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THURSDAY - JANUARY 3RD, 2018

75 CENTS

AG WANTS ECONOMIC LIFT

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

At the beginning of each new year most people usually come up with resolutions or goals they wish to fulfill that year and government officials are no different.

Attorney General, Carl Bethel who said he hopes the economy is uplifted.

"I'd like to see the financial sector stabilized and buffeted and protected from these continual assaults from foreign



► Attorney General, Carl Bethel (File photo)

■ See page 2...

TEACHERS UNION GETS STRIKE CERTIFICATE

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Union of Teachers (BUT) yesterday announced a long awaited strike certificate has been secured from the Ministry of Labour.

B.U.T. President Belinda Wilson told reporters outside of CH Reeves Junior High School that during the Christmas break, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Works would have corrected health and safety concerns at the school.

A walkabout was scheduled to take place that afternoon with the Minister of Education and team of officials, lawyers from the Attorney General's Office, and the union's lawyers.

Mrs. Wilson expressed that she hopes



■ See page 4...

First Murder of 2019

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

The first day of the year 2019 also recorded the country's first homicide after a young man was gunned down on Market Street and later succumbed to his injuries in

hospital.

Chief Superintendent of Police Solomon Cash said the police are actively investigating the incident and questioning two persons of interest.

Although the victim

■ See page 4...

■ See page 4...

PM in New Year's Day Junkanoo Rush



► Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Hubert Minnis and his grandson enjoy rushing with the Saxons Superstars in the New Year's Day 2018 Junkanoo Parade. (BIS Photo/Kemuel Stubbs)



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Min. appeals to corporate sponsors for Junkanoo

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

The 2019 New Year's Day Junkanoo Parade has officially come to a close and a Cabinet Minister is appealing to corporate sponsors to continue supporting one of the country's biggest events.

Social Services Minister, Frankie Campbell said government funding is limited, which is why the extra funding is needed.

"I'm impressed with the sacrifice made by all groups, I realize that the government funding is insufficient," he said.

"So, I appeal to corporate Bahamas to continue

to sponsor Junkanoo groups, because this is in fact our premier cultural event.

"I am slightly partial to one, but I'm supporting all," he added.

Companies like Shell, Paradise Games, and Baha Mar are also major sponsors, supporting different Junkanoo groups.

Just last month platinum sponsor Kalik/Commonwealth Brewery shared their continued support to the Junkanoo Corporation New Providence (JCNP) and the major A groups by hosting a Junkanoo Beer Fest where half of the entry proceeds of the supporters went to the vari-

ous Junkanoo groups of their choice.

JCNP Chairman, Silbert Ferguson, even commended Kalik, who he said always has an open door, for its assistance in developing the craft.

Title sponsor BTC has also funded the cultural entity with some \$230,000 per year to allow the JCNP to host both the Boxing Day and New Year's Day Junkanoo parades.

In September 2018, Rubis Bahamas also came on board as the JCNP's new gold sponsor. Rubis will contribute to the corporation \$150,000 over the next three years.



► Boxing Day Junkanoo Parade 2018 participant on display.
(Photo: Kemuel Stubbs)

WOMAN IN VIRAL VIDEO IN CUSTODY

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

A 30-year-old woman was yesterday arrested following a video that went viral on social media capturing her firing a gun from a moving vehicle.

Chief Superintendent of police Solomon Cash said, "currently Firearm detectives are speaking with

her to identify what was going on, and we have hopes of finding that illegal firearm."

The video surfaced on Facebook's BahamasNewsMaBey on December 31st, and has a total of 77,000 views, 1,367 shares, 681 comments, and 395 likes.

Mr. Cash has indicated to The Journal that questioning continues and investigations are ongoing.

AG WANTS ECONOMIC LIFT

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

powers.

"I'd like to see us move into a growth trajectory in all aspects of the economy, in terms of the empowerment of young Bahamians to move into technology fields.

"We need to focus on the new economy of the world, in terms of stabilizing our existing sources of income our infrastructure, our banks, offshore banks and our corporate structures and so these are the things that are my most important work right now and my greatest wish for The Bahamas."

