Catholic Board of Education.

Ambassador Barnett is married to Mrs. Margot Barnett and they are the proud parents of Morgan and Basil Jr and they have one grandchild Basil III.

During the Ambassador's visit to the Holy See, he met with His Eminence Pietro Parolin, Cardinal Secretary of State of the Holy See; His Eminence Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for

Relations with States; His Eminence Archbishop Edgar Peña, Substitute of the Secretariat of State; Monsignor Joseph Murphy, Head of Protocol of the Secretariat of State. The Ambassador also called upon H.E. George F. Poulides, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cyprus to the Holy See, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See.

Ambassador Barnett was accompanied by Mrs. Margot Barnett, spouse; Miss. Morgan Barnett, daughter; His Lordship Mr. Justice Michael Barnett QC, Brother; Mrs Ann Cover, Sister; Mrs. Andrea Rolle, Sister-in-law; Mr. Devereaux King, Seminarian; Mr. Rashad Mortimer, Seminarian; and Mr. Marché A. Mackey, Third Secretary, Embassy of The Bahamas to Italy in London.

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