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THURSDAY - MAY 23RD, 2019

75 CENTS

GOV'T REBRANDS INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

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

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MARITIME AUTHORITY'S REVENUE DECLINES

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas 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, show-

ing a dive in figures from \$17,550,039 to \$16,145,203 - totaling a decrease of \$1,404,833.

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

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DAVIS SUGGESTS INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATORS FOR POLICE SHOOTING

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Opposition Leader Phillip Davis is calling the police involved shooting that resulted in the death of three males tragic and worrying, adding that officers should be allowed to defend themselves.

However, Mr. Davis speaking to reporters outside the House of Assembly yesterday suggested that maybe an independent investigators should be brought in to investigate the matter.

"Maybe the time has come for them to consider

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► Opposition Leader, Phillip Davis

SICKOUT AT NIB

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

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 Bailou 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

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ACT ADVANCED

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

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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KEMP ROAD MINISTRIES 75TH ANNIVERSARY HONOUREES PAID COURTESY CALL ON GOVERNOR GENERAL



► Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Ivan Butler, Dr. Joanne Butler and the Honourees of the 75th Anniversary of Kemp Road Ministries paid a courtesy call on Her Excellency the Most Hon. Dame Marguerite Pindling (centre), on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at Government House. (BIS Photo/Derek Smith)




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U.S. COMPANY RECALLS VIENNA BEEF LINKS

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

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 (BAHFSA), 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 retailer check inventory against a list produced by Vienna Beef Limited, Chicago Illinois.

According to the USDA/FSIS's report, "Vienna Beef is recalling 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" inside the USDA mark of inspection.

"The information on the labels is as follows: 10-pound cases containing "SKINLESS BEEF FRANKFURTERS 6" 8's 10#" with case code 013180 and package code 9122 represented on the label; 10-pound cases containing "SKINLESS BEEF FRANKFURTERS 6" 11's 10#" with case code 013312 and package code 9122

or 9123 represented on the label; 10-pound cases containing "SKINLESS BEEF FRANKFURTERS 7" 9's 10#" with case code 013490 and package code 9122 or 9123 represented on the label," the report said.

One local media, in Chicago, Eater 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.

BAHFSA said "local retailers and wholesalers should check inventory for products bearing the establishment number one (EST. 1) and, if found, remove and discard the product from their freezers.

"Wholesalers in possession of any recalled product are also asked to notify the public in a

timely manner.

"Consumers, likewise, are asked to check their freezers and discard the product if found," the statement said.

Ministry of Health Surveillance Unit officials, according to the BAHFSA, have not issued any reports regarding the product.

When contacted on the issue, Super Value officials confirmed that the food store chain does not carry the Vienna Beef Links Brand.

WANTED MAN ARRAIGNED ON MURDER CHARGES

BY LISA KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

Tavares Demonte Beckford, also known as "Foe", age 43 years of Domingo Height, New Providence was arraigned yesterday before Deputy Chief Magistrate Debbye

Ferguson in Magistrate Court #1 on the charges of Murder, Attempted Murder, Possession of Dangerous Drugs, (4) counts of Possession of Unlicensed Firearm, (2) counts of Possession of Ammunition with the intent to supply and (1) count of Possession of Ammunition.

He pleaded guilty to the charge of Possession of Dangerous Drugs (namely marijuana) and was fine \$200 or (4) months at the BDCS. He was not required to enter a plea on the other charges, a preliminary inquiry will commence on the 28th August 2019. He was remanded to the

Bahamas Department of Correctional Services until trial.

Tajh Brown age 25 years of Alberta Drive, Sunrise Subdivision, Grand Bahama, was arraigned before Deputy Chief Magistrate Ferguson in Magistrate Court #1 on the charges of Harboring a Criminal,

Possession of Dangerous Drugs, (4) counts of Possession of Unlicensed Firearm, (2) counts of Possession of Ammunition with the intent to supply and (1) count of Possession of Ammunition.

