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# The Bahama Journal

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# GOV'T WANTS TO REDUCE DEPENDENCY ON TOURISM

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
*Journal Staff Writer*

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest is maintaining that the Minnis Administrations is working to reduce the country's over dependence on tourism and the financial services industry.

According to Mr. Turnquest, progress is being made although not as quickly as he would like.

"If you look even within the tourism sector and how we are trying to diversify that sector and

■ See page 3...



▶ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Peter Turnquest

## BPL TO BOLSTER CAPACITY

With the electrical power outages reported throughout New Providence over the last several days, Bahamas Power and Light is allaying the fears of disgruntled consumers. The Company is counting on the return of an engine to significantly bolster its

generation capacity and stability.

Until that happens, the intermittent power outages throughout the island will continue. The company said in a statement that unplanned and unexpect-

■ See page 3...

## Gov't To Meet Non Compliant Gaming Operators

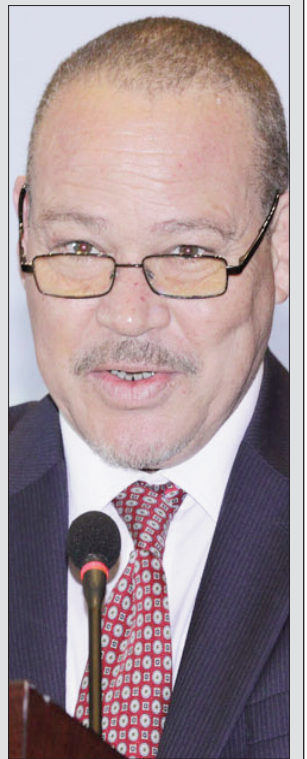
BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
*Journal Staff Writer*

A meeting between the government and the few Gaming Operators that are not compliant with the new gaming taxes is scheduled for this weekend, according to Attorney General Carl Bethel.

This comes after Tourism Minister Dionisio D'Aguiar said that 70 per cent of operators were not compliant with the law.

The Attorney General declined to say what will happen to operators if they continue to not

■ See page 2...



▶ Attorney General, Carl Bethel

## MOTHER PRATT RECEIVES MANDELA AWARDS



▶ Seated between two Former Prime Minister's Perry Christie (left) and Hubert Ingraham (right) Former Deputy Prime Minister, Cynthia 'Mother' Pratt received the Nelson Mandela Humanitarian Lifetime Achievement Award and the 21st Century Pan-American Change Agent Award yesterday May 16th, 2019 at her church, Prayer and Praise Assembly in Coconut Grove.

## 500 SCOTTISH MASONS MEET IN THE BAHAMAS

BY LISA KNOWLES  
*Journal Staff Writer*

Delegates of The International Scottish Masonic Conference (ISMC) are in New Providence for their 100 year anniversary. The Official Opening Ceremony was held yesterday at the Atlantis Resort on Paradise Island.

The President, Mr. Loren Glover said that they are delighted to be here in the Bahamas to celebrate 100 years of Free Masonry and the Conference of Grand Masters. He said they

expect more than 500 delegates to attend this conference. He explained that there are more than 250,000 Prince Hall Masons in the world and that since 1949, their purpose generally is friendship, morality and brotherly love.

The delegates intend to pay an official visit to the Governor General, Dame Marguerite Pindling at Government House while they are here. The significance of that visit is due to the fact that her late husband, Sir Lynden

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# GOV'T TO MEET NON COMPLIANT

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pay their taxes.

"I would not wish rattle the savor at this point, we're in discussions and we'll see what happens.

"There's always a resort to nuclear options at a later stage, but we're

in discussions. We have a meeting for this weekend and we'll see where it goes," Mr. Bethel said.

Last week Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest told reporters that the government's revenue in gaming taxes

was down some \$5 million.

As a result, he added, the government's projected revenue would be affected.

A new tax regime came in effect January 1st 2019 for all licensed gaming house to pay 15

per cent on \$0 to \$24 million dollars of revenue and operators earning anything greater than \$24 million will pay 17.5 per cent.

Based on the increased tax rate, the government had expected to collect approximately \$35 mil-

lion in taxes.

Last May, the government announced that a 5 per cent stamp tax was to be applied to all gaming patrons deposits, all non-online and digital sales.

A sliding scale tax was also announced climbing as high as 50 per cent;

both taxes were to take effect July 1st 2018.

