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# "Democracy In Peril"

## Dames Not Intrested In Apology From McAlpine

## PLP CHAIRMAN: DAMES UNFIT FOR HIGH OFFICE

BY LEAH COOPER  
*Journal Staff Writer*

Stating that democracy is in peril in the Bahamas, the Opposition Progressive Liberal Party has taken its complaint about the conduct of two cabinet Ministers to the Caribbean Community and beyond. While it may not get a response, a letter the party wrote to the Secretaries General of the Commonwealth of Nations and CARICOM has been acknowledged.



► Opposition Leader, Philip Davis

The letter noted the party's recent decision to boycott Parliament in the face of what it deemed "the government's corrupt conduct". This particularly in the case of Cabinet Ministers

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## DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP ENDORSES PORT DEAL

The Downtown Nassau Partnership officially endorsed the selection of Global Ports Holdings yesterday, as the new developers and operators of the Nassau Cruise Port. Managing Director, Ed Fields stated that "while the process was being conducted, the DNP though it prudent to not publically endorse any of the bidders as we were



► Nassau Cruise Port Managing Director, Ed Fields

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BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
*Journal Staff Writer*

National Security Minister Marvin Dames is hoping to set the record straight on his exchange with parliamentary colleague Frederick McAlpine in the House of Assembly yesterday.

Mr. Dames told reporters yesterday that Mr. McAlpine, the MP for Pineridge, seemed to have wanted to apologize for comments he felt misrepresented him.

Those comments were based on what Mr. McAlpine shared on the



► National Security Minister, Marvin Dames

McAlpine.

Mr. Mitchell said, "this is the second such outburst by this Minister in response to criticism of his conduct. The first occasion came as the PLP on 13th February called for his resignation and that of the Minister of Health after they were judicially condemned in the ruling in the

BY LEAH COOPER  
*Journal Staff Writer*

Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Chairman Fred Mitchell yesterday said National Security Minister Marvin Dames is unfit for high office. He expressed concerns about the Minister's behaviour following an exchange of words with his parliamentary colleague Frederick

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## PRIME MINISTER MINNIS RECEIVES LEGACY AWARD IN NEW YORK



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis was honoured on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 by the American Foundation for The University of the West Indies (AFUWI) for

exemplary professional achievements.

The award honours graduates of The University of the West Indies who have excelled in their chosen fields and made significant national,

regional or international impact.

The Prime Minister obtained his MBBs degree in Medicine from The UWI in 1980 and in 1985 completed specialized studies in Jamaica in

obstetrics and gynaecology.

Prime Minister Minnis was one of two Heads of Government honourees to

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# Bahamas Launches Trafficking in Persons Hotline

BY BERTHONY McDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

The Ministry of National Security yesterday morning launched a 24-hour trafficking in person's hotline - the first of its kind in The Bahamas.

The hotline's to be used to exclusively to investigate such matters

or as Mr. Dames put it, providing victims of trafficking another lifeline to secure assistance.

"This dedicated hotline will allow victims and those who suspect a friend or loved one is being trafficked, to anonymously report the crime.

"The new TIP Hotline

will be overseen by the TIP Secretariat personnel within the Ministry of National Security," he said.

Commonly referred to as a form of modern day slavery, trafficking in person's calls for the selling and exploitation of humans for profit - a dehumanizing but big

business.

"Trafficking in persons is primarily a transnational crime although it can occur within the victim's country and according to the International Labour Organization accrues in excess of \$150 billion annually using some countries as sources,

transit or destination places.

"The traffickers and victims in The Bahamas are mainly from within the Caribbean Region, South and Central America and Asia.

"Since the inception of TIP there have been four cases of trafficked vic-

tims that were investigated in The Bahamas."

"Moreover, for the past three years The Bahamas has maintained its Tier 1 Status, a status given to countries whose governments fully meet the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards," he said.

# Acting Director of Labour to students: Prepare to fill skills gap

Bahamian students are advised to prepare themselves to fill the skills gaps in the country and take advantage of opportunities that exist.

