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VOL. 31 - NO. 65

THURSDAY - APRIL 11TH, 2019

75 CENTS

# FNM: "PLP DODGING RESPONSIBILITY FOR FRAUD"

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

The Free National Movement (FNM) yesterday said the Opposition Progressive Liberal Party is dodging responsibility for the fraud taking place at the National Sports Authority (NSA) during the Christie Administration.

In a statement, the party expressed that the PLP may "never come to grips" the reality of such corrupt behavior.

It said, "every time the government turns another stone on corruption, the woeful PLP tries to claim there's nothing to it. All three stooges of the PLP,

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## MINISTER'S COST ON HOUSING DISPUTED

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

Former Chairman of The Bahamas Mortgage Corporation (BMC) Alex Storr yesterday labelled Housing Minister Romauld Ferriera's comments on housing prices under the previous administration as nonsensical, erroneous, and baseless.

According to Minister Ferriera, homes con-

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Alex Storr



Minister Ferriera

## PLP CALLS FNM ATTACK "STUPID"

Responding to an attack by the Free National Movement over the Opposition's position on the Auditor General's report on the operations of the National Sports Authority, the Progressive Liberal Party says, "The FNM's Chairman is a laugh a minute. Today because the PLP has unmasked their fake and phony campaign to discredit the PLP's record in

sports, they are doubling down with phony rage and fake rectitude and the worn out personal attacks. Their statement today attacking the PLP is disgraceful."

The Chairman of the PLP, Senator Fred Mitchell in a statement said, "they seek in it to defend the nonsensical innuendos from this Auditor General's

See page 3...

## 40 MIGRANTS APPREHENDED IN LITTLE INAGUA



Haitian migrants being transported aboard HMBS Durward Knowles after they were apprehended in the southern Bahamas on April 9, 2018)

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

A group of Haitian nationals were apprehended after their vessel ran

aground of Little Inagua on Tuesday morning, according to Immigration and Defence Force officials.

A total of 40 migrants

are now detained at the Carmichael Road Detention Center, following the apprehension.

Royal Bahamas Defence personnel said

"acting on information received, HMBS Durward Knowles, under the command of Senior

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## Murphy Named Commissioner of Corrections



Charles L. Murphy

National Security Minister, Marvin H. Dames has announced the appointment of Acting Commissioner, Charles L. Murphy as Commissioner of The Bahamas

Department Correctional Services, with effect from 29th January, 2019.

Mr. Murphy was identified as the successful

See page 4...



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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# DAMES CALLS OPPOSITIONS CRITICISM RIDICULOUS

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

National Security Minister Marvin Dames is calling the Opposition criticisms of the new Shot Spotter Technology as ridiculous, adding that it is not something he should waste his time responding to.

His comments came

after Opposition Leader Phillip Davis said that Shot Spotter is a waste of time and tax payer dollars. He added that the government should look for preventative methods instead if detection methods.

In his response Minister Dames said the reality is everything cannot be prevented.

"I want to assure you as I stand here now, we're already beginning to see some positive reports in relation to Shot Spotter.

"The police have reported to me that since its implementation, they have been able to respond to matters even before the citizenry called the police, within seconds.

That can save lives," Minister Dames said.

Shot Spotter is a gunshot detection system that detects and conveys the location of gunshots firing using acoustics.

In January the government signed a contract with Shot Spotter Technology to implement the gunshot detection software in The Bahamas.

The first phase of the software has already been installed. Some 92 sensors are installed in random, undisclosed locations throughout the island.

At the time of last month's demonstration, Director of Customer Success Alfred Lewers said on average, Shot Spotter

customers notice a 37 per cent reduction in gun fire activities.

The plan is for the software to be installed in New Providence, Grand Bahama, and Abaco.

As only the first phase is completed, Minister Dames said the second phase is expected to roll out in the next fiscal period.

# MITCHELL: DEFICIENCIES IN THE NSA REPORT

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

The directive has been given for the National Sports Authority audit to be the focus of a police investigation, but Opposition Chairman Fred Mitchell insisted there are deficiencies in the report that showed a number of discrepancies in the accounting of the affairs of the authority.

"I have a specific

experience as Minister of Foreign Affairs where the Auditor General said \$1 million dollars was missing and \$1 million wasn't missing, it turned out not to be so."

"There are others too; there was one done on Urban Renewal, that was debunked because all an audit is, is when you show up on the day with your auditors, it's what you find on the day you get there. Look at the

Oban file that has gone missing under this administration.

