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THURSDAY - JANUARY 31ST, 2019

75 CENTS

Taxi Drivers

Strike

Sit Outside Parliament

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Members of The Bahamas Taxi Cab Union are in full strike mode in the face of what they say is a complete disregard and disrespect from the government.

Yesterday, bleachers in Rawson Square were taken over by 150 taxi drivers, who were eagerly awaited an impromptu meeting the Prime Minister following failed attempts to speak with government officials over a number of longstanding issues.

Speaking for the group, Union president

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DNA: OUTLINES CORRUPTION IN GOV'T

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

The Democratic National Alliance's (DNA) Spokesperson for Good Governance Geoffrey Deleveaux yesterday out-

lined a number of perceived corrupt practices in the Minnis Administration. This comes off the heels of Transparency

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DPM: Rolle's "Inheritance CLAIMS UNTRUE"

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Peter Turnquest has put to rest renewed claims of the government's alleged role and knowledge of a purported inheritance of up to \$79 billion to Derek Rolle.

As the decades old story goes, Rolle – now deceased – inherited a fortune from a deceased American couple.

However, it was

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▶ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Peter Turnquest (File photo)

BAHAMAS STAGNATED BY CORRUPTION

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas dropped in rank in Transparency International's Corruption

Perception Index this past Monday after dropping by one in the ranking.

This list of 179 countries placed the country this time at 29.

Executive Director of the Organization for Responsible Governance (ORG), Matt Albury, said that The Bahamas basically has the same score

as it did last year; however other countries have changed positions.

"What The Bahamas falls into is this category of countries that are really

stagnating on issue if corruption," he said.

He added, "and in the scope of things, you can

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Cooper Slams Gov't Borrowing

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

The Opposition is not in support of resolutions debated in the House of Assembly yesterday in relation to the government acquiring more loans from the InterAmerican Development Bank (IDB).

Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Deputy Leader, Chester Cooper, said while the PLP supports digital reform and disaster mitigation, it simply cannot support the resolution since there has been nothing to justify the borrowing.

"As to what's been done with all the funds already borrowed by this government, this government has said over



▶ (PLP) Deputy Leader, Chester Cooper (File photo)

and repeatedly that we sit on a fiscal cliff, you said the cupboard is bare, you said the PLP has borrowed too much, and now this, we will not support it," he said.

"The reality on the

■ See page 2...

PM LEADS LOAN DEBATE IN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



▶ Prime Minister the Most Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis led debate on two resolutions during the afternoon sitting of The House of Assembly on Wednesday, January 30, 2019. One Resolution is for loan of \$30 million from the Inter-American Development Bank for the purpose of financing the government's Digital Transformation to strengthen the country's competitiveness in a global economy. The other Resolution is for a standby Loan Facility from the Inter-American Development Bank in the amount of \$100 million to alleviate the impact a severe or catastrophic natural disaster could have on the country's finances. (BIS Photo/Yontalay Bowe)




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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

Trade Disputes Filed For C.V. Bethel Teachers

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Two trade disputes have been filed on behalf of the teachers at C V Bethel Senior High School, President of The Bahamas Union of Teachers, Belinda Wilson confirmed yesterday.

Through a lengthy whatsapp message, Mrs. Wilson responded to Education Minister Jefferey Lloyds comments to reporters, on Tuesday, regarding teachers who sat out of the classroom following an alleged attack on a teacher by two male students.

Mr. Lloyd told reporters outside of Cabinet that the decision teachers took was "illegal and contrary to the industrial agreement".

However, Mrs. Wilson said in her statement that she took grave exception to the Minister's assertions.

"The teachers at C. V. Bethel yesterday were in meetings with the principal and district superintendent going through the draft health, safety and discipline plan that the teachers spent an enormous amount of time putting together.

"I take grave exception when the Minister of Education is giving incorrect information," Mrs. Wilson said.

She also sought to clarify that the teachers, who were traumatized by the incident. We're working along with the administration at the school to put a plan of action in place.

"The teachers devised

a plan as per our collective bargaining agreement and they have agreed to work along with administration for the plan to be successful.

"Some aspects of the plan will ensure that rules regulations and policies are adhered to by the students. Teachers are rostered themselves in strategic places on the campus," Mrs. Wilson said.

She chided the Minister, suggesting that more suitable administrators be placed in positions, as she stated matters school related can be resolved at a better pace than they currently are.

"In fact, I implore the Minister of Education to cause his administrators to be truly evaluated to test their suitability for these positions.