Later today the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest is expected to

announce the latest government position over a recent threat of black or grey listing of the Bahamas by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

This, he said, is a major constraint to economic development and has repercussions that are felt beyond the financial services industry.

The Parliament recently passed a compendium of financial legislation in an attempt to satisfy the demands of the OECD and the European Union.

Also, Social Services Minister, Frankie Campbell at the New

Year's Day Junkanoo Parade expressed his wish for the country this year.

"My new year's wish is that more of our people, both young and old, would focus more on what they can do," he said.

"Focus more on their abilities, focus more on their potentials see the glass half full as opposed to half empty."

"Subscribe to being entrepreneurs, employers, as opposed to just looking for a job; just wanting to be productive Bahamian citizens in this society, one person at a time," Mr. Campbell said.






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2018

Water and Sewerage Officials Inspect Tarpum Bay Water Plant



► Stephen Hank Johnson, MP for Central and South Eleuthera, talks about water upgrades there. Also shown from left are WSC officials including Cyprian Gibson, Assistant General Manager (partially hidden); Thomas Desmangles, Distribution Operations Manager; Elwood Donaldson, General Manager and Adrian Gibson, Executive Chairman, WSC, and MP for Long Island. (BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna)

ELEUTHERA, The Bahamas – Executive Chairman of the Water and Sewerage Corporation (WSC), Adrian Gibson along with other officials inspected the water plant in Tarpum Bay during a recent stopover visit to the island.

The plant, which

services the communities of Tarpum Bay and Rock Sound, produces approximately 460,000 gallons of water per day and has a storage capacity of 500,000 gallons.

Mr. Gibson said the WSC is exploring the possibility of extending transmission mains between the plants in

Tarpum Bay and the settlement of Waterford to accommodate major developments like Jacks Bay and Cotton Bay resorts and others which may be on the drawing board.

"We have another plant further south in Waterford. That plant services the southern

communities. It has a storage capacity of 250,000 and produces 90,000 per day. To accommodate the new development, Jacks Bay and their golf course, over the next three weeks or so, we're putting in an additional 90,000 capacity. They will be producing

180,000 gallons per day in terms of pumping and producing, said Mr. Gibson.

"With the transmission mains, it means that Jacks Bay and other developments would be able to get water from the two sides. You will never have an issue with the

golf course, supplying the hotels or whatever other investment may come up."

The Chairman also highlighted additional work the corporation has completed in Eleuthera including extension works to water mains in German Village.



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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First Murder Of 2019

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

was known to police, no official identity was released.

"Yes, he is known to us. In addition to that, we are speaking to two persons of interest who are in custody."

"So, hopefully the end of the day we'll be

able to be more definitive as to whether they will become suspects in the matter," Mr. Cash said.

According to police reports, shortly after 11:00am, Tuesday a man was walking with other persons, on Market Street in the vicinity of C.R. Walker Senior School,

when he was approached by a male armed with a firearm, who shot him before running away.

Paramedics were called to the scene and transported the injured man to hospital, where he later died.

As for the identity of the victim, Chief Superintendent Cash

said that information will be revealed following notification of next of kin.

This latest homicide began the count for the new year. At the end of 2018 there were 90 homicides, the lowest number since 2009 which recorded 85 homicides at year's end.

Twenty Year Old Held For Shooting

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

to the upper body before fleeing the scene.

Emergency Medical Personnel were called to the scene and attended to the victim. He was then transported to the Rand Memorial Hospital where he is

said to be listed in serious, but stable condition.

Police later took the 20-year-old of Seagrape, Eight Mile Rock into custody in connection with this matter.

Investigations continue.

TEACHERS UNION GETS STRIKE CERTIFICATE

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

that the union will not have to use the strike certificate, likening it to an insurance policy that one may acquire "just in case" something happens.

She also indicated that the union is giving the ministry until January 7th to fix the issues causing them to take a strike vote.

The issues at the school of which teachers complain span from rat infestations to mold growing in classrooms.

Last month, the union

took a strike vote where 62 out of 74 teachers voted in favor of a strike.

However, Director of Labour John Pinder indicated that there may have been an issue certifying the vote because only CH reeves teachers participated.

