

STANDARD SERVICES SUPPLIES LTD.
 Shirley & Church Street
 Phone: 322-4635



Shop at STANDARD SERVICES where you can get **20% OFF** Houseware, linen, lamps and draperies. and much, much more

The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas

DEAN & ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS
 "Meeting Your Needs Efficiently and Professionally"



BUILDINGS (COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL)
 LIFE - GROUP - MEDICAL - ANNUITIES - LIABILITY - MARINE - HOMEOWNERS - AUTO

Tel: (242)-356-0986 Fax: (242)-356-0987
 Deal's Plaza, Mackey Street
 P.O. Box CB-13952 Nassau, Bahamas
 8:30am - 4:30pm

VOL. 31 - NO. 13

THURSDAY - JANUARY 17TH, 2019

75 CENTS

Minister Apologizes For Rape Remarks

The Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, Frankie Campbell has apologized for what he said "seemed to be insensitive" as he responded to media personnel. "I was merely trying to avoid what appeared to be encroaching on another Minister's portfolio. Mr. Campbell who refused to talk about the issues of rape when approached by a reporter, was quoted as saying, "don't ask me about rapes. Try to keep me out of



► Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, Frankie Campbell (File photo)

■ See page 2...

Lawyer Points To Defects In Smith's Bribery Case

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

The Crown in the bribery and extortion trial of former Public Hospitals Authority Chairman, Frank Smith, told the court yesterday that "if there is no evidence" that the former PLP Senator met with the complainant Barbara Hanna, before the

cleaning contract was awarded then "the bribery charges would fail".

Lead prosecutor Edward Jenkins, QC, told the court however, that the Magistrate should resist all submissions made by the defense of no case and contended that the court consider the fact that there is evidence that

■ See page 4...

Education Department Report Untimely

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

House Speaker, Halston Moultrie, yesterday lamented the fact that an auditor general's report of a special investigation into the honoraria stipend within the Department of Education was not tabled in the House of Assembly in a timely fashion.

Its contents did however appear in the Tribune on Tuesday.

The report, which covers the period July 1, 2014 to February 28th, 2018, found that staff

■ See page 2...

PARLIAMENTARIANS OPEN THE NEW YEAR IN WORSHIP



► Members of Parliament, along with senior government officials, gathered at Grants Town Wesley Methodist Church for a religious service marking the New Year. The service was held, January 16, 2019 under the theme, "Moving from Good to Great."
 (BIS Photos/Patrick Hanna)

MP's Challenged To Move From Good To Great

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

As customary, parliamentarians sought guidance from the divine at their first sitting of the new year.

The group headed to Wesley Methodist

Church, Grants Town, where Bahamas Christian Council President, Bishop Delton Fernander threw out the challenge to start the year moving from good to great this year.

"We're about to move with God's help from

mediocre to a place that people would look all around the world and say they made it through WTO, they made it through the triumphant financial struggles, they made it through the ups and the downs," he asserted.

"When God has control of a nation, He'll allow us to move to a place where others can look at us and wonder how they made it through," he said, "from good to great."

"I want to challenge us today, let's keep moving,

let's keep progressing."

The year 2018 was not without its trial and tribulations, but Speaker of the House, Halston Moultrie, said he's looking forward to an even more eventful parliament-

■ See page 2...

Grand Lucayan Employees Standing Firm



► President of The Bahamas Hotel Managerial Association, Obie Ferguson (File photo)

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Lucayan Renewal Holdings is not letting up as negotiations drag on in the case of voluntary separation packages for Our Lucaya workers.

When asked for an update on the negotiations, President of The

■ See page 4...



ACDelco Guard your car's life.

ACDelco transmission fluid & oil, plus routine maintenance, can help your GM car or truck last longer.

NMC IS THE EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR OF GENUINE ACDELCO PRECISION PARTS & SUPPLIES.

NMC PARTS DEPARTMENT • Shirley Street • 302-0130 partsorder@nassaumotor.com • www.acdelcobahamas.com

ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

Restaurant Bahamas Limited Signs Industrial Agreement

BY BERTHONY McDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Restaurant Bahamas Limited signed a 5-year industrial agreement with the Bahamas Hotel Managerial Association.

Restaurant Bahamas Limited is the company responsible for all Kentucky Fried Chicken outlets in The Bahamas.

Noting that this is first industrial agreement of 2019, BHMA president Obie Ferguson said he

hopes industrial agreements to follow will take similar positions.

"This industrial agreement covers basic public holidays, Christmas bonuses, and it establishes a minimum notice period in case of termination.

