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THURSDAY - MAY 16TH, 2019

75 CENTS

QC: MAGISTRATE WAS CAREFUL

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Defense Attorney, Jamaican Queen's Counsel Keith Knight on Wednesday reasoned to Court of Appeal Justices that in her ruling in the Frank Smith extortion and bribery trial, Chief Magistrate Joyanne Ferguson-Pratt took great care in coming to her decision.

Following testimony from the police, sitting Cabinet Ministers Dr. Duane Sands and Marvin Dames and the Crown's key witness Barbara Hanna, the Chief Magistrate in February acquitted Mr. Smith of the charges.

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LEADERS ROW OVER POLICE OFFICERS' POLITICS

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer



► Prime Minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis

The leaders of the two major political parties locked horns in the House of Assembly yesterday over the structure of the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) and allegations of its politicization.

The issue was brought to the forefront during Opposition leader Philp Davis' contribution to debate on a proposed amendment to the Police

Staff Association Act.

Mr. Davis drew on the government's decision to place several top officers on leave, which he condemned as a purging of the RBPF, an accusation Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis vehemently denied charging that he only knew the officers' political affiliation when Mr. Davis made it known.

To this, Mr. Davis noted that more officers exist on the police force

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► Opposition Leader, Philp Davis



► Transport Minister, Renward Wells

WELLS: BAHAMAR HAS NO JETSKI LICENSE

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Opposition Leader Philip Davis yesterday raised a major concern in the House of Assembly over watercraft operators in the country.

Mr. Davis asked Transport Minister Renward Wells if the moratorium has been recently lifted from the licensing of jet skis.

Vice President of the Cable Beach Water Sports

■ See page 4...

DNA SAYS "DISCOURAGE SHAMING ON SOCIAL MEDIA"

BY LISA KNOWLES
 Journal Staff Writer

The Democratic National Alliance (DNA) says the Bahamian people must discourage public shaming on social media. DNA's Spokesperson for Social Services and Urban Development, E. Corderro Armbrister,

■ See page 4...

SOCIAL SERVICES AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT'S INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES WORKSHOP



► Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, the Hon. Frankie Campbell opened the International Day of Families workshop at the Hearing Room, Aventura Plaza, today, attended by professionals and interested persons from across the board. (BIS Photos/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr.)



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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

MOT And UB Host Tourism Forum to Empower Locals

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

The University of The Bahamas (UB), the Tourism Development Corporation and the Ministry of Tourism have collaborated to hold a half-day forum on Community Based Tourism (CBT) with focus on Empowering Bahamians, Encouraging Entrepreneurship.

The idea behind the initiative, held at the Franklyn R Wilson Graduate Center is to advance, grow and help develop the country.

UB Provost, Dr. Linda Davis said the forum was all about nation building.

"Indeed it is what the University of The Bahamas was created to do; to provide this kind of forum to engage these kinds of conversation that are about nation building [and] about investment in human resources.

"We do this in any number of ways, but this particular project, I believe, brings to bear a kind of discussion and dialogue, which we hope

will bring fruit in perhaps ways we have not otherwise considered," Dr. Davis said.

During the forum, experts shared and discussed what could be implemented, in a stronger and better way to sustain entrepreneurs in the Tourism sector.

Malaysian native, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research and professor of Sustainable Tourism at UB, Dr. Vikneswaran, whose published worldwide in Sustainable Tourism, presented a CBT model Toolkit for The Bahamas.

"If you look at the whole concept of Community Based Tourism this is Tourism activity that is community owned; this is a key thing, it must be community owned, operated and managed at the level of the community, this is critical.

"When you talk about CBT, it is one of the earliest sustainable way of conducting Tourism.

"It is when you first started opening your door to tourist to come and

stay, view your lifestyle, view your culture, and this is what you have been doing.

"You had the 'People to People' program in the past, that is part of CBT as well. You may have not called it CBT at that point, but CBT has always been here.

"So, what we are trying to do is bring you a different perspective of how you can take this model step by step to sustain you," Dr. Nair explained.