Mrs. Wilson told The Journal that neither the director or minister had the authority to refuse giving the union the strike certificate.

She said, "in accordance with the Industrial Relations Act Section 20,

their job was to ensure that the poll was taken; which they would have done, and their next step would have been to issue the strike certificate."

She added, "now, you know I had to go up to a higher level to ensure that we get this strike certificate. So, I'm happy that we've received it, and I hope that we won't have to use it."

At the last minute, Education Minister Jeffrey Lloyd could not accompany the union on this assessment sending

the government's negotiations representative Zane Lightbourne in his place.

The Media representatives were banned from taking part in the assessment, and the police

were contacted by the school's administration in an effort to clear the campus.

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Eneas Files

By Godfrey Eneas

Are We In A New Reality?

The Bahamas attained Majority Rule on January 10th, 1967 thereby denoting, essentially, fifty years of Pindling governance: 25 years with Sir Lynden O. Pindling as Prime Minister himself and 25 years of his protégés, Hubert Ingraham and Perry Christie, who sat in his Cabinet.

In the 50 years since Majority Rule, we have arrived at a point where we are in a different dispensation. Dr. Hubert Minnis as Prime Minister did not have the experience of the Pindling protégés, therefore he begins a new dispensation with a different modus operandi. The important question is whether or not our country is entering a new reality as we approach a new year at this juncture of the 21st Century.

Most of the members of our Parliament were not involved in the Quiet Revolution, hence there is an unawareness of the struggles the revolutionaries encountered on their march to the New Bahamas. The present Parliamentarians inherited a transformed Bahamas and some take the achievements of the struggle for granted. It is this fact that distinguishes Pindling's governance approach to the post-Pindling period of Ingraham and Christie -- in essence this new dispensation. The present generation of Parliamentarians is bringing a new governance approach to Bahamian politics.

The Pindling years of governance reflected a strong commitment to the socio-economic re-engineering of The Bahamian society. This re-engineering highlighted initiatives to provide secondary education for all Bahamians and the eventual establishment of tertiary education (College Of The Bahamas) leading to the University of The Bahamas. Further, the Pindling government ensured the placement of infrastructure throughout the archipelago that enhanced the quality of life and standard of living inclusive of the low-cost housing subdivisions throughout New Providence and several Family Islands thereby eliminating the blight of "yards" in Over-the-Hill communities. A priority was building a social and health safety net via National Insurance and, in 1984, the introduction of a National Health Insurance Scheme in conjunction with the expansion of healthcare facilities. These are some of the initiatives that transformed The Bahamas in the second half of the 20th Century and created a new sustainable middle class which today has been threatened with the possibility of being diminished in the first two decades of the 21st century.

The Bahamas became a socially and economically upwardly mobile society as thousands became professionals as accountants, doctors, lawyers, engineers, hotel executives, senior public officers, educators, clergy, entrepreneurs etc. The Pindling years had built an economic framework and formulated a policy atmosphere that encouraged foreign direct investment along with the integration of Bahamians into all spheres of the economy including

greater Bahamian ownership of the economy, promotions to executive management positions of multinational corporations (oil companies, hotel chains) and international banks (local and offshore).

Pindling expanded the economy and diversified the Stafford Sands Model as follows:

Tourism Sector: With Sir Clement Maynard as Minister of Tourism (68-'71), ('84-'86) and ('87-'90), tourism stamped itself as the economic engine of The Bahamian economy by achieving the billion dollar mark in tourism expenditure in the country in 1986. For the first time tourism was a billion-dollar industry 33 years ago. Where are we now?

Financial Services Sector: One of the pillars of the Stafford Sands Model was The Bahamas gaining the reputation as a Tax Haven.

This nomenclature did not bode well for The Bahamas as a jurisdiction where Americans and Europeans could avoid paying taxes under the umbrella of not paying taxes to their countries. The Pindling government created a Financial Services Industry along the lines of Switzerland. This industry blossomed to the point where the Sector represented 15-20% of the economy from time to time. In the late '90s, the Sector came under the assault by various governments and groupings like the US, EU and OECD and was black-listed.