"There are many opportunities in medical technology, engineering, nursing, teaching, welding and a number of other technical skills that we normally have to approve a labour certificate for, that leads to a work permit for non-Bahamians to work in our country," said John Pinder, Acting Director of Labour.

"If we are going to fill the skills gap we have to encourage our children to follow the protocol in ensuring that they are educated enough, that when

these persons advertise positions they are qualified and have the technical skills to fill the positions."

Mr. Pinder recently addressed the first Bahamas National Technical College Fair, an event produced by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour and the Bahamas Union of Teachers, which attracted over 1,000 high school students.

Mr. Pinder noted that a challenge exists in finding Bahamians to fill bilingual positions.

"We need to encourage our children to speak more than one language. We live in a society that for the most part only

speaks English, but we do business with a number of foreign persons, and oftentimes employers receive these labour certificates simply because Bahamians only speak English.

"When an employee is looking at how they can best take advantage of the bottom line, being their profit, they are trying to get one person to do more than one task. We have to encourage our citizens, our students, that as they study to recognize that they have to be able to multi-task to keep up with the global market that we find ourselves in today.

"No longer do we live in a vacuum where The

Bahamas has the opportunity to just employ Bahamians. We had that opportunity in years gone by, to have a job description with one particular task to carry out. Nowadays in order for us to keep ourselves competitive we have to be able to multi-task.

"This will lead them to, when they finish their studies, come back home and get gainful employment to help to bridge the skills gap that we have, and to also ensure that Bahamians are given an opportunity to perform in their own country to

make a living and raise families."

The Department of Labour has embarked on an initiative to make certain that Bahamians possess the skill sets to qualify for positions when they are offered.

"We want to ensure that when we see the criteria for a position, if that skill set is not offered in The Bahamas, we can approach institutions like yourself and our local institutions to put those type of courses on so that Bahamians can qualify for those positions.

"We believe that it is

very important to ensure that at the end of the day we don't end up with a brain drain, where our citizens go to universities abroad and cannot find employment when they return home [so] they remain and build other countries to ensure they advance.

"We want to ensure that our children are kept on the cutting edge of technology and the only way to do that is to ensure that our students are given this type of opportunity that we see presented here today," said Mr. Pinder.



▶ Acting Director of Labour John Pinder, Photo: Raymond A. Bethel, Sr



## NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES

The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) was established on 1 August 2009, as a corporate body, under the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority Act, 2009.

As the independent regulator, URCA's regulatory remit of the Electronic Communications Sector (ECS) covers radio and television broadcasting, radio spectrum, internet and data, pay-TV and voice telephony; and oversight of Electricity (ES) Sector which includes entities or persons who generate, transmit, distribute or supply electricity throughout The Bahamas.

URCA wishes to advise that a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the provision of Internal Audit Services has been uploaded to our website at [www.urcabahamas.bs/articles/news](http://www.urcabahamas.bs/articles/news).

Interested parties should submit responses to the RFP by the new deadline of 4:00 pm on 14 March 2019.

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# “Democracy In Peril”

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Dr. Duane Sands and Marvin Dames’ involvement in the high profile extortion and bribery trial of former MP and Public Hospitals

Authority Chairman, Frank Smith.

In a phone interview with The Journal, Opposition Leader Philip Davis said; “they’ve just acknowledged it, and hopefully they’ll under-

stand the outcome.”

He added, “we don’t expect any intervention, per se, but we thought we ought to bring it to the attention of the community to express our displeasure in in the manner

in which the Executive is conducting themselves.”

Mr.Davis says that the country’s democracy is in peril.

He said, “the CARI-COM community is set up by a treaty that speaks

to civil obedience and discuss the issues of the separation of powers.

“We needed to make the point that this government, particularly the Executive, has to get a better appreciation of

their role.”, he added.

The PLP’s parliamentary team returned to the lower chamber this past Wednesday – just in time of the midyear budget statement.

