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# The Bahama Journal

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75 CENTS

# Houses Destroyed On Princess Cay

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

There is a temporary halt in work at Princess Cay, Eleuthera, following a major fire that damaged at least four buildings on the island's resort.

However, there was no major damage to the guest areas at Princess Cruise Line's port of call in Bannerman Town, Eleuthera, the most southern part of the island.

According to police, "shortly after 10pm Monday, they went to Princess Cruise Line's Princess Cay and discovered four wooden building engulfed in flames. Police and community fire service volunteers made efforts to extinguish the fire; however, the buildings were totally destroyed".

Director of Island Operations for the cruise

See page 7...



The fire that damaged four buildings at Princess Cay, Eleuthera was held at bay thanks to management, staff and locals in the community. (File photo)

## DNA: "PM's Address Fell Flat"

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

The Democratic National Alliance slammed the prime minister's national address, yesterday, as Deputy Leader Arinthia Komolofe calling it regrettable, failing to "inspire hope among the Bahamian people".

Responding to prime minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis 44 minutes speech in a press statement, Mrs. Komolofe called it "uninspiring and underwhelm-



DNA Deputy Leader, Arinthia Komolofe (File photo)

See page 7...

# Downtown Transformation

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK  
 Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis has announced major plans for the transformation of the downtown area of New Providence. In his speech to the nation of Monday

evening, he said through a new Tourism Development Corporation, the government will provide incentives for Bahamians in Heritage Tourism.

He says the upgrade and expansion of the Port of Nassau which has gone to tender.

Dr. Minnis said the government

will continue to own the Prince George Wharf, but taxpayer dollars will not be used in its transformation.

This major undertaking will tie-in to the long-awaited and ongoing redevelopment of Downtown

See page 8...

## Min. Awaiting Report On Teacher's Attack

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

A student's alleged attack on a C.V. Bethel teacher is the focus of a Police investigation, the results of which Education Minister Jeffrey Lloyd said he is eagerly awaiting

to determine the next course of action.

"We are awaiting that and have been urgently and patiently waiting that police report.

"When we have it, we are then going to be able

See page 6...

## Police Probe Triple Shooting

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

Three men were shot in an incident on Milton Street on Monday night. They are hospitalized in the Princess Margaret Hospital.

Police are now seeking the public's assistance in identifying and locating the person who may be responsible for the shooting incident.

Police say shortly

See page 8...

## Technology Enhancing Crime Fight

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

Minister of National Security Marvin Dames is optimistic about the direction in which law

enforcement is going with technology.

The Minister confirmed with reporters recently that all the technological enhancements that the government is

looking into will work cohesively in the fight against crime.

"We're moving and we understand that every piece of technology is important to the other

piece and so we're not acquiring technology in isolation of the other.

"It is hoped that at the end of the day, all of the

See page 6...



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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# PM TOUTS FAMILY ISLAND ECONOMIC GROWTH

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK  
Journal Staff Writer

The sale of the beleaguered Grand Lucayan Resort and the push to make Grand Bahama a technology hub, according to Prime Minister Doctor Hubert Minnis are key to reviving that island's lackluster economy.

Along with this is the new and diverse business, Carnival Cruise Lines' Ocean Medallion Project.

"Ocean Medallion is a wearable device that enables a personal digital concierge for passengers, eliminating long check in lines, cabin keys and credit cards," Dr. Minnis explained.

"A team of eight Bahamians currently on the project underwent training to learn to install the Ocean Medallion hardware and software on cruise ships, and they continue to monitor those systems," Dr. Minnis said.

As the Prime Minister outlined in his nationally televised address Monday evening, other companies approved for Grand Bahama include Globe United - a European-based medical call center and administrative office; G.B. Pharma - a company engaged in biomedical services and DevDigital Bahamas

Limited - a Bahamian joint venture web development company.

He said "Agriculture Enterprises Development Limited - a Bahamian joint venture farming company that will engage in a pilot fruit and nut farm producing coconut, castor and palm oil for the local market and for export; and another Bahamian joint venture company, Bahamas Golden Harvest Limited, was approved to establish a chicken hatchery, produce eggs, chicken feed, cash crops and citrus on East End Grand Bahama."

Dr. Minnis also discussed upcoming projects slated for the family islands, all in the government's efforts to promote economic and national development and the sustainable development of family islands and cays.