Light Industry and Manufacturing Sector: In order to develop and enhance this into an economically viable Sector, the strategy was to link it to tourism (handicraft and souvenir items), household commodities for the local consumer and products to be assembled etc. The Soldier Road Industrial Park was the site for this initiative.

Constructor Sector: A burgeoning construction industry was in process during the '70s as Bahamians began to move into suburban communities like Nassau East, Imperial Park, Stapleton Gardens, Highland Park and others. There was a boom in the construction of three bedroom, two bath middle class homes. There was a lot of work for small building contractors.

BTVI would be the manpower training and development centre for technicians and tradesmen for light industry, manufacturing and construction.

Agriculture and Marine Resources Sector: In 1978 the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) conducted the first Census on Agriculture. It revealed that there were almost 80,000 acres of land in food production. The Pindling government responded by improving the marketing infrastructure with the erection of Packing Houses in Eleuthera (3); Long Island (2); and one in North Andros, Cat Island and Exuma respectively. In conjunction with this, an agricultural manpower development scholarship programme was introduced to train Bahamians in a variety of disciplines connect with the agricultural and marine sciences.

Food production was a prior-



ity item on the Pindling economic diversification agenda as an Import Substitution Policy was seen as a key incentive in the expansion of the Agricultural Sector. Later, the Christie government would pivot to the global agenda of a Food and Nutrition Security Policy. BAMSI was the response.

Liberalization Policy: In the late '90s, the Ingraham government embarked on a policy to liberate aspects on the economy. Globalization had become the norm of the global economic development agenda as the World Trade Organization (WTO) was driving the process. The implications would be far reaching for The Bahamas as the government earmarked the Agricultural and Marine Resources and the Light Industry and Manufacturing Sectors for its Duty Reduction Policy (DRP) which negatively impacted the growth and development of these two sectors.

The airwaves and telecommunications were liberalized as licenses were granted to commence the ownership of private radio and television stations, the introduction of Cable Bahamas and the sale of BaTelco to Cable and Wireless. BTC became BaTelco's successor.

Major Initiatives: There were several initiatives that spanned both the Ingraham and Christie governments:-

- Redevelopment of Paradise Island into Atlantis (Ingraham)
- Redevelopment of Cable Beach into Bahia Mar (Christie)
- Albany
- National Stadium (Christie/Ingraham)
- Elevation of COB to UB (Christie)
- Critical care Unit
- New Road System (Ingraham)
- LOP International Airport (Christie/Ingraham)
- BAMSI(Christie)
- VAT Introduction (Christie)
- \$200 million purchase of Defence Force Vessels (Christie)
- Arawak Cay Freight Terminal (Ingraham)
- The Pointe (Christie)

This is essentially The Bahamas which was left in place by three Prime Ministers -- Pindling, Ingraham and Christie. The Pindling era lasted from 1967-92 - 25 years. The other two Prime Minister had 25 years combined with 15 years for Ingraham and 10 years for Christie. In 1967, the population of The Bahamas was about 160,000 and by 2016, it was approaching 400,000. Over the past 50 years, the country has produced a quarter million new Bahamians.

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EDITORIAL

Promises & Comforts

We are reliably informed that promises are but comforts to fools.

The road to hell is paved with the best of intentions. However the fact remains that politicians on the prowl for votes and victory will scatter promises as if they were just so much pretty confetti.

Even as we fondly remember former Prime Minister Perry Christie for what seemed his born charisma and his wonderful way with words, we must give kudos to Dr. Hubert A. Minnis for his advanced skills in that political field of promise-making where so very many people always wait for their latest fill of hope!

One need only turn to how the prime minister was able to finesse the Ragged Island people.

As the nation's chief both promised and boasted: "... I assure the wonderful people of Ragged Island that their island will be rebuilt. We will work with private institutions, international agencies and foreign partners to create a more sustainable island-community at Ragged Island..."

At that juncture many were comforted.

And as they tuned in to the Chief's very many promise-words, they heard him as he declared: "...Out of the devastation and the destruction, a new Ragged Island will emerge including stronger building codes, improved zoning, and strategies to mitigate against climate change and rising sea levels..."