"It also includes an increase in wages, it includes a signing bonus and it also makes provisions for another bonus throughout the life of the agreement.

"This agreement also includes insurance benefits for the workers and also if you're lucky enough to have a birthday it also provides for a day off with pay on your birthday.

"It is a very comprehensive agreement and it covers basically all of the general terms affecting workers," he said.

Mr. Ferguson thanked Restaurant Bahamas Limited negotiators for making this process

peaceful and respectful, noting that during the process nothing blew up in the media.

He added that workers whom this agreement affects, need not be concerned about termination.

"It was very respectful and finally we reached an agreement which is comprehensive and inclusive for these workers."

"They need not worry, certainly as to how they can be terminated, because the process by

which that is done is embodied in this agreement," Mr. Ferguson said.

The Union leader added that he hopes agreements to come are achieved amicably as these are difficult times as worker's rights have been challenged, especially in the courts.

"Things we had pre-1958 seem to all now become a matter for litigation. So it behooves us to do what is required,"

he said.

This agreement has been under negotiations for the past 5 years and while there has been no contention, Mr. Ferguson said they allowed this because they understood the situation at the company as the matter was before the tribunal court.

This agreement covers all Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants in The Bahamas which includes some 40 supervisors and managers.

MP's Challenged To Move From Good To Great

Continued from / PAGE 1...

tary year; one that brings with it lively debates, provocative exchanges and respectful intentions.

"Let us be courteous in our disagreements, none of us is with-

out fault, we have all fallen short of the glory of God," he said.

"In recognition of our humanity, we pray and seek God's grace, at the beginning of each sitting of Parliament."

To members of the gov-

erning party, the Speaker admonished the group to remember that whatever's done in government, they should be prepared to absorb in opposition.

The Speaker also shared what he hopes to see this year.

"One improvement that I would especially like to see, is the continued growth of the comradery among members.

"And the second improvement that I am hopeful for in 2019, will be the commencement of

the Rules and Business Committee of this parliament with the review revisions and upgrade of our parliamentary rules of procedure," said Mr. Moultrie.

For his part, the Speaker renewed his com-

mitment to preside in decorum integrity and impartiality and to continue on with the initiative to move the institution forward.

The business of the House resumes on Wednesday, January 23.



Parliamentarians gathered for their annual New Year church service, January 16, 2019 at Grants Town Wesley Methodist Church. (BIS Photos/Patrick Hanna)

Minister Apologizes For Rape Remarks

Continued from / PAGE 1...

other people's lanes. I like to talk about my stuff. Don't ask me about rapes."

In a statement yesterday, the Minister said, "I am humbled at the opportunity to speak to mothers, fathers, women and girls, victims of rape, abuse and violence, and anyone else who may have been offended by a video recording of me that is in circulation."

He said, "I am fully aware of the duties and core functions of the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development which includes, but is not limited to, food assistance, shelter for all victims, including rape victims and victims of trafficking in persons, school and uniform assistance, the elderly, child protection, rehabilitation and persons with disabilities."

Mr. Minister said "this

incident has caused persons to question my familiarity with the 2015 Strategic Plan to address Gender-based violence. I am pleased to note that in the six months that I have been the Minister, I have partnered with the Crisis Centre, the Caribbean Men's Group, the Zonta Club, the Pilot Club, the United States Embassy, UN Women and a number of NGOs in an effort to bring this very strategic plan to fruition.

"I am committed, along with the Ministry and its dedicated staff and all of our NGO partners, to honour, advance and promote all of the Conventions to which The Bahamas is a Signatory," said Mr. Campbell.

He added, "In pursuit of the commitment articulated during the 2017 Speech From the Throne, the government has indicated a Zero Tolerance against all rapes and violence. Efforts to prevent violence

against women require determining and addressing violence at its root. The Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development, through its many Departments does precisely this, through the provision of counseling and crisis intervention and prevention services.

"As a husband and the father of one son and three beautiful girls for whom I want nothing but the best, as I do for all girls and women of our

Bahamaland, this is more than just a job.

"As I would have indicated while representing you at the Committee for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women and Girls (known as CEDAW), I give you my assurance that I remain committed to all of its Articles not merely for the purpose of reporting internationally, but for the benefit, upliftment and improvement of our very own," said the Minister.

Education Department Report Untimely

Continued from / PAGE 1...

members had conspired to defraud the government of hundreds of thousands of dollars by manipulating stipends and honoraria codes.

As parliamentarians

heard, the report was sent to the House of Assembly on September 13th, 2018.

Further, a House of Assembly receptionist received and signed for the report.

