COVT REBRANDS INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

The Minnis administration yesterday opened debate on proposed legislation for its own version of what is now being rebranded the National Crime Intelligence Agency (NCIA), having dismantled the so-called secret National Intelligence Agency upon taking office.

The agency is a centrally located intelligence network with vast new powers. National Security Minister Marvin Dames said, “essentially, the

MARITIME AUTHORITY’S REVENUE DECLINES

The Bahamian Maritime Authority (BMA) saw a decrease in revenue of eight per cent in the fiscal year from 2017-2018.

This comes from the Authority’s annual report released yesterday, showing a dive in figures from $17,510,039 to $16,145,203 – totaling a decrease of $1,404,836.

The BMA attributes this decrease to a decrease in receipts from the sale of seaman’s documentation.

SICKOUT AT NIB

At least 300 National Insurance Board employees across the country participated in a sickout yesterday, according to Union President Marvin Duncombe.

On Tuesday workers used their tea break to gather on the front lawn of the Board’s Baulou Hill road location to express their grievances.

According to Opposition Leader Phillip Davis, the demonstration shows the government’s attitude towards workers.

“When workers have to resort to protests, in a manner in which they are

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ACT ADVANCED

The Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development is making strides as they work with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and stakeholders to advance the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities, Equal Opportunities Act. Minister of Social Services, Frankie Campbell revealed in the House of Assembly yesterday that his ministry is “working assiduously

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Another recall on foods, the second this month to have a potential threat of being contaminated with metal.

The Bahamas Agriculture Health and Food Safety Authority (BAHFA) followed up on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service’s (FSIS) decision to remove from freezers more than 2,000 pounds of Vienna Beef Frank Links, advised that wholesalers and retailers check inventory against a list produced by Vienna Beef Limited, Chicago Illinois.

According to the USDA-FSIS’s report, the beef frank products contain approximately 2,030 pounds of beef frank links products that may be contaminated with extraneous materials, specifically metal.

“The beef frank link products were produced on May 2, 2019. The products subject to recall bear establishment number “EST. 1” and the USDA mark of inspection. “SKINLESS BEEF FRANK-FURTERS 6” with case code 9 122 represented on the label, 10-pound cases containing “SKINLESS BEEF FRANK-FURTERS 6” with case code 013 312 and package code 9122 represented on the label, 10-pound cases containing “SKINLESS BEEF FRANK-FURTERS 6” with case code 013 180 and package code 9122 or 9123 represented on the label,” the report said.

One local media, in Chicago, East Chicago, reported that “the recall affected about 20 restaurants and other food service customers with about 200 cases of sausages possibly contaminated”. It also reported that “the sausage maker reiterated that the recall doesn’t affect hot dogs purchased at stores or online retailers,” the article said.

Workers to reach this stage where they have to protest in such mass numbers,” he said.

At the center of the issue an outstanding industrial agreement and a slow claims system.

The Union President claimed that NIB is prepared to give the union nothing in years one through four of the agreement and perhaps in the fifth year, a $2,000 lump sum payment.

Mr. Duncombe promised that his members will continue to do whatever is necessary to ensure there’s a decent offer on the table and those concerns are addressed.

He pleaded guilty to the charge of Possession of Dangerous Drugs, (namely marijuana) and was fined $200 or 30 days in jail.

The preliminary inquiry will commence on the 28th August 2019. He was remanded to the BCS, BCS.

Workers are also asked to notify the public in a timely manner. “Consumers, like us, are asked to check their freezers and discard the product if found,” the statement said.

Ministry of Health Surveillance Unit officials confirmed that the product is not carry the Vienna Beef Links Brand.
POLICE SEEK HELP IN LOCATING JUVENILE

Police are seeking the Public’s help in locating a juvenile female who has been reported missing by family members yesterday.

The missing juvenile reportedly left home shortly after 4 pm on Tuesday and has not been seen or heard from since.

She is described as being 4ft 11in tall, slim build, with medium brown complexion.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of this juvenile is asked to contact the Police at 919/911, Crime Stoppers at 919/911, or the Central Detective Unit 52-9991-2.

THE PORT DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Campbell said. He also added that the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development has provided financial support to a number of the NGOs through its subventions from its annual budget.

"However, we realize that the operating costs of these NGOs and the contributions that they make within our communities to these social causes, far exceed the amount of the grant that we offer," Mr. Campbell said.

While Mr. Campbell acknowledged that the work of NGOs and individuals who support persons with disabilities should not go unnoticed.

He said that the contributions to the society, made by persons with disabilities should not be unnoticed.

He used the opportunity to acknowledge Kevin Cartwright, a visually impaired author, who was present in the House’s gallery. Mr. Cartwright released a book of poems last month.

"It was a pleasure for me to receive a copy of the book “Revelations of a Silent Heart”, “Mr. Cartwright was born and raised in The Bahamas and is a very talented poet,” Mr. Campbell said.

Mr. Campbell admonished his colleagues to purchase a copy of Mr. Cartwright’s book.

"I ask Members in this Honourable place to join me in commending Mr. Cartwright for this wonderful achievement (and) I implore everyone within this place and outside of this place, to purchase a copy of this inspiring and thought-provoking book," Mr. Campbell said.

Mr. Cartwright holds an Associate’s and a Bachelor’s Degree from West Virginia State University. He is also a Language Arts teacher at the Errol Gilmour School for the Blind and is a member of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities.
The Bahamas Maritime Authority’s NCIA will be the main assessment agency, as it is gathering, analyzing, coordinating intelligence, networking between regional and international departments. This new development in national security is a necessary change that has been long contemplated and is arguably overdue,” he said.

As drafted, the bill has three purposes – a focus on coordinating intelligence and joint strategy planning among law enforcement heads, the second to collect information and with respect to activities that may be suspected of being a threat and coordinate effective action, and the third purposes – a focus on the face of the constant threat of drugs and arms smuggling and joint planning in the fight against the illicit traffic in the Bahamas and the fight against drug and arms smuggling in the Bahamas.

In a statement released yesterday Mr. Mitchell said, “we support the police in any legitimate action. The Deputy Commissioner of Police Paul Rolle had already answered appropriately the complaints of the family members, saying that the investigation was an unfortunate, one and that by law officers did what they had to do. In the days following the incident, there have been growing arguments that the suspects were not arrested in a manner of which this is, it is worrying,” Mr. Paul Rolle said.

On Monday National Security Minister Marvin Dames confirmed that this matter would be handled in the Coronet’s Court. The Bahamas Maritime Investigation Department noted that it handled a total of 732 marine incidents, 13 of which were severe enough to warrant an investigation. In this period, the report indicated that 12 marine safety investigations report were published with recommend.