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75 CENTS

NEW DEAL FOR GRAND LUCAYAN

WINNING BIDDERS SIGN LOI FOR PURCHASE

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Lucayan Renewal Holdings Limited yesterday signed a Letter of Intent with Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. (RCL) and the ITM group to begin exclusive negotiations for the purchase of the Grand Lucayan resort at a price of \$65 million, and the redevelopment of the Freeport Harbour.

Lucayan Renewal Holdings Ltd, the firm indicated that the proposed joint-venture project between winning bidders will include the redevelopment of the Grand Lucayan Resort into a world class destination, featuring "water-based family entertainment, with dining, gaming and entertainment options, and five-star hotel accommodations."

It added that the rede-

In a release from

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APPROACH LOI WITH CAUTION, SAYS PLP

The Progressive Liberal Party says the announcement of the Letter of Intent on the purchase and development of the Grand Lucayan Hotel and the promises made by the Government should be approached with caution.

In a Press release yesterday, the Chairman of the Party, Senator Fred Mitchell said, "when there is genuinely good news for Grand Bahama, anyone should join in supporting it. However, this is the

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STIFFER PENALTIES FOR TRAFFIC OFFENCES

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

The government yesterday pushed ahead with changes to the Road Traffic Act.

Those changes include stiffer penalties for drivers using communication devices while driving and for those caught without their licenses.

Leading off the debate in the House of Assembly, Transport Minister Renward Wells said, "these changes include requiring the immediate production of a certificate of insurance or drivers license upon



Transport Minister, Renward Wells

the request of the police officer and requiring the payment of outstanding fines for traffic offenses

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T.A. Thompson Students Grief-Stricken

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

More details coming to light about Tuesday's after school brawl that left a 9th grader dead and two other teen boys in the hands of the police.

Based on information police turned over to Education Minister Jeffrey Lloyd, 15-year-old TA Thompson student Pierre Louis of Wilson Track was walking home in the Pitt

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MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT AND SIGNING CEREMONY FOR GRAND LUCAYAN PROPERTY



Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Dionisio D'Aguiar (seated third left), along with Minister of State for Grand Bahama, Senator Kwasi Thompson (seated second left), was joined by Michael Scott (seated centre), chairman of Lucayan Renewal Holdings Ltd.; Russell Benford (seated, third right), vice-president of Government Relations/Americas for Royal Caribbean; Mauricio Hamui (seated second right), chief executive officer of ITM, along with Board Members of Lucayan Renewal Holdings (standing) for LOI signing for the purchase of the Grand Lucayan resort, in the Office of the Prime Minister on Wednesday, March 27, 2019. **BIS Photos/Lisa Davis**



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ENGLERSTON MP OPPOSES ROAD TRAFFIC BILL

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Englerston Member of Parliament Glenys Hanna Martin yesterday in the House of Assembly expressed her disappointment in the Minnis Administration's Road Traffic Bill, saying "the government has yet to advance either what they met in place or anything at all over the last two years."

She said, "the ques-



Englerston M.P., Glenys Hanna-Martin

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PHA AMBULANCE SERVICES ENHANCED

A red letter day in health-care yesterday as the public health system became the first in the region to introduce the ZOLL X (10) Series Cardiac Monitor and ZOLL Auto Pulse. The emergency medical technology which comes with a price tag of almost four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) is expected to significantly improve the delivery of care for critical emergency cases.

Minister of Health Dr. Duane Sands described the achievement as 'personal and special' one, harkening back to when he served as the country's first Director of NEMS (National Emergency Medical Services).

"For me this is personal to see how far EMS has come, and to know that we have invested significantly in the tools needed for them to continue the incredible work that they do," said the Minister.

Dr. Sands said notwithstanding many of the challenges endured by First Responders during the discharge of their duties, they continue to maintain a level of professionalism that must be applauded. He added, "Giving them the opportunity to be able to impact the lives of those in medical distress is what we ought to be doing, and so we have spent nearly \$400,000 on this equipment and we will spend more if it means that it is going to improve patient outcomes."

Calling it a huge advancement for emergency services in the country, Director of NEMS Dr. Alvery Hanna said the Public Hospitals Authority (PHA) is the first to introduce this level of medical technology.

"The X Series Monitor is particularly designed to work in the ambulance and the auto-pulse is a mechanical automated chest compression device that administers CPR at the prescribed rate and depth according to best practices and the guidelines of the American Heart Association," she



▶ Trainers from global manufacturer ZOLL Medical Corporation demonstrated the features of the devices to NEMS managers and staff and provided instruction over two days in preparation for the installation of the new equipment in ambulances.

said.

Dr. Hanna further noted that the devices will enhance safety for staff, "for proper hand placement (during chest compressions) staff would have to be standing in the moving ambulance and that is of course a challenge, and there is of course the challenge of fatigue. So with the use these automated devices those challenges would be eliminated."

PHA Deputy Managing Director, Lyrone Burrows did not shy away from the price tag for the new system stating that "the PHA strategically looked at the purchase as a capital investment for and on behalf of the Bahamian People, and one that would greatly enhance the best outcomes for our emergency cases."

Burrows also spoke to the deployment of the new equipment, noting that two of the auto-pulse devices would be deployed to NEMS stationed in Grand Bahama and one device would be deployed to Abaco. Of the seven auto-pulse devices that will be deployed to ambulances in New Providence he added one will be assigned to an ambulance serving Paradise Island.

"The equipment is very popular in the US, Europe and Latin America, but for the Caribbean, the Bahamas is the first country to have the Auto-Pulse and X Series working together," said Representative from ZOLL, Mr. Paul Vasquez,

"The X Series and the Auto-Pulse are two systems that provide the high quality CPR that the AHA (American Heart Association) guidelines require. That means that you will be able to provide high quality CPR, improving survival rates and outcomes are going to be better. People will be able to go back to work in a week, continue spending time with their families and return to the lives they had before their medical situation."

Michele Rassin-Moodie, Vice President of Marketing and Business Development at Ports International, noted that the company was proud to part of the project. "We always provide quality equipment and initiatives for the Bahamas to improve services and provide best practices in healthcare delivery. We have been working with ZOLL for over twenty years and they are the leader in cardiac assisted delivery devices, so the PHA should be very proud and the Bahamas should be very proud because they are the only healthcare provider to have these devices," she said.

Trainers from global manufacturer ZOLL Medical Corporation demonstrated the features of the devices to NEMS managers and staff and provided instruction over two days in preparation for the installation of the new equipment in ambulances.