"The report never reached the acting clerk of the parliament and never

reached the Speaker's desk," he said.

"However, by some circumstance, this report found its way to the Tribune newspaper.

"That is most unusual and most unacceptable," he added.

The speaker assured

that steps have already been taken steps to avoid any such delay in the future.

"We have spoken with the auditor general and agreed on a change in the protocol of how future reports will be handled," he said.

"One issue that we have resolved is that whenever there is an audit report, we are requesting of the auditor general to supply this parliament with a minimum of 60 copies of that report.

"This will ensure that

all members of the House of Assembly and senators are able to receive their entitlement, which is an entitlement to every document tabled in this parliament," said Mr. Moultrie.

Investigations into the matter continue.

UBFIT Grand Bahama Encourages Healthy Movement

Hundreds of participants are expected to participate in the 2nd UBFIT Fun Run Walk Bike Skate 5K/10K in Grand Bahama scheduled for Saturday, 2nd February 2019. Members of the planning committee shared the details at a press conference held on Tuesday, 8th January.

UB-North Vice President Dr. Ian Strachan, UBFIT GB Committee Chair Ms. Keturah Babb along with UBFIT committee members as well as Gold Sponsor Generali Worldwide Account Executive Antonise Seymour and Keep It

Clean & Cardio Blast Fitness Manager Taretee Laing encouraged Grand Bahamians to participate and adopt a healthier lifestyle.

Organizers are pleased that UBFIT continues to pave the way for deeper and stronger ties between the University and the community it serves.

"This year UBFIT is focused on bringing scholarships to UB-North students and we are so grateful for the support of our sponsors this year including our Gold Sponsor Generali Worldwide; Silver Sponsor Subway, Keys Bahamas Realty,

Barefoot Marketing and Kelly's Freeport; Race Bag Contributors, Keep it Clean, Cardio Blast and the University of The Bahamas Alumni Association - Grand Bahama Chapter," said Ms. Babb.

UBFIT has emerged as a crucial community building and fundraising initiative of UB. In its inaugural year, more than 200 people participated in Grand Bahama. UB-North Vice President Dr. Ian Strachan fully supports the annual race while encouraging Grand Bahamians to take care of their health and engage in exercise.

"Fitness is a key element in Bahamian society as we know so many preventable diseases are tied to our lifestyle choices. As a university we want to be a good social partner and model for all young people and the wider community. We want to encourage the kinds of things we know will lead to a long and satisfying life. UBFIT is one of the ways we seek to fit exercise into our life and in society. I'm excited about February 2nd and I encourage all Grand Bahamians to support this worthy cause," explained Dr. Strachan.

Recognizing the need

for a healthier Bahamas, for the second consecutive time in Grand Bahama Generali Worldwide is a partner, this year at the Gold Sponsorship level.

"Generali is pleased to provide continued support for UBFIT Grand Bahama 5K/10K as a Gold Sponsor. This partnership has allowed us to showcase one of our core values "Live the Community", which we know the University of The Bahamas is a very integral part of. We are particularly delighted that the proceeds of these funds have been earmarked for a very worthy cause to assist current

and prospective students at UB-North to receive scholarships in pursuing their educational careers. We look forward to the success of UBFIT Grand Bahama 2019 and we would like to encourage corporate Bahamas and Bahamians in Grand Bahama to come out and support the event and the educational advancement of our young people," said Generali Worldwide Account Executive Antonise Seymour.

Interested persons can register by contacting the UB-North Campus or the YMCA in Freeport or call 688-5925.

International Methodist Conference Delegates Pay Courtesy Call on the Governor General



Delegates of the 207th Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas paid a courtesy call upon Governor General, Her Excellency the Most Hon. Dame Marguerite Pindling at Government House on Wednesday, January 16, 2019. (BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)



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:-

- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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

BENGAY PATCH works on your pain undercover.

Bengay is what's hot in pain relieve.

ULTRA STRENGTH BENGAY PAIN RELIEVING PATCH contains concentrated heat on an adhesive patch which penetrates deeply into the affected areas for 8 hours.

Distributed by **Lowe's Wholesale** Soldier Road • 393-7111

Lawyer Points To Defects In Smith's Bribery Case

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Smith did meet Hanna before the awarding of the contract, based on Hanna's own testimony.

Mr. Jenkins told the court that Hanna's prior testimony about speaking with the former PHA chairman in 2016, which was after the board had already made a decision on the contract, was "a mistake in dates on the part of the witness".

Mr. Jenkins added that what Mrs. Hanna meant, was that she met with Smith in 2015 and not 2016, despite her testimony.

