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FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 1ST, 2019

75 CENTS

Gov't Revenue Boost

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

Look at the first six months of the current fiscal year indicate a revenue boost of \$129.5 million, a 14.7 per cent improvement when compared to how the figures stacked up in fiscal year 2017/2018.

Behind the improvement are higher receipts of Value Added Tax (VAT) coupled with an almost three-fold increase

See page 2...

NEW PRISON COMMISSIONER TO BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

National Security Minister Marvin Dames yesterday announced that the interviewing process for a new commissioner for the Bahamas Department of Corrections is complete

See page 4...

CORRECTIONS DEPT TO BE TRANSFORMED

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Department of Corrections is at a point of transformation, according to National Security Minister Marvin Dames.

Yesterday while addressing senior man-

See page 4...

SENATORS DEBATE SERVICE LOTS RESOLUTION

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

The resolution seeking approval for the conveyance of 1.267 acres in the Fox Hill Community was the focus of a debate in the Senate yesterday.

The property, which sits on Romer and Armbrister Streets, is to be divided into 10 service lots to be sold to first time homeowners.

The price tag is pegged at the same amount as those sold in Sunset Close, which is around \$20,000.

Homeowners could either use their own contractor and architect or a pre-existing housing



Senator, Dion Foulkes (File photo)

property on to children and consequently on to grandchildren,' he

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OPPOSITION CRITICIZES NEW PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Opposition Senator Fred Mitchell has roundly criticized the appointment of former BAIC Chairman Michael Foulkes as a Parliamentary Secretary.

The PLP Chairman reiterated that the Prime Minister complained about government spending and promised to cut back.

"We know that the government reduced the budget at the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development, cut-



Opposition Senator, Fred Mitchell (File photo)

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NHI CHANGES Insurance Industry

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Insurance Association supports the government's efforts of a sustainable Universal Health Coverage for The Bahamas, but according

to Deputy Chairman Tina Cambridge, if the Cabinet accepts the National Health Insurance Authority's (NHIA) proposal in full, this would result in significant shifts in aspects of the industry. The most recent pro-

posal by the authority would require significant changes to the business model of private health insurers including plan design, claims administration, billing and enroll-

See page 3...

PM and Delegation Caught Special Oprah Winfrey Show



HALF MOON CAY, The Bahamas -- Prime Minister Minnis and his delegation touring the Holland America Cruise Line MS Nieuw Statendam at Half Moon Cay today caught a special Oprah Winfrey show, entitled 'A Conversation with Oprah.' (BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe)




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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

BIA QUESTIONS WTO ACCESSION

BY BERTHONY McDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Insurance Association believes that the accession to the World Trade Organization should not put domestic insurers at a disadvantage when compared to their foreign counterparts.

Association Chairman Warren Rolle said that the BIA does however support the underlying principles of a free market economy.

"Currently general insurance intermediaries are required to be 60 per

cent Bahamian owned. Whether this restriction under the WTO will continue remains to be seen.

"The BIA has provided the government with a comprehensive position in relation to offers made on behalf of the industry and we look forward to further discussions in this regard," The Chairman said.

The Chairman further opined that insurers in The Bahamas are faced with what he is calling a major disrupter for insurers with respect to Value Added Tax.

Mr. Rolle said that after the implementation of VAT in 2015, the government and the Department of Inland Revenue indicated that general insurance claim settlements were deemed to be inclusive of VAT.

As a result of this, insurers were allowed these Input Tax Deductions to be offset against VAT collected and were to be made payable to the government.

"It is noteworthy that insurers advised the government on the day that it

was reasonably foreseeable, that following a major catastrophic event, significant credit would be owned to insurers following the settlement of claims.

"Nonetheless, the government maintained its position and the industry proceeded with its remittance to the government on the aforementioned basis," he said.

Following the passage of Hurricane Joaquin in 2015, Mr. Rolle said there was no major impact to the insurance industry. After Hurricane

Matthew in 2016, insured losses were in excess of \$400 million.

After both hurricanes and based on the established VAT treatment accepted Inland Revenue, this event resulted in substantial credit owing to insurers.

He noted that some insurers continued to offset the Input Tax Deduction while others sought refund from the government.

"General Insurers have recently received assessments from Inland Revenue indicating that

a substantial portion of the ITD retroactive to 2015 is now disallowed as they were claimed on Non-VAT registrants.

"This is a fundamental departure from the policy communicated to the industry and the practice that has persisted from the several years; resulting in significant sums being allegedly owed to the government," said Mr. Rolle.

The Chairman's comments came in his address to the BIA's 2019 insurance month official opening.