"Teachers Taken For Granted," Says Education Director

BY LISA KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

The Director of Education, Marcellus Taylor says "as a society on the whole, we often take our teachers for granted. Addressing a Press Conference for the Teacher of the Year Awards yesterday at the Church of God of Prophecy on East Street, Mr Taylor said, "we rarely consider how fortunate we are that God has richly endowed each and every one of you teachers with the special gift of being able to take students, sometimes in a very raw state, and help them

in their personal transformation."

"We are sometimes not even appreciative of how blessed we are to have a cadre of such impactful mind-changers in educators like you. However, at the Ministry of Education, we are fully aware of the huge significance of our teachers, and this is why, more than almost 3 decades ago the ministry established the national teacher of the year award, which focuses on spotlighting those educators who stand out in terms of their performance."

Under the theme – The Journey of Excellence Continues,

Some of the female teachers were adorned in tiara's and sashes as Teacher of the Year Nominees. The teacher of the year will be in that prestigious position from 2019 to 2021.

Mr. Taylor said, "this is the occasion when we take time out of our very, very busy schedules to pay tribute to you and this exceptional contingent of educators, our national teachers of the year, let's give you a hand at the very beginning."

"As we all know, all of our teachers are national heroes, but this distin-



GOVERNMENT NOTICES

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ROAD TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

P.O BOX N-1615

THOMAS A. ROBINSON NATIONAL STADIUM

NASSAU, N.P. BAHAMAS

The Public Sitting of the Road Traffic Authority Board Will be held at Thomas A Robinson National Stadium, Off University Drive on the 26th March 2019 at 10 am.

The Board will be considering applications for the grant of Self Drive Cars/Scooters, Private Schedule Omnibus Franchises and Variations in accordance with the Road Traffic Act, Chapter 220.

Further, in accordance with the provisions of Road Traffic Act Chapter 220, any person is entitled to object to the grant of any franchise, however a person who would wish to be heard as an objector should within fourteen (14) days of the date of this publication lodge in writing, two (2) copies of his/her objection, setting out therein, all the grounds of his/her objection(s).

The under-mentioned persons or their representatives are required to attend:

SELF DRIVE CARS		
	NAME/ADDRESS	AMOUNT REQUESTING
1.	Schivano L. Saunders Anguilla Ave Nassau Bahamas	2 SD Cars
2.	Kirk A. Bastian Elizabeth Estates Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
3.	Lawar Mcneil Carmichael Road Nassau Bahamas	20 SD Cars
4.	Shanique Missick/Kamal Scott Nassau Village	2 SD Cars
5.	Bryantino Rahming Paradise Island Drive Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
6.	Thomas Forbes Adelaide Road Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
7.	Duran Stubbs Pinewood Gardens Nassau, Bahamas	10 SD Cars
8.	Nerlie Dorvieux Family Street Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
9.	Keisa Cox Farrington Road Nassau Bahamas	6 SD Cars
10	Calvin Higgs Faith Avenue Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars

11	Kimely Bain P.O. Box SB 50629 Hope Gardens Nassau Bahamas	5 SD CARS
12	Alextine Daxon Stapledon Gardens FH14083 Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
13	Sidney Mckenzie Sidmac Car Rentals Ltd., P.O. Box N-1603 Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
14	Frank Burrows Sir Lynden Pindling Estates Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
15	Annette Thomas-Longley Winton Meadows III Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
16	Valentino Farquharson Prince Charles Nassau Bahamas	3 SD Cars
17	Bertram Sears Wellington Lane Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
18	Alexander Johnson Claridge Road Nassau Bahamas	3 SD CARS
19	Fred Rahming Hope Garden Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
20	Glenda Roker Pride Estates Nassau Bahamas	5 SD CARS
21	Marvin Comarcho Jr. Fox Hill Road Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
22	Lerone Hanna Marathon Road Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
23	Cyril Greenslade/Gloria Greenslade Carmichael Road Nassau Bahamas	20 SD Cars
24	Olevia B. Anderson Pride Estates Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
25	Santino Evans Shrimp and Hamster Street Nassau Bahamas	5 SD CARS
26	Dirk Simmons & Stephen Sweeting Skyline Lakes Nassau Bahamas	30 SD Cars
27	Miranda Adderley Harmony Hill Road Nassau Bahamas	10 SD CARS
28	Marvin Comarcho Sr. Oakes Field Nassau Bahamas	12 SD Cars
29	Michael Jeudi Minni Street Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
30	Eric Whitely Jr. Dunmoe Drive Nassau Bahamas	20 SD CARS
31	Shanique Bodie Silver Pine Close Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
32	Sypron Brice Flamingo Gardens	15 SD Cars

World Purple Day Recognized At St. Anne's Primary School

BY LISA KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

Lacey Huyler is a student of St. Anne's Primary School. Her mom became aware that she had epilepsy when she was only four years old.

She said she has seizures and many times she does not remember what happens after she has one. It's hard to have happy sometimes, but she knows that her family loves her, even though she has epilepsy. She wishes that someone would come up with a cure for this condition, as she does not enjoy having them.

Lacey says she is happy to be alive and likes her school, because it looks out for her. She wanted the Bahamas to join the rest of the world in recognizing World Epilepsy Day.

Health Minister, Dr. Duane Sands, a former student of both St. Anne's Primary and High School, gave brief remarks to the students before introducing the guest speaker, Dr. Edwin Demeritte. He said that epilepsy is a condition of the brain that causes repeated discharges of electrical activity, or seizures and that there are many different types of epilepsy and seizures.

"Some people can take medication that can control their seizures, but medication does not always work for everyone.

"Scientists are actively researching causes and treatment of epilepsy so that those who have this condition can have some relief.

"According to the World Health Organization, there are more than fifty million people in and around the world who live with epilepsy," said Dr. Sands.

The Minister thanked the students and wished the school a phenomenal Purple Day!

Dr. Edwin Demeritte, a Neurologist said, "there are many things that can cause seizures, low blood sugar, high blood sugar, dehydration, high fevers in young children, and I can go on and on.

"Persons with epilepsy can live full, productive lives, but activities like scuba diving and gymnastics should be avoided.

"Persons with epilepsy can lead a full and productive life, I am sure Lacey will go far in life, she is a bright child.

"Indeed, the sky is the limit for all of you kids out there, just reach for the sky, the sky is the limit!" he said.