## PLP CHAIRMAN: DAMES UNFIT FOR HIGH OFFICE

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Commissioner of Police versus Frank Smith case. On both occasions he had to be physically restrained.”, he said.

Mr. Mitchell added, “apart from the inappropriate incivility of a Member of Parliament, as Minister of National Security licensed to be armed, it is quite dangerous and unacceptable for

there to be these public displays of ire, petulance and pique.”

He indicated that this “shows that he is not fit for purpose”.

He said, “the danger is that Mr. Dames will now further use the police force under his command to go after his political opponents.

“The display is indicative of his unfitness to hold such a high

office. It is unsafe for him to remain in office. We recommend that he enrolls in an anger management program for his own personal good.”, he added.

Mr. Mitchell advised both Mr. Dames and Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands to resign while Attorney General Carl Bethel, he said, should consider his position.

## PM RECEIVES LEGACY AWARD IN NEW YORK

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be presented with the Legacy Award at the 22nd Annual Legacy Awards Gala held at The Pierre Hotel.

The Hon. Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson, Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands was also a recipient of the Legacy Award.

In accepting the award, Prime Minister Minnis said the honour has inspired him to continue his administration’s fight against poverty with a

renewed energy.

“It is essential to use all of the energy and resources that we have to eradicate poverty, so that each and every person in the Caribbean territory will have the same opportunities to attain the same level of achievement that I have achieved,” he said.

Prime Minister Minnis thanked UWI, the entire Caribbean community and The Bahamas for the special honour.

The Prime Minister also paid special tribute to his late mother “who is

responsible for me obtaining this position today.”

Prime Minister Minnis was presented the Legacy Award by Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice Chancellor, The University of the West Indies, and Doug E. Fresh, chair of the 22nd Annual Legacy Awards Gala.

The AFUWI, a registered US Charity, annually hosts the Legacy Awards and other events in New York to raise funds for scholarships to The UWI.



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL PLANNING**

The public is hereby notified that an application for Site Plan Approval SPA/11/2018 on behalf of The Diocese of The Bahamas and Turks & Caicos Islands is presently being reviewed by The Department of Physical Planning for presentation to the Town Planning Committee.

A public meeting will be held on March 12, 2019 at 7pm at Sybil Strachan Primary School (Formerly Carmichael Primary)

The Diocese proposes to develop a portion of the land occupied by St. Gregory’s Anglican Church, Carmichael Road and Golden Sun Way, as a burial ground and Columbarium. The project is proposed in two phases, with the in-ground precast vaults comprising the first phase. The construction of the Columbarium is a part of the second phase.

Preliminary plans for the proposed development are available for viewing at The Department of Physical Planning, located in the Aventura Plaza on John F. Kennedy Drive, during working hours of 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Interested persons and organizations are invited to review the information on file and provide written comments prior to the meeting. Comments should be directed to the Acting Director of Physical Planning within twenty-one (21) days of the date of this notice. Submissions can be made via P.O Box N-1611, Nassau Bahamas or fax (242) 328-3206. Further inquiries can be made to the Acting Director via Tel. (242) 322-7550/1/1 OR (242) 328- 3202 or [CHARLESZONICLE@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS](mailto:CHARLESZONICLE@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS)

Signed  
Charles B. Zonicle  
Acting Director of Physical Planning

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# Dames Not Intrested In Apology From McAlpine

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Love 97 daily talk show "Issues of the Day" earlier this week.

At the time, Mr. McAlpine agreed that Mr. Dames as well as fellow Cabinet Minister Dr. Duane Sands should resign or be fired after they were roundly criticized by the Chief

Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt over their involvement in the Frank Smith extortion and bribery trial.

However, Mr. Dames said he was simply not interested in hearing an apology.

"I'm one of those persons who is not in the business of dealing with nonsense, we were elect-

ed to do the job of the people and every day you have the Leader of the Opposition who is giving these outlandish press conferences.

"We are focusing on what we ought to be doing to run this country. We inherited this country in a mess and we have now a vested interest. We have been given a man-

date by the Bahamian people to correct all of the wrongs that have been done and to bring back a level of respectability to this country.

