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SIX GROUNDS OF APPEAL IN FRANK SMITH'S CASE

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

The government's appeal against former PLP Senator Frank Smith opened in the Court of Appeal yesterday with the Crown listing six grounds why the case should be sent back to the Magistrate's Court and heard by another Magistrate.

The Crown's lead Attorney in the matter, Director of Public Prosecutions, Garvin Gaskins suggested Chief Magistrate Joyanne Ferguson-Pratt took extraneous matters into account in her ruling that led to the acquittal of former Public Hospitals Authority Chairman



▶ Former PLP Senator, Frank Smith

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Minister Denies Migrants Are Stateless

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

Immigration Minister Brent Symonette has denied that Bahamians of Haitian descent, born in The Bahamas, are stateless, an issue raised by President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) when the Bahamas appeared before the commission in Jamaica last Friday.

Speaking with



▶ Immigration Minister, Brent Symonette

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DPM SEES GDP STATISTICS AS POSITIVE SIGN

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest sees it as positive sign the GDP growth is largely driven by the private sector, as this he said is an indication of what he called no artificial inflation.

That aside though, he accepts that the 1.6 per cent growth rate is lower

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FNM ATTACKS COOPER'S CLAIMS

BY LISA KNOWLES
 Journal Staff Writer

The Free National Movement (FNM) says after two years of positive growth, the country is positioned for more investments and opportunities.

The Party issued a statement yesterday answering the

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US FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP RE-ESTABLISHED



▶ Pictured signing the Fulbright Program MOU for The Bahamas is the Hon. Jeffrey Lloyd, Minister of Education; looking on is Nicole Miller-Campbell, Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister. **BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe**

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

The Ministry of Education and the United States signed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) yesterday, reestablishing the Fulbright Fellowship Programme for Bahamians students.

Minister of Education, Jeffery Lloyd, said the relationship goes back some 50 years, adding that the signing culminated two years of work between the Ministry and the US Embassy.

Mr. Lloyd said the signing is an "historical revival of a great benefit for young Bahamians."

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

SIX GROUNDS OF APPEAL IN FRANK SMITH'S CASE

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Frank Smith back in February.

At the time, the Chief Magistrate determined that the respondent - Magic Touch Cleaning Company owner Barbara Hanna - was dishonest in some instances, specifically when it best suited her, which made her evidence inconclusive.

Refuting this, Mr. Gaskins argued otherwise, adding that the one point Hanna maintained is

that she had to pay Smith \$5,000 monthly for being awarded the cleaning contract of the Critical Care Block at the Princess Margaret Hospital.

Mr. Gaskins also took issue with the Chief Magistrate's decision that Hanna was evasive regarding her relationship with the former PHA Chairman, adding that it was quite difficult to comprehend, considering she had received two loans from him.

The Crown argued that

Mrs. Ferguson- Pratt's point was not proper, as taking into account the relationship between Hanna and Smith exceeded her lawful function.

As for the Chief Magistrate finding that Hanna told Smith to be careful, they are out to get you, the DPP charged that this was inconsistent as there are a plethora of reasons why the statement was made and that 'they' was never identified.

He added that it did not point to being any cabinet

minister or police officer.

As this was one of the bases of the Chief Magistrate's findings, Mr. Gaskins said it demonstrated danger and an irregularity in Pratt's decision.

Court of Appeal Justice Maureen Crane-Scott questioned Mr. Gaskins on if a bank slip was presented in the evidence to prove that money was being taken from Hanna's account monthly to pay Smith, noting that this was what botched the

Crown's case, to that he said yes.

At the end of her ruling Mrs. Ferguson- Pratt said there wasn't a scintilla of evidence to suggest Smith extorted Hanna.

To that Gaskins said there was evidence along with evidence that the two met.

He pointed out that the Magistrate's comments regarding Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands and National Security Minister Marvin Dames' conduct as public officers

were wholly inappropriate.

Arguing for the defense, Jamaican attorney Keith Knight QC said the Chief Magistrate had every right to take all matters into consideration when coming to her findings, as she had to fulfill the role as judge and jury.

