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# The Bahama Journal

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# NEW FORM OF IMPERIALISM

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

Fifty-two years after Majority Rule, Former Governor General Sir Arthur Foulkes says while he is proud of the country's progress, he is concerned about some of the issues the country faces today, namely in the Financial Services Sector.

Appearing as a guest on the Love 97 Radio programme Jones and Company, Sir Arthur described the treatment of the sector by international agencies like the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

■ See page 2...



▶ Former Governor General, Sir Arthur Foulkes (File photo)

## PM GOES TO BRUSSELS FOR TALKS, EXCLUDES KEY MINISTERS

In what is being described as "a curious development" in the ongoing efforts of the government to avoid the financial sector being black-listed by the European Union, Prime Minister, Doctor Hubert Minnis will travel to Brussels, Belgium today to hold bilateral talks with high-ranking officials of the European Commission.

What is curious is the

■ See page 4...



▶ Prime Minister, the Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis (File photo)

## Uncollected Gaming Taxes Affecting Services

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

Despite the setback in collecting millions of dollars in gaming taxes, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest says that at the end of the day that significant stream revenue will be collected.

Currently, there is a standoff between the government and gaming operators over increased taxes has stretched into

■ See page 4...



▶ DPM and Minister of Finance, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest (File photo)

## PLP SYMBOL BEING MISUSED

The Chairman of the Progressive Liberal Party Senator Fred Mitchell has issued a warning about the misuse and abuse of the symbol of the Progressive Liberal Party. In a Press statement yesterday, Mr. Mitchell said, "It has come to the attention of the Party that the official symbol and designed letters PLP are being used and appropri-

terday, Mr. Mitchell said, "It has come to the attention of the Party that the official symbol and designed letters PLP are being used and appropri-

■ See page 2...

## New System For The Ministry of Finance

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

Deputy Prime Minister Peter Turnquest revealed last Friday that some changes on tap for the Ministry of Finance.

He said one of them is the Public Financial Management Legislation; a proposed law that is expected to replace and modernize the Financial Administration Act along with several other pro-

posed laws.

This will "more clearly define the roles and responsibilities of finance officers, and introduce criminal penalties for financial misconduct.

"It will set new stan-

dards for the frequency of reporting on budgetary and transparency matters and improve oversight provisions for government agencies including

■ See page 3...

## ECUMENICAL SERVICE OBSERVANCE OF MAJORITY RULE DAY



▶ Government officials joined religious leaders and members of the public in Ecumenical Service observance of Majority Rule Day, on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at Pro-Cathedral of Christ the King. Pictured are Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest (left) and his wife, Mrs. Sonia Turnquest, along with Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Senator the Hon. Kwasi Thompson and his wife, Tameka Thompson. (BIS Photos/Andrew Miller)



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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# NEW FORM OF IMPERIALISM

Continued from / PAGE 1...

(OECD) and the European Union, (EU) as a form of imperialism.

He said, "I can understand you asking us to do laws that everybody agrees with and to avoid criminal activity, but for you to impose on me conditions that you don't impose on yourself, and threaten to destroy me or to destroy a part of my

economy for that, that's imperialism."

Sir Arthur said that he believes the answer to all of this must be regional.

He added, "this is a matter for all small countries around the world that we ought to be at common cause with in certain things, but again, they're mesmerized by the big power."

One of the government's proposed bills facing backlash last year was

the Non-Profit Organizations Bill.

In fact, a number of public figures and NPO's voiced their concerns over the bill asking to clarify whether political parties would be included under this jurisdiction and why the government needs the names of an organization's top 10 donors.

This bill was among a compendium of bills that are expected establish

new regulations to govern the Financial Services Sector.

According to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest, the bills are also expected to bring the country in line with rules set by the (OECD) and the (EU), which have threatened to blacklist The Bahamas.

Mr. Turnquest just last month said that they represent another plank in

The Bahamas' tax transparency regime and send a message to the international business community, including the EU, that The Bahamas is open for legitimate business.

Minister Turnquest, back in November, also said that an imbalance of pressure and scrutiny from the international regulatory framework tops external concerns facing the regional financial sector.