According to the Prime Minister, the government is actively exploring the opportunity to establish a transshipment port in Mayaguana, poultry and processing plants in North Andros and Eleuthera by the owners of Bahamas Striping Group of Companies, and other projects.

"Investments for Eleuthera include: The Philautia boutique resort hotel project in Governor's Harbour;

Disney Cruise Lines' low-density cruise port destination at the Lighthouse Beach in Bannerman Town; Windmere Island North Community Resort; Jack's Bay Community Resort and Davis Harbour Marine south of Rock Sound and the \$4 million dollar Harbour Island Marina and Community Resort," he said.

"The latter two projects were recently approved for expansion of developments that were approved previously and are currently underway," he added.

Prime Minister Minnis also mentioned improvements on tap for Abaco, including the proposed Tyrsoz family \$580 million investment in South Abaco for the development of a 5-star residential resort and marina, which will involve the upgrade and expansion of the Sandy Point airstrip, the development of the Sandy Point ferry dock as a cargo transshipment port and construction area, and the extension of Queen's Highway in South Abaco.

"On Andros, we have approved a Bahamian joint venture partnership arrangement for the development of the Blue Hole Marina and Lodge in Fresh Creek, consisting of a 12-room lodge and an 80-slip marina including a bulk

fuel facility," he said.

"Long Island will experience growth to its economy with the development of the Pinder's Bay \$5 million dollar 28 bungalow community development project at Lower Harbour," he added.

"This project will hire about 30 Bahamians during construction, and nine Bahamians to operate and

maintain the residential community.

"Also in the works for Long Island is a new five-star eco-resort by Star Resort with 515 luxury residences," he said.

"The Berry Islands, Bimini and the Exumas experienced their share of investments with the expansion of existing properties and green field

tourism projects."

According to Dr. Minnis, in terms of international investment, the family islands are attracting tens of millions of dollars and significant projects to energize their economies.

Monday's national address was the first in a series of three the Prime Minister has promised to deliver.



## MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

### UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (USCG) ACADEMY 4 YEAR MILITARY DEGREE PROGRAM

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.

#### To qualify, applicants must:

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#### Deadline for submission of application is 31st January, 2019.

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](mailto:michaelhanna@rbdf.gov.bs) or visit the website [www.rbdf.gov.bs](http://www.rbdf.gov.bs)

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# PM foreshadows Blue Economy Initiative in National Address



► Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis

Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis has foreshadowed a Blue Economy Initiative as one of the priorities on his list for the further development of The Bahamas.

He made the announcement in his first National Address for 2019, which was broadcast live on TV and radio stations across the country on Monday, January 28.

The address was the first in three planned National Addresses aimed at keeping the country updated on the government's agenda over the coming weeks.

The Prime Minister noted that The Bahamas with a population of about 400,000, is one of the largest archipelagos in the world taking into account its islands, islets, coral reefs and cays.

And he envisioned a better sustainable advantage of preserving these natural environs with his government's proposed Blue Economy Initiative.

In this vein, the government has secured a non-reimbursable grant from the Inter-American Development Bank of \$500,000 to finance a three-year technical coop-

eration project that focuses on the Blue Economy and the Digital Economy, the Prime Minister revealed.

"The Blue Economy Initiative is a part of our vision for growth, diversification and economic expansion and opportunity for current and future generations," he said. "We are planning for short, medium and long-term growth and diversification."

The Prime Minister explained that the initiative is an evolving concept that highlights the need to capitalize on the extensive economic potential that can be found in the ocean, including economic activity that uses the sea, as an input either directly or indirectly.

The initiative will also include fisheries, maritime transport, and coastal tourism.

"It will also enable us to diversify into many new and emerging ocean-based activities such as marine aquaculture, seabed mining, maritime safety and surveillance, maritime biotechnology, marine security and other areas," the Prime Minister said.



## 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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# A.F. Adderley's Anyah Coke wins Young Chef Competition



▶ A display of Anyah Coke's winning seafood rice and muffin. Anyah Coke is pictured with her winning dishes.  
**BIS PHOTOS/Patrick Hanna**



▶ Anyah Coke, a student of A. F. Adderley Junior High School, is shown preparing her Coconut Lemon Meringue Muffin and Tropical Seafood Fried Rice.  
**BIS PHOTOS/Patrick Hanna**

Anyah Coke, a student of A. F. Adderley Junior High School, is the winner of the New Providence District Junior High School Young Chef Competition. The budding chef's Coconut Lemon Meringue Muffin and Tropical Seafood Fried Rice tantalized the judges' taste buds positioning her as winner of both the Best Rice and Best Flour categories.