Cooper Slams Gov't Borrowing

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ground is that people are hurting, they do not believe that their life is any better off now than it was in 2017, they don't believe that this economy is working for them, they see all this borrowing and they don't see how it benefits them," he added.

Mr. Cooper said it is concerning that the funds may not be used to finance expenses associated with

permanent reconstruction of infrastructure, considering past experiences.

He added that the PLP does not believe that the mechanisms being deployed are the right approach of disaster mitigation.

"Therefore we believe that it is a risky proposition for this government to continue to borrow more in US dollars, that has to be supported by the reserves of our country,

when there is high liquidity in the domestic sector and the commitments associated with these risks are in B dollars," he said.

"Again Mr. Speaker, I find much of what we heard today, the continued borrowing as hypocritical as they come."

The PLP Deputy said the government could use the same energy spent borrowing from the IDB, to improve the country's economic state.



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The Bahamian Government in collaboration with the United States Embassy (Nassau) invites all qualified persons who are interested in applying for a four-year degree scholarship at the United States Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut, United States, to submit their applications to the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Headquarters, Coral Harbour Base by 31st January, 2019.

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Deadline for registration for SAT examination is 8th February, 2019 for the 9th March, 2019 test date (results from March test are only accepted if results from previous test are received by 1st March, 2019).

Students may register at:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/international>

The USCGA code number for the SAT exam is 5807.

Deadline for ACT registration is 11th January, 2019 for 8th February, 2019 test date.

Students can register at <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act-non-us.html>

The USCGA code number for the ACT exam is 0600.

Applicants can make application to sit the SAT/ACT at local SAT Centers in New Providence as follows: Aquinas College, St. Andrew's School, St. Anne's School, The University of The Bahamas, Government High School and Queen's College.

For further information, please contact the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Human Resource Officer, Lieutenant Commander Michael Hanna at telephone 362-3705 or 362-3711 or via email at michaelhanna@rbdf.gov.bs or visit the website www.rbdf.gov.bs

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Taxi Drivers Strike

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Wesley Ferguson said government after government promised taxi drivers the world, but that in the end, they've gotten nothing.

"Every taxi stand and every taxi driver is suffering under the heavy hands of every entity in The Bahamas, everyone has the upper hand on taxi drivers.

"They have pushed the taxi drivers to being the lowest of the lowest.

"Taxi drivers have been disrespected, they have been marginalized, they have been minimized and every negative connotation that you can think about.

"Taxi drivers have suffered over the last 61 years and we were quiet, we sat down and we took it," said Mr. Ferguson.

The main bone of contention for the 1,135 strong Taxi Cab Union is tour companies stationed at the Lynden Pindling International Airport.

"Some Minister decid-

ed that they are going to allow SUV's or delivery cars to operate like taxis, well taxis are governed by a specific law, our laws are in the books."

"If this government decides that they are going to abide by the law and want the taxi drivers to abide by the law, then the government is also responsible to uphold the law and to also abide by it.

"Delivery cars are now operating from the airport on a caller system which is totally illegal.

"The letter of the law says that they must operate from a place of business, pre-arrangement, a letter or by telephone, not hustling for taxi work head up," the union president said.

The union is also decrying working conditions down at Baha Mar where Mr. Ferguson said taxi drivers are forced to work in unhealthy working conditions.

He further opined that there is the added claim that taxi drivers are posi-

tioned far from the resort's entrance with no means of communication.

When it comes to the Prince George Wharf, Mr. Ferguson said the area is a prison.

"You have Dell securities that put taxi drivers off the dock for asking the tourists if they want a taxi. They put taxi drivers off for as much as three months at the dock immediately.

"The law says that the only entity that is responsible for the disciplinary measures of taxi drivers is the Road Traffic Department; that is gazette.

"So there is no way the Ministry of Tourism could contrive their own tribunal and put taxi drivers off the dock in a minute.

"No recourse, no fair trial, no representation and 100 per cent of the time the taxi driver is guilty," he said.

The union said members plan is to sit outside the House of Assembly until the Prime Minister meets with them.