He pleaded not guilty to the charge of Possession of Dangerous

Drugs and was granted bail in the amount of \$500. He was not required to enter a plea on the other charges, a preliminary inquiry will commence on the 28th August 2019. He was remanded to the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services until trial.

SICKOUT AT NIB

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now exhibiting it tell you, that it seems to be no empathy and or no concerns about the concerns of workers.

"That is what the hallmark of this administration is today. A callous disregard of concerns about this and it is unfortunate that they are allowing or pushing

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 their concerns are addressed. *NIB released the following notice.



PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 22, 2019

NIB OFFICES AND SERVICE LEVEL DISRUPTIONS

The National Insurance Board wishes to advise the public that we are experiencing service level disruptions throughout New Providence and Family Island offices.

All New Providence locations are currently open. The Wulff Road and Fox Hill offices resumed operations at 1pm today.

At this time the Wulff Road and Fox Hill offices will continue to provide all services to the public, except Cashier services for contributions payments and the distribution of short-term benefits cheques. NIB Headquarters at the Clifford Darling Complex on Balliou Hill Road, continues to provide full service to the public during normal business hours. Customers seeking to make contribution payments should visit NIB headquarters, or use the cheque drop box at the Cable Beach post office.

NIB's offices in Fresh Creek, Andros, Rock Sound and North Eleuthera are closed today. All other Family Island offices are open.

PENSION PAYMENTS

Further, the Board advises that pension payments scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday May 23, will continue in New Providence and the Family Islands as normal, however the pension payments for Fresh Creek, Andros will take place on Friday May 24.

Management is working to address the operations to minimize disruption to its customers, and apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

--END--

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Continued from / PAGE 1...

towards the further advancement of the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Equal Opportunities Act.

"Since assuming this office, I've had the opportunity to meet with many members of the community of persons with disabilities.

"Since its enactment, it has been noted that too many commercial or publicly-used buildings remain partially accessible or only partially retrofitted with regard to the accommodation of persons with disabilities, and too many services remain limited with regard to the

extent that they fully meet the needs of this community.

"We, in the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development are committed to the ongoing promotion and support of the rights of persons with disabilities," Mr. Campbell said.

He added that the commitment of the ministry, NGOs and stakeholders, is also demonstrated by the priority Parliamentary Secretary Michael Foulkes gave to reviewing the Act, with the view of ensuring that regulations are in place by the end of this calendar year.

"In so doing, we also seek to raise public aware-

ness throughout our communities on this subject.

"In this regard, I applaud the work of the many NGOs that contribute to this effort in so many ways and ensure the well-being of persons with disabilities on a daily basis.

"Too many programmes developed in support of this community by these NGOs significantly augment the services that are provided through our relevant government ministries and departments. It is a task that the government cannot undertake in its entirety, and we urge more members of the public to join us in this initiative,"

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 go unnoticed.

He used the opportunity to acknowledge Kevin Carwright, 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. Carwright's books.

"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 Erin Gilmour School for the Blind and is a member of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

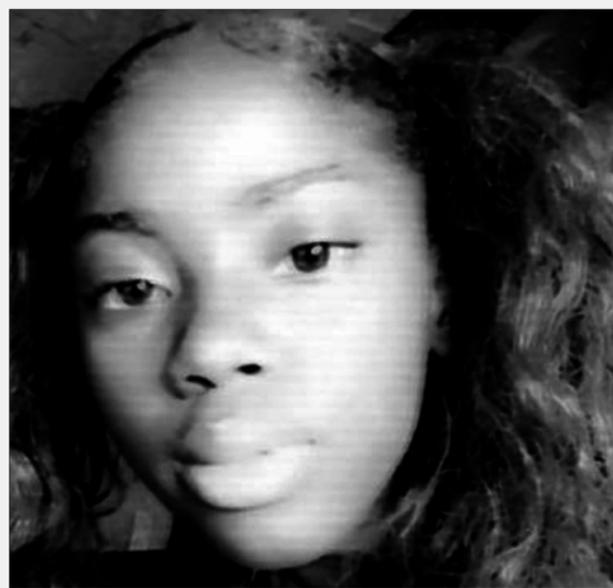
POLICE SEEK HELP IN LOCATING JUVENILE

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 4in 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 328-TIPS (8477) or the Central Detective Unit 52-9991-2.



