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# The Bahama Journal

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# Gov't Urged To Abolish Death Penalty

## 'Fake Solidarity Hinders Caribbean on Death Penalty Abolition'

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON  
 Journal Staff Writer

The Executive Director of Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) Raphael Chenuil-Hazan, urges the Bahamian government to abolish the death penalty and break away from what he calls the "fake solidarity" that seems to be preventing The Bahamas and other English-speaking Caribbean countries from becoming abolitionist

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## Police Probe Double Traffic Fatality

Police in South Andros are investigating a double traffic fatality that occurred on this past Saturday killing two of the vehicle's occupants.

According to reports, shortly after 6:00pm, a male driver and passenger were in a vehicle

traveling south on Queen's Highway when the driver lost control and collided into the Bank of the Bahamas building.

Both the driver and male passenger received

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## MPs RACE TO DECLARE

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

Some Members of Parliament this past weekend were rushing to conform with the law and meet the deadline on public disclosure. It is unclear whether all Free National Movement (FNM) parliamentarians

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House Speaker Halson Moultrie

## INFANT RESCUED FROM LOCKED CAR

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

An infant was rescued from his car seat by Ministry of Health officials after he was left unattended in the ministry's parking lot this past Friday afternoon.

According to Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands, he was notified by his driver asking for permission to break

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## PLP Renews Call For Ministers To Resign



Minister of National Security, Marvin Dames

The Progressive Liberal Party has renewed calls for two Cabinet Ministers to resign or be dismissed. In a statement yesterday the PLP said, "in the case of the Minister of National Security, Marvin Dames, "the evidence against him is even more compelling given the public meltdown in the House of Assembly last week. He denies that this happened even when PLP Members of Parliament were there including the Leader

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## HENFIELD ADVISES LOCALS TO INVEST IN HAITI



Foreign Affairs Minister, Darren Henfield

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

Foreign Affairs Minister Darren Henfield says Haiti needs to be infused with economic enterprises to reduce the level of economic refugees fleeing that country. This past Friday the Minister updated The Journal on CARICOM's talks con-

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## THE GOVERNOR GENERAL CELEBRATES WITH ST. JOHN'S NATIVE BAPTIST ON THEIR 184TH ANNIVERSARY



Her Excellency the Most Hon. Dame Marguerite Pindling, Governor General, worshiped with members of St. John's Native Baptist Cathedral, Sunday morning, March 3, in celebration of the church's 184th Anniversary. She is seen being greeted by the Bishop and General Superintendent Rev. Dr. Carrington Pinder. The church was founded by freed American slave Prince Williams, who became the church's first pastor. (BIS/Patrick Hanna)

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING



# Police Walkabout Kicks OFF POLICE MONTH

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

The Royal Bahamas Police Force has begun a month of activities with walkabouts in communities in New Providence with members of the Bahamas Christian Council as well as the media.

The walkabout takes place in various inner-city areas like Bain and Grants Town, Englerston, Fox Hill,

Free Town, Nassau Village, and Carmichael.

Police Commissioner Anthony Ferguson said the idea is to show residents that he and his officers are one with the community.

"The police only wear a uniform, but all of these officers come from various communities whether it be here in New Providence or whether it be from the family islands.

"The Family Islands

are also taking the same steps today, they are going out in their communities and interacting with members of the public.

"Last night I had the opportunity to visit the island of Eleuthera and I sought to encourage the folks in Eleuthera to support the police in the same event."

"So, every single island today are actually doing exactly what we are doing here this morning."

"So, we believe that this is powerful and we believe that this is the right way to go," he said.

Christian Council President Bishop Delton Fernander said this is one of few initiatives between the Christian Council to help in the fight against crime.

"We have committed ourselves to work with all of the facets of community policing, we've made that evident in the march the other day.

"Today we came out again to walk through all of the communities with the Commissioner and his team to let them know that the church is committed.

"On the third Sunday of this month, the 17th, we are asking every church in The Commonwealth of The Bahamas during their service to pray for officers that are in their congregation and those that are serving in The

Commonwealth of The Bahamas," Bishop Fernander said.

At a stop in each area police and the media met members of the respective communities present who expressed their gratitude and commended police for the work they are doing.

The Commissioner Ferguson said activities commemorating police month are being carried out in throughout The Bahamas.

## Canadians Say Yes in The Bahamas Three Lucky Couples Got Engaged, Part of The Bahamas' Romantic 'Say Yes' Contest

The month of February was certainly the month of love for three lucky couples in Canada, who won an incredible opportunity to propose to their beloved ones in The Bahamas. The romantic opportunity was a result of the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation's (MOTA) social media contest, "Say Yes in The Bahamas" engagement proposal.

The contest, which was opened to bachelors who resided in the provinces of Ontario and Alberta and attracted hundreds of applicants, closed in December

2018.

Victorious were Gordon White, Jimmy Ly and Robert Jewell, who each planned their unique, intimate and memorable engagement proposals, with Paparazzi Proposals, the romance partner for the Bahamas MOTA.

Video and still photography captured the romantic proposals, in some of The Bahamas' most exotic and tranquil locations including the Cloisters at the Ocean Club, a Four Seasons Resort on Paradise Island; Valentines Resort & Marina on Harbour Island, Eleuthera; Viva

Wyndham Fortuna Beach All-Inclusive Resort on Grand Bahama Island and the British Colonial Hilton Hotel in Nassau.

Fiancées for the three prospective grooms all said, "yes" to the surprised proposals.

In an intimate, poolside dinner setting, draped in candles and bougainvillea flowers overlooking the pristine blue waters of Eleuthera, Gordon, on bended knee, asked Siobhain, the mother to their expected twins, to marry him. A jubilant but nervous Siobhain, could hardly contain herself when

Gordon proposed, amidst the breathtaking and tranquil backdrop at Valentines Resort and Marina, on Harbour Island, an island renowned for its pink sand beaches, and a favorite with royals and A-list celebrities.

Bank Manager Jimmy Ly said he could not pass up on the opportunity to propose to his love of three years, nurse Uyen Cung. The magical moment took place under a palm and hibiscus embellished arch along the sugar soft white sand beach at the beautiful Viva Wyndham Fortuna Beach All-Inclusive

Resort on Grand Bahama Island.

Chef Robert Jewell and full-time student, Maddison Desrosiers, neither time nor distance could separate the two young loves; despite prearranged travel plans prior to their four-year courtship, resulting in a yearlong separation in two countries, for the couple. After travelling to some 15 countries, 12 islands, 4 continents, and countless cities together, they were now ready to settle. Popping that magical question in The Bahamas, in the world's most romantic and tranquil gardens of

the Cloisters on Paradise Island, was certainly not only a dream come true but also the most appropriate and unforgettable location, said a thrilled Robert.

