

STANDARD SERVICES SUPPLIES LTD.
 Shirley & Church Street
 Phone: 322-4635



Shop at STANDARD SERVICES where you can get **20% OFF** Houseware, linen, lamps and draperies, and much, much more

The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

DEAN & ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS
 "Meeting Your Needs Efficiently and Professionally"



BUILDINGS (COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL)
 LIFE - GROUP - MEDICAL - ANNUITIES - LIABILITY - MARINE - HOMEOWNERS - AUTO

Tel: (242)-356-0986 Fax: (242)-356-0987
 Deal's Plaza, Mackey Street
 P.O. Box CB-13952 Nassau, Bahamas
 8:30am - 4:30pm

VOL. 31 - NO. 63

TUESDAY - APRIL 9TH, 2019

75 CENTS

JOHNSON: "AUDITOR DROPPED THE BALL"

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Former Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Doctor Daniel Johnson yesterday said that the Auditor General of The Bahamas dropped the ball in auditing the affairs of the National Sports Authority.

A report released recently showed a number of discrepancies in the accounting of the affairs of the Authority.

Mr. Johnson, appearing on the Radio Love 97 Programme "On Point",



▶ Former Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, Dr. Daniel Johnson

■ See page 4...

PROGRESS IN TALKS BETWEEN WSC BOARD AND UNIONS

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Some progress was made yesterday in mediation talks between the two Unions and the management of the Water and Sewerage Corporation. Former President of the Bahamas Christian Council Reverend Ranford Patterson along

with Labour Director John Pinder and his assistant director served as mediators.

The Bahamas Utilities Services and Allied Workers Union (BUSAWU) and the corporation's managerial union had an opportunity to voice their grievances



▶ Labour Director, John Pinder

■ See page 4...

Gov't Signs \$30 Million IDB Loan

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

The government has secured the funding needed to advance two major projects. A \$30 million

loan agreement has been signed with the Inter-American Development Bank for digital transformation and natural disasters.

The Minnis administra-

tion is seeking to strengthen its competitiveness by modernizing and digitalizing the public services.

According to Prime Minister Dr. Hubert

Minnis, the loan will also be used to streamline and place government procedures online.

"In this case, a once

■ See page 3...

GUITARISTS TAKE CENTER STAGE AT THE NATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL, IN GRAND BAHAMA



▶ Grand Bahama primary and high school students strummed up solid performances on the guitar, during the E. Clement Bethel National Arts Festival Grand Bahama adjudications, on April 4, 2019, at the Grand Lucayan Convention Centre. The Hugh Campbell Primary School Guitar Ensemble started the day off with "Amazing Grace", and Ensemble member Travis Rolle -- whose feet noticeably did not touch the ground during his performance -- played "Edelweiss" and "Smile A While". From St. George's High School, Charlton Rolle performed an acoustic version of Bon Jovi's "Wanted: Dead or Alive", and Dario Mortel took to the bass guitar to play his original piece "What a Sweet Thing". The two students came together later as SGHS Twin Strings to perform Tracy Chapman's "Fast Car" on acoustic guitars. (BIS Photos / Eric Rose)

PM Maintains UB Tuition Will Be Free

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Ingraham has assured that tuition at the University of the Bahamas will be free to qualifying students come this fall. The Prime Minister added that the commitment to assist UB's Family Island students still stands.

He made the comments yesterday responding to concerns stemming from the pending increase in tuition and fees at The University.

Referring to Family Island students he said, "we understand the stress and strain that they and their family undergo in terms of

■ See page 4...

NIB Payout Challenges

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

Complaints about long wait time for payouts from the National Insurance Board (NIB), have been acknowledged by National Insurance Minister, Brensil Rolle, who told reporters yesterday that there are ongoing issues at the National

Insurance agency. Speaking with the media, on the sidelines, following a signing between the government and the Inter-America Development bank, Mr. Rolle confirmed there were challenges which he said were being addressed.

"We do have some

■ See page 8...



ACDelco Guard your car's life.

ACDelco transmission fluid & oil, plus routine maintenance, can help your GM car or truck last longer.

NMC IS THE EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR OF GENUINE ACDELCO PRECISION PARTS & SUPPLIES.



NMC PARTS DEPARTMENT • Shirley Street • 302-0130 partsorder@nassaumotor.com • www.acdelcobahamas.com

ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

MINISTER COMMENDS POLICE IN ABDUCTIONS PROBE

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

National Security Minister Marvin Dames yesterday commended the Royal Bahamas Police Force for the arrest of those believed to be responsible for the abductions.

"This is a clear example of where we're trying to take the Royal Bahamas Police Force and all of our law enforcement agencies. We have the confidence in the men and women of those agencies to do their job and to do it well.

"Kudus goes out to members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force as

well as all of those persons who would have assisted somehow, including the community," he said.

The Minister's comments came one day after Police announced that they had two women in their custody who are alleged to be responsible for the abduction of four children.

Chief Superintendent Solomon Cash told reporters that one of the alleged abductors was arrested in New Providence, while the other was arrested in Eleuthera.

One of the women, a 29-year-old is alleged to be responsible for the abductions between February 16th and March 30th.

The other is said to be an accomplice to one of the abductions.

Superintendent Cash added that the Department of Public Prosecution has been consulted on these matters.

He is hopeful that the police would be able to identify which charges will be laid against them and have them brought before the courts soon.

When asked about a possible motive behind the abductions, he said that he is not at liberty to disclose anything the suspect communicated to the police.

Police are awaiting the arrival from Eleuthera of that 35-year-old accomplice for further questioning.



► National Security Minister Marvin Dames

PILOT CONVICTED ON FAILURE TO DECLARE \$10,000.00

BY LISA KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

Twenty-five year old Stephen Hanna of Hopkins Drive, Coral Harbour pleaded guilty before Deputy Chief Justice Subulsola Swain in Magistrate Court yesterday on charges of failure to declare over

\$10,000.00 to a Customs Officer.