THE PORT DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Port Department
Prince George Wharf
P.O. Box N-8175
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Nassau, The Bahamas

GOVERNMENT NOTICE INVITATION FOR TENDERS

The Government of The Bahamas is inviting tender for the following Contracted Service for the Port Department, Ministry of Transport & Local Government.

1. Provide weatherproof decals with numbering system for vessel registration for watercraft registered under the Commercial Recreational Watercraft Act and the Water Skiing and Motor Control Boat Act.

Interested Parties may obtain further information and collect the "Bidding Documents" from:

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Prince George Wharf
Nassau, The Bahamas
Tel: (242)322-8832 or
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between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, with effect from the 15th of April 2019.

Tenders are to be submitted in triplicate (3 copies) in a sealed envelope marked "Tender for the Port Department Vessel Decal System" and addressed to:

The Chairman of
Tenders Board
Ministry of Finance
Cecil V. Wallace Whitfield Building
Cable Beach
P.O. Box N-3017
Nassau, The Bahamas
Tel: (242)372-1530

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. Dorettres, 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
26. Wanklyn, Julia Anne

DAVID R. DAVIS
PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF FINANCIAL SERVICES, TRADE & INDUSTRY
AND IMMIGRATION

GOV'T REBRANDS INTELLIGENCE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

NCIA will be the main assessment agency, as it will play a wider role in gathering, analyzing, coordinating, disseminating and reflecting the complex overlap of both domestic and international security issues.

"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 gathering and joint strategy planning among law enforcement heads, the second to collect information and intelligence with respect to activities that may be suspected of being a threat and coordinate effective networking between regional and international departments.

This was proposed in

the face of the constant threat of drugs and guns.

Minister Dames said, "the purpose of this Bill is not to intrude in the lives of law abiding citizens. Such interferences in the lives of law abiding citizens would not be justifiable and it is not the intended purpose of this Agency."

He added, "the unfounded ideas as they are, must be addressed, so that the Bahamian people

have a full and clear understanding on the purpose and need for this Agency. I must reiterate the need to enhance national security."

In terms of oversight and control, the agency will be void of political interference.

Arguing for the Progressive Liberal Party, Englerston MP Glenys Hanna-Martin charged that despite its implications and the request for the bill to be delayed – the government

sought no real and actual consultation on the bill, begging the question that the government is seeking to bully its way through the house with this serious piece of legislation.

She said, "In this bill there are instances of absolute control of the provisions of the powers and intrusions by the Prime Minister, and shows an incredible lack of accountability in this Bill.

"The proposed agency lacks independence and autonomy and is subject to political control. By its appointments and directions, it is therefore amenable to abuses and violations of the fundamental rights and freedoms of which I spoke, and come become a political tool," she added.

In its present form – the bill, she said, will not get the official opposition's support.

MARITIME AUTHORITY'S

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Additionally, the net operating cost of the Authority for 2018 stood at \$9,760,532 – an increase of \$1,663,517 or 21 per cent in comparison to 2017's costs of \$8,097,015.

Total expenditure increased to \$9.76 million, which is from \$8.097 million in 2017.

The board also reported that during the fiscal year, 97 vessels of 4.22 million gross tons joined the register in comparison to 83 in 2017.

Ninety-seven vessels of 2.78 million gross tons were deleted from 122 vessels of 4.48 million gross tons in 2017.

It also reported a net increase of 1.44 million gross tons.