▶ Star of the Show - St. Anne's School fifth grader Lacey Huyler who lives with epilepsy. The youngster was the impetus behind the school observing World Epilepsy Day, Tuesday (March 26, 2019). World Health Organization statistics indicate that there are almost 50 million persons living with epilepsy globally. (BIS Photo/Derek Smith)



▶ Minister of Health, the Hon. Dr. Duane E.L. Sands addressing students of St. Anne's School Tuesday, March 26, during the Special Purple Day Assembly held in observance of World Epilepsy Day. (BIS Photo/Derek Smith)



▶ Administrators, staff and students of St. Anne's School observed World Epilepsy Day on Tuesday (March 26, 2019) with a Special Purple Day Assembly in support of Lacey Huyler, a fifth grade student who lives with epilepsy. (BIS Photo/Derek Smith)

Continued from / PAGE 2



	Nassau Bahamas	
33	Deborah Mortimer Soldier Road Nassau Bahamas	3 SD Cars
34	Denard Dean Big Pond Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
35	Laramie Woodside Mackey Street Nassau Bahamas	3 SD Cars
36	Kevin Duncombe # Dignity Gardens Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
37	Julie Johnson Jubilee Gardens Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
38	Samatha Bain Sugar Apple Street Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
39	Marisa Darling Chippingham Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
40	Edward Johnson St Vincent Road Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
41	Jewel Sands Prince Charles Drive Nassau Bahamas	35 Plates
42	Anthony Duvalier Garden View Estate Nassau Bahamas	20 SD Cars
43	Lelia J. Beneby Sanford Drive Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
44	Kevin Duncombe Dignity Gardens Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
45	Monique Taylor Fox Hill Nassau Bahamas	20 SD Cars
46	Curtis Gray and Dana Munnings Coral Heights East Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
47	Aniska P. Johnson Carmichael Road Nassau Bahamas	4 SD Cars
48	Tomico Horton Big Pond Nassau Bahamas	2 SD Cars
49	Tamara Francis Windsor Fields Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
50	Christo D. Edgcombe Lancaster Road Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
51	Stanley Forbes Montague Nassau Bahamas	3 SD Cars
52	Carlisa Armbrster & Colin Mckenzie Teal Street Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
53	Rudolph V.D. Bowe Love Beach Estates Nassau Bahamas	4 SD Cars
54	Keithian D. Gray Claridge Road P.O. Box CR-56173	5 SD Cars



	Nassau Bahamas	
55	Cindy Kelly Wulff Road P.O. Box N-1333 Nassau Bahamas	5 SD CARS
56	Wellington Richards Cowpen Road Nassau Bahamas	6 SD CARS
57	Julian Rolle Stapleton Gardens Nassau Bahamas	5 SD CARS
58	Laverna Baker Skyline Lakes Nassau Bahamas	10 SD CARS
59	Jerome Johnson Minnie Street Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
60	Nathaniel Ferguson Jr. Collins Avenue Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
61	Burshall Lebron Bain Yamacraw Hill Road Nassau, Bahamas	15 SD Cars
62	Dwight R. Longley Sandilands Village Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
63	Dexter Kerr Jr. West Bay Street Nassau Bahamas	20 SD Cars
64	Carvison and Philippa Pratt Sea breeze Lane Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
65	Henry Bain Opulent Drive Nassau Bahamas	30 SD Cars
66	Bancroft Thompson Jr. Malcolm Road Nassau, Bahamas	5 SD Cars
67	Sherrell McSweeney/Harvey Johnson Oakes Field Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
68	William Mccartney Mount Royal Avenue Nassau, Bahamas	12 SD Cars
69	Giovanni Thompson Yamacraw Shores Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
70	Brian Newbold Pinewood Gardens Nassau Bahamas	2 SD Cars
71	Javon Saunders Montague Villas Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
72	Sherese Hamilton Winton Estate Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
73	Hesley Walkine West Bay Street Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
74	Wayde Seymour Marathon Estates Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
75	Newell Bullard Graham Drive Nassau Bahamas	6 SD Cars
76	Coolie Johnson-McDonald Nassau Village Nassau Bahamas	2 SD Cars

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WINNING BIDDERS SIGN LOI FOR PURCHASE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

velopment of the Freeport Harbour is expected to significantly increase cruise ship arrivals, pulling in an additional 2 million passengers annually to Grand Bahama.

The statement said, "Phase one of the proposed development represents a projected \$195 million investment over a 24-month period. Approximately 2,000 jobs are expected to be created in the first phase of the project"

Yesterday's announcement follows a successful marketing campaign that attracted 62 expressions of interest and 11 letters of offer.

This past Friday, the Board of Directors of Lucayan Renewal Holdings Ltd collectively approved a resolution to recommend to the Cabinet the sale of the Resort to the winning bidders.

Tourism minister Dionisio D'aguilar said, "It is my sincere hope that Bahamians, and in particular, Grand Bahamians, will take advantage of the opportunities being created not

only for employment but for self-employment. I want to see young people achieving their dreams of owning a business that will serve the visiting public as well as Bahamians,"

He added, "The Government is doing all in its power to generate the increase in visitor traffic to Grand Bahama and it will be up to us to ensure the increase in visitor spend to churn our economy."

The ITM group assured that it is "committed to co-develop with Royal Caribbean a world class destination and a leading cruise port hand-to-hand with The Bahamas government.

Discussions leading to a Heads of Agreement, which is subject to the approval of the National Economic Council, will begin immediately on matters related to Bahamian employment requirements and Bahamian participation in specific areas.

Its reported that Bahamians are set to enjoy significant ownership participation in restaurants, retail stores, transportation and water-sports.

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT AND SIGNING FOR GRAND LUCAYAN PROPERTY



Mr. Russell Benford (centre), vice-president of Government Relations/Americas for Royal Caribbean, says the company is excited about the project in Grand Bahama and promised to bring excellence and dedication to the restoration and redevelopment of the Grand Lucayan resort, as well as redevelopment of the Cruise Port in Freeport. At right is Mr. Mauricio Hamui, chief executive officer, ITM, and at left is Mr. Michael Scott, chairman of Lucayan Renewal Holdings Limited.

BIS Photos/Lisa Davis

APPROACH LOI WITH CAUTION, SAYS PLP

Continued from / PAGE 1...

FNM government we are dealing with. This is the same government that signed the fake Oban deal, full of billion dollar promises which turned out to be a complete mirage. It was a hoax played on the people of Grand Bahama.

"Then there was the deal announced for West

Grand Bahama which also turned out not to materialize.

"Perhaps the FNM might take advice on these matters before jumping into the public domain even if it must come from their predecessors who they hate so much. When these things fail, it is all of us who suffer," he said.

Senator Mitchell said,

"In this case the PLP says: the devil is in the details; seeing is believing; talk is cheap but money buys land.

"Just this morning, you had the Minister of Tourism telling the country any talk of a deal was premature; and now there's a deal.

"The public can therefore understand that

everyone should approach this announcement with caution and circumspection."