It is alleged that between Thursday, January 31, 2019 and Friday, February 1, 2019, during the course of travel from Haiti to the Bahamas, knowingly, acquired \$10,019, which represents proceeds of crime.

Further, that on Friday, February 1, 2019 at Exuma, with intent to evade the requirements of the law, failed to declare to a On Friday, February 1, 2019, went into Bimini, knowingly being in possession of the sum of \$10,019 which represented the proceeds of criminal conduct.

Then on Friday, February 1, 2019, at Bimini, he was charged with knowingly having possessed \$10,019, which represented the proceeds of criminal conduct.

When asked by Deputy Chief Justice Subulsola Swain where he had acquired the amount

of money, he said that the monies came from a Marshall in Haiti.

When further questioned on the reason why he did not complete the proper paper work and declare the funds to a Customs Officer, he said that he was not aware of the amount he had in his possession at the time

and that he had not done paperwork that day.

He was fined \$500.00 on the first two counts or would face three months in prison. On the third count he was discharged.

The funds were confiscated.

He was represented by Attorney Jomo Campbell.



MINISTRY OF FINANCE PUBLIC AUCTION

The public is hereby notify that a Public Auction will be conducted by the Bahamas Customs Department on non-entered goods at the places and times listed below:-

No.	LOCATIONS	DATES	TIMES
1.	Airfreight - @ GFT	6 th May, 2019	9:00am - 12:30pm
2.	Airfreight - LPIA @ GFT	6 th May, 2019	9:00am - 12:30pm
3.	Airfreight - Odyssey @ GFT	6 th May, 2019	9:00am - 12:30pm
4.	Betty K - Arawak Cay @ GFT	6 th May, 2019	2:00pm - 5:00pm
5.	Mailboat - Arawak Cay @ GFT	7 th May, 2019	9:00am - 12:30pm
6.	MSC - Arawak Cay @ GFT	7 th May, 2019	9:00am - 12:30pm
7.	Tropical Shipping - John Alfred Dock @ GFT	7 th May, 2019	2:00pm - 5:00pm
VEHICLES (NEW PROVIDENCE) CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS			
8.	Betty K - Kelly's Dock - Arawak Cay @ HQ	8 th May, 2019	9:30am - 12:30pm
9.	Inchape Shipping @ HQ	8 th May, 2019	9:30am - 12:30pm
10.	Island Maritime @ HQ	8 th May, 2019	9:30am - 12:30pm
11.	R. H. Curry & Co. Ltd @ HQ	8 th May, 2019	9:30am - 12:30pm
12.	United Shipping @ HQ	8 th May, 2019	9:30am - 12:30pm
13.	MSC @ HQ	8 th May, 2019	9:30am - 12:30pm
14.	Ro Ro Shipping @ HQ	8 th May, 2019	9:30am - 12:30pm
ARAWAK CAY			
15.	Mailboat - Fiesta Mail @ Arawak Cay	8 th May, 2019	2:00pm - 5:00pm

The above goods will be sold under the Provision of Section 201 of the Customs Management Act. The Auction will commence at 9:00 am daily with the exception of Tropical Shipping and Betty K. Agencies, Arawak Cay @ (GFT), which will commence at 2:00 pm.

Vehicles (New Providence) Customs Headquarters, will commence at 9:30 am daily with the exception of the Mailboat - Fiesta Mail, Arawak Cay, which will commence at 2:00 pm.

A list of the goods to be auctioned can be viewed at Customs Headquarters, Betty K. Agencies, Gladstone Road Freight Terminal, Air Freight, Arawak Cay East.

The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids tendered

Athena Marche
(Acting) FINANCIAL SECRETARY

mmmmm...patties, cakes, breads, pastries...
Nothing compares to the Original!

ORIGINAL Patties BAKERY LIMITED

SPECIALS
DAILY
Jerk Chicken & Pork
FRI. & SAT.
Chicken & Mutton Roti
MON. & WED.
Escovitch Fried Fish

PATTIES
Beef, Chicken & Vegetable

PASTRIES
Turnover, Tarts, Cheese Croissants, Glazed Twist, Gazzada, Sugar Buns

CAKES
Raisin, Pineapple Upside-Down, Chocolate, Marble Slice

BREAD
Hardough, Coconut, Banana, Potato & Wheat

LOAVES
Codfish, Beef, Callaloo Chicken & Vegetable

TWO LOCATIONS
Harrold & Blue Hill Road • Tel: 341-1871 / 341-6552
Business Hours: Monday to Saturday 7:00am-8:00pm
"Quality is always Job No. 1"

Gov't Signs \$30 Million IDB Loan

Continued from / PAGE 1...

only policy will also be implemented; that's to say when one government agency has a piece of document, that very same document will be made available to other government agencies.

"No longer will the Passport Office or the Ministry of the Public Service ask you for your birth certificate or marriage certificate.

"Citizens and residents will only need to carry one card which will likely be a modified version of the NIB card.

"This will be an electronic identification with a digital signature, instead of passport, drivers' license or whatever.

"On-line services will be accessed through a single window facility at international standards for infrastructure and applications, as well as with security and service delivery at the forefront," said the Prime Minister.

Dr. Minnis added that a pilot program is in the

works for the renewal of passports and driver's licenses and the verification of birth certificates, affidavits and police certificates.

"The pilot will be the first to connect these Ministries and the information will be shared diligently.

"Once fully implemented, Bahamians should be able to fully and securely apply online for these services without physically providing birth certificates, marriage certificates, and police certificates. Yes, that means no more lines at the Passport Office," the Prime Minister said.

The second loan – the contingent loan for natural disasters – this will assist The Bahamas in preparing for natural disasters, minimizing the potential of loss of life and damage to properties.