The crown proceeded to give a chronological recount of what took place leading up to the awarding of the cleaning contract for the cleaning of the hospital.

The crown further contends that if presiding Chief Magistrate Joyann

Ferguson-Pratt concludes that there is no evidence of a meeting between Smith and Hanna, the bribery charges fail.

However, lead defence attorney for Smith, Queens Counsel, Keith Knight reverted to the testimony of Hanna, whom he said testified on more than one occasion that she met Smith in 2016.

In Tuesday's proceeding, Mr. Knight dissected the testimony of Hanna,

attacking her credibility, insisting that Hanna lied giving inconsistent evidence throughout her testimony.

The defence attorney further claimed that if Hanna was extorted, why did she continue to borrow from the "extortioners" lending company, Pouland, and this despite knowing of other lending institutions.

Besides seeking to pick apart Hanna's credi-

bility, Mr. Knight also sought to poke holes at her testimony that she felt she was testifying under pressure and against her will and that she was being used.

Mr. Knight wrapped up his no submission case by revealing what he called defects in the prosecution's case, inclusive of: "the documents presented by the crown corroborates the defense arguments that evidence from PHA

tends to contradict the crown's case and where it doesn't contradict, does not support the evidence given by Hanna.

The crown contends that Barbara Hanna paid Frank Smith \$5,000 per month between 2016 and 2017 after he assisted her securing a cleaning contract for the Critical Care Unit of the Princess Margaret Hospital.

The trial resumes today.

Grand Lucayan Employees Standing Firm

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Bahamas Hotel Managerial Association Obie Ferguson said, "certainly, I will not be moved by nonsense."

He added that they are still deep in negotiations with Lucayan Renewal Holdings Limited over VSEP packages for man-

agers of the Our Lucaya Resort.

Mr. Ferguson chalked that up to the fact that the ideas and projections of the current chairman have been what he called, "unreasonable."

"He moved from \$2.7 million and we're now to \$3.2 million, I think. We are of the view that it has

to be \$4 million on the basis of a simple formula.

"If you work for a company for 21 years, the assessment has to be based on 21 years, that's the way it was in every voluntary separation package.

"BEC was the same, Water and Sewage will be the same, Batelco was the

same and the beat goes on, that's the way its done," he said.

According to the union president, \$1 million has been shaved off the settlement, taking it to \$4 million plus an annuity of what was negotiated from 7 per cent to 4 per cent of workers pay.

Despite the stenching,

he added that workers he said are still standing firm.

"My Vice President in Grand Bahamas had a meeting two days ago and about 99.9% of the workers are standing firm and why wouldn't they?"

"How could they agree to accept less than what the law provides? Not only that they will now be

going on the streets, not like they have a job after this.

"Bahamians aren't stupid, I can assure you that Bahamians aren't stupid people," Mr. Ferguson said.

Mr. Ferguson said issues have not yet reached the point of industrial action.

Free Lecture in commemoration of Majority Rule Day A Success



► A Free Public Lecture in commemoration of Majority Rule Day was held at Mt. Olive Baptist Church on Tuesday, January 15, 2019. Presenters: Dr. Chris Curry, Mr. Philip Galanis and Joe Darville addressed the Topic: "The Revolution - What Happened To It?" Among the attendees was Sen. Fred Mitchell who brought greetings The Lecture was moderated by Rev. Dr. C. B. Moss. L to R: Mr. Joe Darville, Prof. Chris Curry, Mr. Phillip Galanis, Rev. Dr. C. B. Moss, Hon. Fred Mitchell

REAL CARS FOR REAL PEOPLE



THE ALL NEW CHEVROLET CRUZE

WHEN RULES STOP YOU FROM ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS, IT'S TIME TO CREATE YOUR OWN.

This is the spirit that inspired Chevrolet to develop Cruze, a car that will change the concept of an automobile.

CHANGES THE RULES



CRUZE

Chevrolet Caribbean
Nassau Motor

3 YEARS WARRANTY
CHEVROLET



Whichever comes first. See warranty policy terms and conditions. Refer to Chevrolet's Cruze 2011 Equipment & Technical Specifications manual. For more information visit your local Chevrolet dealer. Picture shown for illustrative purposes only.

Shirley Street • 302-0130
Fax: 323-7272

www.chevroletcaribbean.com
www.nassaumotor.com

Put #1 brands at your table.

French's
CATTLEMEN'S BBQ
FRANK'S RedHot ORIGINAL
CATTLEMEN'S MASSACHUSETTS

DISTRIBUTED BY THOMPSON TRADING CO. LTD.