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TUESDAY - APRIL 30TH, 2019

75 CENTS

ECONOMY EXPANDING

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Initial statistics for the first nine-months of fiscal year 2018/2019 denoted a 51 per cent improvement on the deficit reduction compared to the previous fiscal year.

This comes from the Ministry of Finance's nine-month budget performance report, which explained that these figures shrunk from \$261.5m in last fiscal year to \$129.2m this year.

The report noted that revenue increased by \$218.7m, which represented a 15 per cent Year Over Year improvement.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest said in a news release that the country's fiscal perform-



▶ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Peter Turnquest

■ See page 4...

SUICIDES INCREASE IN THE BAHAMAS

BY LISA KNOWLES
 Journal Staff Writer

Suicide is becoming more prevalent in The Bahamas than ever before.

According to Keva Bethell, Director of Research and Training at the Allen Institute, it was found that there were 96 cases over a 14 year peri-

od, from 2000 to 2013. That is a rate of 2.1, which means that about two out of 100,000 Bahamians have killed themselves.

She said out of the 96, the rate of males was more than seven times that of the rate among

■ See page 6...

AG Disturbed Over Officer's Killing



▶ Attorney General, Carl Bethel

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Attorney General Carl Bethel yesterday expressed serious concern over the killing of Defense Force officer Phillip Perpall at Government House early Sunday morning.

The Attorney General noted that it was especially shocking that the

■ See page 4...

21-YEAR-OLD CHARGED WITH MURDER

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

One week after he allegedly shot and killed a 34-year-old father of four girls, Chadwick Capron, of McQuay

Street was charged with intentionally and unlawfully causing the death of Bryan Smith.

According to police reports, on Easter

■ See page 8...

PAIR CHARGED WITH FRAUD

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

The Financial Crimes/Anti-Corruption Unit, the arm of the Police Force tasked with inves-

tigating financial crimes and corruption took three men before the courts yesterday and charged them with a

■ See page 7...

URCA TEAM IN ABACO



▶ Consumers in Abaco who attended URCA'S Town Hall Meeting used the forum to express several major concerns to URCA's Executives, some of the hot button issues included consumer protection, the handling of complaints, quality service and Alternative Energy. Pictured from left to right are URCA Corporate & Consumer Relations Officer, Alexis Burrows, URCA CEO Stephen Bereaux, Abaco Chamber of Commerce Director Daphne DeGregory and URCA Director of Electronic Communications Carlton Smith. (Photo Tim Aylen/Barefoot Marketing)




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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

OBAN TALKS CONTINUE

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Talks are ongoing between the government and Oban officials, according to Senator Dion Foulkes, the Minister of Labour who also serves as head of Cabinet's Oban Subcommittee.

This following two days of meetings between the two sides last month to negotiate a new Head of Agreement.

"We are still talking with respect to the eco-

conomic provisions of the Heads of Agreement, I have nothing new to report on that," Minister Foulkes said.

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis insists the new Oban Energies deal will be in the best interest of Bahamians.

The initial agreement called for a \$5.5 billion oil refinery and storage facility in East End, Grand Bahama.

The deal ran into difficulty soon after being signed last February 2018.

This happened as former non-Executive Chairman Peter Kriegar forged a signature at the Heads of Agreement signing.

In the House of Assembly last year Dr. Minnis admitted that the government made some missteps with the Oban deal in effort to boost Grand Bahama's strained economy.

Environmentalists and many others criticized the government for the deal, as it was signed without an environment

impact assessment being done.

In February, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Peter Turnquest said the government was trying to determine whether the deal is something to proceed with, in terms of the kind of installation versus maybe considering the touristic elements that are now developing the island.

It was later announced that a new Oban deal would be created for the benefit of Bahamians.



▶ Minister of Labour, Dion Foulkes

B.I.A. HONOURS ORRY J. SANDS

BY LISA KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Insurance Association recently named Orry J. Sands as its 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award Honouree for the Property and Casual Sector.

"Orry J. Sands is the Managing Partner of Orry J. Sands and Company Limited, a Bahamian general insurance agency for over 35 years. She has been in the insurance industry for over fifty years and is a trailblazer and one of the most accomplished lead-

ers of our industry," said Warren Rolle, Chairman for the BIA.

"Our Honouree is extremely knowledgeable of the insurance industry. She has set a strong example for the younger generation, always having demonstrated a strong work ethic and an appreciation for the importance of staying abreast of the industry and its developments. As a compelling for insurance education, she has been a mentor to many and is deserving of this recognition." He said.

Mrs. Sands was the

first Bahamian female to achieve the highest insurance designation of Fellow of The Chartered Insurance Institute and launched her own insurance agency in 1985, which continues to operate from its offices at 300 Shirley Street in New Providence.

Accepting her award, Mrs. Sands acknowledged her entrance into the insurance industry was somewhat accidental, but one of the most rewarding decisions of her life. She expressed gratitude to the many persons who would have contributed to her five-

decade long career.