With that, there was this most comforting of reminders given by the prime minister: "...We know by faith and the experience of history that out of tragedy, can often come new life and [that] despair can be transformed into hope..."

Alas! The Ragged Island people who were comforted in those deeply challenging times are today no longer waiting for promises made to be fulfilled.

Instead, we know that they are today reeling under the hammer-blows of not

only the VAT+ tax regime, but also they hurt as they feel as if they have been let down in a very mighty way.

At this juncture, our dear readers might well wish to label today's commentary as one that would have all and sundry know that politicians on the prowl for votes will promise the moon and sixpence if that was needed in order for them to get over.

With that said, we wish to frame our considered comments by referencing three facts that matter.

Ragged Island sustained the brunt of the destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew in The Bahamas. Most of the homes there were destroyed or severely damaged. Power lines are down. Utilities are non-functioning. Public buildings, including the government-operated school, the clinic and other public facilities are severely damaged or destroyed.

Prime Minister Minnis said Ragged Island can emerge from the destruction and devastation caused by the Hurricane as a new model for sustainable communities throughout the region and The Bahamas.

And then, we note also that Prime Minister Minnis also vowed to transform Ragged Island into a model for sustainable community by rebuilding it into the first "fully green island in the region."

And as he waxed almost poetic, the Prime Minister said the Government of The Bahamas will accomplish this objective through the use of renewable energy and smart technologies from solar energy, to sustainable water purification systems.

Indeed as the Chief reached even higher rhetorical heights, he unveiled thus: "...Before the term of this government ends, we will have partnered with various stakeholders and experts, to embark upon an ambitious plan to significantly increase the use of solar energy in the Bahamas..."

Here again, we see some more of that potent promise stuff.

Letter to the Editor PROMISES, PROMISES!

Dear Editor:

The incomparable Dionne Warwick sang a song that went like this:

"Promises, promises

I'm all through with promises, promises now

I don't know how I got the nerve to walk out

If I shout, remember I feel free

Now I can look at myself and be proud

I'm laughing out loud.

Oh, promises, promises

This is where those promises, promises end

I don't pretend that what was wrong can be right

Every night I sleep now, no more lies

Things that I promised myself fell apart."

These lyrics are most appropriate for the people of The Bahamas, but Grand Bahama in particular.

Just as a reminder, Grand Bahama delivered all of its seats – five (5) to the FNM in the last election. The people were duped in believing that things were going to get better. So, they bet their whole hand on the Free National Movement and sweet Willie.

But since May 10, 2016, there were numerous occasions where the people were built up with a proposed project, only to have their feelings dashed.

It has become the norm that an announcement is made and nothing happens afterwards. Our Lucaya is a classic example. This has the people on a

rollercoaster, pulling, yucking, rolling, rising and falling at warped speed. This dizzying experience has caused many to not only lose hope, but it has destroyed their equilibrium.

Grand Bahama, has the Deputy Prime Minister, yet nothing happens. This begs the question, does anyone really care? Who among the MPs are going to genuinely fight for the people? The naked truth is only one seems to be speaking on their behalf.

The stark reality now is, the FNM has taken the people for granted. They believe that Freeport is really FNM country as they said in the past. But the truth be told, the promises that has been made are simply not kept.

The only thing would pacify the people from this point going forward, will be a real opportunity for them to survive because they have had enough of the promises.

"Oh, promises, their kind of promises, can just destroy a life." Oh, promises, those kinds of promises, take all the joy from life."

Unless a commitment is made, there are only promises and hope, but no plans.

Two years will elapse in May, how much longer should the people wait?