He added that no such complaint can be made that the magistrate went too far in her deliberation, because she had to preside over both the law and the facts in the case.

Minister Denies Migrants

Continued from / PAGE 1...

reporters recently, Mr. Symonette was asked to respond to the outcome of the meeting where Rights Bahamas activists expressed concern over the treatment, illegal detention and deportation exercises of illegal migrants.

Although Mr. Symonette opted to

reserve commenting on the issue until he has spoken with the Minister of State for Legal Affairs, Ellsworth Johnson, he did say that one who is born in The Bahamas to illegal parents, first generation, are not stateless.

"If you look at our immigration policy, if you look at the number of persons we deport you could see it is an issue.

"There are economic conditions in Haiti that require persons leave [there]. Did they take into consideration the fact that we had a number of them die in Abaco recently? These are real situations that affect each and every one of us.

"They talked about statelessness for instance and that's not a provision in certain areas, because a

person has the right to apply for citizenship.

"When you are stateless, in my opinion, I mean you have to be careful on that tight frame, in some countries; third generation born outside the country are stateless, fine. We can deal with that, but someone who is born first generation, born in the Bahamas has the right to a passport of another coun-

try. They always have that, so they are not stateless and that's very clear.

"Now, whether they want to go and get that passport is a different issue. So, for a commission to say they are stateless, I have a different understanding of the law and what they are saying," Mr. Symonette explained.

As for the IACHR contending that detaining

migrants in not the answer and instructed that The Bahamas government not detain migrants, to this Mr. Symonette said he found great difficulty.

"I think unfortunately, we have to look at the total picture in the Bahamas. I don't think a number of persons fully appreciate the influx of

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ROAD TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT PUBLIC NOTICE

The Road Traffic Department would like to remind all Franchise Holders - Private Schedule, Public Schedule, Private Charter, SD Cars, SD Scooters, Taxi and Livery. To present registration documents for the annual Licensing and inspection documents for the annual inspection and registration for **MAY 2019/2020**.

The following documents are required:-

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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.

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US FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP



▶ A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between The Bahamas, through the Ministry of Education, and the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for the re-establishment of the prestigious Fulbright Program for academically qualified Bahamians. The signing ceremony took place at the Office of the Prime Minister on Tuesday, May 14, 2019. Pictured from left are: Penny Rechkemmer, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy, Nassau; Nicole Miller-Campbell, Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister; Lorraine Ambrister, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education; the Hon. Jeffrey Lloyd, Minister of Education; the Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis, Prime Minister; Stephanie Bowers, Charge d'Affaires, US Embassy, Nassau; Caroline Casagrande, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; Viana Gardiner, head of Deliverables Unit, Office of the Prime Minister; and Jamie Martin, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy, Nassau. **BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe**

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"This Fulbright is the most prestigious scholarship opportunity for our young people and it has the great benefit of taking our students beyond the initial tertiary educational level; that is the Bachelors, all the way into their research fields, Master's as well as PhD's.

"You would not know that this has been 23 year hiatus as it were, over 23 years since we've had a Fulbright Scholar coming from The Bahamas.

"So, it's very, very momentous today, that we are here and I'm grateful to the United States and Education USA," Mr. Lloyd said.

The MOU commits The Bahamas and the US to explore opportunities and understanding to advance educational benefits for Bahamians.

Prime Minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis, touted the signing as a wonderful occasion.

"I am thrilled that we are rejoining the prestigious Fulbright Visiting Scholar Programme,

which provides grants to approximately 800 foreign scholars from over 95 countries to lecture and/or conduct postdoctoral research at U.S. institutions.

"Additionally, the Fulbright Foreign Student Programme enables graduate students, young professionals and artists to research and study in the United States for one year or longer.

"We look forward to a new generation of Bahamian scholars and artists becoming

Fulbright Scholars," Dr. Minnis said.

The Prime Minister added that the goal and vision of the country is to "help foster the development of 21st century global citizens, who are creative, open to growth, analytical and committed to the promotion of justice for all people".

Last year 2,100 Bahamian students studied in the US making, it the second largest center of international students from the Caribbean. US Charge d'Affaires, Stephanie Bowers

explained that the Fulbright Programme is a prestigious and competitive program.