"I am one of those who take my oath very seriously, so I'm not going to get involved in the side shows, because that's what it is.

"You say something in the press and when you're done saying it and the damage is done, you come back and you try to butter up, that's standing

on the fence," he said.

However, Mr. McAlpine is not the only FNM MP to call for Mr. Dames to resign or to be fired.

Taking a similar stance are Centreville MP, Reece Chipman and Golden Isles MP, Vaughn Miller. Then there is the repeated request from the opposition.

"I say to the Leader of the opposition and all of who standup. Let's go anywhere in this world over and lets measure respectability, let's meas-

ure trust, and see who will remain standing at the end of the day; let's see who will remain standing, so my reputation precedes me.

"I listen to all the nonsense and there is obviously a clear intent on their behalf; they want to see me gone."

"However I'm representing the people of this country and the vast majority of the people of this country is not satisfied with the status quo," he said.



**PUBLIC NOTICE  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL PLANNING**

The public is hereby notified that a Site Plan Application (SPA/2/2019) on behalf of Tonel Investments Limited is being reviewed by the Department of Physical Planning for presentation to the Town Planning Committee.

The applicant proposes to construct a shopping plaza along with a storage facility on a 2.5 acre parcel located at the intersection of Carmichael Road and Stew Fish Road and immediately west of Cousin McPhee A.M.E. Church.

A public meeting will be held on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Sybil Strachan Primary School (Formerly Carmichael Primary School) located on Carmichael Road.

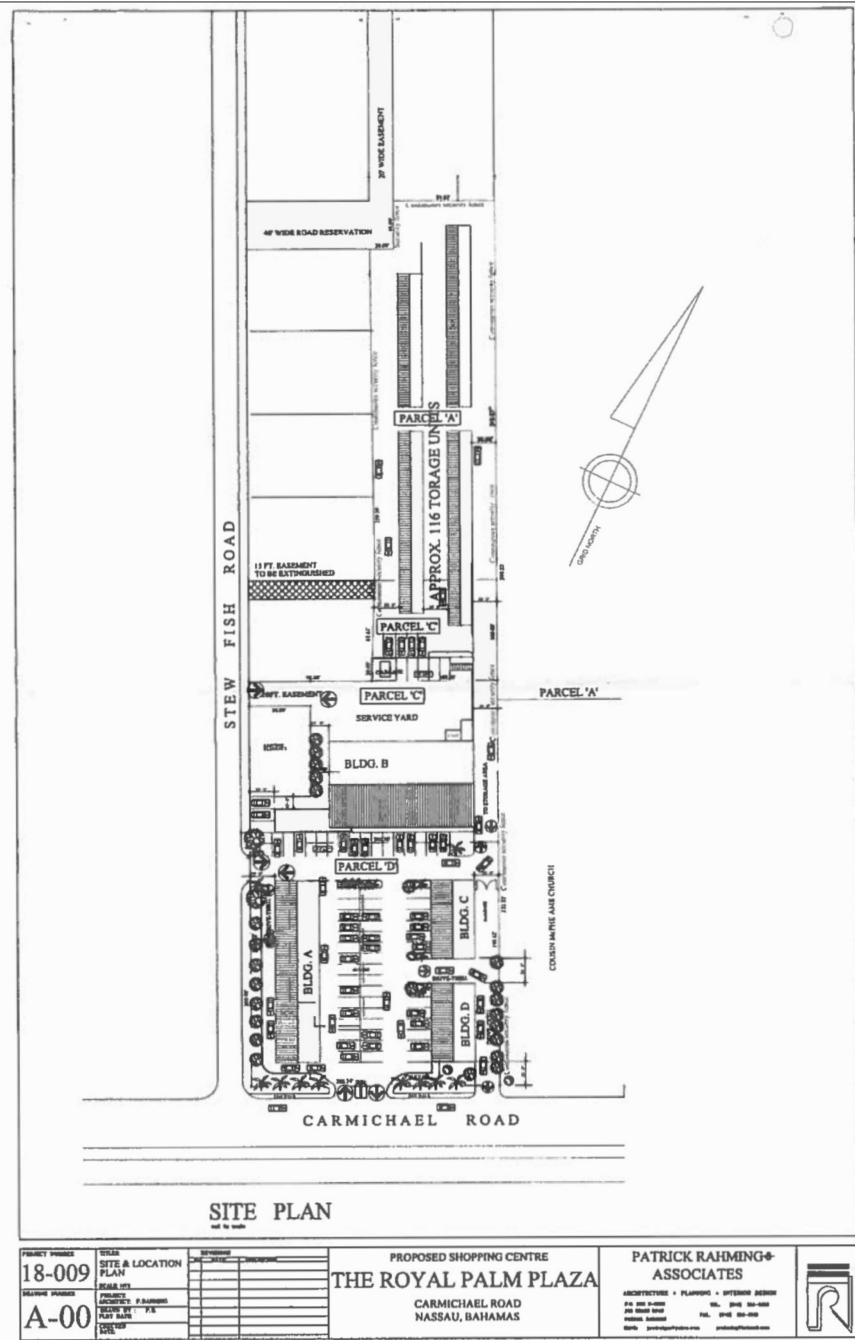
The preliminary site plan and file for the proposed development are available for viewing at the Department of Physical Planning, located in the Aventura Plaza on John F. Kennedy Drive, during normal working hours.