The judges unanimously agreed that Ms. Coke's skillfully crafted rice and muffin were both flavorful and outstanding.

Chef Devin Johnson said, although "old school" her presentation was well executed and well presented with excellent color.

"The rice has very good flavor. Cupcake is

exactly what it says it is – zest of lemon, coconut. Here we saw a technique used. A meringue is made and torched. This technique is used in professional competitions."

Chef Owen Bain noted the well-balanced flavor in Ms. Coke's rice and muffin.

"Nothing over-seasoned or over-cooked, which is sometimes a challenge. Although it had different components it made your palate zing.

"Torching the cupcake actually brought out the natural flavor of the lemon. Everybody did cupcakes so the technique in the cupcake made it light. Technically and flavor wise it was a great dish."

Along with Ms. Coke, four other students entered this year's com-

petition: Alexia Bethel, L.W. Young; Breyah Archer, Kingsway Academy; Chuck'hia Weech, H. O. Nash and Kendra Estil, D. W. Davis.

Now in its 27th year, the Young Chef Competition is organized by the Ministry of Education and sponsored by Mahatma Rice and Robin Hood Flour. This year's theme is "Creatively Embracing Indigenous Foods through Innovation for Sustainable Development".

The students were required to prepare dishes using Mahatma Rice and Robin Hood Flour.

Raquel Turnquest, Acting Education Officer, Family and Consumer Science Unit said, "They are not told if it's sup-

posed to be breakfast, dessert or anything like that. This is where their creativity comes into play. Most of the students, if they are adhering to the theme, will be looking at indigenous products - what can you do with jujus, mango, sapodilla fruits or seafood and what can be produced with rice or flour from any of our indigenous food."

Two hours were allotted for the students to prepare their dishes. This was followed by a period of tasting by Chefs Emmanuel Gibson, Devin Johnson, Devan McPhee, Owen Bain and Keisha Rahming. The students then presented explanations of their dishes to the chefs, which was followed by scoring and critiques.

Chef Johnson said gen-

erally none of the dishes were 'bad'.

"Every dish had flavor, but when we're judging we have to look at the "wow" factor to see what would take it over the top to the next level."

Ms. Turnquest said as the national thrust is towards sustainability, students were being encouraged to use locally produced goods in their dishes.

"In the classroom setting, all of our junior and senior high students take a Food and Nutrition course. Some at the senior high level take a Hospitality and Tourism Studies course with a Culinary Arts component.

"They learn how to prepare dishes, follow recipes, measure things properly, ratios, [to] produce cakes, breads etc.

"Over the course of time they get experience producing dishes whether its salads, proteins or soups.

"Our students get a number of skills training in the Family and Consumer Science Education program. That's why this program is good for us. It's promotional activity that gets the kids excited about learning. It gets them to put their learning into practice," said Ms. Turnquest.

Ms. Coke will represent New Providence in the National Junior High School Young Chef Competition to be held in March.

Runners up were: Kendra Estil, 2nd; Chuck'hia Weech, 3rd; Breyah Archer, 4th; and Alexia Bethel, 5th.



▶ Chef Owen Bain overlooks Kendra Estil, a student of D. W. Davis, as she prepares her dishes. **BIS PHOTOS/Patrick Hanna**

# 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 in patrol officers who must handle large number of calls that involve serious prob-

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E D I T O R I A L

## PLANNING IS ESSENTIAL

The Prime Minister of the Bahamas, Doctor Hubert Minnis has begun a three-part series of national addresses to the nation. The first one delivered on Monday evening covered developments in the economy of the country.

While the government is well-intentioned in what it wants to achieve in economic growth and development, there seems to be an absence of strategic planning to achieve the desired goals.

Dr. Minnis noted that expanding the economy is a key to growth, adding that he fully understands the economic anxieties of so many Bahamians. He said, "our growth and expansion agenda includes a dynamic mix of Bahamian and foreign direct investment."

This not new in the Bahamas. Successive administrations over the last 50 years have relied on the same mix to develop the country. The question is how.