The Islands Of The Bahamas have received numerous nominations and awards from the Romance sector and in 2015 and 2018 were awarded the designation of World's Leading Wedding Destination and among the top two Best Overall Destination for a honeymoon or destination wedding by Brides Accolades in 2018.



▶ A jubilant Siobhain said yes, when Gordon White proposed in the tranquil setting, poolside, Valentines Resort & Marina on beautiful Harbour Island, Eeuthera.



▶ The magical proposal moment for Maddison Desrosiers and Robert Jewell who stayed in Nassau, took place at the romantic and scenic gardens of the Cloisters on Paradise Island.

## HENFIELD ADVISES LOCALS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

cerning the recent eruption of violence in Haiti.

Mr. Henfield said that the island nation's foreign minister gave the heads of the conference a report on his government's view of that situation.

At the end of the day, he said, the conference should hone in on CARICOM's efforts to improve the circumstances in that country.

"We all agree that it's

an economic problem. Haiti needs to be infused somehow through commercial enterprises, and we've agreed to encourage our nationals and national companies through the various ministries or the Chamber of Commerce to delve deeply into what exists in Haiti for business.", he said.

The minister added that if the economy of Haiti can be improved by providing business opportunities for Bahamians, this

will encourage more Haitian citizens to remain home rather than risking their lives in sometimes tragic sea journeys.

A total of 207 Haitian nationals have been apprehended for the year.

This number excludes the 31 bodies recovered from the waters off Abaco after their 40-foot conventional yacht struck a reef and sank on Saturday 2 February.

Last year, at total of 1,172 Haitians were apprehended.

## Justice Milton Evans sworn in by Governor General



▶ Justice Milton Evans was sworn in as Justice of the Court of Appeal by Governor General, Her Excellency the Most Hon. Dame Marguerite Pindling during a Swearing-in Ceremony at Government House on Friday, March 1, 2019. (BIS Photos/Letisha Henderson)



# Police Probe Double Traffic Fatality

Continued from / PAGE 1...

serious injuries and succumbed on the scene.

In a release issued yesterday, the RBPF indicated that officers from the Traffic Department in New

Providence were in South Andros yesterday assisting in the investigations.

Meantime, police in the capital are seeking the public's assistance in identifying and locating the persons responsible for a shooting incident

which also occurred this past Saturday.

According to reports, shortly after 11:00pm, three males were sitting outside a home on East Avenue, Millers Heights when a group of males armed with firearms, opened fire on them.

Three of men were shot and taken to hospital in a private vehicle where, they are listed in serious condition.

The culprits reportedly fled the scene in a grey Honda Accord.

Police are also on the hunt for a male who

allegedly abducted a female child from a yesterday.

According to reports, shortly after 2:00am, a man entered a home off of Wilton Street where he abducted a six year old female.

A short time later, the

child was discovered walking in the area of Woodland Gardens by a passerby and taken to the Wulff Road Police Station.

Investigations are ongoing, and a male is in custody assisting police.

# Gov't Urged To Abolish Death Penalty



The Executive Director of Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) Raphael Chenuil-Hazan (right) and Deandre Williamson, Journal Staff Writer are captured together following a detailed interview.

Continued from / PAGE 1...

states.

Chenuil-Hazan made this plea to the government during an interview with The Bahama Journal at the 7th World Congress Against the Death Penalty in Brussels, Belgium where he expressed concerns over The Bahamas keeping the death penalty as law and not using it. Other English-speaking Caribbean countries do the same and Chenuil-Hazan considers this practice as a bad example.

"It's kind of shaming and I don't like shaming," he said. "But it's a reality of original solidarity. I think that some countries in the Caribbean should stop this fake regional solidarity."

ECPM is a French non-governmental organization with a mission to abolish the death penalty worldwide

Although The Bahamas is identified by Amnesty International as one of the 52 retentionist states around the world where the death penalty is implemented, The Bahamas has a de facto moratorium on the death penalty.

The last execution took place in The Bahamas in 2000 when Bahamian national David Mitchell was hanged after being convicted for the murders of two German tourists. Mitchell had an appeal pending before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights at the time of his execution.

However, the imposition of the death penalty in The Bahamas is no longer mandatory following a Judicial Committee of the Privy Council's decision in a case which ruled that

judges can exercise discretion and should sentence only "the worst of the worst" and the "rarest of the rare" to death.

According to Chenuil-Hazan, breaking away from the "fake solidarity" would lead The Bahamas to a formal moratorium on the death penalty.

He suggested that The Bahamas embrace the United Nations General Assembly Moratorium Resolution and not continuously follow other Caribbean countries by voting against it.

"The Bahamas should vote," Chenuil-Hazan said. "It's normal. It's logical. Dominica should vote in favour, but they don't just because of this strange solidarity. You should go beyond and have your own identity based on your own situation."

In a report released by the Advocates for Human Rights, The Greater Caribbean for Life, and The World Coalition against the Death Penalty, The Bahamas has voted against every United Nations General Assembly Moratorium Resolution and up until 2012, The Bahamas also signed the Note Verbale of Dissociation from the resolution each year.

If The Bahamas receives a formal moratorium on the death penalty, the country would be globally recognized as a state with a moratorium on executions.

Amnesty International identifies countries with formal moratoriums as states or territories where the death penalty is implemented, but no executions have been carried out for at least 10 years and which did not oppose the

latest United Nations Resolution for a universal moratorium on executions.

In addition, Chenuil-Hazan also suggested that the government should begin to shape the public's opinion so that Bahamians who are in favour of the death penalty would understand that the death penalty is not a deterrent to crime.

Using China as an example, Chenuil-Hazan explained that thousands of Chinese are executed each year, but there is no decrease in China's crime rate.

"So when you execute hundreds and thousands of people every year, you take the risk of becoming a dictatorship and break the rule of law," he explained. "Do you want to be in a democracy with rule of law or in a dictatorship with hundreds and hundreds of killings?"

The ECPM director added that the government should have a strong willingness to educate Bahamians so that public opinion would change and Bahamians would understand that ending the death penalty is a part of entering a new world that has been embraced by countries in South America, Europe and Africa.

While abolishing the death penalty may be complicated for some to understand, applying it increases crime, according to Chenuil-Hazan.

"Applying the death penalty would bring violence, state violence," Chenuil-Hazan said. "The death penalty is a violence, when you kill someone. It is a violence and it is a symbolic state violence."