He said, "the PLP will be examining this deal with a fine tooth comb to ensure that the interests of the Bahamian people are protected and that this is not just another sweet deal for FNM friends, family and lovers."

GOT NEWS?
call The Journal
TIP LINE at 356-7254

Continued from / PAGE 3



77	Bernard Bodie Sunset Park Nassau, Bahamas	15 SD Cars
78	Richena Bain Garden Hills Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
79	Marlon Wood Yamacraw Beach Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
80	Theotis Taylor Golden Gates Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
81	Shantelle Seymour Marshall Road Nassau Bahamas	8 SD Cars
82	Treca Whyms & Dion Thompson Pine Cone Ave Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
83	Joydawn Roberts Prince Charles Drive Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
84	Basil Moss Jubilee Gardens Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
85	Darcia Carey Pinewood Gardens Nassau Bahamas	3 SD Cars
86	Lenny Rolle Sunset Meadows Nassau Bahamas	SD Cars 3
87	Amber Johnson Cowpen Road Nassau Bahamas	SD Cars 15
88	Karen Moss-Timothy Tower Heights Nassau Bahamas	SD Cars 2
89	Kemico Sands Nassau East South Nassau Bahamas	SD Cars 2
90	Dario Campbell Fire Trail Road Nassau Bahamas	SD Cars 3
91	Jared Forbes Emmanuel Drive Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
92	Berkley Newton Fire Trail Road Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
93	Aaliyah Rahming Marshall Road Nassau Bahamas	2 SD Cars
94	Dania Ferguson High vista Nassau Bahamas	3 SD Cars
95	Jem Roberts Sea Breeze Estates Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
96	Don Delancy Joe Farrington Road Nassau Bahamas	3 SD Cars
97	Karen Belle Flamingo Gardens Nassau Bahamas	3 SD Cars
98	Arnette Baker Pinewood Gardens Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars



99	Amber Johnson Cowpen Road West Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
101	Daniel Stubbs Fleming Street Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
102	Edward Demeritte Mermaid Blvd Nassau Bahamas	13 SD Cars

SELF DRIVE SCOOTERS	
NAME/ADDRESS	AMOUNT REQUESTING
1 Rino King Country Club Estates Nassau Bahamas	25 SD Scooter
2 Erica Chea Poets Drive Nassau Bahamas	30 SD Scooter
PRIVATE SCHEDULE OMNIBUS	
NAME/ADDRESS	AMOUNT REQUESTING
1 Kristin Archer Garden Hills Nassau Bahamas	1 Private Schedule Plates
2 Gregory Munnings Clifton Heritage Authority Nassau Bahamas	3 Private Schedule Plates
3 Henry Forbes South Beach Nassau Bahamas	4 Private Schedule Plates
4 Geralle Gabriel Joe Farrington Road Nassau Bahamas	1 Private Schedule Plates
5 Barrett Smith Coral Harbour Nassau Bahamas	2 Private Schedule Plates
6 Danny Gibson West Bay Street Nassau Bahamas	5 Private Schedule Plates
7 Nicole Matecki Sweeting Lane Nassau Bahamas	3 Private Schedule Plates
8 Daniel Moss Mark Ave, Buttonwood Nassau Bahamas	3 Private Schedule Plates
9 Shavane Turnquest Big Flower Invest. Ltd. Cable Beach Nassau Bahamas	3 Private Schedule Plates
10 Elroy Knowles Bel Air Estate Nassau Bahamas	2 Private Schedule Plates
11 Joseph Wemyss Honeysuckle LN Nassau Bahamas	5 Private Schedule Plates
12 Tamara Francis Winsor Field Road Nassau Bahamas	3 Private Schedule Plates

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PASSPORT WOES, PART 2

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Day 2 – With a positive mind, I arrived at the Passport office just after 7am the following day to find that the crowd was already forming. There was a gentleman in charge of the ‘sign in’ list and since he knew nothing about yesterday’s promised pre-booked list, as a precaution I added my name to his list which he had numbered (he was already up to the 90s). Apparently (and I stand to be corrected) the task of ‘holding the list’ is allocated to a selected customer waiting on the outside by an early morning member of the office staff – that shows some initiative!

By 7.30am an office member came on the outside to explain the procedure to the crowd, i.e. the overflow from yesterday would be seen first, followed by that morning’s new arrivals. Another ‘lo and behold moment’ occurred as our names from yesterday were called, we were issued a number, let into the sanctum of the freezing cold interior, and directed to our section seats! I was impressed with this manoeuvre - it appeared that things were moving smoothly and we would be served quickly.

I was certainly grateful to have a proper seat today. As we sat and waited, I did a cursory count of the seats arranged in the two sections which numbered around 50, there were 6 properly numbered service cubicles, and an electronic Qmatic numbering monitor on display. I was also impressed to hear, as other persons (starting with the first time babies and parent/s) were let inside to fill the seats, that only those persons who were there for processing would be allowed to take a seat, i.e. if you were not legitimately accompanying a minor, or were an adult tagging along with your family or friend to hog up a seat in comfort and soak up the air-condo, forget it – you were banished to the uncomfortable outer limits! Today the passport office seemed to be ‘cookin’ with gas’!

Eventually we were called by rows to a desk where we showed our passport and NIB card, were given a slip of paper (with no explanation of what it was for), and sat back down to wait, and wait as the service cubicles remained empty, with only one gentleman at work. My high spirits began to lag.

During this time a customer made it known that the cashier had arrived, and that the slip of paper we had been given was supposed to be taken to the window on the other side of the room for payment. A group of us made our way to that area to line up for service. This, however, resulted in a stern reprimand from office staff as well as the defence force officer who appeared on the scene to ask us not to block the area and to return to our seats, still without providing any explanation of what was supposed to happen next.

As we continued to sit, the service cubicle staff members arrived and number D1 (The letter ‘D’ is apparently for renewals) appeared on the electronic board – finally there was action! Well number one was a lonely number that morning, because it was quite a while before another number was called. Some of our group from the day before struck up a conversation about yesterday’s debacle and today’s slow start. We decided to take some initiative, instead of just sitting there doing nothing, and began to make our way over to the cashier in small groups to pay, get our receipt, and sit back down to wait.

All of a sudden the numbering system seemed to go haywire with several numbers changing rapidly from D5 to 11 and directing everyone to cubicle 6 which was already serving a customer. The next number waiting to be served was 6, and although I was number 9, office staff came from behind the counter to demand that I attend their cubicle, in spite of us trying to explain how to count! I presented my documents as outlined on the information form and was told that my original birth and marriage certificates were not acceptable. I pointed out that the information pamphlet said otherwise, and was told in a condescending tone that the information pamphlet was incorrect and “I am telling you what to do!” Well, excuse me for trying to follow the rules as written on your pamphlet, that apparently are really no

longer the rules because you did not bother to correct them before telling me to follow them – too bad, too sad! Is this customer service?