The Christie administration spent a tremendous amount of time and resources in seeking to produce a National Development Plan for the Bahamas. Not once in his speech did Dr. Minnis refer to the draft plan which was circulated in the public and private sectors, but not approved by the members of Parliament. What is ironic is that the plan had the participation of the then opposition Free National Movement, of which Dr. Minnis was the leader.

The National Development Plan, Vision 2040 provides a roadmap for the future development of the Bahamas. The plan includes a comprehensive policy framework that will guide Government decision making and investment over the next 20 odd years. Vision 2040 is an initiative of the Government of The Bahamas, developed in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank and in close cooperation with the University of The Bahamas and The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation. The Plan has been guided by extensive research, analysis and widespread consultation aimed at addressing four main policy pillars: The Economy,

Governance, Social Policy and the Environment.

The working draft of the Plan stated: "The Bahamas has had strong economic performance over the last few decades and is one of the wealthiest independent countries in the Western Hemisphere. In general, our citizens enjoy a high quality of life and live in a stable democracy. Notwithstanding this success, trends in the tourism and financial services sectors, unemployment, poverty, increasing skill gaps and crime rates have threatened the overall social and economic development in The Bahamas. These combined factors led to the Government's recognition that a National Development Plan was necessary to achieve a more resilient and vibrant Bahamas."

In his subsequent addresses to the nation, it is our hope that the Prime Minister will draw attention to and use aspects of the plan which are so vital to national development. As a country, we have to put petty politics and tribalism aside and bring all parties together to develop a comprehensive plan on how we are to move this nation forward.

While there were some great lines in the address of Dr. Minnis, what was missing were specific goals and a time-frame for their achievement. In the coming weeks, the Prime Minister said the second report will outline our social agenda in areas such as combatting crime, education, health care, housing and home ownership and other areas of social development.

His third report to the nation will detail what the government is doing in the areas of the environment and climate change, energy reform, land reform and other critical areas of national development.

We are quite pleased that Dr. Minnis is being accountable in addressing the nation on these issues. Hopefully at the end of the day we will be inspired by the vision that he will outline and have an appreciation for the aspirations of the Bahamian people.

### Understanding the Police Culture Contd.

lems 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 how-

ever, 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.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

It seems to me that one downside of having business people serve as ministers of government is that they tend to view most things governments do as business transactions. That is a serious flaw. Regrettably, they so often miss the bigger picture of what their roles are as political leaders and nation builders.

I have taken note of the various pronouncements regarding the development of Prince George's Wharf, and once again we seem to have a government that feels entirely comfortable with outsourcing national development. Once again our government sends us the message that Bahamians are incapable of doing anything. Moreover, at a time when Bahamians young and old are clamouring for greater ownership and control of their economy, why take an entity that is 100% owned and controlled by the People of The Bahamas and turn over ownership to foreign interests? That approach highlights the downside of having rich men run the government, they are out of touch with the yearnings, dreams and aspirations of other People who are desperate to own a part of their country. We REALLY don't feel the same way about what constitutes progress.

May I also note that I have read the RFP and have consulted broadly with former stakeholders—Ministers, Tourism Officials, Expo leaders and persons involved in the various iterations of the Down Town Redevelopment efforts. Having so consulted, I am satisfied that there is no justifiable reason for the Government of The Bahamas to proceed on the path they are taking. The Port—all aspects of it—ought to be retained.

If the itch to outsource must be scratched, then let me be unequivocal; ZERO is the operative number of shares that should be owned by 1. ANY foreign national or company, 2. Any government Minister of his (or her) immediate or indirect family, 3. Anyone presently owning significant—direct or indirect—interest in ANY port facility, 4. ANY cruise ship owner or operator. ZERO. ZERO. Z.E.R.O.

Having said that, let me also make a few points regarding the RFP. Upon review of the Document I immediately had a few observations and a few questions:

I took note of the Tribune News story of January 14, 2019 wherein refer-

ence was made to some Tourism advisement in "early summer" with reference to "outsourcing" of Junkanoo Beach. I then noted that the formal RFP was dated October 8, 2018 with a closing date of December 7, 2018. Given the amazingly short time for submission of a RFP, my first impression was that this was an "insider's deal" and the fix might already have been in.