Altogether, the total number of vessels as at June 30th 2018 was 1,567 –64.15 million gross tons with the country ranking 7th in the world for the largest flag, with its ship ownership base being global and encompassing all sectors.

The report also boasted in the country, cementing its leadership

in the passenger ship market where it has the largest number of cruise ships.

It added that the expertise in technological advanced ships is further supported by the increase of gas carriers and offshore units, placing the country as one of the top registers for this market.

Over the past year,

The Bahamas Maritime Investigations Department noted that it handled a total of 732 marine incidents, 13 of which, it said, were severe enough to warrant a full marine safety investigation.

During this period, the report indicated that 12 marine safety investigation reports were published with recommen-

dations and lessons to be learned were identified to improve safety.

A major investigation, it noted, includes an incident occurring in Exuma on June 30th last year where one American citizen lost her life along with a number of individuals sustaining injuries on board a locally operated and owned charter boat.

DAVIS SUGGESTS INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATORS FOR POLICE SHOOTING

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bringing independent Forensic Crime Investigators to determine the truth in the matter, because at the end of the day when it comes down to you say and I say, it does amount to what I call the concerns.

"As we always say, there's always two sides to an issue. Then at the end of the day, it's still the truth and what is the truth is what we should be get-

ting at," he said.

The Opposition Leader further opined that while officers should be able to protect themselves, the conflicting reports as to how the situation unfolded raises eyebrows.

"The killings were tragic and it's always worrying when the perpetrators of killings appear distinct. "Anytime that happens, we ought to raise our eyebrows because as law enforcement officers they are trained in a particular

way.

"Now, we don't want Police Officers dead and they ought to be able to protect themselves, but when you are having competing versions of events in a manner of which this is, it is worrying," Mr. Davis said.

On Tuesday National Security Minister Marvin Dames confirmed that this matter would be handled in the Coroner's Court.

He added that the situation 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 armed at the time police stormed the Easter Road home.

Four adults were on Monday charged in the Magistrate's Court with two counts of possession of an unlicensed firearm and possession of dangerous drugs with a street

value of \$23,000.

Meantime, PLP Chairman Fred Mitchell is calling Minister Dames' comments on Friday's killing interference in a police matter.

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 to

them and the public that the appropriate legal forum to redress complaints of the kind they had was the Coroner's Court.

"The Minister did not have to open his mouth. He put his big mouth in it and now it is transformed into a political matter in which the public and family may now question whether there was an instruction to the police from the Minister," he said.



NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES

The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) was established on 1 August 2009, as a corporate body, under the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority Act, 2009.

As the independent regulator, URCA's regulatory remit of the Electronic Communications Sector (ECS) covers radio and television broadcasting, radio spectrum, internet and data, pay-TV and voice telephony; and oversight of Electricity (ES) Sector which includes entities or persons who generate, transmit, distribute or supply electricity throughout The Bahamas.

The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) invites interested entities to submit proposals for the provision of audit services. The term of the audit engagement is for three (3) years – reporting on the financial statements for the years ending 31 December 2019, 2020 and 2021.

The deadline for submission is 14 June 2019 at 4:00pm. A copy of the Request for Proposal(RFP) may be downloaded from URCA's website at www.urcabahamas.bs/



NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SOLAR CANOPY SYSTEM

The Utilities and Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) is the independent regulatory authority with responsibility for the electronic communications sector (ECS) and electricity sector (ES) in The Bahamas. In the electricity sector URCA's primary role is regulation of the sector in accordance with the goals, objectives, and principles underpinning the national energy and electricity sector policies. These policies mandate the use of renewable energy as a form of generation in The Bahamas.

URCA requests proposals for the engineering, procurement, construction, commissioning and maintenance of a solar canopy system (SCS) at its carpark located on Frederick Street in Nassau, Bahamas. The RFP document - ES: 01/2019 - can be collected from URCA's offices on Frederick Street or by writing to info@urcabahamas.bs. The deadline for submission is 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 May 2019.