"This flagship programme is more than a scholarship. It is a life altering program designed to build leaders and innovators.

"Since its inception, the Fulbright Programme has prepared participants to address global challenges. Regardless of their academic interest, what Fulbright scholars have in common is the potential for leadership, a passion for building

bridges between two nations, and the ability to forge ahead independently and accomplish their goals," Mrs. Bowers said.

Bahamians who benefited from the Fulbright Scholarship Programme in the past include former Governor General Dame Ivy Dumont, E. Clement Bethel, Dr. Rhonda Chipman Johnson and Dr. Brendamae Cleare.

The last time a Bahamian was awarded the Fulbright Scholarship was in 1996.

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▶ Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis, delivers remarks as the Hon. Jeffrey Lloyd, Minister of Education, and Stephanie Bowers, Charge d'Affaires, US Embassy, Nassau, look on. **BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe**

TWO CHARGED WITH MURDER

BY LISA KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

Two men arraigned yesterday before Magistrate Samuel McKinney in connection with the double homicide which occurred last Wednesday, May 8th at Potter's Cay Dock.

Ramon Young AKA "Monee", 30 years old, of Coral Harbour Road and Deshawn Brooks, 25 years old

of Pineville, Andros were charged with two counts of murder in connection with the shooting deaths of Lathario Lockhart and Merrick Russell at Island Delight Stall.

Dominic Johnson, 28 years old, AKA "Rich Kid", was charged with abetment to murder in the matter. The men were not required to enter a plea. The trio were remanded to the Bahamas Department of Corrections until June 20th.

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

DPM SEES GDP STATS AS POSITIVE SIGN

Continued from / PAGE 1...

than anticipated, which is being examined.

"First off, when we talk about GDP growth, these are projections based on loan factors.

"Sometimes things happen in the economy, things happen globally that may affect the projection, even a delay in

the start of a project can have an effect.

"So, we have to do some analysis ourselves to see what if anything we can do to help push it along, but at this point, we are not aware of any specific drags that would of caused us not to meet the projection other than just normal delays.

"However, I think again the point to emphasize is that we've had positive growth over two years," he said.

To the official Opposition, the Minister said there's no basis for its criticisms, given its track record.

"It is something amusing to hear the Opposition. Mr. Cooper

makes the statements that he makes because he has no legs to stand on in his argument.

"Again, the fact of the matter is we've had positive growth; we've had strong economic performance which are all indicators that point towards the strengthening of the economy and that is the positive that

needs to be taken from this statistics," Minister Turnquest said.

What the Minister of Finance does agree with, is the observation that if it weren't for the uptick in Tourism, the GDP wouldn't have shaped up as it did, but he says that's just the makeup of the economy.

In the last fiscal year,

the International Monetary Fund projected for the Bahamas a 2.25 per cent increase in real GDP growth 2019 compared to its previous projection of 2.5 percent for 2018.

These new figures represent an increase of 2.3 per cent in nominal growth and real growth of 1.6 per cent.

Minister Denies

Continued from / PAGE 2...

illegal immigrants here in The Bahamas and the cost.

"For instance, a boat load of 100 persons arrives on our shore today, are we supposed to let them walk around the streets until we decide when to repatriate them? These are the issues.

"We have 100,000 square miles of water, illegal immigration is a large problem. We spend about \$1.6 million a year repatriating non-Bahamians.

"I have difficulty when any international organization tries to force a sovereign country to do things which are not in the best interest of that country," Mr. Symonette said.

Rights Bahamas during the 172nd Ordinary Period of Sessions of the Inter-American Commission On Human Rights, placed special emphasis on the new immigration policy launched in November 2014, which they say illegally required everyone in The Bahamas to have a passport and documentation proving their right to

reside and work in the country. Emphasis was also placed on the aggressive raids and roundups that followed the new policy.

The group's application also noted that the government has admitted to deporting at least five individuals to Haiti who were born in The Bahamas and have a constitutional right to citizenship.

The human rights group filed in conjunction with Washington D.C based Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Organization.



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/



THE PORT DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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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
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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. Doretres, 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
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