"We must maximize our ability to recover as quickly as possible, in order to quickly get our communities and the economy back on track following catastrophic

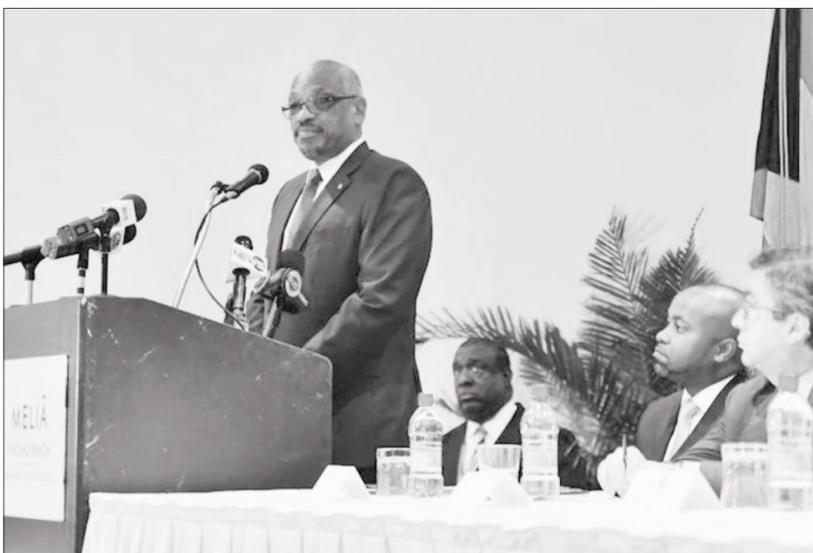


IDB President (left) and Minister of Finance During IDB Loan Signing Ceremony.

events.

"A key part of any readiness plan is to have access to resources as quickly as possible to speed up response and recovery efforts."

"The CLL is a line of credit that is on standby in the event that we are hit by a hurricane and require additional funds to recover," he said



Prime Minister Minnis Addresses IDB Loan Signing Ceremony April 8, 2019



Cabinet Ministers at IDB Loan Signing April 8, 2019

Rotary Club Commissions New School Library

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

The Rotary Club of Nassau (RCN) continuing with its partnership with the Stephen Dillet Primary School, commissioned a new library on the school's campus yesterday.

President of the Nassau Club, Charlene Sealy said the Rotary Club has had a long community relationship with the school as they have assisted over the years with providing assistance to the school with computers and just recently tablets.

Ms. Sealy said the library project is a continuation of the relationship between the organization and the institution.

"Today marks the long awaited opening of the new school library, after a renovation that took several months. The renovation itself was preceded by careful planning and fund raising campaigns that bore fruit when the Rotary Club of

Nassau embraced the project as a project worthy of our support; realizing the at schools library is at the heart of academia, an essential element in the schools learning program.

"The Rotary Club of Nassau designed a space where students will learn to enjoy literature, history, science, Math, do research or simply relax with a book," Ms. Sealy said.

Ms. Sealy encouraged the students to "embrace all that the library has to offer become students of the world by traveling the world one book at a time," she said.

And a surprise came for the students at the school, was Bahamas Power and Light's Chairman Donovan Moxey, who committed to donating \$2,000 for the purchase of additional computers and books for the new library.

"From our perspective at BPL, we've just completed a strategic plan and part of that plan

talked about our community involvement, our community engagement. And from our perspective we have to nurture the young minds into thinking about science technology, because these young people are the next generation of Bahamians who will be working at BPL," Dr. Moxey said.

The Rotary Club of Nassau sponsors the school annually with yearly vision screenings, and back to school donations.

The organization also sponsors a weekly breakfast and reading program

The library was made possible with the assistance of Florida's Rotary Club, local businesses and the Ministry of Education.

Also on hand at the opening of the school's library was Director of Education, Marcellus Taylor, who applauded the RCN for the part in renovating the library, which he said is the "nucleus of the school".

CRAVEN'S BAKERY

24 Cordeaux Avenue & Acklins Street

Tel: 326-4246

OPENED

Mon. - Fri.
7:00am - 5:30pm

Saturday
7am - 3pm

NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR THE FOLLOWING
EASTER SPECIALS

"LET US CUSTOMIZE YOUR BUNS"

HOT CROSS BUNS

Plain \$11.00 PER DOZEN

Raisins \$12.50 PER DOZEN

Fruit Only \$12.50 PER DOZEN

Fruit and Raisins \$12.75 PER DOZEN

Jewish
Challah Bread
(with Poppy or Sesame Seed)

\$4.50 PER LOAF
VAT TAX INCLUDED!

Easter Bread
\$4.50 PER LOAF

SALE ENDS APRIL 19TH, 2019

"We bake fresh from scratch to give you the best of the best for a whole lot less."

JOHNSON: "AUDITOR DROPPED THE BALL"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

said that there is no impropriety on his part in anything he has done in public life.

On accusations that expenditures to support stadium readiness upgrades lacked transparency, strategic management was inadequate, and contacts lacked formalized process and transparency; Mr. Johnson said that is something always for the audit department of the government to be involved in on an ongoing basis.

"That's every year. That's not ten years later. Every year they're to look at the operations you're doing and improve operational efficiency. That's not a ministerial portfolio job," he said.

The former Member of Parliament for Carmichael added, "if they [the auditor general] noticed that from 2011, they should have insinuated in that process."

However, Mr. Johnson also noted that his comments implied anything untoward the auditor general.

The report also noted that the procurements process lacked levels of delegation authority and, as a result, under the contract may not have been properly monitored to ensure that deliverables were fulfilled before payments were given.

Mr. Johnson responded by saying this can be the case in any procurement process.

He said, "we put on a number a mega events. When those things are coming and we have international standards to reach.

"At one point, we had Iran and Israel sitting about 15 feet apart from each other in our stands. Well, we had to get some security measures in place to meet their standard," he added.

