**Central Bank Governor John Rolle says that the economy’s strengthening enabled higher employment, but unfortunately, not impressive enough to reduce the unemployment rate.**

He said, “this is an important indicator concerning the health of the lending environment and prospects around the speed of non-performing loans reduction.” He added,

**Progressive Liberal Party Senator JoBeth Coleby-Davis says, “the strength of our judicial system has prevailed against the overtreach and abuse of power by this Government.”**

We have every reason to be deeply concerned by the attempt of this government to circumvent our democratic systems by meddling with government agencies, witness coaching, and aiding and abetting of innocent individuals to participate in this political witch hunt against the Progressive Liberal Party former senior Government members.” Her comments come on the heels of the acquittal of former Chairman of The Public Hospitals Authority, Frank Smith by Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt on bribery charges.

**Another Shooting**

**Police Investigate**

Police say they are looking for the assailants who left an adult male with gunshot wounds about the body.

According to reports, shortly after 7:00pm, a man was standing at a car wash on Balfour Avenue, when a gray car pulled up. The occupants of the car opened fire in his direction, hitting him in the ongoing.

The occupants of the car opened fire in his direction, hitting him about the body before speeding away.

He was subsequently transported to hospital where he is listed in serious condition. No one else was injured during this incident.

Investigations are ongoing.

On Sunday police also recovered another illegal firearm.

**Police Investigate Another Shooting**

**Dames: Crime still trending down**

A look at the numbers show there was a reduction in homicides last month compared to what was recorded on the books this same time last year.

According to National Security Minister Marvin Dames January 2018 saw some 12 killings while this year there was only three.

**Gov’t Abused Power,” Says PLP Senator**

**Haitian Community in Grief**

The local Haitian community in Abaco have rallied together in deep grief for memorial services in the wake of scores of their fellow countrymen who perished in a fatal shipwreck off Fowl Cay.

Officials in the Bahamas have put the count of the Haitian nationals who died in a tragic boating accident on Saturday in Abaco to 27, with survivors standing at...
PLP Senator Points To Safety issues and health hazards at C.W. Sawyer Primary School

Progressive Liberal Party Senator Michael Darville says information has come to his attention concerning a number of lingering safety issues and health hazards at the C.W. Sawyer Primary School that make for an unlit learning environment and workplace.

He said staff members have complained that parts of the school building are not structurally sound and secure. Specifically, the stairs are moving away from the building. There are also reports of a suspected sink hole near or under the building housing grade four students.

"Doctor Darville who is the Opposition’s spokesman on Education says, "additionally, teachers have reported visible evidence of mold infestation and teachers in the lower school have suffered respiratory ailments and have taken sick leave."

"These concerns in addition to others have already been documented and reported in writing to both the school principal and district superintendent, but to date no corrective action has been taken to unfavorable and unrelenting conditions that teachers in these classrooms are enduring."

The Senator is calling on the Ministry of Education to move with alacrity in addressing these longstanding issues that are putting the health and safety of our public school teachers and students at risk.

CB Governor: Local Economy Strengthening

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:
- Be a Bahamian citizen
- Be between the ages of 17-22 years old
- Be unmarried and with no dependents
- Be willing to serve in the Royal Bahamas Defence Force for a minimum of five years on completion.
- Must be physically fit
- Must be able to swim
- Have SAT scores of 600 in both Math and English (or ACT minimum of 26 in Mathematics and 27 in English)
- Have a high school diploma
- Possess excellent English skills

Bachelor’s Degree Programs are offered in:
- Civil Engineering
- Cyber Systems
- Electrical Engineering
- Naval Architecture
- Operations Research
- Marine and Environmental Sciences
- Government
- Mechanical Engineering
- Management

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

Deadline for registration for SAT examination is 8th February, 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 19th January, 2019 for 8th February, 2019 test date.

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

The USCGA code number for the ACT exam is 0601.