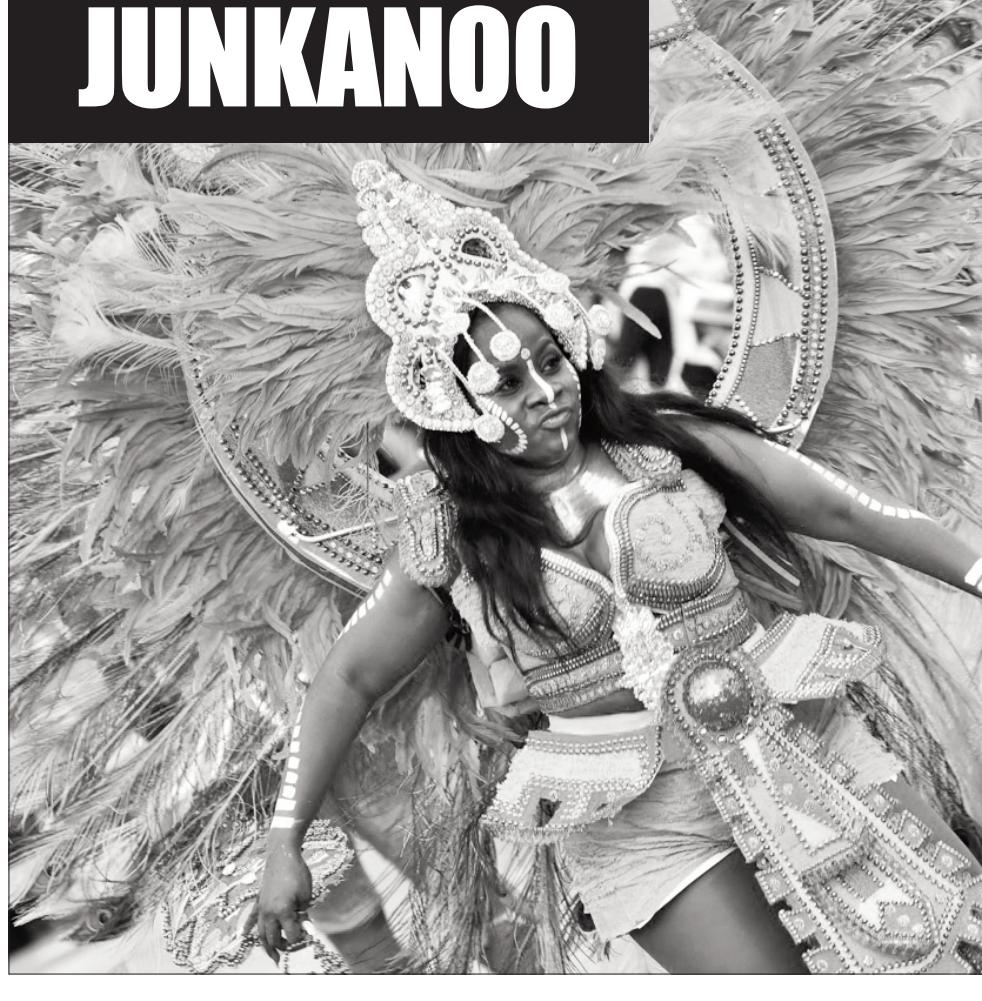
Oh Lord, how long?

Sincerely,
Ivoine W. Ingraham

A6The Bahama Journal
Thursday - January 3rd, 2018**National NEWS**

New Year's Day 2019

JUNKANOO



(BIS Photos/Kemuel Stubbs)



GOVERNMENT NOTICES

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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The Road Traffic Department would like to remind all Franchise Holders – Taxi, Tour, Public Schedule, Private Schedule, Private Charter, Livery, Self-Drive Cars and Scooters that we are now accepting registration documents for the Bi-annual inspection period of October 2018 to May 2019.

The Following documents are required:

1. Passport/Voters Card and N.I.B Card (for holders not registered in the new system)
2. Up to date Franchise Receipt
3. Up to date Business License
4. Inspection Slip/Copies of expired Inspection Discs
5. Completed Inspection Forms for Companies with five (5) or more Vehicles that require On-site Inspection (forms can be picked up at the Road traffic Department Franchise Unit).
6. Up to date Insurance Certificates
7. Vehicle Color and right/left hand drive (for new vehicles)

All Franchise Holders with a fleet of five (5) or more vehicles are invited to submit their packages to the Road Traffic Department, Franchise Unit Section 3 Eastern Grandstand of the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium. All Packages will be processed on a first come first serve basis.

Please note that the Department will only receive payments in the form of:

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