I was told to check my information as entered and was given my receipt which indicated the date I should return at the end of the month for collection at the front office and I intend to let the public know when it is in hand. My processing took less than 10 minutes – I had waited for almost 3 hours! Is this efficient?

I left the passport office after 10am and headed to the Registry on Shirley Street to request and pay for ‘certified copies’ of my documents to take back to the passport office. The Registry process was smoother and quicker but ‘older’ persons should be aware that their documents cannot be processed on the spot because they are not ‘in the computer system’ - you will have to make a return trip after a few hours for pick up! Also, as an important sidebar, these new birth certificates for us older persons do not contain accurate information with respect to a person’s siblings – the Registry needs to address this matter.

It is in the spirit of constructive criticism, therefore, that I offer the following suggestions for consideration by whomsoever it may concern, in the hopes that the passport office experience might become a more efficient and effective one in a more pleasant environment for the customers of 21st century Bahamas:

1) PREPARATION:

a) The website for the passport office (and all other government offices) should contain accurate information at all times, and be maintained and updated on a regular basis. Trained Bahamian graphic artists should be hired to design aesthetically pleasing online sites for public use.

b) The General Information pamphlet should not be distributed to the public with incorrect information. The pamphlet should be updated immediately if any changes are made to the process and procedures, which should be pointed out to recipients. It is a photocopied sheet that is easily produced. The registration procedure (i.e. arrival on the outside) is not presently addressed in the pamphlet, and it should be.

c) Bahamian citizens no doubt attempt to obtain information by telephoning the office. It is hoped that the 3 telephone numbers listed on the Information pamphlet and in the telephone directory are operational, and the numbers are answered by knowledgeable, helpful staff.

2) COMFORT:

a) The Bahamian public is grateful for the awning that is erected outside for protection from the sun and rain. I expect that this is not adequate to shade larger crowds during the hotter summer months and rainy season, therefore an additional canopied area should be considered.

b) There is certainly no reason why persons should be standing up on the outside in such a haphazard manner. The current benches are a disgrace, and should be replaced by groups of chairs similar to those inside, placed and bolted to the ground in an east to west orientation facing south in order to accommodate many more people under the awning. Several chairs can also be placed facing west in front of the a/c units to the south of the door. Several chairs should also be designated for senior citizens.

3) INFORMATION GRAPHICS - The empty cabinet on the wall outside should be removed and attractive signage (designed by a graphic artist) listing the documentation required for the various categories, as well as the application procedures (which are listed on the information pamphlet) should be placed on the entire western wall for all to see and refer to. Proper procedural/information signage should also be placed on the inside.

4) REGISTRATION ORDER – I make no apology to those in charge of the passport office for having the audacity to be “telling people how to do their job.” Since you, yourselves, do not have to ‘tow the line for service’ it may come as a shock to realize that continually disgruntled customers (that’s us, the Bahamian people, whom you are obligated to serve - do not

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Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimale P. Jones
Vice President/Operations

E D I T O R I A L

PREPARING OUR YOUTH

The stabbing death of 15-year old Perry Rolle, a ninth grade student of T.A Thompson Junior High School on Tuesday is an indictment on the entire Bahamian society.

He said killed after a brawl on Pitt Road after classes ended at 3pm.

This is what happens when an entire society fails to put in place the programmes and policies for the proper development of our youth.

For ten years, successive governments spent tens of millions of dollars in the development of an Urban Renewal programme. It started in the first term of the administration of former Prime Minister Perry Christie in 2002. When the Progressive Liberal Party was voted out of office in 2007, the Ingraham administration continued the programme, even though the programme was scaled down. In 2012, Christie was returned to power and re-energized the programme and appointed Cynthia “Mother” Pratt and Algernon Allen as Co-Chairpersons of Urban Renewal.

The programme moved from strength to strength for five years with many initiatives to impact the lives of young people in a positive way.

There were organized youth bands, after school computer classes and youth sporting activities. However, since the defeat of the Christie led government in 2017, it appears that the programme was scaled back again and lost the momentum it had.

This is what happens when government initiatives are not continuous. The whole country loses and our youth are marginalized.

To his credit, the new Prime Minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis has introduced what is called “The Over-The-Hill Initiative.” However, it has unfortunately not caught fire as yet, and many Bahamians are left wondering what has become of the Urban Renewal Programme. It is our understanding that the new programme has a staff that is inactive, although they are being paid by the public to mount community programmes to make a difference.

It is our considered view that the Urban Renewal Programme should once again come alive to make a difference to the thousands of young impressionable minds in the heartland communities of our country.

We are losing too many of our young men to violent crime. Every week there are funerals for boys who have not been able to resolve conflicts that end in death.

We should not miss another opportunity to better socialize the youth of the Bahamas. In the 1980s the late Sir Lynden Pindling, the founding father of the nation suggested the development of a National

Youth Service. This was resisted by the then Opposition. The complaint was that Sir Lynden wanted to enlist young people into his new Army. Thoughtful Bahamians now realise that the suggestion was a good one and should have been acted upon. Indeed Sir Lynden was roundly criticised for not following through with his suggestion by some of his supporters.

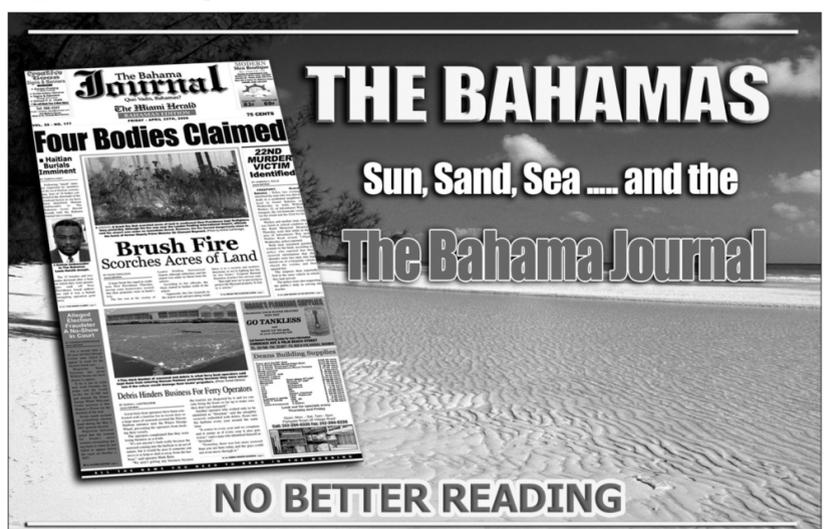
In an interview prior to his death in 2000, he lamented the fact that he was dissuaded by his detractors in not implementing this programme which could have had the desired results for youth development in the country.