Gov't Revenue Boost

Continued from / PAGE 1...

in stamp duties on financial and realty transactions.

The government did however lose out on \$10 million due to the delayed introduction of the gaming patron tax.

A breakdown of the numbers showed that a deferment of new gaming taxes led to another delayed revenue of \$15

million.

However, the government anticipates that the full impact of the 12 per cent VAT rate will not be recorded until the second half of the year, a typically stronger revenue period.

This, considering several annual fees, like business, banks and trusts company's licenses, are due.

On the flip side, expenditure is also up.

Behind this, a \$93.9 million increase in recurrent revenue and a \$44.1 million decrease in capital expenditure.

Officials blame the inflation on the extraordinary booking of \$55.2 million for the \$100million Bahamas resolve promissory note to The Bank of The Bahamas.



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.

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

Students may register at:

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

The USCGA code number for the SAT exam is 5807.

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

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

The USCGA code number for the ACT exam is 0600.

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

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

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NHI CHANGES Insurance Industry

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ment systems provider contracts, actuarial and pricing assumptions.

"The proposal also suggests that it would be possible for Private Health Insurers to achieve such a significant shift by start date July 1, 2020."

"The BIA submits that it would be very difficult to achieve implementation timeline given that the collaboration between NHIA and the insurance industry has not begun in earnest relative to this new proposal."

Ms. Cambridge added that it seems very unlikely that stakeholders would be able to meet the 2020 NHI implementation date.

"If the NHIA fails to get government approval, release the amended laws and regulations, fill benefits design for the Standard Health Benefit (SHB) and proposed catastrophic coverage as well as complete its negotiations with the healthcare providers including the Public Hospital Authority (PHA) and work out its requirements of PHIs all by April/May of 2019, it

is very unlikely that all stakeholders could be ready for July 2020."

A major concern, she added, is the level of contribution for the SHB. The Deputy Chairman said the BIA will continue to further analyze once the National Fee Schedule and complete Benefits details have been completed by the NHIA.

The insurance industry is calling for meaningful and effective collaboration to ensure efficiency and improvement to the Public Healthcare System.

OPPOSITION CRITICIZES NEW PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ting back on social assistance to the most needy and vulnerable among us and in particular, the cancellation of the R.I.S.E. food assistance program and the uniform assistance to children living in poverty."

He added that the addition of another politician does not add value to the Ministry, but the Opposition asks, what value does another politician bring to that Ministry.

"The social safety net was pulled from under thousands of minimum wage workers who were

released from the public service in a downsizing exercise.

"There still remains much suffering and neglect in the urban areas, therefore the sensible course of action would be an expansion in the delivery of social services to the benefit of the elderly, the working poor and unemployed," said Mr. Mitchell.

"While cutting back on social assistance because of budgeting reasons, the Prime Minister conveniently found the money to line the pockets of and provide comfort for yet another political crony with a cushy job.

"This sends the wrong public message given the misery index among thousands of Bahamian families," Senator Mitchell added.

He said this recent appointment is a glaring example of the mixed priorities that the out of touch government is becoming notorious for, should be revisited.

This position of Parliamentary Secretary was left vacant since the firing of Golden Isle MP Vaughn Miller last year.

Replacing Mr. Foulkes as BAIC Chairman is Gregory Collie who was serving as Deputy Chairman.



West Bay Street Road Rehabilitation Project

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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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CARICOM HIGH COMMISSIONERS MEET WITH LORD TARIQ AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON



His Excellency Ellison Geenslade, Bahamas High Commissioner to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was among the CARICOM High Commissioners who met on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 with Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to advance dialogue on the bilateral agenda and ensure that close UK-Caribbean cooperation continues to produce tangible, mutually beneficial results, especially post Brexit. High Commissioner Geenslade is pictured second from right.

NEW PRISON COMMISSIONER TO BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY

Continued from / PAGE 1...

and the successful candidate is to be announced shortly.

Mr. Dames said, "I can tell you at last report there were about eight persons who would have applied and they were already interviewed. So, we have a good idea as to who the next commissioner would be."

He added, "as I said, within the next few weeks or so we will be making that public and we will give that individual an opportunity now to work on who should be their executive team."

According to the minister, the vast majority of the eight candidates vying for the top post are Bahamians.

He added that the new commissioner will be chosen irrespective of political affiliation.

He said, "we're looking for the brightest and the best. We want to make this institution an attractive institution for young Bahamians, who are seeking a career in corrections."