I then wondered whether the idea of outsourcing this or any other major government undertaking was part of the FNM's pre-election manifesto, or whether this was another Oban type road to Damascus transformation. (Of course we all know what the scuttlebutt is).

I then took note of the requirement to "show significant local participation by persons or businesses resident in the Bahamas". To me this is to be translated as yet another instance of ALL BAHAMIAN political leaders concluding that Bahamians are incapable of solving any major national Bahamian challenge we face, and once again they must turn to foreign nationals to step in and save the day. (For the record, I found the reference to a "company resident for foreign exchange purposes" to be simply cute.) Foreign ownership by any other name still sucks for Bahamians wishing to own a piece of their country. And please do not misconstrue my "foreign interests need not apply" position in this instance to some myopic anti-foreign direct investment rant. That it is not. The point is that there are some transformational projects that need not be outsourced. It was also impossible to consider this issue without pondering what this outsourcing would mean to the Bahamian Straw market and the larger issue of revitalization of the entire Down Town area. We can be assured that vendors of the down town straw market will be strangled when the flow of tourists becomes constrained to the new "special interests owned enclave".

I conclude by stating that government should retain ownership and full control of all aspects of the port. Stop outsourcing YOUR responsibilities for solving national problems. Moreover, if Government is so concerned about reducing the national debt, then find an appropriate model for Port transformation that works for WE THE PEOPLE. (US People now, not THOSE people). Then keep all the profits here at home.

**Darron B. Cash**

# Min. Awaiting Report On Teacher's Attack

Continued from / PAGE 1...

to make decisions, because I do not now as minister have the full report of what happened at the school last week as many of you know I was in London.

"Minister Desmond Bannister was acting for me, so when I have that report in my hand, then we will take whatever steps may be necessary," he said.

The altercation forced the suspension of classes at the East Street south campus, but according to the minister, the decision to not attend classes is against the law.

"I am advised that the teachers have not been

going to school, and have not been going to class.

"Of course, I am following up very closely on that and if that is so and I certainly have no reason to doubt the sources of my information, then the teachers need to be in school and in classes.

"This action by them is illegal and it is contrary to the industrial agreement. Teachers need to be in the classes teaching our students who have a right to education and a right to the professional guidance that teachers provide," said Mr. Lloyd.

As for the teachers' reported plan to take industrial action, the Minister said, "the union can say whatever the union wishes to say, the

union has whatever rights the union has, my concern as the Minister of education is the education of our children, the safety of our children and our teachers.

"That is my fundamental obligation and concern and I am taking that very seriously.

"Nobody deserves to be put in any way in a compromised position with regards to their safety and welfare and that of course is something that I am most passionate about in terms of making sure that they are protected, both teachers and students and anybody else who happens to be on the campus, that's administration and whoever else," the Minister said.

# Technology Enhancing Crime Fight

Continued from / PAGE 1...

technology that we are acquiring will work as one," Mr. Dames said.

At the time he was speaking of the government acquiring CCTV, Drones and ShotSpotter.

"So, we have ShotSpotter, for example, so you know we will use CCTV to work along with ShotSpotter and we'll use CCTV and ShotSpotter to work along with the drones.

"As I continue to say that our approach here is multi-agency and so as we acquire technologies we will be using this technology to span the agencies," Mr. Dames said.

Mr. Dames added that

the use of technology will also be used collectively with law enforcement agencies

"So, as you look at the Drones program, for example, it's a multi-agency program. It's the Police, it's Defence Force, it's Customs, it's Immigration, it's Corrections and so, we will use this technology to make all of our law enforcement agencies work easier. That's the objective," Mr. Dames said.

Mr. Dames added that within three to four months, officers will be equipped with body camera as the Request For Proposal (RFP) has been completed.

"We would have com-

pleted our RFP in respect to the bodycam so, that should be going to Cabinet within the next week or two and so hopefully we will get the green light from Cabinet to put it out.

"So, we're looking [at] certainly before the end of the first quarter in 2019, we should have a good idea as to who would be providing us with bodycam services.

"You should see police officers wearing them, hopefully I would say, in the next maybe three or four months," Mr. Dames said.

Mr. Dames also confirmed that the CCTV program also has RFP that was approved by Cabinet one month ago.