The report also noted that a contract was signed on February 16th 2014

for fencing the National Stadium. A company was selected based on their lowest bid of \$275,000. It further explains that the attached invoice totaled \$308,000 or \$33,500 more.

That stands at 12.3 percent over the approved contract.

Additionally, none of the invoices were authorized by an agent of the company. On that point, Mr. Johnson said that those types of things do not come before a Minister.

However, in a letter to the editor of the Nassau Guardian, the former Youth, Sports, and Culture Minister said he takes full and unmitigated responsibility for the conduct of affairs, administration and protocols of the ministry during his tenure.

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis told reporters that the Auditor General's report is being studied by the government.

PROGRESS IN TALKS BETWEEN WSC BOARD AND UNIONS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

in hopes of receiving some amicable resolution.

On the meeting with BUSAWU President Dwayne Woods, Mr. Pinder said, "that meeting had to do with the two suspensions. The corporation was supposed to conclude those matters and the two members that were suspended were supposed to have returned to work (Monday).

"Some added information is necessary now for the corporation to really make a clear decision on that. The employee that was suspended for five days; the chairman and the board have agreed to reduce that suspension to three days," he added.

He also said, "it appears that the union is still not satisfied with that. They wanted to squash it, indicating that there was no policy as it relates to the property of the corpo-

ration versus the premises itself."

He added that there is a clause in their Industrial Agreement to implement such policies.

Both parties, however, accepted that this was probably being abused.

Just last week WSC Managerial Union President Ednell Rolle called for an investigation after it was suspected that WSC may have been recording employee phone conversations.

Mr. Pinder said, "in addition to those allegations, it was said that the corporation had people following their members after they got off from work to their homes.

"We had no substantial evidence to suggest any of that happened, but the corporation still agreed to allow the Police department to conduct a sweep to determine if there were any hidden devices," he added.

Mr. Pinder also said that the corporation's IT manager has already contacted Police on the matter.

They are now awaiting a date from the police.

On the topic of pay cuts for those involved in last week's industrial action, the Labour Director said that the board remained unmoved.

He added that both parties will have to negotiate that point on their own, as that is beyond his jurisdiction.

There is also a clause in both union's industrial agreements speaking to employees being off for four consecutive days.

This, he said, this leads to automatic dismissal.

Mr. Pinder told reporters that he thinks both parties' working relationship needs improvement. Only if this occurs, he says, industrial harmony is possible.

PM Maintains UB Tuition Will Be Free

Continued from / PAGE 1...

looking for accommodations.

"So we made a commitment that we will help our brothers and sisters coming from the Family Islands and we provide them will \$500 per month to assist them with their lodging; so the commitment that we have made we will adhere too," he said.

The government, said the Prime Minister, has also moved to provide free pre-school education for Bahamians.

"We know that with pre-school education, our citizens have greater opportunities to become

better leaders, managers and presidents.

"So we're providing free pre-school education for Bahamians; so we will be known as the government who will provide education from birth to departure," he said.

UB fee increases do not impact students currently enrolled and continuing students.

The University of the Bahamas recently announced to its students that beginning fall 2019, all first time, first year students will pay an additional 15 per cent in tuition, with increased charges only on fees which have not been adjusted since the institu-

tion's inception in 1974.

For example, the fee for graduation evaluation forms are set to increase from \$100 to \$250.

A breakdown of the fee increase revealed that the total cost of these fees combined is to increase from \$365 to \$925.

UB President Dr. Rodney Smith said the fee increase is because the University is continuously developing.

The Opposition has criticized the government on the fee hike, saying the Minnis administration is stepping back on their campaign promise of free tuition for students at UB.



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

SELF DRIVE SCOOTERS

	NAME/ADDRESS	AMOUNT REQUESTING
1	Rino King Country Club Estates Nassau Bahamas	25 SD Scooter
2	Erica Chea Poets Drive Nassau Bahamas	30 SD Scooter

PRIVATE SCHEDULE OMNIBUS

	NAME/ADDRESS	AMOUNT REQUESTING
1	Kristin Archer Garden Hills Nassau Bahamas	1 Private Schedule Plates
2	Gregory Munnings Clifton Heritage Authority Nassau Bahamas	3 Private Schedule Plates
3	Henry Forbes South Beach Nassau Bahamas	4 Private Schedule Plates
4	Geralde Gabriel Joe Farrington Road Nassau Bahamas	1 Private Schedule Plates
5	Barrett Smith Coral Harbour Nassau Bahamas	2 Private Schedule Plates
6	Danny Gibson West Bay Street Nassau Bahamas	5 Private Schedule Plates
7	Nicole Matecki Sweeting Lane Nassau Bahamas	3 Private Schedule Plates
8	Daniel Moss Mark Ave, Buttonwood Nassau Bahamas	3 Private Schedule Plates
9	Shavane Turnquest Big Flower Invest. Ltd. Cable Beach Nassau Bahamas	3 Private Schedule Plates
10	Elroy Knowles Bel Air Estate Nassau Bahamas	2 Private Schedule Plates
11	Joseph Wemyss Honeysuckle LN Nassau Bahamas	5 Private Schedule Plates
12	Tamara Francis Winsor Field Road Nassau Bahamas	3 Private Schedule Plates

Continues on / page 6...

GOT NEWS?
Please call The Bahama
Journal's News TIP
LINE at 356-7254
and let us know!

A CHRISTIAN PROSPECTIVE BY BISHOP SIMEON HALL TOWARDS CHRISTIAN ECUMENISM

Some years ago, a local church leader declared that there are more than four thousand Christian churches scattered across this Commonwealth.

Of these four thousand Christian Churches, each has two or more preachers in the top leadership serving God's people.

The vast majority of churches throughout this Bahamas carry out this fundamental purpose – Present Christ the Risen Lord to the world in a fashion that enables all people to better themselves socially, economically, morally spiritually and environmentally.