Addressing a Youth Convention of the Anglican Diocese of Nassau and the Bahamas in August of 1990, Sir Lynden told them: “Your world is different from mine. You face a different set of challenges and problems than those I faced. Your interests and priorities, even your language, have changed and you are growing up with a global culture in a global village where the whole world is your backyard. Your music, which is a reflection of much of what your generation feels and embrace, is constantly changing. Your attitudes about life, love, work and faith are still being formed, however, and I pray that they are consistent with what The Bahamas needs to prosper as a Nation for all that you achieve and all that you believe will rest on the values you adopt during these formative years.

“Your generation will need a vision of its own, a vision for the 21st century, a vision of the kind of society in which you and your children will want to live. Your vision may be a new one but, in planning your life and the society you want to build, you will find that the foundation of your vision will be the same as that which fortified your forefathers before you. Their foundation was built on three very important things: God, Family and Country, and I can tell you now that you will not be able to find better ones.

“You see, freedom does have a price. It is not free. Freedom means responsibility, a responsibility to properly look after our families and ourselves; and citizenship demands more than simply paying taxes and voting for one’s leader. In addition, each of us has a sacred duty to love and protect this blessed land God has given to us, to build it up and make it better for future generations. All of us have a stake in being Bahamian,” said Sir Lynden.

Hopefully these words would inspire our leaders in our country to act and to take another look at how we are preparing and socializing our youth to build a better Bahamas.



STIFFER PENALTIES FOR TRAFFIC OFFENCES

Continued from / PAGE 1...

before the renewal of a drivers license, and prohibiting the use of electronic communication devices while driving.

Citing statistics, Mr. Wells said globally 1.2 million people die from traffic accidents each year which equates to some 3,288 persons dying each day.

He added that more

people died from vehicular accidents than anything else.

As it relates to The Bahamas, Minister Wells noted that death due to vehicular accidents for the first three months equal the amount of homicides in 2018.

He added that there 44 traffic fatalities in 2016, 55 in 2015, 37 in 2014 and 51 in 2013.

“There has been a

marked increase in the amount of deaths year over year of some 35 per cent in 2018.

“For this year alone 2019, we have had some 18 persons over the first three months who have died on the streets on New Providence,” he said.

The Minister noted that road traffic death is now the 13th cause of death in The Bahamas,” he said.

Seconding the bill was

National Security Minister Marvin Dames who sought to defend the reasoning behind the proposed amendments.

“The World Health Organization estimates that traffic related incidences cost countries an average of three per cent of their GDP.

“Of course, the proposed amendments of this Road Traffic Bill are much more than econom-

ic loss at the lives of humans is so much more valuable.

“The proposed bill hopes to frame road traffic safety as a health and development framework for the socio-economic and human capital development of the country.”

“Concurrently, we hope to shift the public’s behavior and attitudes, which will ultimately save lives,” Minister

Dames said.

There have been 1,831 accidents this year. Approximately 1,554 or 84.9 per cent was in New Providence, 195 or 10.6 per cent in Grand Bahama, while 50 or 2.7 per cent occurred in Abaco.

There have been 14 fatalities for the year, 11 were in New Providence and two occurred in Andros.

ENGLERSTON MP OPPOSES ROAD TRAFFIC BILL

Continued from / PAGE 1...

tion that has to be answered is if this administration is playing games with the lives of Bahamian people, because you have a framework that exhausts all that you say in this parliament.”

She added, “You’re coming into this Parliament on the proverbial white horse claiming to be introducing this legislation as a commitment

to road safety. Even if this government did not accept aspects of the policies driving the Bill, certainly the Bill must have provided a solid foundation for reform; after all this time, should we have not seen some appropriate version brought forward.”

The current bill imposes hefty fines on a driver caught texting and driving.

It also requires all drivers to travel with their

driver’s license to avoid being arrested.

Mrs. Hanna-Martin said that the government’s approach to road safety, saving lives, averting injuries and providing for a more rational environment on our streets must of necessity be multi-faceted.

She added that by pulling out fragments from the bill in this piecemeal fashion, undermines the serious objectives of a full road safety regime.

She said, “the draft bill that we left addressed this vexing issue specifically provided for prison sentences of up to 10 years and disqualification of driver’s license to replace the current minimal penalties in place for causing death.

“The gross deficiencies in the law are seen over and over and even most recently a sentence of a fine of \$20,000 for a driver who admitted guilt in the killing two people.

This has long been a sore point and a painful bone of contention for many families of persons killed through negligence or recklessness on roads across the country and goes to the heart of justice. Reform is long overdue.”, she added.

The MP indicated that the Opposition supports the cell phone provisions in the draft.

However, it does not support the very high level of fines which they

believe will enhance hardship.

It also supports open container provisions, but does not support the clause empowering police to arrest a driver who does not have insurance papers.

She also called on the government to bring forward the draft road traffic bill, the historic revision by the PLP Administration since the original enactment of 1958.

Continued from / PAGE 4



VARIATION		
1	Carlean Moss Marshall Road Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Routes Change
2	Johnathan Woodside East Street South Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Route Change
3	Oscar Saunders Soldier Road Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Route Change
4	Doris Gibson Dowdeswell & Deveaux Street Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus transfer
5	Margarette Thompson-Bain Sunset Park Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Transfer
6	Basil Woodside Garden Hills Nassau Bahamas	Request Public schedule Omnibus Route Change
7	Clarence Higgs Prince Higgs Nassau Bahamas	Request Company name change
8	Shandy Higgs Blue Hill Road Nassau Bahamad	Variation of Tour and Self Drive Plates
9	Joseph Bridgewater Coral Height East Nassau Bahamas	Request Tour Plate Transfer
10	Raymond Johnson Southwind Gardens Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Routes Change
11	Rudolph Taylor Sr. Ritz Lane Nassau Bahamas	Request Public schedule Omnibus Route Change
12	Saspress Rolle Palm Beach Street Nassau Bahamas	Request Public schedule Omnibus Routes Change
13	George, Keva and Ricardo Hamilton Malcolm Allotment Nassau Bahamas	Request Self Drive Company Name Change
14	Happy Tour Ltd Nassau Bahamas	Request Company name change
15	Ali Zubair Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Transfer
16	Craig Knowles Hunt and Ramsay Street Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Route Change
17	James Lewis Big Lou Bus Service Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Routes Change
18	Otto Gibbs Winton Meadows Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Transfer
19	Aaron Woodside Venice Bay Blvd Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Routes Change
20	Nassau Transport Company Ltd. Davis Street Nassau Bahamas	Request Self Drive Cars Transfer

END

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PEACH STREET OFF MONTROSE AVENUE

T.A. Thompson Students Grief-Stricken

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Road area when he was accosted by two CC Sweeting students.