## 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.

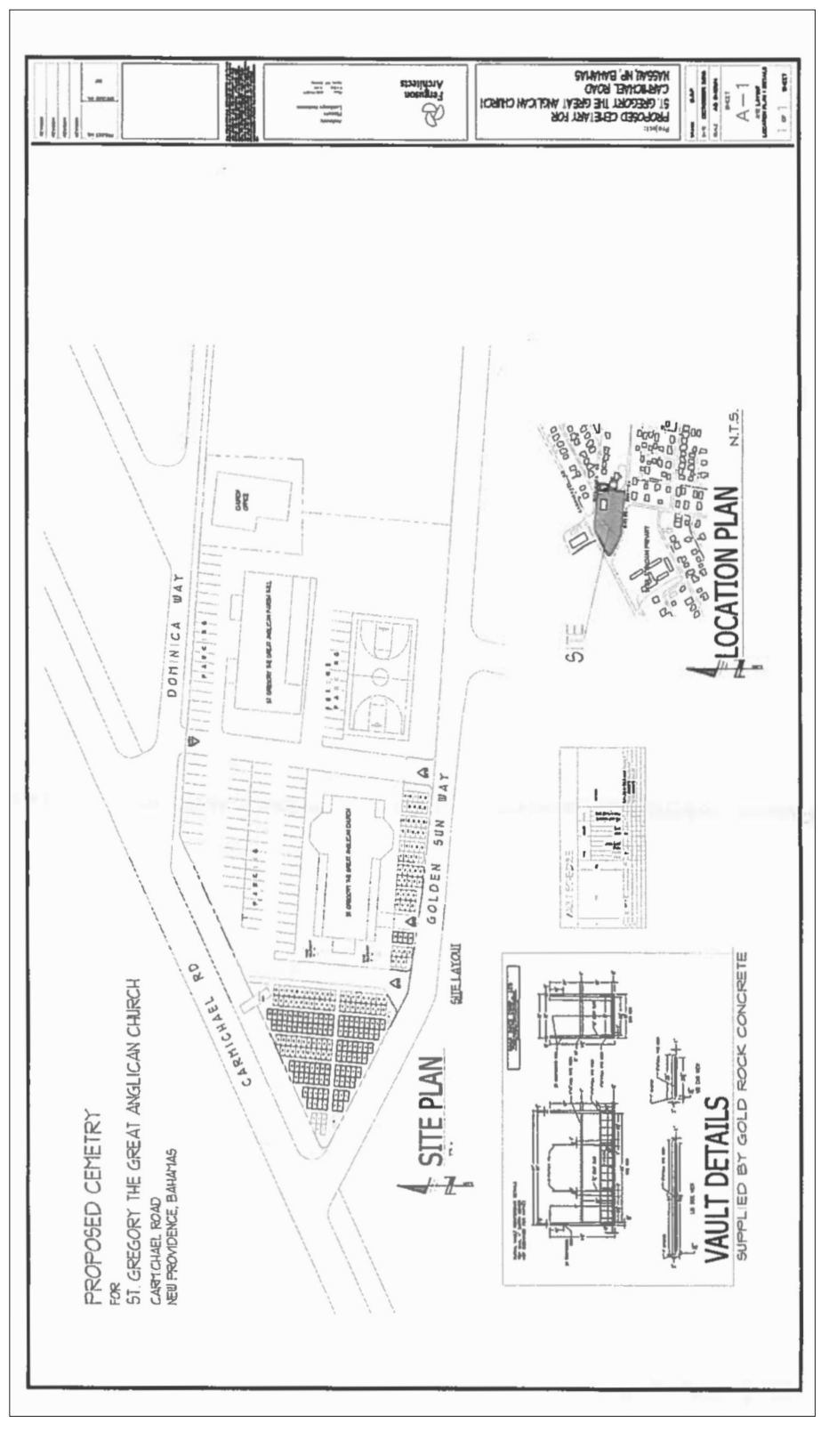
A public meeting will be held on March 12, 2019 at 7pm at Sybil Strachan Primary School (Formerly Carmichael Primary)

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





# MPs RACE TO DECLARE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

have met the March 1st deadline, according to FNM Chairman Carl Culmer who spoke yesterday in a telephone conversation with The Journal.

The rush came about after House Speaker Halson Moultrie reminded the Members of Parliament at the last sit-

ting of the House of Assembly this past Wednesday that they had 48 hours to complete the declaration.

The Public Disclosure Act requires senators, members of parliament, senior public officers and public appointees to declare assets, income, and liabilities as at December 31st, before the 1st of March.

Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands and Exuma and Ragged Island MP Chester Cooper posted their disclosure receipts on their social media pages this past Friday.

Meantime, Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Chairman Fred Mitchell announced on Friday that all PLP parliamentarians "have complied with the provisions of the Public

Disclosure Act 1976, by filing the executed Form A".

According to the Act, if anyone is found guilty of an offence, they will be liable of "conviction on information".

If the information or anything contained in a declaration, or other document published is untrue, offenders are subjected to a fine not exceeding

\$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding four years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

In any other case, they will have to pay a fine "not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both such fine and imprisonment".

All declarations are examined by the public

disclosure commission.

The commission comprises of a chairman, a secretary and two members who are appointed by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition.

Two cabinet office staff members are posted there to perform administrative duties.

# INFANT RESCUED FROM LOCKED CAR

Continued from / PAGE 1...

into the Nissan Lafesta to retrieve the baby.

Dr. Sands said, "when the driver, the presumptive father of the child arrived, he was detained by the police. He was subsequently questioned. However I cannot say

what happened from there."

The rescue came about after a man passing by noticed the child locked in the heated car crying.

Dr. Sands said, "obviously, whether you're talking about pets or a child, I'm not suggesting

that they're equivalent, but they are living creatures; to have them closed up in a vehicle in the sun is dangerous, irresponsible, and quite frankly, it is negligent. It should never ever happen."

The Health Minister also indicated that the child is now safe.

# PLP Renews Call For Ministers To Resign

Continued from / PAGE 1...

of the Opposition who saw what happened before their very eyes.

"The truth is clear. Mr. Dames lost control.

"We call specifically today for Mr. Dames or the Prime Minister to say whether or not Mr. Dames was armed in the House of Assembly on the day of his outburst. Did he have a gun on him?"

"His denial of the incident itself is worrying given that not only MPs but the press witnessed and reported what happened," said the Party.

The statement said, "Mr. Dames has a serious

problem.

Mr. Dames was involved in a verbal altercation with Pineridge MP Frederick McAlpine in the precincts of the House of Assembly last Wednesday. Mr. McAlpine had called for the Prime Minister to take action against two Cabinet Ministers.