# "THE CULTURAL SURFACE" NEW ART WORKS BY CHRISTOPHER OUTTEN

Doongalik Studios announces their first art exhibition for 2019 entitled "The Cultural Surface" showcasing the art works of Christopher Outten, which will open on Friday, February 8, from 6-8pm. This is Outten's first showing at Doongalik for which he provided this Artist's Statement:

"My name is Christopher Outten and I am a Bahamian, born in the city of Nassau, The Bahamas. I'm a practicing artist who recently completed an Associates of Fine Arts at The University of The Bahamas. I have been exhibiting publicly since 2013, and my main emphasis is on Painting and Hand Building, but I'm open to experimenting

with new media and concepts.

"This recent body of work has been thematically focused on the people of my country - past and present - and their daily activities. It delves into portraiture and figurative drawing with the occasional abstract painting and mixed media assemblages. Observing people, their cultures and personal ways of life is the focus of my creative process, which I enjoy immensely. I would love to expand my practice to include studying people and cultures in countries that I have yet to visit. I also aspire to continue my education in the Arts, as well as to pursue studies in Anthropology.

"There are many artists in today's society: artists who enjoy making beauti-

ful creations, as well as artists who find pleasure in materializing the most grotesque abominations imaginable. Regardless of their creative preferences, they all share one goal in common: they strive to become iconic. An iconic artist is somebody who takes pride in the works they produce, and is unapologetic; somebody who has the work ethic and determination to make a livelihood out of their passion. I have found that in order to become this ideal artist one must have the drive to fight through adversity and discouragement, to dream big, and to set expectations high. The iconic artist always tries to push the boundaries of his or her imagination to achieve what seems impossible. I would love

to share my aspirations by explaining my practice and thought process when creating my work.

"Art is everlasting. It represents human beings' inherent need to express themselves. Artistic expression is greatly affected by where an artist's origins, or where they reside at the time the art is created; their world within and their world without.

"One would expect The Bahamas to be a fountain of cultural expression in terms of the art produced here, but there are unseen barriers that prevent emerging artists from reaching their full potential. Bahamian artists are expected in Bahamian society, to stay within the cultural norms of art which is the typical

'pretty picture' scenario of a beachscape or nature paintings. This severely limits the creativity of young artists living here, myself included, when much of what is taught is the 'non-imaginative usual'. Straying outside of this norm is rarely well-received because the consumer has been conditioned to accept these preconceptions. It is my feeling that there is an overall lack of appreciation for the arts here, opportunities for displaying and selling art are few and far between, sufficient studio space for creating can be counted on one hand partially due to our relatively small population, and room for genuine extensive growth seems limited.

"The works that I will

be displaying include people, their emotions and activities in a sincere light, presented in fragmented portraits and figures with relief aspects accompanied by an assortment of sculpture-like wire paintings. I endeavour to communicate an emotional expression that people can relate to as a whole.

"I invite you to view the Exhibition which contains 21 pieces which I believe will awaken your interest."

The Exhibition will remain on display until Saturday, March 2. Gallery hours are Monday to Wednesday from 10am - 4pm, and Saturday from 9am - 1pm. Further information may be obtained by contacting the gallery at 394-1886.

# Minister concerned about measles out break

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

A recent measles outbreak in Washington DC is cause for concern to Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands who said he is also concerned about Venezuela's public health capacity, concerns of both are serious threats to the region.

"The Ministry of Health recognizes that we have to go back and look at strategies to increase our immunization coverage not just for

measles, but for a number of other vaccine preventable illnesses, given the collapse of the public health system in a huge country in South America," he said.

In Venezuela, the government has collapsed and with it the country's health department.

As a result, The Bahamas could be exposed to a number of diseases as people from the country are moving to other countries.

As more measles cases are arising, the minister

reiterated the need for everyone to be vaccinated.

He said is concern is peaked "when you see persons, who believe for one reason or the next that vaccination is neither fashionable or safe based on a lot of disinformation that's circulating on the internet, bear in mind that this could pose a clear and present danger to the health of our children."

The last known case of measles in The Bahamas was around 1997.



► Health Minister, the Hon. Dr. Duane Sands (File photo)

# Houses Destroyed On Princess Cay

Continued from / PAGE 1...

line's cays, Kevin Cartwright, said the fire at the Resort, which hosts thousands of tourists arriving by cruise ship,

was contained to the back portion of houses at the resort.

"The fire that broke out was burning for about five hours.