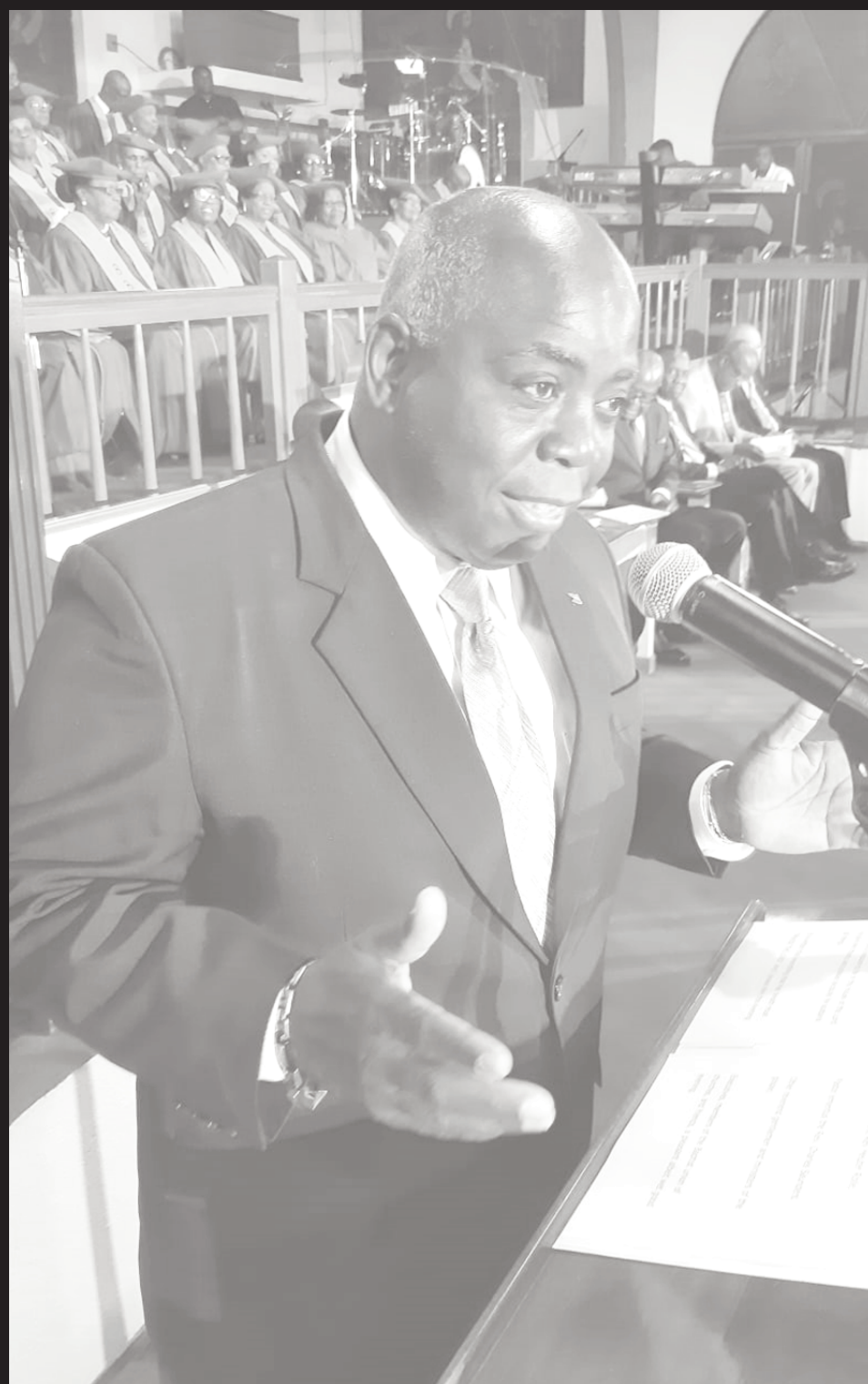
Dr. Nair added that CBT can actually help eliminate poverty.

"It contributes back to the well-being of a community and also support sustainable livelihood, and personal heritage can actually be maintained.

"Tourism activities managed and operated by the community fully coordinated for/by the community one of the early forms of tourism," he added.

CBT is not a new concept as tourist activities such as bone fishing and Exuma's swimming pigs were birthed out of communities together.

DAVIS ADDRESSED DELEGATES AT THE 127TH NATIONAL ANNUAL CONVENTION



► The Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Philip Brave Davis, addressed delegates at the 127th National Annual Convention at the Salem Union Baptist Church, Taylor Street on Wednesday, 15th May 2019. Calling the work of the Baptist Union selfless and a labour of love, Mr. Davis pledged to continue to seek the wise counsel and guidance of spiritual leaders in the execution of his secular mandate as a national political leader.



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:-

- 1 Passport/Voters Card, NIB Card (Holders not registered in the new system)
- 2 Update Franchise receipt payment
- 3 Up to date business License
- 4 Inspection/Copies of License Discs
- 5 Up to Date Insurance Certificates
- 6 Vehicle color and right/left hand drive (for new vehicle)

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

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

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PHA AWARDS CONTRACTS FOR WORKS AT PMH & SRC

BY LISA KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

Contracts for significant capital works at the Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) and the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre (SRC) were signed yesterday at the Public Hospital Authority's Corporate Offices.