Interested persons and organisations are invited to review the information on file and provide written comments to the Acting Director of Physical Planning within twenty-one (21) days of the date of this notice.

Submissions should be made via P.O. Box N -1611 Nassau, Bahamas or fax (242) 328 - 3206. Further inquiries should be made to the Acting Director via Tel: (242)322-7550/2 or (242)328-3202 or [CHARLESZONICLE@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS](mailto:CHARLESZONICLE@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS)

Signed

**Charles B. Zonicle**  
Acting Director of Physical Planning



# DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP ENDORSES PORT DEAL

Continued from / PAGE 1...

open to looking at the proposals from all parties.

"We do not hesitate to state however, that Global Ports was extremely forthcoming with their vision and was equally receptive to our input and to what we viewed as solutions to the challenges at the port. One of the other bidders did reach out, and in the interest of full disclosure, we advised them that GPH had contact us prior to the RFP process and that we had offered our input. We indicated that we would be happy to offer similar input. There was no further attempt to reach out

to the DNP."

Mr. Fields said his organization is pleased with the outcome and are confident that GPH will continue to be inclusive as we all work together to transform the City of Nassau. GPH took a holistic approach to this exercise and has demonstrated the DNP and other stakeholders that they are prepared to look at the challenges facing the port and to introduce solutions that will be to the benefit of all concerned.

He said, "while there is significant work to be done and there will be hurdles to overcome, the result will make Nassau

Port a destination of choice and demand as opposed to one of proximity.

"We urge all government agencies and non-government interests to work together to bring this vision to a reality in the shortest period possible as the transformative impact the new port will have will serve to catalyze perhaps the largest private and public capital works ventures that the Bahamas and the region has ever seen."

The DNP expects to make some announcements in the coming weeks, which further fuel the transformation of our city.

# BAMSI's New Container to extend produce life



The chiller system goes from the farm to the boat at Morgan's Bluff to Potter's Cay Dock and then directly to the wholesaler.

THE Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI) continues to build economic capacity with the recent engagement of a refrigeration transport container that will transform its post harvesting marketing protocols, reducing spoilage and wastage by 40 per cent or more and

adding value and a longer shelf life to its fresh produce, a senior official said today.

Marketing Manager and head of BAMSI's Distribution Centre Trevor MacKenzie, said the effects of the refrigeration container will be felt by consumers almost immediately. "Tomatoes that are han-

dled properly in the postharvest environment, you get extra shelf life out of them. The Bahamian consumer will probably get two to three weeks in the fridge and still have a firm product - had it been in the heat it would have softened within days