West Bay Street Road Rehabilitation Project Important Notice Traffic Diversion

West Bay Street between Blake Road and Tropical Gardens Road will be closed to traffic on Thursday, January 24th 2019 between the hours of 9:30am and 8:00pm. The motoring public is asked to adhere to all posted diversion routes. Provisions will be made to accommodate all necessary local traffic during the duration of the work.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused to the public during this period. For further information or assistance please contact any of the following:

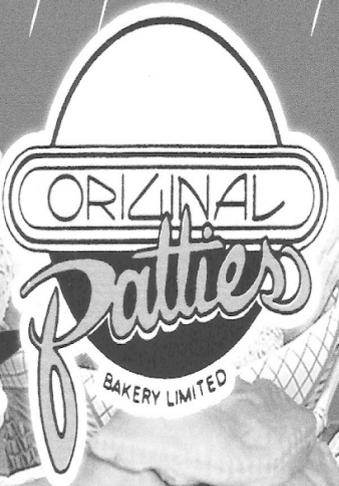
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BAHAMAS STAGNATED BY CORRUPTION

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usually say ‘Well, that’s not that much of a concern’.”

“What we must know, if you talk to the average Bahamian on the streets, they all understand that corruption is an integrated part of our culture, and we would all agree that politicians, elected officials, and government leaders who take advantage of their opportunity to benefit themselves, is something we would all want to stand against,” he said.

Mr. Albury noted that corruption has a very long continuum that comes back to the everyday citizen and their comfort in

dealing with governments where its okay to pay someone to move forward in a government line, hide items in luggage to avoid paying customs duty, and expect to be hired based on a family name rather than skill.

“That support of a culture of corruption, which I think is what we recognize as a day to day part of The Bahamas, is in line with what happens at the top,” he said.

“We see a number of things that have been done by the current government and by other groups in these last couple of years. You would see that the government did move forward and tabled an

Integrity Commissions Bill. One that would set up an independent entity that could receive and prosecute instances of corruption, and this is clearly a global standard,” he added.

However, this bill has been tabled and has not been moved in over a year.

He also noted that there was an independent deputy of public prosecutions that was put forward, adding that this is a good indicator that there is discussion on procurement processes.

“Those are all good indicators that do reflect that corruption is something we need to address,

but its not being done in comprehensive way by the government,” he said.

Last year, results of a nationwide poll by market and opinion research firm Public Domain showed that 54 percent of respondents believed the level of corruption increased in the country between October 2016 and October 2017.

In a press release, Managing Director of Transparency International Patricia Moreira said, “With many democratic institutions under threat across the globe – often by leaders with authoritarian or populist tendencies – we need to do more to

strengthen checks and balances and protect citizens’ rights.”

“Corruption chips away at democracy to produce a vicious cycle, where corruption undermines democratic institutions and, in turn, weak institutions are less able to control corruption,” she added.

Transparency International called on all governments to implement four main steps “to make real progress against corruption and strengthen democracy around the world”.

These steps include strengthening institutions responsible for maintaining checks and balances

over political power and ensuring their ability to operate without intimidation.

The next is to close the implementation gap between anti-corruption legislation, practice and enforcement.

The third is to support civil society organizations which enhance political engagement and public oversight over government spending, particularly at the local level.

The final step is to support a free and independent media and ensure the safety of journalists and their ability to work without intimidation or harassment.

DPM: Rolle’s “Inheritance

Continued from / PAGE 1...

alleged that his efforts to obtain the inheritance were thwarted by the government, who along with so-called unscrupulous bankers – had conspired to hide and steal the money.

Then there was the claim that the Minnis administration rushed the dormant accounts bill through Parliament to abscond with the multi-billion-dollar inheritance.

Mr. Turnquest told members of the House of Assembly yesterday in an official communication that “neither the Ministry of Finance nor the Central Bank – nor any other government entity – were or are aware of this alleged inheri-

tance that was supposedly left to Mr. Derek Rolle.

“Further, and it would follow from this, neither the Central Bank nor any other public entity has had or does have knowledge or possession of any funds related to this alleged inheritance,” he added.

“Neither the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank, the Attorney General, the Ministry of National Security nor any other relevant agency have been approached by any domestic or international entity on any matter related to the investigation of this issue.

“Further, the government is not aware of any legal action that has been

commenced in The Bahamas or any other jurisdiction in respect to what is alleged to be the largest theft of monies ever recorded,” the minister said.

“One would certainly believe that there is more than sufficient incentive for this matter to have been advanced over the last twenty years.”

“There would be literally thousands of lawyers from across the world who would fly to the Bahamas – or the relevant jurisdiction – today to commence action if \$79 billion was on the line.”

According to Minister Turnquest, as far as the government’s concerned, the story’s completely untrue.