Signing on behalf of the Public Hospitals Authority (PHA) were Julian Rolle, Chairman of the PHA Board of Directors and Catherine

E. Weech, Managing Director.

The first contract which was signed with Waugh Construction, calls for the replacement of a 55,000-gallon water storage, gravity fed tank at the hospital's southern campus area, commonly called the Hilltop.

The original tank which was to eliminate water shortages and low-pressure potable water supplies to the hospital, had deteriorated over time, requiring replacement. Signing on behalf

of Waugh Construction was Kevin Waugh, President of the company.

The second contract related to works at PMH allows for the construction of a new Patient Registration Department, as part of the ongoing Accident and Emergency Care Project. The contract was awarded to Telco Enterprizes Limited.

The updated design calls for the construction of six individual registration cubicles, which will

enhance patient privacy. Also included in the design are client friendly cashiers' windows improving patient privacy and security and a small common waiting area.

High end security systems will be installed along with sound absorption flooring and energy conserving LED lighting.

The construction of the new Registration Department is expected to be completed in approximately seven weeks. Signing on behalf

or Telco Enterprizes Ltd was Floyd Wilmott.

Three contracts for major roofing repairs at the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre (SRC) were signed with Complete Maintenance Group, RB Construction, and M and N Renovation and Builders. Works will include the repair and replacement of the existing roofing finishes.

The areas designated for renovation include the old Adolescent Ward, Maximum Security Ward, Doctors Lounge,

Sewing Room, Pump Houses, Deputy Principal Nursing Officer's Office, and the Eloise Penn Ward.

The completion of the roofing work at Sandilands is aimed at securing the facility in preparation for the 2019 Hurricane Season and beyond. The roof repairs are expected to be completed in approximately eight weeks.

The cumulative value of the contracts signed this morning total over \$860,000.



▶ Signing on behalf of Waugh Construction was Kevin Waugh, President.



▶ Contract Signing with Telco Enterprizes, Floyd Wilmott pictured Signing



▶ Contract Signing with Complete Maintenance Group, Roy Colebrook pictured Signing

QC: MAGISTRATE WAS CAREFUL

Continued from / PAGE 1...

The Prosecution led evidence that the former Progressive Liberal Party MP and Public Hospitals Chairman extorted thousands of dollars from Ms. Hanna, having awarded her Magic Touch Cleaning Company a contract for the Critical Care Block of the Princess Margaret Hospital.

Lawyers for the Crown say the case should be sent back to the lower court to be heard by a different Magistrate considering that Mrs. Ferguson-Pratt erred in her ruling.

The Defense, however, argues that the Chief Magistrate's decision surpassed the bar where excellence began and that whatever position she took was within her bounds as a Magistrate.

According to Mr. Knight, Mrs. Ferguson-

Pratt had to consider the case as a whole to properly come to a conclusion and she had to take into account the witness' demeanor.

The Attorney examined key evidence like telephone logs and the bank statement which he said was necessary, as they did not add to the Crown's case that Mr. Smith extorted money from Mrs. Hanna.

Mr. Knight noted that based on evidence introduced by the prosecution to establish that there was regular communication between Ms. Hanna and Mr. Smith, it was revealed that 92 per cent of the calls were made from Ms. Hanna to Mr. Smith.

He explained that the call logs revealed that Health Minister Dr. Sands communicated with Ms. Hanna prior to her giving a statement to the police, the

night before elections and on election night.

All of this, he stressed, had to be taken into account by the chief magistrate considering Ms. Hanna said she felt she was being used, even though she didn't specify by whom.

Mr. Knight argued that Ms. Hanna received a \$1.8 million cleaning contract from Dr. Sands who gave the approval without board approval.

This too, he said, must be taken into account given Ms. Hanna's comments that she felt pressured and that she was being used.

Mr. Knight then referred to Ms. Hanna's call to Mr. Smith, warning him to be careful because they are out to get you.

He added it was reasonable in the Chief Magistrate's assessment to take into consideration if there were puppeteers.

Mr. Knight asserted that the credibility of the case was compromised as there were discrepancies between Dr. Sands' and Minister Dames' testimonies as well as Minister Dames' and ACP Rolle's testimonies.

The Queens Counsel also charged that the bank record proves nothing and that it didn't add nor subtract anything from the case.

The purpose of the bank record, he said, was to

refute that Ms. Hanna was incapable of paying \$5000 monthly to Mr. Smith because of her financial status.