The PLP said, "His colleague Dr. Duane Sands is similarly lost on what the public ethics of this requires. The devil whose name Dr Sands called in aid and comfort last week when challenged is not the issue. The issue is Dr Sands' conduct. When a gift of 1.8 million dollars

in the form of a cleaning contract is given to a contributor to his campaign, shortly before that individual became a material witness in the case of the Commissioner Of Police versus Frank Smith, and then his action is judicially condemned, Dr. Sands must go.

"We call again on both men to resign or be dismissed," said the statement.

In dismissing a bribery and extortion case against Mr. Smith, Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson Pratt criticized both Ministers for the role they played in the matter.

# Sir Michael Barnett, Sworn In as Justice of the Court of Appeal



► Sir Michael Barnett was sworn in as Justice of the Court of Appeal by Governor General, Her Excellency the Most Hon. Dame Marguerite Pindling during a Swearing-In Ceremony at Government House on Friday, March 1, 2019. (BIS Photos/Letisha Henderson)

## 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.

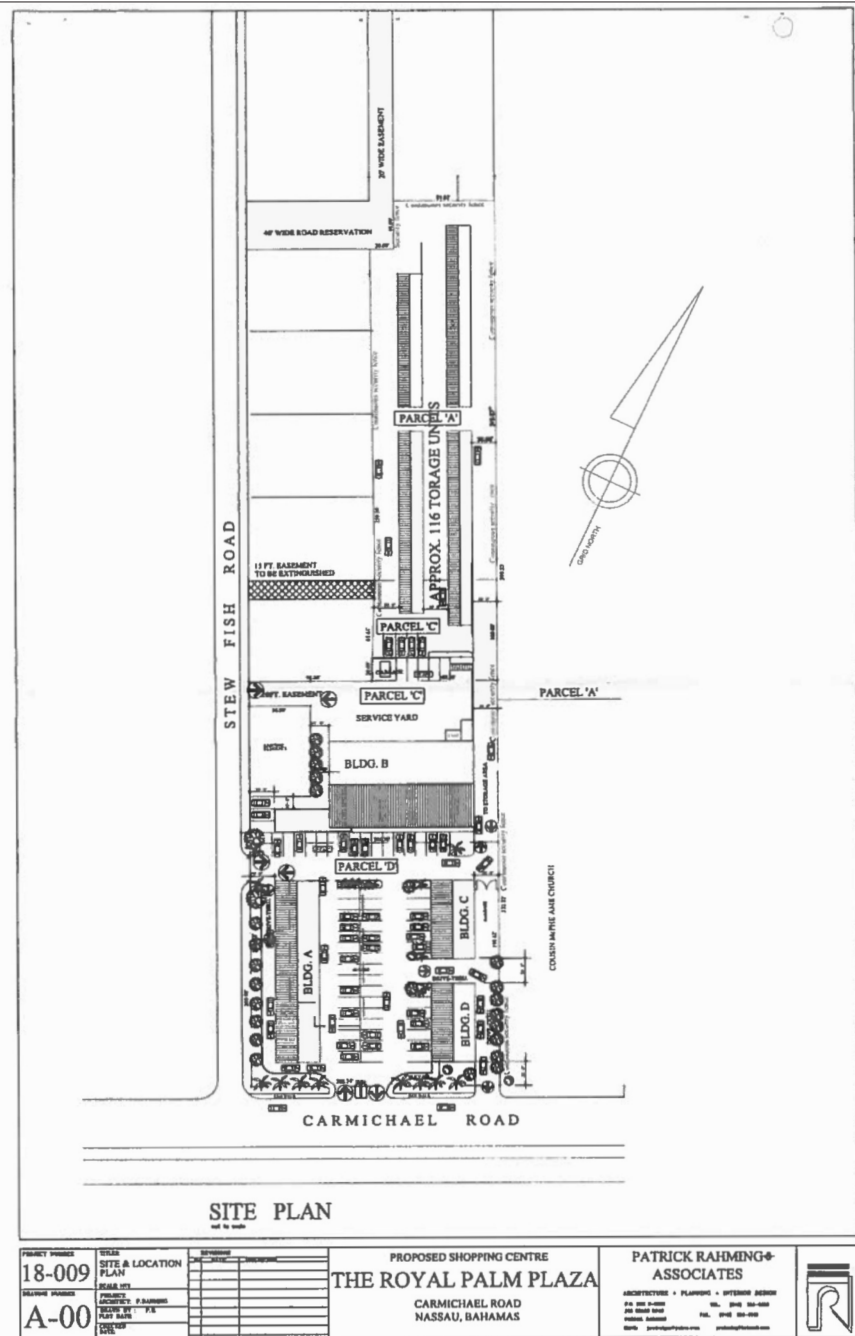
Interested persons and organisations are invited to review the information on file and provide written comments to the Acting Director of Physical Planning within twenty-one (21) days of the date of this notice.

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





# PASSPORT WOES, Part 1

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am writing this letter on behalf of us, the Bahamian people, in the spirit of constructive criticism and with suggestions for improving the woeful passport office experience. I am certainly thankful that this is but a 'once-every-10 years' occurrence because my recent experience was a two day/7 hour debacle.

Preparation - I made my way to the passport office late one afternoon last month, but was told to come back the following day because the quota had already been met for the day - okay that was understandable. Before leaving I asked for an application form (seeing as the online website I had used was probably not up to date) and was told to get that information from the office at the front of the building - no problem. Armed with these papers, I decided to return the following week after half term was over, as apparently persons had been lining up with their school aged children from as early as 5am every day that week in order to get their passports!

The following week - Day 1, I arrived at the passport office at 7am to renew my e-passport with documents in hand as outlined on the information form I had taken away the week before. There were still a few parking spaces available and a good crowd was present. After trying to find the end of the non-existent line, I inquired of one of the persons what the procedure was and he indicated I was to make my way through the haphazard mass of persons standing around to get to the lady by the door with the pad of paper and put my name on the 'list' - which I did, moving back into the crowd afterwards thinking that was a positive sign since at least a record was being kept of the order of who came when.

Amongst the ever growing crowd, there were a few lucky souls who had found a place to sit on one of the only two narrow rickety wooden benches on site that had no back support. Well, at least many of us were squeezed under a canvas cover and there was a cool breeze blowing!