He added, "this is no longer a stop-off for persons who are seeking to make some extra money. When you are adorned in the uniform of The Bahamas Department of Corrections from this day hence forth, people will look at you with the utmost respect."

The Canadian Commissioner of Corrections is set to visit The Bahamas this weekend to sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

That MOU is to further assist the BDC in its transformation from a penal to a correctional facility.

The minister was the keynote speaker this morning at the first in a series of senior management seminars with the Department of Corrections.

CORRECTIONS DEPT TO BE TRANSFORMED

Continued from / PAGE 1...

agement in the first of a series of similar exercises, the minister said for far too long prison officers have been known as the "stepchildren of law enforcement," vowing that the department's concerns have not gone unnoticed.

He said, "like the police force that has its own commission which allows for promotions to be dealt with in an expeditious way, we are moving as a government to ensure that the Bahamas Department of Corrections has its own commission."

He added, "we want to take you out of the public

service circle, because I believe this is part of the reason why any time you have promotions or recommendations for promotions, they span longer than they are supposed to."

The Minister reiterated the need to transform the BDC from that of a penal to a corrections institution.

He added that the country is lagging behind many developed countries in this regard.

He said, "this means that we take you, we lock you up, we leave you there, you serve your time, we punish you more and more, and then you go back into society not being

rehabilitated.

"So, you get caught up in this vortex of recidivism, and within a few days or weeks you're back into the institution," he added.

Mr. Dames also mentions a study conducted by the ministry which is set to give clear demarcation to each rank within the institution and outline each individual's expected duties.

The results of this report, he said, is set to be released shortly.

Minister Dames was the keynote speaker in the first of a series of management exercises under the theme "Restoring the Breach, Moving Forward."

SENATORS DEBATE SERVICE LOTS RESOLUTION

Continued from / PAGE 1...

added.

"And it also helps with business development, a lot of us who may want to go into business, when we approach a financial institution the first thing that they want to know is what collateral do you have to put up to borrow the monies needed," said Mr. Foulkes.

Seconding the resolution, was former Fox Hill Member of Parliament, Juanianne Dorsett, who encouraged Fox Hillians to take advantage of the opportunity to re-establish the type of bond in that community and to get rid of some of the negative influences.

However, Opposition Senator Jobeth Coleby-Davis found the government's housing programme woefully inadequate, under resourced, if

not non-existent.

"It is my understanding that the housing waiting list is in excess of 7,000 persons, but almost two years later, all this FNM government could show is that they offered 30 service lots," she said.

"What is also inept about this government is that they are in this place and the other place bragging about teaching a man to fish by only providing service lots instead of building homes, while their program to sell the lots to Bahamians leaves the Bahamians to the market to find a suitable contractor."

The government plans to carry out a similar exercise in Carmichael and the family islands – namely Andros, Abaco, San Salvador and Eleuthera.

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Eneas Files

By Godfrey Eneas

Changes In Cuba: Better or Worse Since the Revolution?

The Cuban Revolution took place in 1959 under the leadership of Fidel Castro whom I met with the Hon. George A. Smith and Mr. Idris Reid in the late '70s. We were attending a UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) meeting in Havana.

President Castro singled out Mr. Smith with whom he wanted to have a private meeting because of the Flamingo incident when four Bahamas Defence Officers were killed by Cuban MIGS off the coast of Ragged Island. This was my first visit to Cuba. It was a time when Cuba was isolated, as we had to travel to Havana via charter as there were no commercial flights available to us.

Over the past sixty years since the Revolution, I have been to Cuba periodically and had the opportunity to observe the changes which have taken place under the Castro Regime. The changes which have impressed me most have been in the socio-economic realm. Cuba follows a communist ideology and that is its political grounding. The inner workings of communist politics is unfamiliar to me. However, I have observed tremendous progress, socially and economically, particularly in the face of the US embargo on one side and the collapse of the Soviet Union on the other side. Both of these events had deep social and economic implications on the Cuban national development agenda. Cuba had to make some very fundamental adjustments to the direction in which the country was heading. Its development plan was derailed.

Cuba has been in a survival mode, yet it has progressed and made life better for the Cuban people. It has had to guide its economy through the global economic meltdown in 2007/8. Geopolitically it has had to position its trade policy within the framework of the

emergence of China as a major global trading partner in the face of the destabilizing effect the trade war between the US and China is having on the global economy. Today, it has to define its hemispheric policy relative the humanitarian situation in Venezuela which used Cuba as its model under the Presidency of Hugo Chavez.