He added that countries in the region continue to be discredited due to negative perceptions, which do not accurately reflect the current strength of their local regulatory regimes.

He said that the consequences that black and gray lists have on correspondent banking at the micro level, and economic stability at the macro level, needs to be measured and rationalized.

## PLP SYMBOL BEING MISUSED

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ated by those not authorized to use them.

'We remind vendors, providers of services and others generally that the use of the PLP's symbols and designed letters

belong to the Trustees of the PLP and may only be used to indicate officially sanctioned party activities with the permission of the party. This can be confirmed by a letter of authority issued by the Secretary General Barbara

Cartwright," he said.

The Senator said, "Candidates who have not been nominated officially to run for the House of Assembly, but are canvassing for nominations within the party should not, and are not, permit-

ted to use the symbols of the PLP for any solicitations and campaigns or other canvassing events without the express permission of the party as signified in writing by the Secretary General Barbara Cartwright or the local

branch chair.

"Newspapers, periodicals, print media and electronic media are reminded that no ads or announcements in local districts in the name of the PLP should be accepted unless the person is a duly

authorized branch chair of a constituency or an officer of such a branch authorized by the Chair of the Branch. National ads and announcements come through the Secretary General," said Mr. Mitchell.

### BAHAMAS MARITIME AUTHORITY PAYS COURTESY CALL ON MINISTER SYMONETTE



Board Members of the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Financial Services, Trade & Industry and Immigration, the Hon. Brent Symonette, January 7, 2019 at the Ministry, and made a plaque presentation to the Minister to commemorate the event. Minister Symonette is pictured, centre, accepting plaque from BMA Board Chair Denise Lewis-Johnson; at centre right is BMA Deputy Chair Peter John Goulandris; and at left is BMA Managing Director and CEO Captain Dwain Hutchinson. (BIS Photo/Kristaan Ingraham)


  
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# New System For The Ministry of Finance

Continued from / PAGE 1...

requirements for ministries and agencies to produce annual reports that outline key performance indicators," he said.

Minister Turnquest listed five guiding principles surrounding this new shift in the department.

"One, together we will

move from a system of aphorism to having defined plans and strategies. Two, together we will move from a model of confidential government to open and transparent government.

"Three, together we will move from a system of ineffective controls to strong oversight. Four,

together we will remove unnecessary restrictions and barriers to empowering our leaders.

"Five, together we will abolish the culture of impunity and usher in an era of accountability in our management, and accountability in our results," he said.

The DPM reminded

participants in a Public Treasury Leadership Symposium of the important role they play in the country.

"All of you gathered here today form the backbone of our system of public sector financial management.

"Without you, the country would literally

grind to a halt, because you keep the financial resources flowing through the system enabling all aspects of government to function.

"I know it is not always an easy task and to put it mildly, but it is an absolute vital function and to be the public servants who perform these

roles is to be celebrated and commended, I recognize you and I thank you," he said.

Mr. Turnquest called on Treasury Officers to be creative in the work they do.

The Leadership symposium was held at the British Colonial Hilton last Friday morning.



► Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. Peter Turnquest brought opening remarks at a Leadership Symposium hosted by the Public Treasury Department for Accounting Heads and Finance & Accounting Officers, held at the British Colonial Hilton, Friday, January 11, 2019. (BIS Photos/Patrick Hanna)



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.

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# PM GOES TO BRUSSELS FOR TALKS, EXCLUDES KEY MINISTERS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

fact that the Minister of Finance, Peter Turnquest, the Minister of Financial Services, Trade and Industry, Brent Symonette nor the Financial Secretary Marlon Johnson are a part of the delegation.

Political observers are shocked and dumbfounded as why these persons who participated in the negotiations before and under whose portfolios these matters fall are excluded

from the trip.

A statement from the Office of the Prime Minister said, "discussions will focus on matters relating to the fulfillment by The Bahamas of its commitments to the EU, and how those commitments will be implemented by the financial services sector of The Bahamas."

The Prime Minister Minnis will be promoting recent initiatives by the Government in the financial services sector.

"The Prime Minister

will outline recently passed legislation and a new framework aimed at strengthening industry regulations and protecting the financial services' competitive edge as a leading international financial center.