I was glad I had brought the daily paper to read since there was nothing of interest to keep one's attention as we stood outside patiently waiting, and waiting, and waiting....during which time I surveyed the area and thought - why aren't there any seats (with back support) allocated for senior citizens, why aren't there any signs explaining the procedure (seeing as they had a locked cabinet attached to one of the walls - that was quite empty but it should contain a check list of what documents one should have so as to make sure your papers were in order before being processed), what was supposed to happen next, why aren't the hours of operation (that are missing on the door) displayed?

The hours ticked by with office members coming out the door at intervals to shout out names listed on the pieces of paper from that pad I had signed, and letting persons inside, whilst the defense force officer manning the door attempted to keep the entrance area clear at intervals.

Time ticked on and the crowd hardly moved. At one point one of the office members came outside to say that there were no more seats inside but she would call out names from the list in order, asking to see what type of passport the person had in their possession, which she then wrote next to their name - my name was one of those - and they started handing out numbers in sequence that ended up in the 50s. (That sounded hopeful - at least some progress was being made). Then they called the names of the 'mothers of first time babies' and several of those were let inside after having stood outside, babe in arms along with their baby bags and other accoutrements, a few being lucky enough to find a seat.

Also during this time closer to 10am any

new person who came to the door was told to come back the following day as the passport office had already filled their quota for the day, and many of us were still standing outside. I gratefully was able to find a space on the bench as persons went inside, but since the bench sunk down at the back against the wall underneath the empty cabinet, I decided it was less hazardous to stand, which most of us continued to do.

Lo and behold around 11am (4 hours later) an office member came back outside to inform us that all those waiting outside could not be seen that day, and should come back tomorrow!

Needless to say, that announcement did not go down well! I for one found it totally unacceptable and voiced that view strongly, asking to see the supervisor. After 4 hours standing up, with my name on a list, and with 5 hours still remaining in the work day for passport office staff - to be told to go home and come back - they could not be serious! We were flabbergasted by this nonchalant attitude and disregard for customer service! Some citizens said that they had been told that the day before and now that would mean they had to take time off from work for a third day to come and wait, with no guarantee of being served yet again!

Yes people, this is how we are treated in our own country by our 'civil service' that in many instances lacks civility (training in politeness and courtesy) - and we, stupid people that we can be, allow our own people to treat us with this 'too bad too sad, lack of apology, no-caring attitude!'

After much disgruntled dialogue back and forth from those 15 or so of us who had been so unceremoniously left in the lurch, we were assured that we would be put at the top of the list for the following day. The final statement made by a high ranking office member as they turned away from us - the citizens they are hired to serve and whose money pays their salary - was 'you can only do so much'.

Well, I beg to differ, as evidenced with the writing of this open letter to the public in the hopes that so much more can indeed be done by us -civil society - providing constructive criticism to you - the civil servants and your bosses - that will hopefully result in a mutually beneficial win-win for us all - the Bahamian people and our country. Citizens should not have to leave 'gubment' offices annoyed and frustrated - we should leave pleased and satisfied for having been afforded the excellent customer service we deserve from government personnel that are proud to provide it in an efficient and courteous manner.

But in order to achieve this goal, a whole heap of work needs to be done!

Our country has become so saturated with a disastrous 'power play silo mentality' reinforced daily by a lack of training in common courtesy, efficiency and effectiveness, that it totally boggles the mind, and we Bahamians refuse to speak up and demand better! But I say again, if a donkey is fool enough to let you get on his back, then you deserve to ride him!

I want to make it quite clear that this situation has nothing to do with what 'gubment' party is in power or not in power, because the civil service remains the same for the most part in whatever instance. What is being spotlighted here is a sad and dangerous deterioration of common courtesy and disregard for one another that used to be the hallmark of what 'true true community' meant.

Wake up and speak up, Bahamas - let's march upward and onward, together, to a common loftier goal!

...to be continued with Day 2 along

with constructive and creative suggestions.

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The Bahama  
**Journal**  
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones  
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimalee P. Jones  
Vice President/Operations

## E D I T O R I A L

### It's The Economy, Stupid

"It's the economy, stupid is a slight variation of the phrase "The economy, Stupid, which James Carville had coined as a campaign strategist of Bill Clinton's successful 1992 presidential campaign against sitting President the late George H.W. Bush.

Carville's original phrase was meant for the internal audience of Clinton's campaign workers as one of the three messages to focus on the other two messages being "Change versus more of the same" and "Don't forget health care."

Clinton's campaign advantageously used the prevailing recession in the United States as one of the campaign's means to successfully unseat President Bush in 1991.

In our country, the Bahamas, the main issue has been the economy for many years. According to the International Monetary Fund, the economy of the Bahamas has not grown in almost two decades. While some politicians point to the growth of one or two per cent of the Gross National Product (GDP), in some of those years since 2000, the Bahamas has been experiencing structural unemployment and an increased number of discouraged workers for many years.

Women in particular who are now in their late forties and early fifties have not been gainfully employed for many years and have become more and more dependent on family members and friends for their survival. What compounds the issue is the fact that some 5,000 young Bahamians who graduate from High Schools and Colleges enter the job market on an annual basis.

The Bahamian economy is simply not producing jobs at the rate it should to decrease the level of unemployment that has averaged 10 per cent or more for the last decade.

In The House of Assembly last Wednesday, the Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest said, "when we look at the latest unemployment figures, we see that there is clearly a lag between the growth of the labour force and the growth of new jobs. This simply means that the economy is not

growing quickly enough to absorb the new entrants into the job market.

"The transformative, socio-economic growth agenda of this administration is vitally critical to driving a turnaround in the key indicators such as the unemployment rate. In realizing that, we have committed our efforts to providing an impetus to private sector growth via the support of small and medium-sized enterprises, as they account for the bulk of new job opportunities."

The fiscal policies of the Minnis administration have exacerbated the problems in the economy. Since coming to office in May of 2017, the new government has inflicted body blows to the economy. The major one was the increase in Value Added Tax (VAT) by 60 per cent. This has been the main source of distress and the government was warned against this increase by every economist in the country.

While the Minister of Finance believed that it would have assisted in increasing government revenue and reduce the national budget deficit, the increase caused many people to cut back on spending, thus causing a decline in government revenue. It has brought about economic stagnation or slowed the economy down considerably.

In the mid term budget communication, the Minister revealed that there has been a budget short-fall in the first six months of the fiscal year of \$185 million. The government has now decided to reduce expenses by \$130 million. This is disastrous for the economy and can only lead to more economic woes. When the private sector is not spending and the government cuts back, the entire country suffers and confidence in the economic prospects becomes more uncertain.

It is our hope that the government revisits its decision to balance the budget within the next three years and find ways to stimulate growth with increased government spending.