Cuba like all Caribbean states has had to live with Climate Change, as the Caribbean is one of the most vulnerable locales on the planet for natural disasters like hurricanes. Its hurricane disaster relief programme is one of the best in the world. The Cubans have implemented a mobilization strategy which moves thousands of its citizens to safety in order to protect them from the elements which accompany hurricanes.

We in The Bahamas have the highest healthcare costs in the region. Cuba, on the other hand, has developed the best healthcare system in the region and possibly one of the best in the world. While we are facing a healthcare crisis in our health facilities and infrastructure and the fact that non-communicable diseases are reaching epidemic proportions. Cuba's approach is the provision of healthcare to its communities at the primary level.

When Fidel Castro and his band of revolutionaries decided to mount an attack on the Batista Regime, it was a monumental undertaking. This meant the takeover of a country and establishment of a new system of governance whose job it would be to control every facet of life in the country. Castro knew that the kind of Cuba he was trying to create was a country of the have and have nots; the latifundia and the peon. Poverty was the order of the day.

The Economist reported the following:
"Eight years ago Cuba's



government laid off a tenth of the country's workforce — some half a million people — and encouraged them to start their own businesses. They did, with gusto. Nearly 600,000 Cubans have become cuentapropistas, or self-employed, opening restaurants, boutiques, repair shops, beauty parlours, bakeries and bars. They have renovated and rented out spare bedrooms in their homes, turned family cars into taxis and poured their savings into design studios, creating an additional 400,000 jobs and a much-needed, if still tiny, tax base." Today Old Havana is lively with Afro-Cuban music in every cafe and restaurant. Tourists are everywhere.

Cuba has opened itself to the world with its tourism product. It has shared its expertise with the world as it is has provided countries in the region and Africa with scholarships to train professionals in medicine, agriculture, educators and many other disciplines.

The Cuban Revolution benefited The Bahamas. Prior to the Revolution Cuba was the playground of the Caribbean; the Revolution had a negative impact on its tourism as it virtually died for the American market which shifted to The Bahamas. Cuban tourism is in a renaissance and has become a player in the region again. We will have to up our game as a destination because Cuba has changed for the better since the Revolution sixty years ago.

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E D I T O R I A L

The Issue of Corruption

In the last several general elections in the Bahamas, the issue of corruption has been used by politicians to win votes and to gain political power.

Just before the 1967 general elections, a Royal Commission of Inquiry was held to investigate corruption charges against the members of the United Bahamian Party government in relation to Casino and hotel licensing. The star witness at that time was the then Minister of Finance and Tourism, Sir Stafford Sands.

The Associated Press reported that Sir Stafford "refused to disclose his bank accounts to the commission investigating gambling.

"Earlier in the day, Sands admitted he received \$515,900 in one payment and \$10,000 per month in 1964 from companies controlled by multimillionaire Wallace Groves. And Sands told the five man commission, Groves and his companies paid him more than \$1 million in the last 19 years."

Since then, many Bahamians had no difficulty in believing accusations of corruption involving politicians, even when there is little or no evidence advanced.

Former Cabinet Minister A. Loftus Roker made the shocking statement in the 1970's at a Progressive Liberal Party Convention at the then Balmoral Beach Hotel, when he said that "corruption was shaking the very foundation of the PLP."

In the 1987 general elections, the main thrust of the campaign by the then Opposition was corruption of members of the government in the drug trade. While the Commission of Inquiry of 1983/84 revealed evidence of wrongdoing on the part of Bahamians of both major political parties, the then Pindling government was excoriated and was on the defensive. That government prevailed. However, the stain and odour of corruption did not go away. Politicians from both sides of the divide traded accusations and insults straight into the election of 1992.

When there was a change in government, many voters attributed the win of the Free National Movement to the issue of widespread corruption in the Progressive Liberal Party. That party found it extremely difficult to shake the perception that not only were there corrupt politicians in the PLP, but that the entire organization was corrupt.

The administration of former Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham lasted until 2002, but the Free National Movement in government had to deal with issues of corruption. Indeed, former Cabinet Minister Algernon Allen was fired from the Ingraham government for pointing out that the entire leadership election of the party in 2001 was corrupted. He accused Ministers of the government of giving out contracts for votes in that election. The FNM lost to the PLP led by Perry Christie. Then, the issue of corruption continued. Remember, many supporters of the FNM believed that the PLP was a corrupt organization. Christie and his

government were voted out five years later with the issue of corruption still being used. Replaced again by an Ingraham government, official corruption remained the issue. Frustrated voters believed that many FNM MPs were insensitive and were giving jobs to their supporters and not concerned about the electorate in general. Again, they were defeated in general elections of 2012 by the Christie led PLP. After a five year stint, the voters of the Bahamas returned the FNM to power, again on the issue of corruption.