"The Government is working diligently and in cooperation with industry stakeholders to do everything possible, in keeping with our national interests, to protect the financial services sector, while adhering to global standards," said Prime Minister

Minnis.

Attorney General Senator Carl Bethel; Viana Gardiner, Chief Operating Officer in the Prime Minister Delivery Unit; Stephen Coakley Wells, advisor to the Minister of Finance; Wendy Warren, Chief Executive Officer of Caystone Group; Michael Paton, Partner, Lennox Paton; and a team of advisors will accompany the Prime Minister to Brussels.

In an announcement

last night the chairman of the Progressive Liberal Party senator Fred Mitchell said that the Prime Minister is to fly to Brussels to meet with "high ranking European Officials" is quite strange. How is it that a Prime Minister who has a Finance Minister, an International Trade Minister, a Foreign Minister and an Ambassador to the European Union so lowers himself to meet with European Union offi-

cials...no one of equal rank of a Prime Minister.

This makes our country look like a country of grovelling mendicants with our caps in our hands saying : " Please sirs we want some more".

Prime Minister Minnis and his delegation will return to Nassau on Wednesday, January 16th.

Deputy Prime Minister Peter Turnquest will act as prime minister in the Prime Minister's absence.

## Uncollected Gaming Taxes Affecting Services

Continued from / PAGE 1...

months.

"It is affecting some of the issues that the previous questions raised in terms of our ability to liquidate our arrears as regularly and consistently as we would like, because there's no way that you can have a hold of \$24 or \$34 million and that not affect something.

"So, it is having some effect. We will work our way through it, but we do anticipate collecting every penny of the government's revenue," he said.

The Finance Minister made it clear though that this has not led to degradation in services the government provides.

"As you rightly say, there are service providers of goods and services who have done their part, who have completed their commitment to the government. They ought to be able to get paid, but the only way that we can pay them is if we have the resources to do it.

"So when we have any sector of the government deciding unilaterally that they are going to deprive the government of revenue, at the end of the day they're not really depriving the government of the revenue, they are depriving, the services providers and all of these persons who have served the community legitimately and are entitled to compensation.

"They're depriving them from economic activity and from the livelihood and capital they need in order to continue in business," Mr. Turnquest said.

The government has imposed a sliding scale tax - that climbs as high as 50 per cent in some cases - on gaming houses.

There will be a five per cent tax on gaming patrons.

Decrying this as an unfair arrangement, gaming bosses have taken the government to court.

The court has imposed an injunction in the matter. Supreme Court Justice Indra Charlesn has also instructed both sides to sit and discuss the merits of

the case.

Minister Turnquest said the government con-

tinues to have discussions with gaming operators in hopes of coming to an

understanding on why the government has taken such a position.

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Ministry of Health wishes to inform the public that Capital House located on Virginia and Delancy Streets will be closed on Friday 11th January, 2019.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. Capital House will re-open on Monday 14th January, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

# The Rough Cut

By Felix F. Bethel

“...let my people go...”

I, Felix Frederick Bethel hereby claim family connection to each and every human being on this planet; and thus, I now share the sad story of how it came to be that, my cousin, The Honourable Arthur William Hodge, Esq., graduate of Oriel College, Oxford ---a man of immense good manners whipped my cousin Prosper to death.

And now, hear ye, my brothers and sisters Cousin Arthur William [a white slave owner] whipped my cousin Nobody Prosper to death!

I read somewhere that after the sting of Hodge's whip: It wasn't long before Prosper's head fell back.

A white man, a Gentleman, was hanged for the murder of a slave, during slavery. For this to happen, Arthur Hodge, Esq., despite his high education, must have been hated by the whites on Tortola.

Hodge must have been a sadist.

Hodge must have committed acts of such depravity that even slave owners, during slavery, in the British colonies, were appalled. There must have also been a fear of slave uprising. Something was happening within the British colonies at that time for a man like Hodge to be hanged in the public square, like a common nobody, over the death of a nobody slave.

Prosper was my great-great, great grandfather on my father's side.