DNA: OUTLINES CORRUPTION IN GOV’T

Continued from / PAGE 1...

International’s Corruptions Perceptions Index (CPI) released earlier this week.

Mr. Deleveaux said that the recent ranking shows a lack of true commitment by the government to transparent and accountable governance.

He said, “even though the current administration had campaigned on transparency and accountability in governance on the 2017 campaign trail, their governance to date has been marred by scandals, conflicts of interest and inaction; proving that they are no different from their predecessors in government.”

He added, “Bahamians will recall the tragic case of the OBAN deal and the Prime Minister’s acknowledgement of ineptitude and fraud as well as the subsequent admission by the Minister of Education

that the government breached the law in the handling of the matter.”

He also noted that the Minister of Health also publicly acknowledged approving a contract without the requisite Cabinet approval while two senior Cabinet Ministers were also implicated in matters before the court.

The conflict of interest and lack of transparency that plagued the relocation of the main Post Office, he said, remains fresh in the minds of the Bahamian people.

“We are still awaiting the probe into the BPL ordeal as promised by the Prime Minister and when one considers the ineffectiveness and political stifling of the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament as a check and balance to government spending, The Bahamas’ ranking on the CPI comes as no surprise,” he said.

He added that the gov-

ernment should be aware that its actions are being monitored by both domestic and international observers.

He said that the DNA party implores the government to fulfil their campaign promise of good governance, transparency and accountability.

“They should go beyond the political rhetoric and wage war on corruption and the perception of corruption in our nation. On behalf of the Bahamian people, we demand the full implementation of the Freedom of Information Act and the Integrity Commission Act,” he said.

“We encourage the government to fully embrace the DNA’s platform for good governance by enacting and enforcing Whistle-blower and Campaign Finance legislation among others without delay,” he added.

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WARNING SHOT



By Jerry Hutchinson

Understanding the Police Culture

"We shouldn't expect the police to be something they're not. As historians, we ought to know that origins matter, and the police were created by the ruling class to control working class and poor people, not help them. They've continued to play that role ever since."

-- Sam Mitrani, December 29th, 2014

In the discussions of the recent police shootings in the Bahamas, we assume that police are there to protect and serve the population. After all, it says that right on the patrol car doors. We believe if there is trust and respect between police and the community then many of the problems of crime and incivility would be resolved. According to police statistics there were eight fatal police-involved shootings in 2018. The newspapers, who keep track of these things place it at eleven.

So, there is controversy even about how many Bahamians have died in confrontations with police. The citizens are left to figure out what is going on. Why are so many young men (exclusively) dying in shootouts with police; shootouts that they invariably lose? What is it in police culture which impels police to resort to the use of deadly force seemingly, for disputed reasons? Despite the public outcry over these shootings and, the obvious glee of some persons, who believe that criminals, real and alleged got what they deserved, the violence persists. But what is happening on our streets does not come as a surprise to students of policing and its history. Citizens are taught from an early age that police are their friends; their protectors and, that unless you are a criminal there is nothing to fear from them.

This view of course is a naive one; naïve because it displays a fundamental misunderstanding of why there is police in the first place. As Mitrani explains: "This way of viewing the problem rests on a misunderstanding of the origins of the police and what they were created to do. The police were not created to protect and serve the population. They were not created to stop crime, at least not as most people understand it. And they were certainly not created to promote justice. They were created to protect the new form of wage-labour capitalism that emerged in the mid- to late-19th century from the threat posed by that system's offspring, the working class".

Unsurprisingly, police are associated with law, order, discipline and service to the community: the Bahamian public would beg to differ. Rather, what we are seeing is incivility, thuggery, questionable and sometimes outright criminal behaviours with little recourse to aggrieved persons. Everything has a beginning so, lets trace the lineage of the force and try to figure what's going on and why. To do this we will quote from the History of the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) It states: "Prior to the abolition of slavery in 1834 there was a system of night patrols in New Providence called the Night Guard. The men forming this were not constables but were also supervised by the local Magistrate. Their duties were primarily to protect the homes and businesses of the free population at night. In addition, the West India Regiment was stationed in Nassau to take care of any serious breach of peace throughout The Bahamas. These men were trained soldiers recruited from different ethnic groups in Africa and The Caribbean. They lived in Barracks in isolation from the populations to ensure their loyalty in the event of local slave uprising. In addition, their duties also included the protection of the Islands from Foreign Invaders. At that time, the barracks was situated on the site where the Hilton British Colonial Hotel now stands." Mitrani posits: "The new institution was not a response to an increase in crime, and it really didn't lead to new methods for dealing with crime. The most common way for authorities to solve a crime, before and since the invention of police, has been for someone to tell them who did it. Besides, crime has to do with the acts of individuals, and the ruling elites who invented the police were responding to challenges posed by collective action". Therefore, until the mid-sixties, most senior officers on the RBPF were English.