That is the Christian Church's mandate regardless of its denominational expressions.

When we read the history of the churches of the Apostolic era, it is abundantly clear that Christian Unity was a major priority that they pursued with much determination.

The church in our Bahamas should ask "itself" – How can a divided church help to redeem a divided broken society?

Ecumenism – The predisposition of a church or churches to engage in dialogue with, and provide ways to engage in social actions with other churches.

It is safe to state that the average adult Bahamian who attends church anywhere was not born into that church.

Religious freedom runs high in this country.

My mother was Baptist, and my father was Pentecostal. As an infant I was Christened/dedicated in an Anglican church. My first school was Catholic; I made a confession in a Brethren Church and started preaching in a Baptist Church. Indeed, for me ecumenism has always been the theological prism through which I have experienced God.

Jesus prayed "that they might become one" and it is clear that this prayer uttered by the Lord and Christ has not yet been answered.

Theologian Reinhold Niebuhr in his classic book *The Social Sources of Denominations* makes the telling commentary statement that most Christian denominations have their genesis in social, political and racial issues rather than theological ones.

Recently I heard about a mega-church in the U.S. which suffered irreparable split because they could not agree where to place the new rest room. Where is the spirit of Love and reconciliation in that kind of Ecclesiastical debacle. Ecumenism means that Churches may sheath their swords by which self-inflicted wounds are placed on each other and work together.

Back in the nineties

when we served the Bahamas Christian Council I often pushed that high religious body by saying that that "our doctrinal emphasis over dress or Liturgical nuances need not impede our collective social works to the poor, the least, the lost and the left out.

I recall the story how a little girl some years ago was mistakenly wounded by gunshots in an area just off Wulff Road. We called it 'zones or commission. We were successful to get about twelve churches representing different denominations to five several hundreds of dollars to assist that little girl.

Our historical traditions might be different, and our methods of worship may be varied; but, until, and unless we accept that the Omnipotent God must not be reduced and circumscribed into the smallness of our denominational insularity – we will have a divided church. Our division is so pronounced that it impeded our Christian witness about peace, reconciliation and brotherhood.

It is time for the leaders in the Christian churches in the Bahama to begin an interdenominational conversation on ways we can be more effective and ecumenical in our approach to National Development. On a subliminal level the latent religious animosity, disdain and suspicion we hold towards each other is clearly unchristian and clearly not the spirit of Christ.

Personally, I am a Christian by my faith in The Risen – Living Christ. I am a Baptist by tradition. But I also embrace conversation and fellowship of other Christians especially their Leaders.

"Iron sharpens iron" says the Word.

A preacher or a church who believe that they are singularly God's only gift to the Bahamas will soon see that God will not store His glory with anyone. I have seen items in the Liturgy of Non-Baptist chronicles that I found inspiring and informative.

The Protestant Reformation was a critical, perhaps even necessary juncture in church history.

Ecumenists are questioning if it went too far to the right. All extremists are also dangerous. As a church we are challenged always to strive to never become like the wrong we protested and was successful in replacing.

Martin Luther, Soren Kierkegaard, John Calvin, St. Augustine, Rudolph Bultmann, C. S. Lewis were all firm in what they believed but in

other writings they made room for verbal intellectual intercourse with others.

Generally speaking, the denominational divide is more social than doctrinal or theological, and that is sad.

I have had much success with the class "The Call and Science of Preaching." Hundreds of persons from various Christian churches have attended this ten-week course in Homiletics.

I usually challenge students to know as much as possible about their individual denominations. I also like to prompt their thinking and cause them to engage in passionate discussions when I ask questions such as:

A) Are you a Christian because you were born in a country where Christianity is the dominant expression of faith.

B) When you take "Holy Communion, the Eucharist – the Lord's Supper, is it the actual body and blood of Christ or just a symbol?"

C) What is going to happen to those Christians who know Christ but not like you do?

D) When you get to Heaven how many Gods will you see? And which one?

Most persons address these "provocative" questions based on their church's teaching. The Eucharist – Holy Communion is the highest symbol of Christ atoning death for us.

It shows our unbreakable, irrevocable union with Christ. When we eat and drink, we not only remember the finished work of Christ but in doing so we evidence our spiritual and connection and relationship with millions who also claim him as Lord, but their style and clothes and worship all differs from ours.

The divisions in the church are historical but in search of Biblical reliance we should lead the way with example of how incidences of difference need not stop us from together helping a wounded human being on the side of the road.

The highest point in Christian worship takes place when partakers of the bread and the cup – in a cathedral, a chapel, a home or in a dungeon – When we eat and drink, we remember what Christ did.

We must make room for those who believe in Christ as we do but their way of expressing their belief is different. When we do that then the spirit of Ecumenism for which Christ predicted will begin to be embraced by the community.

The Bahama Journal Is An Independent Newspaper - Published Week Days
By The Communicators & Associates In Affiliation With Jones Communications Ltd.

University Drive - P.O. Box N-8610
Telephone: 242-325-3082 - Fax: 242-356-7256

The Bahama
Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimale P. Jones
Vice President/Operations

E D I T O R I A L

FISCAL PRUDENCE

The Minnis administration which has been governing the Bahamas for some twenty-three months has a commitment to fiscal prudence that goes beyond its own targets to balance the budget, maximize collections from existing revenue streams and control deficits spending.

All of these things sound good and look good on paper. However these are certain economic realities in the Bahamas that mitigate against all of these.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest said several months ago that while actions taken in these areas, along with other macroeconomic factors, have already resulted in positive signs of economic recovery, there is little room for complacency on the government's part.

His Ministry has taken on a project that is "a revolutionary transformation that will involve process re-engineering, legislative changes and cultural transitions."

By the end of the project's five year timeframe, it is expected that the Bahamian public sector will become a model of efficiency and performance.