As I recently discovered, Hodge, the white, scum-bag/ man/master addressed the jury as follows:-- “Gentleman, As bad as I have been represented, or as bad as you may think me, I assure you, that I feel support in my affliction from entertaining a proper sense of religion. As all men are subject to wrong, I cannot but say that that principle is likewise inherent in me. I acknowledge myself guilty in regard to many of my slaves; but I call God to witness my innocence in respect of the murder of Prosp...I am sensible that the country thirsts for my blood, and I am ready to sacrifice it...”

And thus, I read: It wasn't long before Prosper's head fell back. No moans or wails could be heard from him, who

was now barely human, but more just strips of hanging flesh. Prosper was dragged to the sick house and chained to two other negro slaves.

The sick house was nothing more than a filthy hot boarded up hut where slaves were chained to the dirt ground. Either they recovered from the beatings or whatever disease had inflicted them, or they died in chains.

After five days, unable to take the stench of Prosper's rotting flesh, while he still drew laboured breaths, the two slaves chained to him, broke away.

When Prosper was found, not a piece of black flesh could be seen. The maggots had eaten him before he even died.

Note also that: Stephen M'Keogh, a white man, who had lived as manager on the Mr Hodge's estate, deposed, that he saw the deceased Prosper after he had been so severely flogged; that he could put his finger in his side; he saw him some days before his death in a cruel state; he could not go near him for the blue flies.

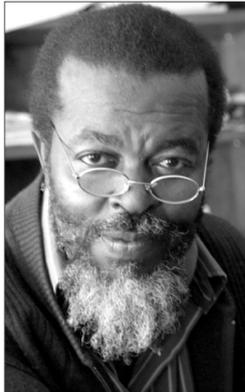
I also read that: No moans or wails could be heard from him, who was now barely human, but more just strips of hanging flesh--- Prosper was dragged to the sick house and chained to two other negro slaves.

Great God from Zion: [as I read somewhere]--- “...After five days, unable to take the stench of Prosper's rotting flesh, while he still drew laboured breaths, the two slaves chained to him, broke away.”

And for sure, I read: “...When Prosper was found, not a piece of black flesh could be seen. The maggots had eaten him before he even died...”

That was then!  
This is now.

What I do know in these last and evil days is that:---In the long ago years, that is to say in those hard days which existed ---as it were--- in that myriad of days before this past yesterday when I was reminded of my entrance, some 69 years ago, to the light of day and to that sweet symphony of tastes inherent in bitters and sweets; I now remind you that in those long-ago years, a real scum-bag of a man, The Honourable Arthur



William Hodge was found guilty of murdering one of his slaves, a man named Prosper.

Prosper was my great-great, great grandfather on my dead father's side.

As I recently discovered, Hodge, the white, scum-bag/ man/master addressed the jury as follows:-- “Gentleman, As bad as I have been represented, or as bad as you may think me, I assure you, that I feel support in my affliction from entertaining a proper sense of religion. As all men are subject to wrong, I cannot but say that that principle is likewise inherent in me. I acknowledge myself guilty in regard to many of my slaves; but I call God to witness my innocence in respect of the murder of Prosper...I am sensible that the country thirsts for my blood, and I am ready to sacrifice it...”

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When Prosper was found, not a piece of black flesh could be seen. The maggots had eaten him before he even died.

Prosper was tied to a tree and flogged for almost an hour.

What troubles me is this: After all these years, the sadism continues.

Come now, Lord Jesus---set the captive free!

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E D I T O R I A L

## 'War' Talk Condemned

First this frightening factoid: Between 1973 and 2010, there were 1,817 homicides in The Bahamas. And from 2005 to 2009, 349 homicides were recorded, only 63 of which were prosecuted in the courts, resulting in 18 convictions.

Clearly, then, these figures show that the violence is real and bloody in today's deeply scarred Bahamas!

And thus as we reflect on the import implicit in this reporting, we look back to that time when His Grace Archbishop Drexel Wellington Gomez was actually absolutely correct when he suggested that, the bulk of this country's troubles could be summed up as follows: "Failure to educate students about life issues including the natural environment, social responsibility, moral duty and cultural heritage was seen as contributing to the aimlessness of youth and their uncertainty about identity..."