"Our point it that you can make these alarmist headlines that money is missing, that things are gone, and things haven't been done and I've said before, that I will put my head on a chopping block about this particular matter that it is impossible for money to separate itself from the Treasury without the proper paper

work being in place," he said.

That aside, Mr. Mitchell has made it abundantly clear that he has no confidence in the Police Force - under National Security Minister Marvin Dames' direction - conducting an impartial, non-partisan and independent investigation.

In fact, he's convinced that any investigation under such circum-

stances will be tainted by political bias and therefore not worth the paper it is written on.

He is then reiterating the call for the Minister to either resign or be dismissed.

"There is in the law, and constitutional conventions, a prevision called a presumption of regularity."

"So someone who is not judicially condemned, who can head

that department can then come with a clean slate and a Minister is responsible for his personal conduct and that of his department."

"No Minister of National Security would allow the Prime Minister or Cabinet to direct what he does, because he must stand on his own two feet," Mr. Mitchell said.

The PLP Chairman's accusing the government of attacking the PLP.



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# FNM: "PLP DODGING

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Brave Davis, his instrument Fred Mitchell and their newest protégé Chester Cooper have claimed the NSA scandal isn't a big deal and that the Auditor General conspired to produce a false report."

It added, "their accusation against the office of the Auditor General is irresponsible and shouldn't go unnoticed. Rather

than rejecting the corruption that stains their image, the PLP makes the unbelievable claim that it doesn't exist, which is a lie that not a soul in The Bahamas believes.

"Any reasonable political party would understand the benefit in denouncing its own wrongdoing and moving forward to improve its image and maintain relevance, but the PLP's pride coupled with their mar-

riage to corruption, keeps them driving towards the edge of the cliff," the FNM said.

It added, "every time an instance of corruption is exposed, Davis and the rest of the PLP's miserable leadership attempt to say it's nothing to it; of course, nearly every instance of corruption is tied to them or else they would certainly make a deal out of it. This is the party that spent five years

turning corruption into an art form, allowing our government to lose millions in revenue while enriching themselves, and now they are grasping to hang on to the system that allowed their corruption to flourish."

The governing party also said that the PLP, instead of assisting with the modernization and strengthening of government agencies, are "crying conspiracy" every time

the government opens an investigation.

It said, "The FNM remains hopeful that the PLP will soon understand that the folly of their ways is out in the open and highlighted for everyone to see. There is no sense in pretending that the actions at the NSA never took place, and it is negligible to state a bold-faced lie that these investigations are the product of a conspiracy."

"Brave Davis and his PLP cohorts have turned their backs on Bahamians, but the FNM remains hopeful that they will soon turn their back on the corruption that pollutes our Nation and holds opportunity hostage. Your FNM government will continue working to make corruption a relic of history because Bahamians deserve a government that works for them," it added.

# PLP CALLS FNM ATTACK "STUPID"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

report, but there is no substance there to defend. They know that money does not and cannot just walk out of the Treasury. The conclusions they seek to draw from the report do not follow and cannot be sustained. The FNM's assertions are plainly foolish on the face.

"With the FNM, they

are like a broken record. Corruption is all they see. They are experts at the game of corruption and crookedness. Bahamians say "it takes one to know one."

Mr. Mitchell said, "We tell them again: stop being stupid. The FNM has wasted two years of digging up in the garbage can and not governing. The FNM is running out of time to get anything

meaningful done.

"This is the dumbest government we have ever had. Our greatest problem is they don't know how dumb they are. They think they are so smart, but the evidence of using the State to lock up their political opponents shows what knuckleheads they all are.

"By the way Duane Sands and Marvin

Dames should resign.

They are both judicially condemned. They must resign or be dismissed," said Senator Mitchell.

Meanwhile, the MP for Exuma and Ragged Island, Chester Cooper said "the chairman of the Free National Movement is a hopeless creature, barely worth responding to, but unlike him, I have a care about how my name is bandied about.

"I note that he has claimed I have disparaged the probe of the auditor general into the National Sports Authority, which he incorrectly identified as the National Sports Agency in a press statement today. This is patently false.

"I have made no comment on the audit report and have no plans to do so at this time.

"The chairman of the FNM should get a life; one in which his thoughts are not consumed with me.

He and I are no company.

He should focus his efforts on better explaining the disastrous policies of this faltering administration as opposed to making up stories," said Mr. Cooper.

# 40 MIGRANTS APPREHENDED

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Lieutenant Bertram Bowleg, apprehended a 35-ft Haitian sloop off the south coast of Little Inagua Island.