Coordinator for BIA, Dr. Rhonda Chipman-Johnson, added her con-

gratulations to Mrs. Sands, "Our honouree has been an asset to the insurance industry and

her story of success and triumph is to be greatly admired, celebrated and emulated," she said.

HELP WANTED

Family of four is seeking the services of a female aged 30 years or over to work as a housekeeper at a home on Paradise Island.

Applicants must be bi-lingual and possess the ability to speak Portuguese. The applicant must also have knowledge of preparation of Brazilian cuisine. This housekeeper will also be responsible for the care of an elderly family member and two dogs.

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The following documents are required:-

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- 2 Update Franchise receipt payment
- 3 Up to date business License
- 4 Inspection/Copies of License Discs
- 5 Up to Date Insurance Certificates
- 6 Vehicle color and right/left hand drive (for new vehicle)

All Franchise Holders with fleet of five (5) or more vehicles are to submit their packages to Road Traffic Department, Franchise Unit, Section 3, Eastern Side of the National Stadium. All Packages will be processed on first come first serve basis.

Please note that the Department will only receive payments in the form of:-

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BUSAWU TO RECEIVE STRIKE CERTIFICATE

BY BERTHONY McDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

The Minister of Labour Senator Dion Foulkes says The Bahamas Utilities Services and Allied Workers Union should be given a strike certificate by today.

He said, "in respect to

the managerial union, I am seeking legal advice on that matter, I hope to have it determined by tomorrow.

"I know there are some constitutional issues involved in terms of workers that do come out and vote, and they should get a determination as soon as

possible.

"So hopefully by the end of the business today, I will make a determination on the managerial union," he said.

As for the relationship between the unions and the Water and Sewerage Corporation executives, Minister Foulkes believes

it has improved.

"They did have two relatively productive meetings; it seems as though both sides are talking, and I think the respect level has been restored."

"There was a period there where it was a bit touchy, but I believe that both sides are talking, and

I have encouraged them to.

"My main function as Minister of Labor is to ensure that both sides respect each other and that both sides negotiate.

"The Director of Labour and my senior officers at the department are intimately involved with the talks and Reverend

Ranford Patterson who is our Labour Consultant is also involved," he said.

On Friday, Trade Union of Congress President Obie Ferguson called on the Minister to intervene in the matter, charging that if a strike certificate was not issued, the unions would take the matter to court.

URCA's Executive Team headed to Grand Bahama

Executives from The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) have embarked on a series of public town hall meetings to listen to the concerns of consumers. The URCA representatives have held discussions with residents in Abaco and in New Providence, and now the executive team will continue their campaign of public consultations across the northern islands, with three scheduled town hall meetings on Grand Bahama and

"pop up" office hours at the Grand Bahama Chamber of Commerce.

URCA is responsible for regulating the Electronic Communications Sector (ECS) in The Bahamas, and is the governing body for Internet, Cable, Phone, and Media as well as Energy providers in the neighboring islands. The Town Hall Meetings will be held on Tuesday, May 7th, in Eight Mile Rock at the EMR High School, on Wednesday, May 8th in Freeport at the Father

Pestaina Centre, and on Thursday, May 9th, in East End, at the St. Nicholas Parish - with all three starting at 6pm. With URCA Executives explaining upgrades in customer service initiatives, solar engagement and regulations, disaster preparedness efforts as well as the corporation's objectives for 2019-2020.

During the consultation sessions in New Providence, URCA CEO Stephen Breaux, told attendees that it was important for the repre-

sentatives to receive feedback from all stakeholders, because the information gathered influences the work of the regulator and allows them to understand the needs of the public. "What we want to hear from you," said Breaux, "what you think are the biggest areas of concern, and how we should be exercising our regulatory jurisdiction. Our goal really is to find out what are the priorities you feel we should be working on."

Alternative energy,

consumer protection, quality service, and the handling of complaints, were among some of the hot button topics discussed in the previous forums. CEO Stephen Breaux, along with URCA's Director of Electronic Communications, Carlton Smith, and URCA Director of Utilities, Shevonn Cambridge, will be on Grand Bahama to answer questions, address customer concerns, and discuss how the proposed rollout plan will impact

consumers. The team will also host 2 days of 'Pop Up' store fronts at the GB Chamber of Commerce. A first for GB residents, and will allow for one on one meetings on licensing, media or internet startups, and renewable energy questions or concerns.

"We are looking forward to being in Freeport," noted director Smith, a former media personality in GB. "I am excited to be working at home for a few days and to address any

See page 7...



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ECONOMY

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ance is "steadily moving towards closing the deficit gap. However the government must maintain expenditure discipline to ultimately meet its year end target."

The 17-page report also highlighted that "expenditures for the review period increased by \$86.5m or 5 per cent accounted for by a \$143.3m increase in recurrent expenditure and a \$56.8m decrease in cap-

ital expenditure increased business license revenue flows."