Again this sounds good. It is all a part of the Public Financial Management and Performance Monitoring Reform Project – an initiative underwritten by a \$33 million loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The project is said to embrace a nimble and progressive approach to public sector project management – one geared towards ensuring the deliverables and deadlines of the programme are not buried under the daily demands of the public sector.

The project is managed by an external team of dedicated contracted professionals known as the Project Implementation Unit, which monitors and supports coordinators and technical specialists in the four project components. The four components that make up the project include: performance monitoring, national statistics, public financial management and public procurement.

In addition, using the new system, government expenditures can be tracked according to projects and programmes. These projects can be individually assessed

for efficiency, promoting a performance-based budget. The routing of financial processes, such as the authorisation of salary payments, can be simplified.

Mr. Turnquest said, "ultimately, with the passing of the Public Procurement Act, Bahamian procurement will become more transparent and provide greater value for money. These changes will also increase inclusion for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the country. Under the procurement plan is a policy to ensure SMEs receive a certain percentage of the government's procurement budget.

Beyond this, the government has in place a new Fiscal Responsibility Act that was passed recently in Parliament.

The Minister of Finance is no doubt well intentioned in his plans and policies, but he must be one of the most unpopular Ministers in the government. We know that a number of his colleagues are under stress, as they have to fend off suppliers and bill collectors who harass them for payments from the Public Treasury for services rendered.

The quest to balance the budget has caused the disruption to the overall Public Expenditure. It is seen in certain Ministries which are made to curtail supplies, equipment and materials. It is more pronounced in places like the Princess Margaret Hospital where patients are denied services or even medicines. In addition, retired public officers have been complaining that they cannot be paid. Many of these people have spent up to forty years in the public service and they deserve to be paid, because they have earned it.

Seeking to balance the budget is undoubtedly creating dislocations in the economy and stifling growth. No developing country can develop properly without deficit spending. As buoyant as the United States economy is, growth is fuelled by deficit spending. You cannot balance the country's budget because of some edict or suggestion from the International Monetary Fund or a special programme of the IDB. The answer to the problem is not to balance the budget, but proper fiscal management.

THE BAHAMAS
Sun, Sand, Sea ... and the
The Bahama Journal
NO BETTER READING

Clippings include:
- Four Bodies Claimed
- Brush Fire Scorches Acres of Land
- 2ND MURDER VICTIM Identified
- GO TANKLESS
- Debris Hinders Business For Ferry Operators

Campbell Espouses Virtues of Social Work

Addressing the social needs of the less fortunate in society is more than just a career, Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, the Hon. Frankie A. Campbell said Saturday.

"It is a ministry; a passion; a gift that only a select few have been chosen to do. Yes, some have entered the field for other reasons, but my concentration is on the chosen. It sets them apart from all of the others, and the difference is evidenced by their attitudes toward the indigent; their willingness to advocate; their acceptance of the long hours of hard work and stress without complaint, and their determination to be a part of the solution when problems arise.

"The list is endless, with the end result being this: The inner satisfaction of seeing changes, improvements, progress, empowerment, independence, and self-sufficiency, whether with clients or within the organization."

Addressing the third biennial Bahamas Association of Social Workers, Northern Chapter, Social Work Gala Ball held at the Bahamas Union of Teachers (BUT) Hall, West Atlantic Drive, Freeport, Minister Campbell said Saturday's event affirmed social work as a noble profession.

"More importantly, it raises the standard of social work," Minister Campbell added.

The Gala Ball served



► Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, the Hon. Frankie Campbell presents former Social Worker, now Island Administrator, Ms. Julita Ingraham (centre) with an Award for her contributions to the field of Social Work during the Bahamas Association of Social Workers, Northern Chapter's Third Biennial Social Work Gala Ball. Also pictured is Mrs. Lillian Quant-Forbes, Director, Department of Social Services, Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development. (BIS Photo/Matt Maura)

as the culmination of activities commemorating Social Workers Month, observed annually in March. The 2019 theme was: 'Elevate Social Work.'

The first 'Social Worker' and 'Assistant of the Year' awards were established in 2015 on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Department of Social Services to recognize and celebrate the achievements of Social Workers/Assistants, promote the Social Work profession and incentivize individuals to achieve

excellence while underscoring the valuable contribution of social work to the community.

Organizers said the event proved to be so successful that it has taken on a life of its own, evolving into the recognition of outstanding Social Workers and Assistants -- underscoring the worth of both technical and non-technical staff.

"For this, you are being commended and I encourage you to continue this tradition," Minister Campbell said. "The Social Work Gala Ball

recognizes leadership, creativity, insight, innovation, advocacy, knowledge and commitment to the profession of social work, and all it stands for. Consequently, it has gained the recognition and respect of peers, other professionals and the community, a fact that has been demonstrated by the overwhelming support it has received since its inception in 2015.

"The nominees for Social Worker and Assistant of the Year have demonstrated, among others, sharp

leadership and interpersonal skills; positivity; insightfulness; efficiency; productivity; responsibility; creativity and innovation; integrity; a keen knowledge of not only programs, but the profession itself (there is a difference); advocacy; kindness; team spirit; and above all, respect for the dignity of others, with a desire to uplift humanity.

"Tonight, I thank you for your sacrifice. Tonight, I thank you for answering the call. Tonight, I thank you for staying the course."

Minister Campbell applauded all of the nominees for meeting the criteria for consideration as Social Worker and Assistant of the Year, and had these words for the overall winners.

"The prestigious award that you will receive tonight will be but a token of the high esteem in which you are held. The fact that you were selected by your peers as well as by a panel of international judges, speaks volumes. It is my understanding that verbal reports were not the only measuring tool, but sample work as well. I congratulate both of you in advance.