However, gaming operators filed an application in the Supreme Court last August placing a hold on the implementation of the proposed taxes.

# BPL TO BOLSTER CAPACITY

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ed challenges developed over the past week at both the Clifton and Blue Hills Power Stations affected its energy supply, adding that the return of this unit will go a long way toward improving the present situation.

The Company said that ongoing routine maintenance activities are expected to wrap up in June. BPL has also sourced 25 Megawatts of additional rental generation for its Blue Hills Power Station. These are being installed and will begin to come online at the end of the month.

BPL has indicated that it is engaged in additional technical services to first expedite the diagnosis and repair of the remaining generators and to provide additional operational and maintenance assistance to supplement its teams. This assistance is already on the ground and has

begun the necessary assessments.

The Company has expressed its regret over

the present situation, but says that it is working to resolve the issues and seeking to minimize the

disruption to its customers by scheduling any needed load shedding appropriately.

## HELP WANTED

Family of four is seeking the services of a female aged 30 years or over to work as a housekeeper at a home on Paradise Island.

Applicants must be bi-lingual and possess the ability to speak Portuguese. The applicant must also have knowledge of preparation of Brazilian cuisine. This housekeeper will also be responsible for the care of an elderly family member and two dogs.

Interested persons are asked to contact  
telephone number 803-6151



### 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:-

- A Only Certified Cheques payable to the Public Treasury will be accepted . (No personal or company cheques).
- B Visa, Master, Debit, Credit Cards
- C or cash

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## 500 SCOTTISH MASONS MEET IN THE BAHAMAS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Pindling, the first Prime Minister of the Bahamas was a Free Mason and Grand Master.

The Conference has day sessions and Workshops, Golf outings, a Fishing Trip, and an outing to Fish

Fry at Arawak Cay.

A Gala Ball will be held on Saturday evening. Next Monday, some of the delegates will go on a one-day excursion to Eleuthera and Exuma.

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# GOV'T WANTS TO

Continued from / PAGE 1...

broaden it to a national perspective, when you look at the work that we're doing in the Small Business Development Center where we're trying to encourage organic, natural, sustainable

and renewable type businesses. We're making every effort to try facilitate this broadening that we're talking about, like the investments in agriculture and trying to broaden this economic base so that we can try to take out

some of the errors that happened as a result of recessions and global events that has an effect on tourism," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

In 2018 the the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) noted that within a decade, The

Bahamas will become more dependent on the tourism industry, with it generating almost 60 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product.

Before coming to office, the FNM promised it would reduce the countries dependency on both

industries.

The WTTC also noted that the sector's GDP and investment growth rates will accelerate even faster than this year over the 10-year period to 2018.

The Council stated that travel and tourism investment in 2017 was

\$442.5 million, 18.6 per cent of total investment.

It had expected to rise by 2.8 per cent in 2018, and by 3.2 per cent per annum over the next 10 years to \$621.1 million in 2028, 22 per cent of the total.

# Government Urged To Stand With The People

The Coalition to Save Clifton (CSC) is urging the Government of The Bahamas to stand with the Bahamian people in their struggle to gain access to historical and cultural sites in New Providence, from which they are currently excluded.

Over the past couple of years, a very serious situation has been brewing behind the scene, which now threatens to explode into an unpleasant, open conflict between Bahamians and foreign developers. CSC is in possession of years of futile correspondence with certain of them.

Over the years, foreign investors have created

developments on the coasts of New Providence, enclosing historical and cultural sites behind their walls and gates. Several of these sites exist in western New Providence and students on field trips to Clifton have been denied a brief visit to what in reality is their treasure.

Addressing this issue, CSC Chairman Rev. Dr. C.B. Moss said government agencies appear to be working in support of the developers, and in at least one case, the support is in writing. He noted that it is patently clear that even if enclosed in a development, these sites are never off limits to Bahamians, under

arranged conditions. Anything else, he said, is a betrayal of the interests of the Bahamian people and will not be accepted nor tolerated.

"The Bahamian people will not be prevented from visiting and viewing a part of their patrimony, which can never be sold, or given away," said Rev. Dr. C.B. Moss, chairman of CSC.

"The government must decide whether it will stand with the people or back the foreign developer."

Rev. Moss added that foreign developers arrive with great fanfare, charm and many promises, often bolstered by the govern-

ment. Once they have secured their objectives, which often include many concessions, then their true colors are manifested. "As the former developers of the Clifton Cay Project discovered twenty years ago, so will these developers, that the will of the Bahamian people will not be thwarted by their obstinance or their apparent belief that friends in high places will protect them," Rev. Moss said.