"A further search of the

uninhabited Island and surrounding area led to the apprehension of 34 males and 6 females, who all appeared to be in good health.

"The migrants were taken aboard the Defence

Force craft and transported to Matthew Town, Great Inagua Island where they were turned over to Immigration Officials for further processing."

In February more than

30 Haitian nationals perished when their 40-ft vessel ran aground of Fowl Cay, near Man-O-War Cay, Abaco.

With this latest apprehension, over 300 Haitians have been appre-

hended this year by the RBDF for illegal entry during four separate incidents.

Meantime, according to the Department of Immigration, six migrants were charged in

a Magistrate's court yesterday, five Females and one male, for illegal landing.

It is not known if these individuals were among the group apprehended on Tuesday morning.



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# ENDOWMENT FUND NAMED FOR CANON WARREN ROLLE

BY LISA KNOWLES  
Journal Staff Writer

A deserving student will benefit from an Anglican Priest's major milestone. An Endowment Fund is to be established at the University of The Bahamas in honour of Canon Warren Rolle's

Golden Jubilee.

The announcement was made by Saint Agnes Anglican Church by Henry Dean, Chairperson of the Endowment Fund Committee. According to Mr. Dean, the awardee can study any discipline. However he or she must take Divinity Courses also.

He said that the Endowment is not limited to students from New Providence, as family islands students need much assistance with furthering their education. The Endowment will begin in September 2019, for the Fall Semester.

Also present at the Press

Conference were Archdeacon Keith Cartwright representing the Anglican Diocese of the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands, Father James Moultrie and Ms. Janice Munnings, a representative of the Canon Rolle Endowment Fund Committee and also a rep-

resentative of the University of The University of the Bahamas.

They all spoke highly about Canon Rolle, who was a teacher at St. John's College who taught Fr. Cartwright Religious Knowledge.

A Mass will be held on

April 28th at 5 pm to celebrate and commemorate the occasion of Canon Rolle being in the priesthood for 50 years.

A grateful Canon Rolle said he was pleased to help University of the Bahamas students and he admonished everyone who can, to contribute to the cause.

# COALITION TO SAVE CLIFTON HONOURS SEVEN

BY LISA KNOWLES  
Journal Staff Writer

Seven persons were honoured yesterday by The Coalition To Save Clifton on the twentieth anniversary of the organization. The honourees were presented with plaques for their involvement in the Coalition.

In a gratification ceremony at the Poop Deck at the Sandy Port, Coalition President Rev. Dr. C.B. Moss, said the event was designated to bring together, in a social setting, some of those who were instrumental, firstly in saving, then protecting Clifton.

He said the reception was held to recognize

and award those who went above and beyond and made extraordinary contributions in the fight to save Clifton.

"In the early 1990's, the priceless site of Clifton faced destruction to make room for an exclusive upscale, gated community. In response, the Coalition to Save Clifton was formed."

He said with the help and support of many, many individuals, and organizations too numerous to mention, that project did not succeed.

Clifton is the only place in the country where three civilizations occupied the same pace, at different times; they were the Lucayans, fol-

lowed by the loyalists and the slaves from Africa.

Rev. Moss lamented that the coalition was, in the past, referred to, in the House of Assembly, as the tyrannical minority, but he was happy to inform that it has now, in fact, proven to be the patriotic majority.

He said the reception

was held to give those individuals and organizations an opportunity also receive the gratitude of the entire nation.

"Sometimes we don't take time to do that, but one of the reasons why we are assembled here today, and to just share in that social interaction that we enjoy," said Rev. Moss.

# Honda Recalled For Faulty Airbags

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

There has been a Global recall of Honda and Acura vehicles for airbag replacement as deployment can seriously injure or cause a fatality.

With just over one million Honda and Acura vehicles manufactured between 2001 and 2016 having faulty airbags, the Nassau Motor Company (NMC) along with US Honda dealers are checking and replacing these airbags for free during a "Free Airbag Repair Event".

US certified technician and Assistant Manager at Honda, USA Rafael Loya, says there's a defective component on Takata airbags that can result in serious injury or death if and when deployed.

"In the event of an accident this component called the inflator can actually end up rupturing, causing severe injuries

and fatalities.

"So we're here to replace those inflators with a new one. It's free of charge for Honda and Acura owners," Mr. Loya said.

The repairs, which takes about 45 minutes, is taking place on the grounds of the former City Markets on Wulff and Village Roads.

According to the Honda manager, not all cars may require the replacement, while some cars may require both airbags to be replaced.

"Some cars require driver's side, some cars require passenger or both.