"I would be remiss if I did not mention the overwhelming support from the community and other professionals, with whom we share a close network. Thank you for endorsing this event by attending. Your presence is meaningful and we appreciate your sincere support.

"A most fitting conclusion to my remarks is encapsulated in the title of the song by the Consolers, 'May the Work I've Done Speak for Me.' To the winners of the Third Biennial Social Work Gala Ball, your work has spoken for you very loudly and very clearly. I wish therefore, to thank you for doing your part in making your community, and by extension, The Bahamas, a better place," Minister Campbell said.

Continued from / PAGE 4



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

END

Soldanza
NOW AVAILABLE
**THE GOOD
NATURAL SNACK!**

milobutler
RESPECT, QUALITY AND VALUE GUARANTEED.
(242) 677-6380
PEACH STREET OFF MONTROSE AVENUE

“WTO Negotiations Must Consider Vulnerabilities of the Bahamian Economy says Symonette

During the 4th Meeting of the Working Party on the Accession of The Bahamas to the World Trade Organization held on Friday, 5th April, 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland, the Honourable Brent Symonette, Minister of Financial Services, Trade & Industry and Immigration affirmed that The Bahamas will continue to be deliberate in its accession negotiations to ensure that WTO membership provides Bahamians with opportunities for meaningful participation in the ownership and prosperity of their economy.

Minister Symonette noted that The Bahamas has a small population and a relatively open economy which highlights certain vulnerabilities, sensitivities and economic development needs, all of which must be taken into account during the accession negotiations. He stressed that any external shocks to such a vulnerable economy can set the country back significantly.

“The Bahamas is a developing country in every sense of the word; laden with the burden of providing for scattered populations over twenty nine inhabited islands, annually under threat from hurricanes, subject to the vagaries of global economic factors and highly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change,” said Minister

DELEGATION FROM THE BAHAMAS AT THE 4TH MEETING OF THE WTO ACCESSION



► The delegation from The Bahamas to the 4th Meeting of the Working Party was led by Minister Symonette. He was accompanied by Zhivargo Laing, Chief Negotiator for The Bahamas' accession to the WTO, and other senior technical officers from the Ministry of Financial Services, Trade & Industry and Immigration, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture & Marine Resources and the Bahamas Customs Department. The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers' Confederation (BCCEC) joined the Mission as Observers.

Symonette.

“While our accession to the WTO, after more than 18 years would be historic, the Government of the Bahamas recognizes that the question which remains foremost on the minds of most Bahamians is: Is WTO membership and the changes it might bring good for a small island developing country like ours? We believe the answer to be yes, but we must forecast this in the outcomes of our negotiations,” he added.

While noting that the tourism and financial sectors account for 75 percent of the country's GDP, Minister Symonette acknowledged that WTO negotiations must also safeguard and strengthen the country's most vulnerable sectors like agriculture—which accounts for about 2 percent of the GDP and comprises just under 3,000 registered farmers.

According to Minister Symonette, during the negotiation process, The Bahamas has sought to

use the tools made available by the WTO Agreements to simplify its tariff structure and has tariffed its most sensitive agricultural products like poultry and various fruits and vegetables including bananas, pineapples, tomatoes and onions.

“In so doing the Government through its limited support programmes is seeking to maintain the livelihood and incomes of this small segment of the population. By so doing the Government hopes to

improve their productivity and competitiveness while ensuring the country's food security needs are met,” said Minister Symonette.

The Minister said that he understands the anxieties that Bahamians have about a small developing nation joining the WTO, especially when “the future development of the country is at stake”. But in a bid to enhance confidence in the WTO, he expressed his team's commitment to transparency about the negotiation

process and education about the WTO.

Said Minister Symonette: “The Bahamas wants to demonstrate to the Bahamian people and its private sector, that the rules-based international trading system works to enhance its economic prospects, reduce its vulnerability to external shocks, and create real and beneficial access to world markets not only for its goods and services, but also for the goods and services of others.”

URCA's TOWN HALL MEETINGS PROMISES OPEN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC

Shared discussions on utility structure, consumer impact and alternative energy solutions are amongst a few of the initiatives planned for the community as URCA invites the general public to join its Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, April 10th, 2019 at the Choices Restaurant on the University of The Bahamas campus, beginning 6:00pm.

The forum, which will house several representatives from the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority, promises to allow open conversations on URCA's rollout plans for the year and the effects it would have to consumers.

Wanting a more ‘valuable’ and ‘active’ participation from its community, URCA wants the meeting to allow the public a full exchange on matters that may affect them in the months and year to come. Discussions over electricity, telecommunications, broadcasting content regulation as well as an “URCA goes Green” project are all expected to be on the agenda, as the

board opens up about their strategies for the future.

URCA's mission statement “Improving lives through effective Utilities Regulation” is something we all take very seriously,” said Mavis Johnson-Collie, TITLE. “Regulatory measures are predominantly to ensure better, quality and affordable services for consumers. Our work seeks to ensure that there is a level playing field for all providers in the regulated sectors and that consumers have choice.”

While URCA is set to outline the full scope of their annual plan for consumers, representatives are also calling for a more interactive meeting, seeking transparency between the larger public. “To be effective and relevant in our work, public and consumer engagement is a must,” added Collie. “We need to hear from our stakeholders about what is important to them; what is working and what is not; which services are beneficial and or need improvement.”

“One way of doing this

is through stakeholder engagement. These town hall meetings do just that. They allow us to meet with consumers, a key stakeholder, and speak face to face with them about the electronic communications and electricity sectors” she noted. “So we really hope the public will take advantage of these opportunities to come out and speak to some critical projects we have scheduled for 2019”

Wednesday's Town Hall Meeting at the University of The Bahamas will serve as one in a series of nation-wide public consultations set by the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority. The event is set to feature a dynamic panel of board members and speakers and will be broadcasted via live stream from URCA's Facebook page.