Most of the other ranks hailed from various Caribbean countries. I once interviewed a Caribbean national who was recruited to serve here. He recalled the racism towards all black Bahamians including black police; and recounted how he and his wife were made to sleep on the open deck of a mailboat transporting him to his family island post. He revealed that 90% of his training was dedicated to foot drill and musketry. No training was done

to make police servants of the people. Indeed, police were trained to patrol with their hands clasped behind their backs as this imperious stance (his words) was intended to convey the power of police. The clasped hands also served another purpose designed to reinforce control of the masses. In low light, the reflection cast by the shiny tunic buttons formed the sign of the cross to anyone coming towards a patrolling policeman at night. Indeed, these officers lived in isolation from the natives they sought to control and, in the process, built the policing culture we see today.

In this environment, police considered themselves different from the population and by using uniforms, drill, and procedures known only to them they further enhanced this elite, isolationist narrative. They also established a unique esprit de corps, the "thin blue line" and saw themselves as the only institution who could control criminals and thus save society. Early police also increasingly saw themselves as a paramilitary institution and began to adopt a more militaristic and brusquer attitude towards the native population. This was inevitable; after all, the first commandant of the RBPF was a former British Royal Marine, hence, the red trouser stripes which are worn with pride even today. Nowadays, very little has changed. To be sure, some attempts have been made to make police more approachable. But, the litany of citizens' complaints of abuse by some police continues unabated. Even when these incidents are videotaped and go viral very little appears to be done; and the assaults and misconduct goes on. The police culture is reinforced and reinvigorated by the practice of police almost always hanging out with current or former police officers, an environment where they feel less threatened. If police expect to get actionable intelligence from an aggrieved population, good luck with that. So, they are left to rely on snitches and confidential informants whose evidence is regularly rejected by the courts.

We are where we are today in police citizens relations because of a policing culture which still believes that its mission is control of the underclasses. Ironically, long after that reason has faded into obscurity. Add to this, a growing resentment of police in all forms; an educated population who knows its rights; plus, criminals who have no qualms about engaging police in gun battles and, the stress level for police increases exponentially. Police involved shootings, however, is the manifestation of another, deeply rooted, more dangerous problem. One which I believe is ignored because the "macho" culture of the police forbids it. Specifically, police are stressed; stressed beyond what it is reasonable to expect any human being to endure for long periods of time, even in war zones. We know from the research that; unalleviated stress is dangerous. A recent report from Saint Lucia bears this out. Saint Lucians have experienced 125 murders from 2015 to date including two thus far in 2019. According to the report Saint Lucians are "traumatised" and fearful. Admittedly, Saint Lucia's population is smaller than that of the Bahamas, (178, 000 in 2017). But the murder rate which has traumatised that nation is not by any measure comparable to horrendous murder rate of the Bahamas.

Imagine then, the effect of the many years of murders on the mental health of Bahamians especially our law enforcement. The recent alliterations of the Commissioner of Police to "war and casualties of war" therefore must be given the attention it deserves. Are police on a war footing and therefore we can expect more police involved shootings? or, are they waging a war against criminals but, will treat honest law-abiding Bahamians with respect and civility? we don't know. What we do know by observing the deterioration in the lives and unusual behaviour of our friends, sons and daughters who are police is that the stress of their jobs is unrelenting and can be destructive. No amount of training has prepared them for the policing problems they now face. According to Ellison: "Stress reactions and burnout also are seen more frequently

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E D I T O R I A L

GOV'T UNACCOUNTABLE

The Bahamian people are still awaiting a full explanation from the Minnis administration on why the government of the Bahamas fell out of step with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and decided to interfere in the internal political affairs of Venezuela.

Since the achievement of independence in 1973, non-interference has been the policy of successive governments of the Bahamas.

While the Bahamas has a small population of some 400-thousand people, it is important that our people understand what their government is about in international affairs. As a full member of CARICOM, our voice must not only be heard, but we must maintain a high level of solidarity and integrity with nations of the region on matters of mutual interest.