To this, the Finance Minister said that business license performance not only "met the government's expectations for the customary third quarter boost, but it is noteworthy that business license revenue was up by 35 per cent."

This, he said, further proves that the economy is strengthening and expanding, and overall business receipts are improving.

He added, "this also

reflects the fact that the Department of Inland Revenue has seen an uptick in the number of businesses being regularized and in the number of new registrants."

The report also mentioned that Value Added Tax (VAT) collections during the third quarter were said to have helped fuel a turnaround from a \$7m deficit from last fiscal year's third quarter compared to a \$40m surplus in the third quarter this year.

The Ministry noted

that the transition from VAT on realty transactions to stamp tax on realty transactions led to "an approximate two fold increase in the yield from \$80.6m a year ago to \$161.6m in this fiscal period."

It added, Non-tax revenues, which totaled \$167.3 million also surpassed the third-quarter budget mark with a gain of \$20.7m compared to the last review period. Immigration fees were also said to be higher by \$20.9 million or 44 per

cent due to the recent fee increases."

This was said to be 89.3 per cent of the budget target.

The Ministry of Finance also said that expenditures for the review period increased by \$86.5m or 5 per cent.

It added that the bulk of the comparatively higher growth reflect increases in "expenditure on rents, utilities and the purchase of goods and services, as well as the settlement of budgeted arrears."

AG DISTURBED BY KILLING

Continued from / PAGE 1...

alleged assailant is a fellow RBDF officer and that the fact that the murder took place at the official residence of the head of state and as alleged between members of her security detail is particularly disturbing.

Bethel extended sympathy to Perpall's family, adding that Bahamians ought to pray to remove the spirit of irrational and hateful anger and for violence to depart forever from the country.

Sunday officials held a press conference at the CDU addressing what took place at Government House.

Since the shooting, calls were made for authorities to determine what happened and why.

Defense Force Commander Tellis Bethel described the slain officer as a great man, who left his mark on the RBDF.

A peacemaker, Mr. Perpall served overseas in Haiti with the United Nations Mission.

He was recently a part of a team that adopted the cemetery for the British Legion, investing a lot of time into modernizing the property.

National Security Minister Marvin Dames on Sunday gave the assurance that the government is committed to security.

He also acknowledged that Sunday's killing brought about the question of protection at key government buildings.

DNA CONCERNED ABOUT GOV'T SECURITY MEASURES

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

The Democratic National Alliance (DNA) has expressed concerns following news of Sunday's homicide at Government House.

In a press statement, Deputy Leader Buscheme Armbrister said, "Government House is the official res-

idence of the Head of our nation - the Governor General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. This historical and monumental property should enjoy the highest level of security in the land. It is therefore troubling that this hal- lowed property became a crime scene."

He added, "this incident brings back painful memories for several

Bahamians who have felt the negative effects of the crime epidemic within our country. Many Bahamians still recall the senseless killing of the aide to the Governor General some months ago and are beginning to question the quality of the safety measures surrounding the head of our Commonwealth."

To this, he said that it

is not difficult to understand why Bahamians would be concerned about their own safety following this incident.

With this in mind, he said; "The government must move with haste to allay the fears of the populace and restore the confidence of the people in our crime fighting initiatives.

"It is imperative that in addition to fighting

the menace of crime, more focus is placed on and resources are allocated to ensure that individuals with mental health challenges receive the requisite attention. This issue must be considered from several perspectives, including within the context of the enormous stress under which Bahamians are living today," said Armbrister.



THE PORT DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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no later than 5:00 pm on the 31st of May 2019.

Tenders will be opened at 10:00 am on the 4th of June 2019 at the office of the Tender's Board, Ministry of Finance.

*THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL TENDERS.



THE MINISTRY OF FINANCIAL SERVICES, TRADE & INDUSTRY

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following persons are invited to contact the Ministry of Financial Services, Trade & Industry and Immigration with respect to pending applications at the Department of Immigration:-

1. Armbrister, Theola Ann
2. Bain, Desmond Walter
3. Brice-Okharobo, Joya N.
4. Chanan, Renald Allan
5. Cockburn, Corradon A.
6. Delva, Edney
7. Deparpaigne-Jackson, Jaquelin Ollarvides
8. Dorettes, Petra D.
9. Eaton, Mark Price
10. Harrison-Mackey, Mispah Angela
11. Kelly-Jones, Jamie Albertha - Freeport
12. Keswani, Jitender
13. Lloyd, Daron
14. Lopex Alarcon-Bevans, Rosina Elvira
15. Lordeus, Maudelene More
16. Martinborough, Nedley Aloysius
17. McPhee, Delmar Lee
18. Mellor, David
19. Nonhomme, Earle Vado
20. Pettiford, Elke Alexandria
21. Porter, Adina
22. Rahini, Sarah S.
23. Rolle, Elvis Jerome
24. Scanterbury, Anthonette
25. Simmons, Tamala Tamara
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