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# Over-the-Hill Development Partnership has 41 New Environmental Monitors



► A total of 41 persons from Bain and Grants Town communities became the first set of Environmental Monitors after 12 weeks of intense training. The ceremony was held at Wesley Methodist Church hall on Meadow Street on Thursday, February 28, 2019. Minister of the Environment and Housing, the Hon. Romauld Ferreira gives graduation address at the podium. **BIS Photos/Derek Smith**

During a ceremony Thursday, February 28, 2019 a total of 41 persons from Bain and Grants Town communities became the first set of Environmental Monitors after 12 weeks of intense training.

The ceremony was held at the Wesley Methodist Church hall on Meadow Street, during which Minister of the Environment and Housing the Hon. Romauld Ferreira delivered remarks on the initiative – a partnership between the Over-the Hill

Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister and the Department of Environmental Health Services.

This particular effort sees a partnership between The Over-the-Hill Initiative and the Ministry of the Environment & Housing, which last year introduced the #Be A Hero Campaign to recognize community leaders for going the extra mile.

Samita Ferguson, Executive Manager of the Over-the-Hill Unit in the Office of the Prime

Minister underscored the importance of the partnership initiative. Also present at the graduation ceremony were the Members of Parliament for Centerville, and Bain and Grant's Town, Reece Chipman and Travis Robinson, respectively.

The Over-The-Hill Community Development Partnership Initiative is serious about its mandate to transform lives and bring rejuvenation to the Bain & Grants Town and Centerville communities according to Mrs. Ferguson.

The Environmental Monitors hail from the various communities within the Over-the-Hill area. Now that they have graduated, their responsibilities will vary from ensuring the areas are free from environmental infractions such as illegal dumping, monitoring target areas daily, filing weekly reports and presenting evidence that could lead to offenders being charged in a revived environmental court.

The ongoing cleanup campaign entails a four-pronged approach. Once

the monitor identifies an abandoned vehicle or another hazard, a notice would be placed on it with a request for removal within a given timeframe.

Other aspects include a doubling of regular garbage collection with twice weekly pick-ups in the targeted areas; and the concern of abandoned, derelict buildings.

The Over-the-Hill Community Development Partnership Initiative, officially launched in May 2018, is built around six key pillars designed to fully restore the Over-the-

Hill residential areas. The pillars are:

Social Empowerment; Economic Empowerment; Rejuvenation; Smart Technology; Green and Sustainable Technology; and Programmes for the Youth and the Elderly.

The Over-the-Hill Community Development Partnership Initiative is the brainchild of Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Dr. Hubert A Minnis, whose goal is to transform those communities into cleaner and safer environments, while economically empowering residents.

## "HUNDREDS TURN OUT AS BTC TURNED UP SPEEDS IN PINewood GARDENS"

### MINISTRY OF FINANCE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

#### INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT



Public Financial Management and Performance Monitoring Component III: Public Financial Management Component Coordinator

**Institution:** Inter-American Development Bank  
**Country:** The Commonwealth of The Bahamas  
**Project:** Public Financial Management and Performance Monitoring Reform  
**Project Number:** BH-L1035  
**Loan Number:** 3340/OC-BH  
**Process/Bid No.:** 3.2  
**Sector:** Public Financial Management  
**Deadline:** March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The Ministry of the Finance (MOF) of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments under the Public Financial Management and Performance Monitoring Reform Project (PFM/PMR) for a Component Coordinator (CC) consultant to provide technical expertise in the effort of the improving and consolidating the Public Financial Management Sector.

#### Main activities include:

- Coordinating with the government agencies, departments or ministries in developing and implementing the activities of the project, serving as the lead of the Government of The Bahamas (GoTB) functional and technical staff and the point of contact between the GoTB and CoWater Sogema, and IT system vendors for IFMIS and HMRIS;
- Provide input to the PIU for the Annual Operating Plan and other project reports specific to the component;
- Organizing meetings and project related activities of Component Development Team as required;
- Review, adjust and prepare, the Terms of Reference (TOR), Expression of Interests (EOI), Requests for Proposals (RFP) and relevant project management documentations, in relation with the products of the component;
- Review reports prepared by individual consultants and firms, hired to implement and execute PFM reform activities;
- Continuous monitoring of work-plan/project schedule, and identify potential constraints, risks, and delays that might impact the project. Also, provide mitigating solutions to continuously drive the project forward;
- Provide input, in terms of the performance indicators, and verification of project deliverables and compliance to reporting obligations;
- Work with the consultants and systems vendors towards the successful configuration of the MOF Chart of Accounts (COA) as well as the full transition from Cost to Accrual Accounting
- Work with MOF team to integrate the PFM legislation into the project's objectives

The GoTB now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing services. Interested consultants should provide their CVs and information demonstrating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff etc.) The implementation period for the consultancy will be two (2) year full-time with the possibility of being renewed based on satisfactory performance evaluation.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the IDB's: Policies for the Selection and Contracting on National Consultants financed by the IDB **GN-2350-9** and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in these policies. Interested consultants may obtain further clarification on the technical aspects or scope of services from Denise Dorsett, Procurement Specialist, Ministry of Finance, denisedorsett@bahamas.gov.bs. Expressions of Interest must be submitted by e-mail pfmpr@bahamas.gov.bs Re: IFMIS Component Coordinator on or before March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 4:30 pm



► Director of Technical Operations, Andre Foster talks to residents.

BTC recently completed major broadband upgrades in the Pinewood Gardens community. Residents can now take advantage of enhanced broadband speeds and Flow TV. BTC held its signature "Neighborhood Connect" event at the Isaiah Taylor Festival Park on Saturday, February 23rd to officially introduce these new services to the community.

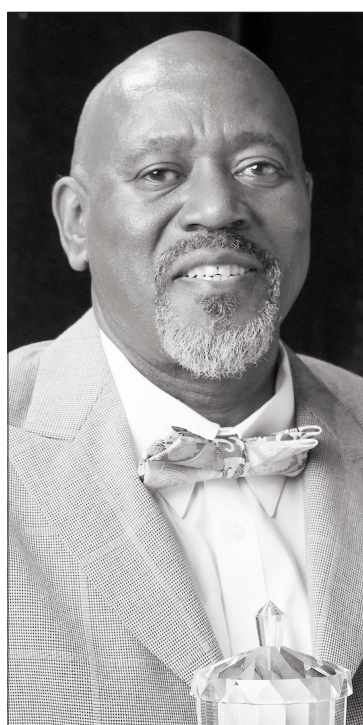
"Neighborhood Connect" is the company's family oriented community event combining, BTC's products and services, local vendors, artisans and live entertainment. BTC's Senior Manager for Advertising, Brand, Sponsorships &

Events, Carol Barnett said, "We believe the event was a smashing success as hundreds of persons attended. "Neighborhood Connect" provides us with an outlet to connect with our communities and bring our products and services directly to them. This time around, we partnered with over a dozen local vendors and the Pinewood Community Association."