We cannot be seen to be following the crowd in the developed countries, but must maintain a consistent policy. Even in the Pindling era, the Bahamas did not support the invasion of Grenada by the U.S government when Cubans were engaged in the construction of an airport in that country.

When crises developed in Nicaragua, Panama, El Salvador, Chile and other countries in South America in the last three decades, the non-interference stance of the Bahamas remained steadfast.

When the vote was taken in the Organization of American States (OAS) the Bahamas should have abstained.

What we should have done was to reiterate the position of the Bahamas which is: when it comes to matters of foreign policy, we will not interfere nor will we intervene with what is going on in sovereign states. At the end of the day, the Venezuelan people will decide.

Caribbean leaders are slamming the Trump administration for interfering in Venezuela, with the prime minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines accusing the U.S. of "carrying out a coup d'etat," and Antigua and Barbuda labeling the U.S. recognition of opposition leader Juan Guaidó as president over Nicolás Maduro "a brazen regime change."

"The majority of countries that are in Caricom do not accept Juan Guaidó as the interim president," Antigua Prime Minister Gaston Browne told the media this week, referring to the 15-member Caribbean Community. "In fact, we believe that it is an extremely dangerous precedent ... which has absolutely no basis in law, it has no constitutional backing, it has no support of international law, and it's really an affront to democracy within the hemisphere."

Browne's strong stance, along with that of Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, comes as Venezuela's political turmoil deepens and the feud between Maduro and U.S. President Donald Trump forces countries in and out of the hemisphere to take sides.

The U.S. this week ordered all non-emergency U.S. diplomats in Venezuela to leave. As word began arriving in Caracas, Caricom leaders met in an emergency video-conference call to hash out a statement condemning the recent developments. Among the countries absent from the call: Haiti, which that same day recognized Juan Guaidó as the legitimate president of Venezuela

in an Organization of American States declaration.

Amid anti-Maduro protests, 35-year-old leader of the opposition and head of the National Assembly, Juan Guaidó declared himself acting president in a move welcomed by huge crowds of protesters and several world leaders, including the United States.

The development came a week after Maduro was sworn in for a second term in office, following disputed elections that were widely regarded by some in the international community as a sham poll.

Following an emergency meeting via video-conference yesterday evening, under the chairmanship of St Kitts and Nevis' Prime Minister Dr Timothy Harris, CARICOM Heads called for a peaceful resolution to the "unsatisfactory situation" in neighbouring Venezuela.

While the leaders reaffirmed their guiding principles of non-interference and non-intervention in the affairs of states, respect for sovereignty, adherence to the rule of law, and respect for human rights and democracy, they reiterated "the long-standing political crisis, which has been exacerbated by recent events, can only be resolved peacefully through meaningful dialogue and diplomacy." As such, Prime Minister Harris, in his capacity as Chairman of CARICOM, sought an urgent meeting with the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres to request the UN's assistance in resolving the issue.

"Venezuela, of course, is part of the Caribbean region and any adverse development there would have serious ramifications for the peace and orderly development of Member States within the region. So we will continue to hold a watching brief and constructively engage with the principal actors in Venezuela and the actors everywhere to ensure that we preserve the region as a zone of peace," he said.