"The two young men, one of them was in possession of a knife, and handed the knife to the other young man who then directed him to stab the victim which the young man did several times about the body, one of which was in his chest."

"The victim was taken to the hospital and succumbed to his injuries sometime later," he said.

The two boys allegedly behind the fatal stabbing are a 15 and 16 year-old.

Police did not say whether Tuesday's incident was gang related, but they have admitted to the Minister that for some time, they have had to deal with gang violence within the community of

students from T.G. Glover, T.A. Thompson and C.C. Sweeting.

Englerston MP Glenys Hanna-Martin yesterday pointed out that Pierre is the second child from her constituency who has died from such violence while wearing a uniform.

"This is speaking very terribly to what is happening in our country with our young people and it requires all hands on deck."

"It is not a political issue, it is not a police issue. The police have a very limited role; they're law enforcement."

"In Urban Renewal they are suppose to have some proactivity in prevention."

"The Bahamas is a wonderful country, but the levels of violence we are experiencing is dismal, it's speaking very

poorly to the diminishing of quality of life in this country and our cultural norms as a people," she said.

The PLP MP called for the country to come together and address and redress such challenges.

She added, "there has to be a way for us to find a way to ensure that these children are not coming to school with knives, leaving the school with knives or are in the school zone with knives."

Speaking in the House of Assembly, Mrs. Hanna Martin said, "I'm sorry to say this Mr. Speaker, because I wasn't one of those people who supported having police in the schools. I didn't support that, but I think we have to find a way to ensure that children are safe going to and from school. It's a human right to access edu-

cation without being killed."

Meanwhile a grieving mother and loved ones and traumatized students teachers and administrators of the Gregory Street campus greeted the Minister, who was ushered into a room of nine young men and three young women.

The group – all witnesses to the crime, and were all inconsolable.

"Young men are crying without any regard for their self-consciousness and it only reflects how deeply affected we are as a society by incidences of violence.

"It is just unfair that our young people must negotiate a life that seems to be peppered with incidences of senseless acts of violence, it is tragic," Minister Lloyd said.

Deeply disappointed

and regretful, the Education Minister acknowledged that in the wake of Tuesday's tragedy, TA Thompson is now a broken spirited community.

It is our responsibility in the Ministry of Education to invite our young people to accept, appreciate and respect their innate dignitary value which is matchless and peerless, because it comes from God."

"It is also our responsibility to invite them to life; life that they will have in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; but will also have when they submit to the instructions that they receive at the hands of our principal, teachers and administrators," he said.

Grief counsellors are expected to remain at the school for as long as necessary. The Police Force's

family liaison section will give additional support.

Before heading off to the House of Assembly, the Education Minister also visited C.C. Sweeting, where he said students were equally distraught and shocked.

Fort Charlotte MP, Mark Humes, said such incidents are always troubling.

"We have an issue with gangs in this country. We have an issue with juvenile delinquency, and at some point we're going to have to take a hold of this issue."

"There are many laws on the books that relate to parental oversight of young people and I think we're going to have to look at those carefully to see how we're holding parents responsible for their under-aged children," he said.

PASSPORT WOES, PART 2

Continued from / PAGE 5...

appreciate having to waste precious hours, days and months back and forth - we also have a life to attend to) should always be a clear indicator that something is wrong: your system isn't working, and it's time to re-examine your process/procedures.

Grouchy staff members who appear burdened at their job, with no time to take a break or have lunch (as I was informed) are also a clear indication of either and/or not enjoying their work nor their work place; not having the tools or procedures in place to work efficiently and effectively; not being interested in having positive interaction with their customers, but rather use the power of their position against the customer, rather than for the customer's benefit. If you vex and we vex – what good will come of that? Let's work together to find positive solutions for everyone!

In this technological age, there is no need for persons to be standing outside in the wee hours of the morning in an attempt to get served. If the registration process is organized properly, persons can arrive at a sensible hour, be processed quickly, and leave within a reasonable timeframe.

a) There should be a registration desk on the outside with a numbered sheet for customers to sign as they arrive, then have a seat. At 8am a staff member, equipped with a portable waistband PA system, would man the desk with a lap top computer showing a numbered spreadsheet listing the various categories of applicants: new born babies, transfer from old passport to e-passport, e-passport renewals, and any others.

b) Customers would then approach the registration desk in number order when their names are called (using the microphone headset on the PA system instead of shouting), until everyone's name is entered in the appropriate category column, with any senior citizen/disabled persons in attendance being identified so that they can be seen first in their category.

Since the passport office is aware of how many applicants they can process in a

day, once that quota is reached, any other applicant's name can be placed on the following day's roster (which should be limited to an additional 5 persons) and the applicant can then leave knowing they can return the following day and be seen, rather than having to wait for 4 hours before being turned away!

c) This registration process would not take long, and the list generated would be the working list for the day's activities. It should be uploaded on to a monitor inside so that applicants can see the progress of their group in real time (just like ordering pizza or waiting to be seen at the Cable office!)

4) PROCESSING LOGISTICS - Once inside, the various categories would then be directed systematically to other staff members' stations where they can have their documents checked to make sure they are in order. They will also receive their form to pay the cashier and get their receipt. Once their number is called for processing, their time spent at the counter would be minimized since their documentation would have already been checked. This method would allow many more persons to be processed in a day. If e-passport renewals require a mere 10-15 minute processing time, there should be one cubicle dedicated to renewals throughout the day so that more renewal applicants can be served.

5) FEEDBACK – A locked 'Suggestion Box' should be available for customers' use and it should be opened by someone at the Permanent Secretary level for weekly review. How many times do the 'higher ups' visit offices under their purview to observe what exactly is taking place and confer with staff on a regular basis for feedback?

These letters have taken quite a lot of effort to write, and it is hoped that they are received positively and will achieve mutually beneficial results for us all.

Yours sincerely,
Pam Burnside



PUBLIC NOTICE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL PLANNING

The public is hereby notified that the Town Planning Committee has scheduled a public meeting for interested persons and organizations to discuss the application on behalf of The Estate of the Late John F. Morley to rezone a tract of land, approximately twenty-three (23) acres in size, for commercial land use.