"It was contained to the

back of the house where we have our reverse osmosis plant, a maintenance shop, carpentry shop [and] a room for equipment.

"Unfortunately, it took

a while for the fire trucks to come down; they had to come from Tarpum Bay; so that was a couple hours," Mr. Cartwright said.

"The staff and the management and the local community came out and did an exceptional job in holding the fire at bay. It did not affect any guest areas which is fantastic," he added.

"We do not know the cause of the fire, the Fire Department and the police have ruled out any foul-play, so we just have to ascertain what created the fire and put it back together.

er.

"We should be up and running for cruise passengers in short order.

"We will not be able to service the ship for about a week and a couple days perhaps, but we will be back up and running in short order," Mr. Cartwright said.

He also confirmed that there were no injuries, just mechanical equipment destroyed, which he said, "will be restored in short order".

Mr. Cartwright commended the residents of the island, whom he said helped to contain the fire.

"It's an unfortunate thing, but between the support of the police and the staff and the management that [were] on property, the local community that came out to assist, they did an incredible job in containing the fire to just that area. So, it hasn't affected any guest areas [and] so that's awesome," Mr. Cartwright said.

According to Superintendent of Police, Shanta Knowles, Fire Services Officers from New Providence are on Eleuthera to continue investigation into this matter.

## DNA: "PM's Address Fell Flat"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ing", failing to "offer innovative ideas for the resurgence of an economy with stunted growth".

"The PM sought to spin the unemployment narrative by touting a reported fall in joblessness in Grand Bahama and Abaco, but glossed over the approximately one percent rise in New Providence," Mrs. Komolafe said.

She added that there were no new ideas or information for the economy as well as a failure to "articulate economic or financial services growth plan".

"There was no communication of a Financial Services Growth Action Plan (FSGAP); rather, the government has main-

tained its reactive and myopic approach to this vital sector of our economy.

"The government seems to have resorted to presiding over the demise of our financial services sectors through the proverbial thousand cuts," Mrs. Komolafe said.

According to DNA leader, the prime minister spent "a considerable portion of his address listing several intended or proposed projects and investments".

"The challenge here is that we've seen this script before with successive administrations, outlining multiple projects across the archipelago of islands with a vast amount never coming to fruition for the foreseeable future," Mrs.

Komolafe said.

To this Mrs. Komolafe said that the DNA "will not count our proverbial eggs before they hatch".

She added that "public utterances and lamentation on the ease of doing business in The Bahamas vis-à-vis opening of bank accounts and the blue economy by the government constitute nothing more than grandstanding".

The DNA deputy leader further slammed the prime minister's address which she said did not inform Bahamians of how the government intends to handle future credit ratings. She also said the national address failed to address The Bahamas' accession to the World Trade Organisation and the Oban deal.

# Downtown Transformation

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Nassau.

"The redevelopment of Downtown Nassau must go from east to west and from north to south," he said.

"The old Main Post Office Building will be demolished to make way for new Supreme Court Complex, and supporting officers, which will help in the revitalization of

Downtown," he added.

"The new Central Bank will be constructed on the old Victoria property.

"Just as with other urban centers around the world, the long-

term revitalization of Downtown Nassau will require residential properties for Bahamians and residents, which is necessary for the growth of other businesses, such

as restaurants, shops, convenience stores and other commercial enterprises."

The Prime Minister said in the short and medium term, he has directed the Ministry of

Tourism and Aviation and the Ministry of Works and other agencies, to present a plan as soon as possible to begin to immediately beautify and clean up Bay Street.



► Aerial View of Downtown Nassau (File photo)

## Police Probe Triple Shooting

Continued from / PAGE 1...

before 8pm, a group of men were at the rear of a building when they were approached by a male armed with a firearm, who

opened fire in their direction, injuring three of them before running away.

The men were subsequently transported to hospital, where two of them are listed in stable

condition, and the other in serious condition.

Police are appealing to members of the public who may have information concerning this incident, to contact the Central Detective Unit at

5 0 2 - 9 9 9 1 / 2 . Investigations are ongoing.

Police in the capital have also recovered an unlicensed firearm from an abandoned building in Southern New

Providence; however, no arrest was made in this incident.

According to reports, shortly after 5:00pm South Western Division Officers, acting on information conducted a search

of an abandon building on Montgomery Avenue, Flamingo Gardens and recovered a 20-gauge shotgun.