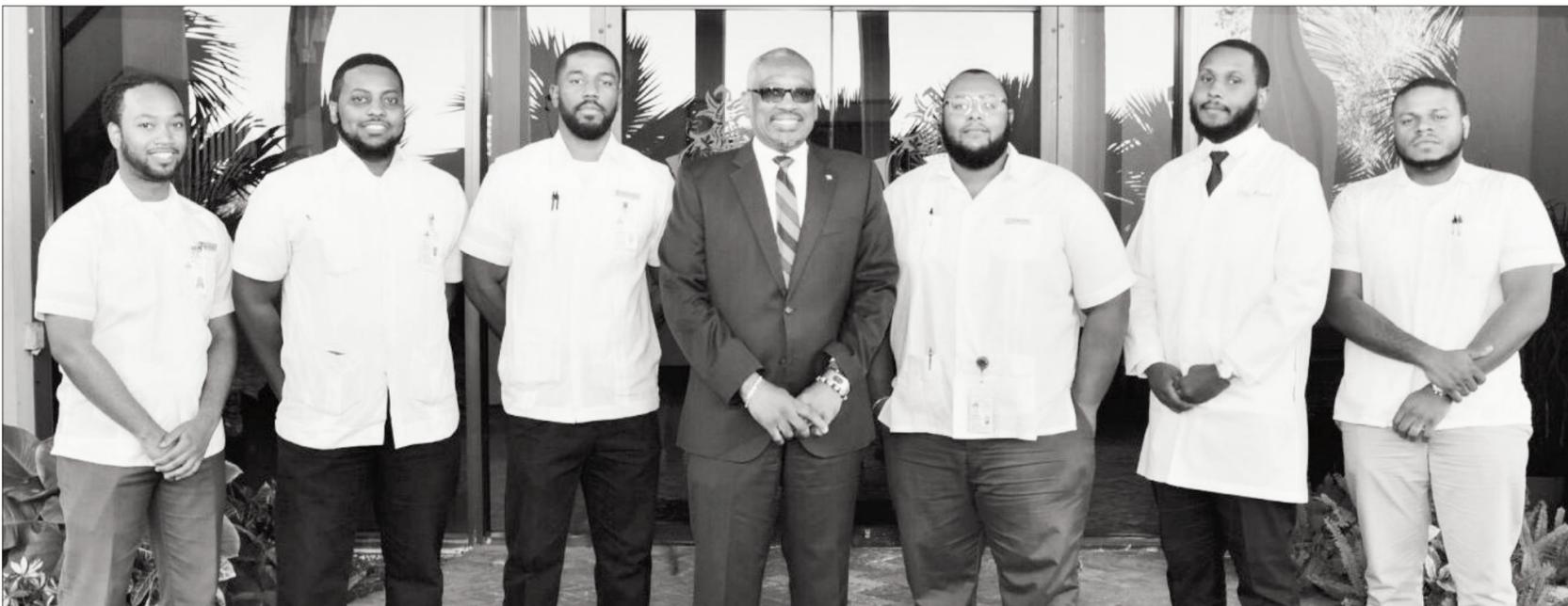
In an official statement issued immediately after the meeting, CARICOM Heads emphasized the importance of maintaining the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, citing Article 2 (4) of the UN Charter which calls for Members States to refrain from the threat or the use of force and Article 21 of the Charter of the Organization of American States which refers to territorial inviolability.

In this regard, the Caribbean leaders are also calling on external forces to refrain from doing anything to destabilize the situation and called on all actors, internal and external, "to avoid actions which would escalate an already explosive situation to the detriment of the people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and which could have far-reaching negative consequences for the wider region."

Following Guaidó's declaration that he was Venezuela's interim leader and the support he received from the US, Canada, and some Latin American and European countries, Maduro remained resolute and ordered US diplomats out of the country within 72 hours.

He subsequently recalled Venezuela's diplomats from Washington, but the US is adamant its diplomats in Caracas will stay. Maduro has so far received the backing of Russia, Cuba and China.

UWI Medical Students Pay Courtesy CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER



► University of the West Indies medical students shared a light moment with Prime Minister the Most Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis in a courtesy call on January 30, 2019 at Office of the Prime Minister. Pictured with the Prime Minister are Shanel Adderley, Paige Ambrister, Montez Ambrister, Athena Bain, Philan Bethel, Carlesha Blades, Shaundra Blyden, Ashley Burrows, Jenna Butler, Lonelle Butler, Dae-via Carey, Jacintha Clarke, Nariska Cooper, Cristy Creighton, Simone Dames, Gary Deal-Laroda, Rashanda Deveaux, Kezia Dillett, Tai Dorsett, Dominic Duncombe, Celeste Gray, Nicolette Greenslade, Andrielle Hillhouse, Chana Imlach, Yasmine Ingraham, Colton Jones, Tonya Lewis, Tia Mackey, Gabrielle McKinney, Cito Moore, Ariana Neely, Randia Oliver, Kezia Rolle, Jay Sargent, Vestra Sears, Avoni Seymour, Shannon Smith, Destiny Stuart, Rasheika Swain, Juanteria Symonette, and Neko Turner. **(BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe)**

Rice seafood salad and coconut croquem-bouche winning dishes in Senior High School Young Chef Competition

At the onset, eight senior high school students were all deemed winners, but after two nerve wrecking hours of preparing, cooking, tasting and serving, Labrano McPhee Jr. emerged the overall winner of the 2019 Senior High School Young Chef Competition.

The students' assignment was to plan, prepare and serve a dish made from Mahatma Rice and a flour dish made from Robin Hood Flour.

McPhee, a student of Anatol Rodgers Senior High School, concocted cold rice seafood salad and coconut croquem-bouche.