BTC's Technical Teams were out in full force, installing broadband and TV services on the spot as customers signed up. Customers were also able to have their queries and concerns addressed and there were



# Several deserving Employees Recognized at Atlantis' Appreciation Awards Ceremony



▶ Anthony "Penny" Knowles



▶ Cicely Seymour



▶ Elvis Barr



▶ Krista Bethel



▶ Rehana Dorsett

Atlantis, Paradise Island recently celebrated the efforts of its brightest stars for the year 2018 at the resort's end-of-year employee appreciation awards ceremony. The Crystals – Diamond Awards recognizes and rewards individual team members for the exemplary service they provide to guests of the resort on a consistent basis each year.

Atlantis President & Managing Director Audrey Oswell gave kudos to this year's winners and all those team members who were nominated.

"The Crystals are a long time tradition at Atlantis. It's very much a part of the culture of who we are as an organization. Our employees work hard and it's important that they are recognized for their efforts. They are the

ones that truly make a difference in our guest experience. They're the ones that determine, in whatever way that they contribute to the organization, whether the guest has a memorable experience or a not so memorable experience. They're the ones that make us shine and honour our guests and service them and make us the most remarkable destination resort in the world."

Some 37 team members were selected over the course of the past year to vie for the titles of Leader of the Year, Manager of the Year and Employee of the Year. Five of those amazing people nominated walked away with wins in those categories – Rehana Dorsett, Director of VIP Services at The Cove, is this season's Leader of the Year, while Marine

Water Park Operations Sales & Marketing Manager Elvis Barr and Assistant Financial Controller Cicely Seymour were both named Manager of the Year. Krista Bethel, a Bartender, Server and Cashier at the Ocean Club Golf Course and Locksmith Anthony "Penny" Knowles won Employee of the year Front of House and Heart of House, respectively.

The gala dinner affair complete with cocktail reception was held in Atlantis' Grand Ballroom Friday, February 22nd. K. Darron Turnquest served as emcee and the event featured music by Essence Jazz Quartet, the Defence Force Pop Band, Alia Coley and Aaron Burrows, as well as a performance by the Lawrence Carroll Dance Ensemble.

## "HUNDREDS TURN OUT AS BTC TURNED UP SPEEDS IN PINWOOD GARDENS"



▶ Residents take advantage of special phone deals

Continued from / PAGE 6...

special mobile device offers throughout the day.

Director of Technical Operations, Andre Foster said, "We've done a lot of work upgrading the Pinewood Gardens community. Residents now have access to improved broadband services, fiber to the home and Flow TV. We wanted to show the Pinewood Community just how much BTC loves them."

Alesha Hart, Pinewood

Community Association's Executive Director said, "We see BTC as a great corporate partner. We believe their products and services are among the best in the world. This was definitely a win/win initiative and what we view as the start of a beautiful relationship. The Pinewood community simply loved the event. They were able to purchase devices for under \$30 and sign up for new services."

BTC partnered with a

number of local vendors including The Bahamas Agri-Business Cooperative Society Limited, Pinewood Festival Association, Vell Monkey Foot, Bahama Capris, Mortimer's Candy, Conch & Cone, Hot Diggity, Faces by D, Cardigans & More, NAD. The next Neighborhood Connect event is scheduled for March 30th at the Elizabeth Estates Park in New Providence and in Eight Mile Rock, Grand Bahama.



### 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, 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

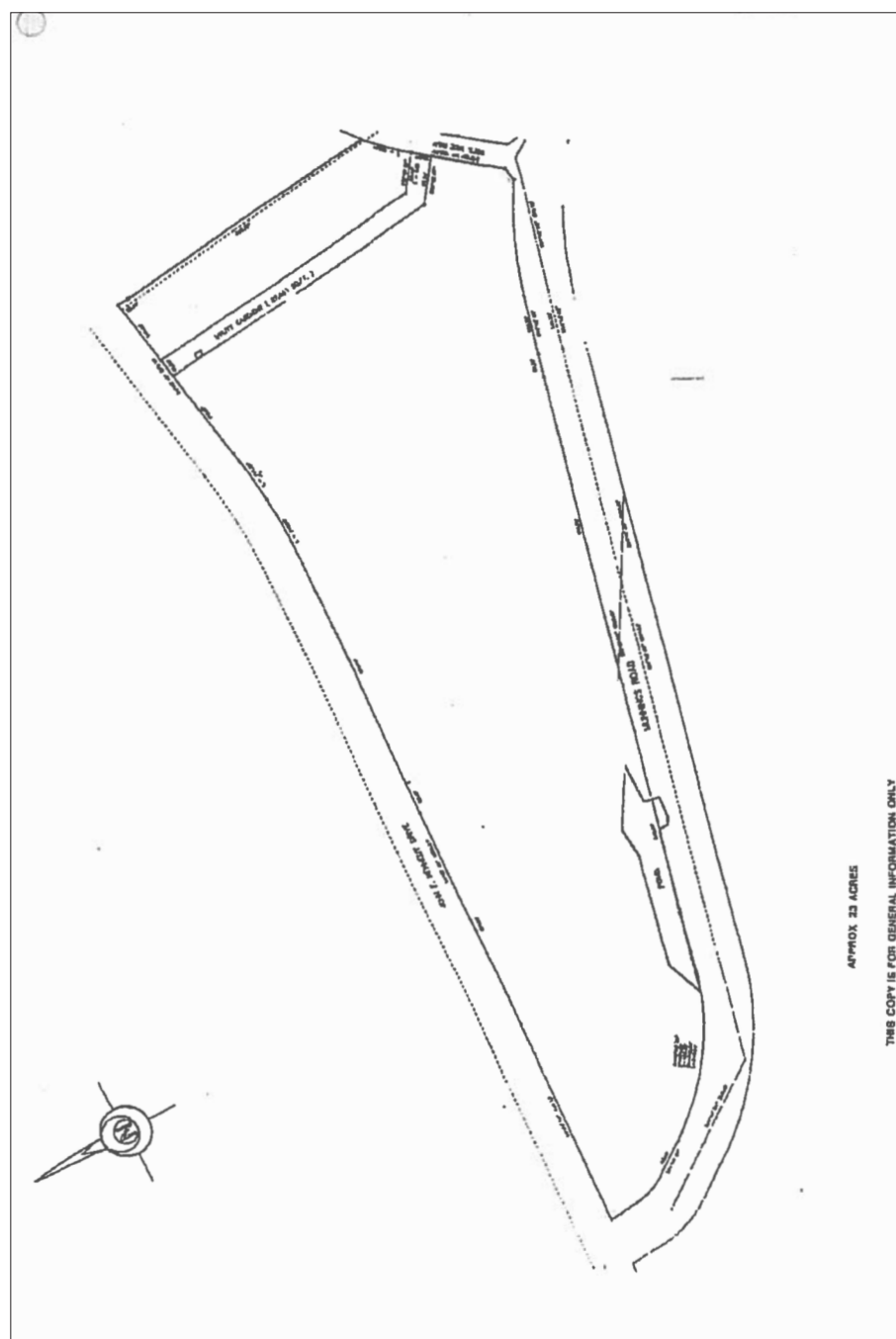
Interested persons and organisations are invited to review the information on file and provide written comments to the Acting Director of Physical Planning within twenty-one (21) days of the date of this notice.