As a result, during the trial the Defense requested a Supreme Court order to gain access to Ms. Hanna's expenditure, because without it, her financial status was unknown.

The order was not granted. However Mr. Knight noted that the bank statement did contradict the point made by Ms. Hanna

that she was unable to pay herself a salary because she was being extorted by Mr. Smith.

On Tuesday the crown asserted that throughout the trial, Ms. Hanna maintained that she was extorted \$5000 monthly by Mr. Smith, which it claimed was the important fact in the case.

Mr. Knight refuting that claim, said that just because she maintained that point, didn't make it truthful.

GOT NEWS?
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LEADERS ROW OVER POLICE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

with the same accumulated vacation leave.

He said, "Do you want me to give you a list of others you could have let go, and send home too like that? That's because you were selective in this process," he told the Prime Minister.

While the Cat Island MP and Progressive Liberal Party leader did not provide any concrete evidence to support this claim, Transport Minister Renward Wells can be

heard exclaiming that "we can't send all of them home at once".

Prime Minister Minnis said, "The government looked at different agencies where individuals have an accumulation of vacation leave.

"I'm trying to find out now from the Ministry of Finance how much millions of dollars we spend annually on vacation leave. For individuals who refuse to take vacation leave; we know what happens."

The Prime Minister

added that he refuses to pay individuals for vacation by allowing them to take accrued vacation following retirement, as he is not spending the government's money in this regard.

The proposed amendment to the Police Staff Association Act is to extend the tenure for elected executive board members from one to two years enabling them to become familiar with their positions and be more effective in their roles.

WELLS: BAHAMAR

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Pedro Bannister last week expressed concerns of the Baha Mar Resort renting watercrafts to their guests – an activity that poses a major threat to small businesses in an industry supposedly reserved for Bahamians.

A peeved Minister Wells reiterated that no license has been issued to the resort or any foreign direct investor, assuring that watercraft licenses are indeed solely reserved for Bahamians.

He said, "Baha Mar has no jet ski licenses, or any licenses to engage in the water sports business in this country. There are a number of Bahamian companies who are involved in

the watersports business on Cable Beach.

"One of those companies happen to be a Bahamian company called Jet Surf. You can go online and see the products offered by this international brand of which a local Bahamian has engaged with that business abroad, and has offered those pieces of equipment for watersports to our touristic visitors."

Mr. Wells added that his ministry has issued licenses for Jet Surf for two pieces of equipment for the watersports company.

These apparatuses were thought of by the Opposition as jet skis, where licenses were placed on moratorium several years ago.

In this regard, the

Transport Minister said, "There's been no lifting of the jet ski moratorium, but I will say to those engaged in the watersports business that this Cabinet is in discussions and will be in discussions about their business. We will be back very soon on the request that has been made from Cable Beach who say that they were promised licenses by the former administration or, the return of their licenses that they had when they were at Nassau Beach. A number of them that they have not yet received."

The Minister promised to investigate the matter.

If that is the case, Mr. Wells said the Cabinet will be looking into ways in which they can ameliorate the situation.

DNA SAYS "DISCOURAGE SHAMING ON SOCIAL MEDIA"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

said, "recently, videos of a disturbing nature have been circulating depicting our nation's youth in a less than savory manner."

In a press statement he said, "we in the DNA implore agents of the Department of Social Services to heighten their alert and conduct investigations into the homes and environments of these young individuals where and when necessary. Often, matters of this nature are overlooked or taken for granted until it becomes a substantial problem in our society that is beyond control.

"In addition, we in the DNA caution parents/guardians or close relatives and friends to cease their recording of these terrible acts and consequent uploading and sharing of the same via social media. The risk of our children being psychologically damaged permanently as result of public shaming is too great a risk to continue this ill-advised behavior.

"The DNA cautions the youth of our nation to be very mindful of their



DNA's Spokesperson for Social Services and Urban Development, E. Corderro Armbrister

actions and what they post in the public forum whether of themselves or others. They should also consider the wise saying that what you give to the world you can't take back.

"As a final note," he said, "Parliamentarians, particularly the members who have responsibility for the Ministries Of Social Service and Urban Development, National Security and Education should champion legislation with penalties as well as agitate, foster and imple-

ment programs which create increased awareness to prevent and discourage members of society from posting damaging videos up on the internet involving adolescents," said Mr. Armbrister.

He said, "We must consider as Bahamians what kind of society we would like to cultivate for the next generation of Bahamians and act in a manner that can bring about change in a more positive and productive manner."



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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:

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Ministry of Finance
Cecil V. Wallace Whitfield Building
Cable Beach
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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

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