The new Prime Minister and his government made corruption the central issue of the campaign. In fact, after those elections, the government proceeded to arrest and prosecute two former Cabinet Ministers and another politician who was chairman of a powerful government board. Those matters remain unresolved before the courts of the Bahamas.

There is no doubt that the electorate listened and acted on rumours and accusations of corruption. It is unfortunate that many of them do not need any hard evidence. The unsophisticated listen to gossip and today imbibe what is published via social media to make the big decision as to who should govern them.

In a society that is motivated and driven by the oral tradition, many Bahamians do not need to read anything, they simply want to hear salacious information, often being spun and circulated by unscrupulous politicians for their own personal aggrandisement.

They do not understand that there are various forms of corruption. The dictionary Webster describes corruption as: "the impairment of integrity, virtue, or moral principle." It is also the inducement to wrong by bribery or other unlawful or improper means; a departure from what is pure or correct.

There are many Bahamians who simply believe that corruption is only about stealing money, bribery or conflict of interest. However, corruption is when politicians and those in authority deny others opportunity for growth; when they withhold benefits from people; when they provide jobs for their supporters only; when they seek favours for services rendered and when they place stumbling blocks or other obstacles in the way of people. The list of corrupt practices can be quite extensive.

Recently a member of the Organization for Responsible Governance complained that the Bahamas is being stagnated by corruption. This in our view is an exaggeration on the issue of corruption in our society. While laws and systems must be put in place to guard against corruption and to punish those who are guilty of corruption, no country or society can totally stamp it out. Corruption is as old as the hills and it will be with us until the end of time.

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SUMNER MEETS NEW NAMIBIA AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES



During his recent visit to Washington, D.C., Edison Sumner, Principal at Sumner Strategic Partners, met with Her Excellency Monica Nashandi, newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia to the United States, at the Namibia Embassy, 1605 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.

Mr. Sumner, Bahamas Honorary Consul for The Republic of Namibia, and the Ambassador “dis-

cussed ongoing trade and commerce relations between Namibia and The Bahamas as well as the promotion of the annual trade mission to Namibia in May 2019.”

“There are tremendous opportunities for bilateral trade between the two countries and efforts are being made to capitalize on those opportunities,” said Mr. Sumner, a former Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of The Bahamas

Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation (BCCEC).

The meeting was also attended by other Consuls General from the United States.

Located in southern Africa, The Republic of Namibia’s western border is the Atlantic Ocean and it shares land borders with Zambia and Angola to the north, Botswana to the east and South Africa to the south and east.

Russell Miller named Executive Vice President of Hotel Operations at Atlantis

Atlantis, Paradise Island is thrilled to announce the promotion of Russell Miller to the position of Executive Vice President of Hotel Operations. Well known in the hospitality industry both locally and abroad, Miller previously served as Senior Vice President & General Manager with responsibility for the Cove and Reef Atlantis properties.

In his new role, Miller will continue to report directly to President & Managing Director Audrey Oswell and will have direct responsibility for all Hotel Operating Divisions, working closely with all senior business leaders to achieve strategic goals for the mega Paradise Island resort.

“Atlantis is evolving and we couldn’t be more pleased to see our Bahamian counterparts excelling,” explains Oswell. “Russell’s experience in the hotel business has proven a great asset to Atlantis. He exemplifies what we encourage of all our team members – integrity, commitment,

passion and courage.”

Miller’s extensive experience in hotel operations span over 25 years and has seen him in top positions at some well-known and luxury brands like the Ritz-Carlton, Marriott International, Carnival’s Crystal Palace, Radisson, Harborside Resort at Atlantis, Atlantis, Paradise Island and One & Only Ocean Club.

“It is an honor to have been afforded this tremendous opportunity”, Miller shares, adding, “and I look forward to working with our team of incredible professionals to continue our commitment of providing the best in services and products to our guests to make their experiences truly remarkable.”

Miller currently serves as President of The Bahamas Hotel Employers Association. Miller also previously served as Chairman of The Grand Bahama Island Tourism Board and was a past president of the Bahamas Hotel & Tourism Association. He



► Russell Miller, New Executive Vice President of Hotel Operations, Atlantis

was a director of the New Orleans Tourism Council, and served as Chairman of their Marketing Task Force committee. Miller is a 2012 recipient of the esteemed Trumpet Award from the National Association of Black Hotel Owners, Operators and Developers (NABHOOD) and was also awarded the 2017 Black Meetings and Tourism APEX Distinguished Service award.

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