The judges, who are all

professional chefs, gave McPhee high scores for the flavor, good texture and creativity of his dishes. They said his was a job "well" done as he showed poise, and presented clean, organized work.

The annual New Providence District contest sponsored by Robin Hood Flour and Mahatma Rice was held Tuesday at C.C. Sweeting Senior High School. This year's theme is 'Creatively Embracing Indigenous Foods through Innovation for Sustainable Development.'

Before the statisticians tallied the scores, the judges, Chefs Devan McPhee, Celeste Smith,

Lester Dean, and Devin Johnson inspected the ingredients, assessed the students' performance, tasted the dishes and listened to the explanations offered.

The students were judged on hygiene, sanitation, dress, indigenous food items and skills demonstrated.

Raquel Turnquest, Acting Education Officer, Family and Consumer Science Unit, the Ministry of Education, explained the judging criteria.

"If they make use of a grill, a stand-mixer, make pasta from scratch, roll out a pasta dough, whether or not they have a time-plan,

how they are working in the kitchen, whatever techniques they bring to the fore, that's what they gain points on.

"They actually produce eight plates – 4 rice dishes, 4 flour dishes [using] any brand of Mahatma, whether it's brown rice, jasmine, long grain or par-boil."

The students' presentations varied from Sweet Island Rice Cake to Potter's Cay Benewaffle, Junkanoo Shrimp Rice with Au Jus Sauce, to Guava Fritter with Guava Mint Sauce, Ju-Ju Squares and Tropical Clouds.

Chef Johnson advised the students and their

coaches, to stay "true" and "native" when they participate in competitions.

"I want to see more native cooking presented in a modern way," he said.

"We don't live in France, Italy or these parts of the world. Let's use our indigenous products and indigenous names. You lose points when you use these terminologies and they are not perfected properly. I see things like swiss roll, au jus and croquem-bouche. You have to do them the right way or else you will get hit harder. Let's use local terminology, and make up your own words."

The results are: Santone Pugh, Doris Johnson (8th place); Audia Roker, Doris Johnson (7th place); Aahyah Johnson, C.C. Sweeting (6th place); Jaria Strachan, Kingsway Academy (5th place); Anthony Coakley, C.C. Sweeting (4th place); Nashea Rolle, St. John's College (3rd place); and Antonessa Thompson, C.R. Walker (2nd place).

Mr. McPhee will go on to compete with Family Island students in the senior high school national round of the competition on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at Anatol Rodgers Secondary School.

Understanding the Police Culture Contd.

■ Continued from / PAGE 5...

in patrol officers who must handle large number of calls that involve serious problems which they are not equipped by training or mandate to solve" (Katherine W. Ellison, 1983, 60).

Police involved shootings also have a public order dimension. Research by Bohrer and Chaney noted: "Perceptions by the public of officer-involved shootings usually

are as wide and diverse as the population, often driven by media coverage, and sometimes influenced by a long-standing bias and mistrust of government. Documented cases of riots, property damage, and loss of life have occurred in communities where residents have perceived a police shooting as unjustified. Some members of the public seem to automatically assume that the officer did something wrong before any investigation into the incident begins.

Conversely, others believe that if the police shot somebody, the individual must not have given the officer any choice". Fellow Bahamians, we have seen crowd violence and heard of alleged police assaults in the aftermath of police involved shootings. The recent events in Masons Addition is one of these. This bears out the research on these matters and, it may get worse. It may get worse because of the current strategies by police to regain control of crime and

the methods being used to achieve these goals. All of this will be naught however, if our police collapse under the stress of their difficult jobs whilst trying to fulfil some political imperative. Police for the most part are professionals; they know how to police; they don't need to be micro managed like amateurs. But there must be oversight and open, transparent investigations into all police involved shootings by persons specially trained to perform these tasks.

Then and only then will citizens accept the primacy of police and treat them with the trust and respect they deserve whilst, freely accepting that police are very necessary agents of social control. Finally, can we place the entire blame for police shootings on police officers? Put another way, do some police officers intentionally use lethal force when less force would do? Research by Jonathan Wender a sociologist at the University of Washington and a former

police sergeant addresses the issue of police stress and notes: "Put plainly, when cops mess up, the explanations offered tend to be ethical and political, when the more empirically solid explanations are much simpler than that—they are basic failures of human performance under stress". So there; we know the magnitude of the problem and possibly some of its causes. What is required now is a fulsome effort by the responsible persons and agencies to address it.