Absolutely!

But clearly, shooting to death some of these troubled ones is no panacea to them or to the rest of us.

Thus, today [As in the case so very many other supposedly right-thinking Bahamians], we confess that we have heard our share of that now tired cliché where the claim of the day is that they deplore and condemn the high and rising rate of 'crime' in the Bahamas and as to how even one killing is one killing too much!

Interestingly enough, few of these fine people ever have anything of heft or value to add as report after bloody report links the police to any number of killings where some of them wreak and sweat their share of what surely seems a spirit of impunity on the hoof!

Thus today we submit: Let's be clear about that matter concerning the high and rising number of young Black men who have been shot dead by the police; truth is that the police are surely in grave error when they try to 'justify' the use of such lethal force by claiming

that they are engaged in some kind of war.

In truth, there is no such war in today's Bahamas; indeed, there is absolutely no occasion where any such set of conditions have ever allowed for such a radical re-definition of the the so-called war against crime in our beloved country.

But yet, there does remain that social reality where ---as words make worlds, they who claim that there is a war out there make plans and spend money on the stuff the crime-fighters say they need; thus that reality on the streets where for the slightest reason, the citizen can find him or herself detained by men toting the latest in guns and other soldier-like armaments; in other words ---now militarized- the armed policeman acts as if he IS A SOLDIER and thus ---as if he is authorized to act and behave as he imagines a soldier in war-zone would do ---And thus, practically all those cases where the armed police officer shoots and kills; and in the aftermath repeats the legend that he did what he did because of his apprehension that his life was endangered.

On occasion such statements seem to be bordering on the absurd.

This is just not good enough in a Bahamas where far too many men and women have been shot dead by such armed men and women in the employ of the State.

As one concerned citizen has reasoned: When police involved shootings start to exceed the murder count, it is a clear indication that something is wrong. People are still being killed.

When police killings become too frequent and the public starts to doubt the policemen accounts then they lose confidence in the police.

There is a lack of trust. Then the country is back to square one. There must be accountability in all quarters. But still the police must have license to do their job effectively.

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## Fire Destroys Warehouse Of Paradise Fisheries

Police in New Providence are investigating a fire which destroyed the warehouse of Paradise Fisheries Limited on Mount Royal Avenue Saturday.

According to reports, shortly after 8:00pm, Fire Services Officers responded to reports of a fire at the establishment. Upon arrival, officers discovered that the entire warehouse was engulfed in flames. Officers were able to contain and extinguished the fire, which has destroyed the warehouse. Investigators have not yet determined the cause of the fire and no injuries were reported.

Investigations are ongoing.

Two adult males were taken into custody following the seizure of an illegal firearm and ammunition yesterday.

According to reports, around 3:00am, Southwestern Division Officers, acting on information went to a local

nightclub on Faith Avenue South, conducted a search of a Hyundai vehicle and recovered .40 pistol and twelve (12) rounds of ammunition.

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

Police are seeking the public's assistance in locating a man who is wanted for questioning in connection with a homicide investigation. The suspect is Andre Thompson, age 26 years of Sequoia Street, Pinewood Gardens.

Thompson is described as being 6'3" tall, medium build with brown complexion.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Andre Thompson is asked to contact the Central Detective Unit at 502-9991/2, 919/911 or the nearest Police Station. Thompson is considered armed and dangerous.

## Haitian Migrants Charged before Courts



Fifty-five (55) Haitian migrants were charged before the courts after they were apprehended in waters off of Marsh Harbour during a joint operation by the Royal Bahamas Police Force, Immigration and Defence Force Officials last

Thursday.

The migrants (45 males, 10 females), all pleaded guilty to illegal landing before Magistrate Cara Turnquest on Monday. They are expected to be deported as soon as possible.

Some of the migrants

were apprehended aboard a conventional sailing yacht near the entrance of Man O War Cay, Marsh Harbour, Abaco. The remaining migrants were apprehended after local residents alerted authorities of a speed boat ferrying the undocumented

Haitians ashore from the vessel.

A total of 311 Haitian migrants have been apprehended for year. Some have already been charged before the courts and deported. The remaining will be charged later.

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