Investigations are ongoing.

## CHICAGO BASED COMPANY HELPS TO CREATE NEW BAHAMAS GOLF SERIES

In conjunction with The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, Atlantis, Paradise Island resort and Golf Channel, Global Golf Management is proud to introduce The Bahamas White Sands Golf Series hosted by Atlantis, a year-long collection of events in The Bahamas intended to promote the game and provide playing opportunities for LPGA Tour players, collegiate golfers and everyday golf enthusiasts. The Bahamas White Sands Series replaces the highly successful Pure Silk-Bahamas LPGA Classic that enjoyed a six-year run at Atlantis, Paradise Island's Tom Weiskopf-designed Ocean Club Golf Course, the 18-hole par 72 championship course that stretches over 7,100 yards on the resort's oceanside peninsula.

One of the most intriguing and exciting elements of the series is a pair of college events in the fall in which the win-

ner of the women's and men's events earn an exemption into respective LPGA Tour and PGA Tour events.

"The Bahamas is unquestionably one of the finest destinations in the world for a variety of reasons, including the pursuit of leisure activities, and golf in the Bahamas should be high on anyone's list," said Jeff Raedle, president of Global Golf Management, a worldwide leader in event management. "We are excited to get the White Sands Series started and continue the tradition of top-tier golf in The Bahamas."

The Bahamas White Sands Series starts with the LPGA Pro-Am Weekend January 31-February 4 highlighted by a one-day pro-am on February 2 at the Ocean Course featuring 20 LPGA players. Among the players who have committed to participating include Lexi Thompson, Stacy Lewis and Brittany

Lincicome, who won the last two editions of the Pure Silk-Bahamas LPGA Classic. In addition to a \$10,000 purse, players will compete in a \$5,000 winner-take-all skills challenge. The weekend also includes a VIP Super Bowl party at Atlantis on the day after the golf competition.

Coming up next in the spring is the Golf Channel and Golf Advisor "Round Trip TV Show and Getaway" hosted by Golf Channel personality and travel expert Matt Ginella. Participants can compete in a two-day tournament at the Ocean Course and enjoy a variety of other activities and events at Atlantis including an exclusive "Casino Night." Among the other perks are behind-the-scenes access to Golf Channel production and a chance to win tickets to the 2020 Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course.

Capping off the series

are a pair of collegiate golf events, back to back, starting in late October and featuring some of the top teams in NCAA Division I golf. The White Sands NCAA Shootouts, hosted by the University of Houston, will feature eight-team 54-hole men's and women's tournaments. The women's competition will be held Oct. 27-30 at Atlantis' Ocean Club Golf Course and the men's event follows immediately after Oct. 31-Nov. 2.

The winner of the women's event will receive an exemption into and LPGA event in 2020. Similarly, the winner of the men's event will receive and exemption into a PGA Tour tournament next year.

"I have been fortunate enough to travel down to The Bahamas for the Pure Silk-Bahamas LPGA Classic the last six years. As a result, I have had the opportunity to experience how magnificent Atlantis

and its Ocean Club Golf Course are as host facilities for a world-class event," said Gerrod Chadwell, University of Houston women's golf coach. "I couldn't be more excited to partner with Global Golf Management in creating and delivering the best tournament of 2019 to Paradise Island." The Bahamas White Sands Series strengthens what already is an impressive schedule of golf events in the Bahamas starting with two tournaments that open the Web.com Tour season - The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay and The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at the Abaco Club. In December, the Hero World Challenge, hosted by Tiger Woods, returns to Albany Club.

"In the Islands of the Bahamas, there's much to experience and golfing is no exception. In the Abacos and Exuma

golfers can take in breathtaking ocean views while challenging themselves with any of our regulation 18-hole courses at each destination. We are thrilled to host an event such as this to truly solidify the Bahamas as a golfer's paradise" said Bahamas Minister of Tourism, The Hon. Dionisio D'Aguiar.

"The Bahamas White Sands Golf Series will showcase the Islands of The Bahamas as a world-class golfing destination, while simultaneously providing tourists, sponsors, fans, alumni and experience seekers with one-of-a-kind access to some of the best players in the game and an amazing golfing venue that is both breathtaking and challenging," Raedle said. "When you combine these events with the Web.com Tour events played here, there is no doubt this is going to be an exciting year in the Bahamas."