The subject property is zoned for low-density residential land use and is bounded on the north by John F. Kennedy Drive, bounded on the south by Munnings Road and immediately west of South Westridge Estates.

Please note that the meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 14th March 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the public meeting room of the Department of Physical Planning.

The file (PSA/139/2017) is available for viewing at the Department of Physical Planning, located in the Aventura Plaza on John F. Kennedy Drive, during normal working hours.

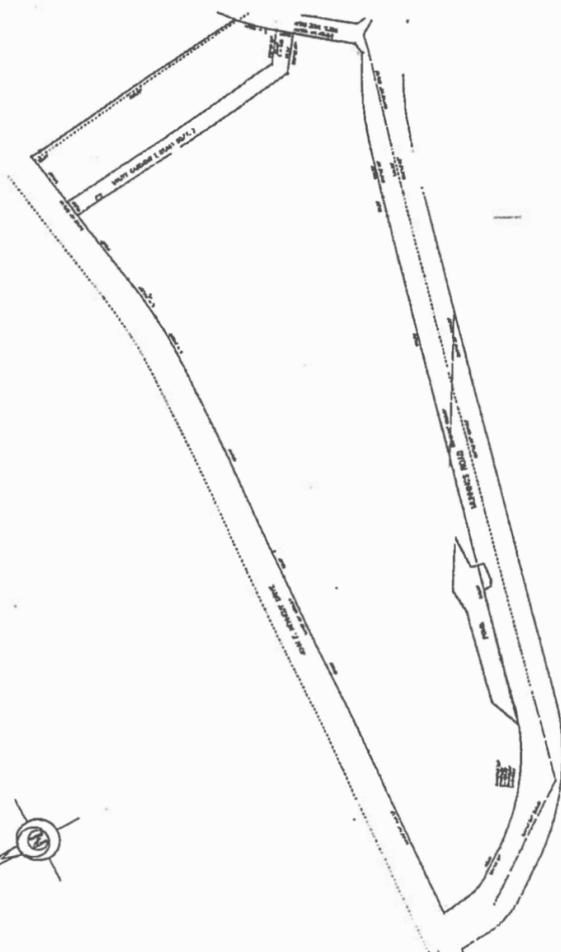
Interested persons and organisations are invited to review the information on file and provide written comments to the Acting Director of Physical Planning within twenty-one (21) days of the date of this notice.

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

Signed

Charles B. Zonicle
Acting Director of Physical Planning



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“Teachers Taken For Granted,” Says Education Director

Continued from / PAGE 2...

guished group of hard-working teachers, motivated and committed national builders from the public schools around the archipelago, are being applauded and commended and commemorated over the next few days.”

“We believe that your work has demonstrated your excellence as professionals in our education sector, and for that we commend you.”

The objectives of the national teacher of the year awards are:

- To highlight the significant role of teachers in nation building
- To honour and award teachers for their outstanding contributions in the field of education
- To encourage and motivate teachers to perform at high standards
- To provide teachers with the opportunity to showcase and share their teaching talents
- To introduce outstanding teachers to the wider community
- To enable the nominees to bond with some of their profes-

sional colleagues.

“This year, which is our 13th Bi-Annual anniversary, we are celebrating forty-three outstanding educators, 5 of them are men,” said Mr. Taylor.

“These are school nominees from the various school districts from around the Bahamas.”

“You are not simply receiving an award, but also vying for the title of district winner, in this case, national winner.”

“Once that determination has been made, who the winners are, then of course there will be a formal ceremony when a national teacher of the year, for the entire Bahamas, and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be named.”

The present teacher of the year is Mrs. Antonique Josey, a teacher at the Anatol Rodgers High School.

“The Director of Education extended hearty congratulations to the teachers on being nominated for Teacher of the Year and in their future endeavors.”

Mr. Benjamin White, Co-Chair Person of the National Teacher of the Year Committee, then informed everyone of the

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL PRESENTED KIWANIS LEGION AWARD TO PAST LT. GOVERNOR LAMBERT LONGLEY



► Her Excellency the Most Hon. Dame Marguerite Pinling attended Kiwanis Club of New Providence Long Service and Pinning Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 in the Ballroom of Government House. She presented the Legion Award for 25 Years of Service to Past Lieutenant Governor Lambert Longley. (BIS Photos/Patrick Hanna)

activities for the rest of the week:-

The Family Island delegates arrived yesterday. There are 8 districts represented from the Family Islands.

Last evening a church

service, at the Church of God of Prophecy on East Street, was held at 7:30 pm.

Today at 11:00 am, a Medal and Certificate Presentation will be held at Government House

At 6:00 pm, a reception

at Workers House, which is sponsored by the Bahamas Union of Teachers

On Friday, a Sail-Away to Fresh Creek, Andros

On Saturday, the Grand Awards Ceremony will be held, where the Teacher of

the Year for 2019 to 2021 will be crowned.

The present teacher of the year is Antonique Josey, a Teacher at the Anatol Rodgers High School on Faith Avenue in Nassau.

Youth leaders encouraged to prepare young people to be employers



► Top graduate of the Youth Leaders Certification Programme, sponsored by the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture was Simone Hutson of Agape House Ministries. Also shown are Senator the Hon. J. Kwasi Thompson, Minister of State for Grand Bahama in the Office of the Prime Minister; and Darron Turnquest, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture. (BIS Photo/Lisa Davis)

During a graduation ceremony for Youth Leaders, graduates were told to not only prepare young people to be good employees, but also good employers and leaders. These words of encouragement were given by the guest speaker for the evening, Senator the Hon. J. Kwasi Thompson, Minister of

State for Grand Bahama in the Office of the Prime Minister.

There are a number of projects about to happen on the island, he said, and one cannot wait until it happens to get prepared. “Now is the time to prepare the young people for these opportunities that lie ahead.”

The youth need to

focus, he said, on planning and preparation and added that they should encourage young people to have a relationship with God, as it makes a difference.

Held at the Grand Lucayan Ballroom on Friday, March 22, the Youth Leaders Certification Programme was sponsored by the

Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture and hosted 82 graduates from Freeport and West Grand Bahama. The group participated in the 15-week programme which was conducted on Tuesday evenings in Freeport, and Saturday mornings in Eight Mile Rock.

The programme has been designed to:

Inform youth workers on national standards for youth work and also mandatory reporting. Provide formal training that provides an opportunity for training and National Certification. Ensure specific and measurable outputs that meet the strategic goals of the Ministry of Youth. Assist in bringing about

a professionalization of the practice of youth development.

Encourage people to take advantage of further studies in the practice.

By successfully completing this programme, these youth leaders became nationally certified to work with young people.