"It's very important that anybody who has a Honda vehicle or Acura get their airbags repaired, for free.

"So far we've had good response we started off yesterday [Tuesday], we fixed about right over 200 airbags; our goal here is to fix right around 1,500 through Saturday.

"We invite anybody

who has a Honda and Acura vehicle to come [and] check the call to see if it has a recall; if you need the recall, we have a waiting area for customers so that they can wait while their vehicle is being repaired," Mr. Loya said.

With more than 290 injuries worldwide being linked to Takata inflators that could explode, spraying metal shrapnel inside cars and trucks, Mr. Loya said that over 300 vehicles here in Nassau have been checked and fixed and their goal is to fix around 1,500 by Saturday.

"We know, in The Bahamas, there's a lot more vehicles and we're considering the vehicles not just sold in the local market, but we're also looking at the vehicles that were imported from the US or from other areas; we want to fix that as well and those are also for free.

"This morning [Wednesday] it's been a slow start, we don't know

if it's the weather. So far we've done about 50 repairs.

"We have the capacity to do over 300 repairs. We've brought over 17 technicians from the US plus the local staff from

Nassau Motors, so combined we have over 30 or 40 people supporting the event," Mr. Loya said.

Mr. Loya advises that if Honda and Acura owners can not get to the examination center to

simply logon to [hondabahamas.com/recall](http://hondabahamas.com/recall), enter the VIN number to know if a replacement is needed.

The "Free Airbag Repair Event" ends Saturday at 5pm.

# HOUSING DISPUTED

Continued from / PAGE 1...

structed under the former administration were overpriced by tens of thousands of dollars.

The Minister's comment was in response to the argument that the government should have remained in the business of building affordable homes as opposed to simply selling affordable lots.

This followed the government's decision a few months back to provide service lots in pockets throughout New Providence.

Mr. Storr said, "I have every confidence in the professionals at the Ministry of Housing who were responsible for the pricing.

"As everyone knows, lending institutions will not lend you a dime more than a house is worth, and this was never an issue

with any of the commercial banks. Their survival depends on this," he added.

He also said, "as a matter of fact, many of these houses were actually undervalued as many times infrastructure cost, actual land value, and other incidentals were not considered in the final price."

Mr. Storr suggested the "awol" minister "get a handle on his ministry and tackle pertinent issues".

These, he said, includes the homes in Queen's Park Subdivision "that lay vacant after being complete for over a year"; the minister's failure to comment publicly on the firing of several experienced executives at BMC, or the millions of dollars in revenue shortfall the corporation will be facing because of the shift in the government's housing policy.

He said, "in my opinion, the last issue will severely hamper their ability to service their upcoming due bonds without help from an already overburdened treasury and will most likely mean more government borrowing to add to the billions we already owe."

Mr. Storr also suggested that the Minnis-Administration "correct the abysmal course they are on by shifting from a policy that includes making untrue, negative allegations about the last administration and blaming the PLP for their very own failures..."

He further suggested to shift to a course "that delivers real relief to the Bahamian people as their policies thus far have only created grief and hardship."

# Murphy Named Commissioner of Corrections

Continued from / PAGE 1...

candidate out of nine applicants after the post of Commissioner of Correctional Services was advertised both locally and abroad last year. He succeeds former Commissioner of Correctional Services, Mr. Patrick Wright, who officially retired on 29th August, 2018. An official Handing Over Ceremony at The Bahamas Department Correctional Services will take place on Monday, 15th April, 2019 at 3 p.m.

"I am very pleased to appoint Mr. Murphy as Commissioner of Correctional Services," said Minister Dames. "He has an impressive professional record having served for nearly

four decades and will lead the process of transformation of the institution", he said.

A native of Mayaguana, Mr. Murphy began his career at then Her Majesty's Prison on 11th August, 1980 as a Prison Officer and was awarded the coveted Baton of Honour as the Most Outstanding Recruit in his squad. His career steadily progressed over the 38 years from Corporal in 1993 to Acting Commissioner in 2018. During his extensive career he served in various capacities including Director of Maximum and Minimum, Female Correctional and Remand Housing Facilities, Disciplinary Tribunal Judge,

Inmate's Rehabilitative and Pre-release Unit, Commandant of Staff Training and Development, Correctional Manager at The Security Processing Centre with the oversight of visitation and property intake, and was a member of the Interviewing Panel for Recruitment and the Promotion Board.

Mr. Murphy earned a Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from McHari's International College, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Administration from the University of The Bahamas and an Associate of Arts degree in Law and Criminal Justice from the University of The Bahamas.

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