The board also plan to spearhead engagements throughout the month on additional islands including Abaco on April 17th in Marsh Harbour and Grand Bahama in May with pop up shops in outlying communities.

LAND®

THE BRASS & LEATHER SHOPS LTD.

Charlotte St. - 322-3806 Mall at Marathon - 394-5676
Marsh Harbour, Abaco - 367-3643

GG to serve as Child Protection Month Patron



► Governor General, Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling (centre) consented to be Child Protection Month Patron during the courtesy call of Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, the Hon. Frankie Campbell (centre left) and Social Services and Child Protection Month officials at Government House, April 8, 2019. (BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)

Governor General, Her Excellency the Most Hon. Dame Marguerite Pindling, DCMG, has consented to serve as the Patron of Child Protection Month 2019.

The announcement was made yesterday during a Courtesy Call on Her Excellency by Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, the Hon. Frankie A. Campbell, and members of the National Child Protection Council (NCPC), the Child Protection Committee of the Department of Social Services, Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development, and the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Unit (SCAN) of the Ministry of Health.

Minister Campbell said Her Excellency's consent "is as momentous as it

gets as we do the work of child protection in this country."

Minister Campbell was accompanied to Mount Fitzwilliam by Ms. Sherrylee Smith, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development; Miss D. Brenda L. Dorsett, Under Secretary, Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development; Mrs. Lillian Quant-Forbes, Director, Department of Social Services, Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development; Mrs. Charlamae Fernander, Assistant Director, Children's and Families Services, Department of Social Services, Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development; Ms. Cherey Kelly, Assistant

Director, Child Protection Unit, Department of Social Services; Bishop Arnold Josey, Chairman of the National Child Protection Council; Dr. Novia Carter-Lookie, Deputy Chairperson of the National Child Protection Council, in addition to other senior officials of the Department of Social Services.

"Her Excellency's gracious consent to serve as Patron of Child Protection Month 2019 is truly of great significance. It is as significant as significance can get to have the Office of the Governor General and the holder of the Office of Governor General consent to lead this charge in keeping our children safe," Minister Campbell said.

"The saying: 'the children are the future' often-

times seems like a mere cliché, but for those who are uncertain, it is real that our children are our future. The way we treat and prepare our children will determine what kind of future we have as a country.

"Therefore, it behooves us to ensure that our children are loved, and feel loved so that they can show love. It behooves us to ensure that our children are protected and have an appreciation for protection so that they too will protect when they take the reins from us. And so being here was as momentous as it gets as we do the work of child protection in this country.

"I am leaving here inspired by the admonishments of Her Excellency. I am leaving here encouraged that if we do the things that were dis-

cussed, we will all be the beneficiaries, but more so, we will be preparing the next generation to take our nation to higher heights," Minister Campbell added.

Minister Campbell presented Dame Marguerite with the first Pinwheel for 2019. The Pinwheel symbolizes Child Protection. A Pinwheel Garden was also planted at Mount Fitzwilliam.

The Pinwheel was selected as the new national symbol for child protection/child abuse prevention in The Bahamas in 2016 replacing the Blue Ribbon. Child Protection officials say by its very nature, the pinwheel connotes whimsy and childlike notions.

"In essence, it has come to serve as the physical embodiment, or reminder, of the great

childhoods we want for all children."

Child Protection Month has been observed annually in April in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas since 1992, marking 27 consecutive years. The Child Protection Unit, Department of Social Services, Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development, in conjunction with the National Child Protection Council (NCPC) and the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Unit of the Ministry of Health, have once again collaborated to stage a number of activities as part of the education and awareness campaign. The Month will be observed under the theme: "Every Child Safe, Every Community Aware: No Excuse for Child Abuse."

NIB Payout Challenges

Continued from / PAGE 1...

issues. The public is aware of that. We're taking steps to correct that and one of the critical things we've done is we've hired some temporary workers to make sure all of the information is in the system so that we can respond.

"So, yes, there's an issue, but the waiting time has been reduced since we came to office," Mr. Rolle said.

As a Cabinet Minister, who also assumes responsibility for the Ministry of Public Services, Mr. Rolle defended the government's policy to have public servants take accrued vacation leave.

Mr. Rolle also denied the idea of mass retirement in the public sector.

"I'm not aware of any mass retiring in the public service. I don't know that, [to] exist.

"A few officers were asked to take their vaca-

tion from the Police and Defence Force, but I'm not aware of any such mass retiring from the public service.

"It has been the policy all along that individuals ought to take their vacation because the government took the decision a few years ago that they would not pay for vacation leave.

"So, if you accumulate the vacation leave, we're asking individuals to take their vacation," Mr. Rolle said.

Just last month eight senior police officers were instructed to take their accrued vacation, this included: Deputy Commissioner Emrick Seymour, Senior Assistant Commissioner Stephen Dean and Assistant Commissioner Clarence Reckley, all whose leave will lead up to their respective retirement.

Several Defence Force officers were also instructed to do the same.

BTVI Discusses Partnership with British Costume Institute



► Pictured standing left to right: BTVI Professional Development Courses Coordinator, Paulette Davis-Richardson; Costume Institute of the African Diaspora (CIAD) Projects and Events Manager, Paula Allen and Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute (BTVI) Associate Vice President of Fund Development, Alicia Thompson. Sitting left to right: CIAD Creative Director, Teleica Kirkland; BTVI President, Dr. Robert W. Robertson; Creative Nassau President, Pamela Burnside and CIAD Research Development Officer, Stacey Balfe.

Representatives from the Costume Institute of the African Diaspora (CIAD) – located in the United Kingdom – recently paid a courtesy call on President of The Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute (BTVI), Dr. Robert W. Robertson, for preliminary

discussions regarding a possible partnership aligned with BTVI's Fashion program. CIAD is associated with the Straw Artisans of The Bahamas. Representing Creative Nassau was President, Pamela Burnside.