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](mailto:CHARLESZONICLE@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS)

Signed

Charles B. Zonicle  
Acting Director of Physical Planning



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# BE Inspired Programme, brings new life to Entrepreneurship



► Pictured during the press conference are from left: Renee Bullard, undersecretary; Minister Rolle; K. Darron Turnquest, deputy permanent secretary (actg); and Jameel Lightbourne facilitator and business owner. (Photos/Courtesy, Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture)

Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture the Hon. Lanisha Rolle declared the commencement of the '2019 Bahamas Entrepreneur Inspired' (BE Inspired) programme for Young Bahamian Entrepreneurs launched Thursday, February 28, during a press conference at the Ministry. "You'll miss the best things if you keep your eyes shut," she said, "young people open your eyes and seize the moment."

Minister Rolle said the programme, produced by the Department of Youth, "is an improved version of the former "Self Starter Programme" which seeks to provide capital for young entrepreneurs in developing their business."

This programme she said has been renamed the 'Bahamas Entrepreneur Inspired' or BE Inspired programme.

Our nation's continued investment in the programme which began in 2008, for youth 18-35, is realized through the perseverance of the entrepre-

neurs, the Minister said. The Government has earmarked in its 2018/2019 budget the sum of \$840,000 for this particular initiative. Grants will be available ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Although the improved model still offers this assistance to its participants, the 'BE Inspired Programme' now requires greater training, monitoring and evaluation opportunities which in turn produce mature and knowledgeable entrepreneurs.

Minister Rolle said, "It is my Ministry's intention that this program impacts existing and prospective entrepreneurs throughout the length and breadth of this archipelago. The enhanced programme is focused on more than the initial start-up capital, [rather, also on] equipping existing and prospective business persons with tools, knowledge and monitoring mechanisms that will ensure their business growth, sustainability and rejuvenation as are typical within a business life cycle."

# ATLANTIC MEDICAL TO HOST FUN RUN WALK FOR CANCER AND DIABETES

In a bid to encourage Bahamians to adopt healthier lifestyles, Atlantic Medical Insurance Co Ltd (AMI) will host its 21st Annual Fun Run Walk on Saturday, April 13. AMI will donate all proceeds to The Cancer Society of The Bahamas and The Bahamas Diabetic Association.

"We have been giving back to these two organizations over the years because we want to bring awareness to the diseases that touch the lives of so many in our community. When you consider the patients themselves, their family members, their friends and their caregivers, you get a sense of how much of our population is impacted by cancer and diabetes," said Lisa Bellot, AMI Marketing Coordinator.

"We as a leading health insurer feel it is our responsibility to encourage our community to have healthy, fit lifestyles as a way to help them combat these diseases. So we're looking forward to everyone walking and running

with us for their health and to support the health of our community."

According to Ms Bellot, the dual-city event will feature routes for leisure walkers and runners and separate routes for competitive participants. Nassau routes begin and end at Montagu Beach while the Freeport event will use the Jasmine Corporate Centre. All participants will be entered to win a Caribbean cruise for two. Participants in the junior division will also be eligible to join an Instagram competition where they can win a prize based on the number of likes their fun run walk photo attracts during the event.

Ms Bellot said that AMI prides itself in creating a fun run walk that brings people from all ages together for a good cause and to enjoy a great morning with friends and family.

For registration information, send an email to AMINassau.FunWalk@atlantichouse.com.bs.

## MINISTRY OF FINANCE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

### INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT



#### Reform Transition Coordinator for Public Financial Management and Performance Monitoring Reform

**Institution:** Inter-American Development Bank  
**Country:** The Commonwealth of The Bahamas  
**Project:** Public Financial Management and Performance Monitoring Reform  
**Project Number:** BH-L1035  
**Loan Number:** 3340/OC-BH  
**Process/Bid No.:** 3.2.1  
**Sector:** Public Financial Management  
**Deadline:** March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The Ministry of the Finance (MoF) of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments under the Public Financial Management and Performance Monitoring Reform Project (PFM/PMR) for a Reform Transition Consultant to develop a framework for change management for Budget, Treasury and IT Divisions of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and implement change reform across the project's four (4) components.

#### Main activities include:

The main purpose of this consultancy is for the development of a framework for change management for Budget, Treasury and IT Divisions of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and implementing the change reform across the project's four (4) components. The consultancy is expected to guide employees through the change process and proffer recommendations for resistance management strategies. In addition, the consultancy would have to support the roll out of the transformation and modernization programme of IFMIS which must be structured and aligned in order to address the various areas which could affect staff.

The Reform Transition Coordinator is expected to support the Project Manager, Component Coordinators, International Change Management Experts, and Internal and External Technical Experts, facilitating collaboration within and across teams, to successfully adopt and transition into the integration of systems for PFM and HR management, deliverology, new statistical reforma and procurement reform within the GoTB.

Work with selected training institutions to embed capacity training sessions. The GoTB now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing services. Interested consultants should provide their CVs and information demonstrating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff etc.) The implementation period for the consultancy will be for one (1) year, full-time, with the possibility of being renewed based on satisfactory performance evaluation.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the IDB's: Policies for the Selection and Contracting on National Consultants financed by the IDB **GN-2350-9** and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in these policies. Interested consultants may obtain further clarification on the technical aspects or scope of services from Denise Dorsett, Procurement Specialist, Ministry of Finance, denisedorsett@bahamas.gov.bs. Expressions of Interest must be submitted by e-mail pfmpr@bahamas.gov.bs Re: Reform Transition Coordinator on or before March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 4:30 pm

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