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 362-3750 or 362-3711 or via email at michaelhanna@rbdf.gov.bs or visit the website www.rbdf.gov.bs
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:

Bill Simmons Construction & Heavy Equipment Co. Ltd - Tel. 323-7920
Ministry of Public Works - Tel. 322-4830/1 or Email - publicworks@bahamas.gov.bs
Water & Sewerage Corporation - Tel. 302-5599 or Visit our Website - www.wsc.com.bs

West Bay Street Road Rehabilitation Project
Important Notice
Traffic Diversion

In what is labelled one of the worst boating accidents, is a tragedy reminiscent of a similar chain of events in November 2013 when a number of Haitian nationals were killed and more than 100 rescued after their dangerously crowded wooden sloop capsized near Staniel Cay in the Exuma chains. The migrants that time were on their way to the United States.

In this case, details are sketchy, and officials cannot say where the 40ft conventional sailing yacht, was headed, when it ran aground early Saturday morning outside the entrance of Marsh Harbour channel.

Yesterday, this Journal reached out to the Haitian Embassy, here in the capital, but was told officials were locked down in a serious meeting in the wake of this weekend’s horror at sea.

An update into the incident by the Royal Bahamas Defence Force since the vessel that was carrying an unknown number of Haitian migrants, was just six nautical miles off Abaco. Although dive operators continued their search efforts yesterday, there were no new developments following Saturday and Sunday’s search.

Commenting on the incident, Minister of National Security, Marvin Dames called it an unfortunate and tragic one. Our agencies have been working over the entire weekend.

“I want to take this opportunity as well to express our gratitude and appreciation to residents of the community of Abaco, who stepped up and worked side by side with our law enforcement officers from the Defence Force, the Police Force and Immigration.

“This is what collective responsibility is all about. It is very sad, very unfortunate,” Mr. Dames said. The minister further assured that as investigations continue, officials will work hand in hand with the Haitian Embassy.

“This is not the first time. We’ve had incidents over the years very much the same. So, we just have to make sure that as we carry out our investigations to ensure that those persons who would have been recovered, that we go through the proper process and we are currently doing that now.

“We are working with the Embassy of Haiti, we are working through the Commerce as well as the respective law enforcement agencies to ensure that we do what is necessary to put this unfortunateincident behind us,” Mr. Dames said.

The 18 rescued persons and 27 bodies were subsequently transported to the clinic in Marsh Harbour for evaluation, and handed over to Immigration and police officials for further investigation.
Police Investigate Another Shooting

Dames: Crime still "trending down"

A4 The Bahamas Journal Tuesday - February 5th, 2019

The government has made another step in its efforts to transform the Bahamas Department of Corrections (BDC) from a penal institution to a correctional organisation as the Ministry of National Security signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Correctional Services Canada (CSC). The Correctional Services Act 2014, according to National Security Minister Marvin Dames was a milestone as it turned the BDC into a leader of treatment programmes.

Minister Dames said the partnership between the BDC and Correctional Services Canada is one way that transition will be being to be realized. He said, “already, collaboration between ministries, meets between the BDC and CSC have resulted in the development of an automated system to ensure that our application of resources in the treatment of inmates are effective and efficient and the existing training of our management staff for assessments of new inmates.”

The National Security Minister added that under this new partnership, a parole system will be established. Training for parole officers began in fall of 2018.

The Inter-American Development Bank through its Citizens Security and Justice Programme (CSP) conducted a training seminar for representatives of all branches of law enforcement stakeholders.

“He said, “it’s not a matter of anticipating; it’s just doing what we are mandated to do. Looking at our strategies, looking at our policies, all of these things that we would have promised the Bahamian people that we would deliver on, we are well ahead of schedule with respect to man of these.”

However, National Security Minister Marvin Dames again stressed the need for everyone to join in the fight against crime.

“When you look at the prolific of persons who are engaging in these activities, they are kids. It’s always what the police is doing, but whose child is that? What are they doing?”

“We have to come to that place where it is understood that it is all our responsibility if we’re going to keep our country safe,” he said.

Just this past weekend there were three homicides in Nassau, still the National Security Minister maintains that law enforcement agencies are doing a better job with the fight against crime.

The ministry has said that under the parole legislation as expressed in 2016 Conditional Release of Offenders Bill was analyzed and recommendations for adjustments were made.

The CSP is currently funding research on parole and recidivism through the University of The Bahamas,” he said.

Minister Dames emphasized the need for everyone to join in the fight against crime.

“Innumerable administrations in this area have been promised the Bahamian people that we would deliver on, we are well ahead of schedule with respect to many of these.”

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