The CSC chairman also said that as the government discovered 20 years ago, the best place to be is on the side of the people. Time is running out, he advised. The government must act now!



► CSC Chairman Rev. Dr. C.B. Moss



## THE PORT DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Port Department  
Prince George Wharf  
P.O. Box N-8175  
Tel: (242)322-8832  
Tel: (242)322-1596  
Fax: (242)322-5545  
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:

Port Department  
Prince George Wharf  
Nassau, The Bahamas  
Tel: (242)322-8832 or  
(242)322-1596

between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, with effect from the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2019.

Tenders will be opened at 10:00 am on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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MINISTRY OF FINANCIAL SERVICES, TRADE & INDUSTRY  
AND IMMIGRATION

# MOTHER PRATT RECEIVES MANDELA AWARDS

BY LISA KNOWLES  
Journal Staff Writer

Former Deputy Prime Minister, Cynthia 'Mother' Pratt has received the Nelson Mandela Humanitarian Lifetime Achievement Award and the 21st Century Pan-American Change Agent Award. She received the awards yesterday in a ceremony at her church, Prayer and Praise Assembly in Coconut Grove.

'Mother' Pratt is a prolific Bahamian Philanthropist and Community Developer, a Nation Builder who has had careers as an educator, nurse, a politician, a world-class athlete, a published author, an Evangelist and Pastor and is a mother and Matriarch.

She is the founder of the Cynthia 'Mother' Pratt Foundation which existed for four decades without official title and national recognition.

Having served as the Deputy to the Former Prime Minister Perry Christie, she was touted by Mr. Christie as one who overcame adversities. He said to Mother Pratt, "You had your share of adversity, you've had the proverbial knock downs in life, but you've always gotten back up. And you measure character, and you measure perseverance by what you see people do when things are tough, and when the going is rough, and you've been able to withstand it, you've been able to rise above it, and you've been able to do it in the most

dignified way possible." He congratulated her on being able to do so.

"There are not many people in our country whose Curriculum Vitae have so many diverse and extraordinary parts of Cynthia 'Mother' Pratt.

"She did something very, very special – she began to recruit young people, who, but for her effort, would never have the opportunity to go to university or college abroad, and she began to give them opportunities abroad," said Mr. Christie.

Former Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham too praised 'Mother' Pratt for her contributions to the Bahamian society. He told of how she is a Sports Legend who mentored many athletes, mainly females.

"She is known to many of us as 'Mother', because of her generosity, her spirit, her willingness to invite others into her home, especially those in need, and because of her dedication to mentor women and to coach so many young persons, most particularly young women."

The award presented by the New Pan-African movement (NPAM), Board of Pan-American Royals who referred to 'Mother' Pratt as a true daughter of Africa and a wealth magnet.

Her Royal Highness Princes Maradeun Adedoyin-Solarin and Her Royal Princess Toyin Onagoruwa-Abod, who are cousins, flew to the Bahamas from Nigeria and the Middle East just

to personally present both awards to 'Mother' Pratt. Both coming from Africa, The Motherland, they referred to the people gathered at the church as their warm Bahamian family.

"I bring you warm Pan-African greetings from the Motherland, Africa. It is a cherished delight, most heart-warming to be here amongst our people, we are indeed kindred spirits.

"I am both humbled and proud to wear this title of Princess. My father, the late Prince would say, 'small girl, to be born Royal is a privilege. Royalty is bestowed by God Almighty; he chooses the linages, the Royal Bloodline; but then again, royalty is about leadership, and

leadership is service to humanity."

They pronounced blessings of wealth on 'Mother' Pratt'

In receiving the prestigious awards Cynthia 'Mother' Pratt, through tears, said, "today is a special day for me, I thought that I was stronger than I was, and I tried to hold out as much as possible, but how can I say thanks for the things God has done for me. The path in which he has taken me, sometimes rough, sometimes smooth; sometimes I was at a point I wanted to give up," she said.

A large number from the Coconut Grove and Saint Cecilia community were in attendance along with a number of prominent Bahamians.



▶ Former Deputy Prime Minister, Cynthia 'Mother' Pratt receiving the Nelson Mandela Humanitarian Lifetime Achievement Award and the 21st Century Pan-American Change Agent Award. She is captured with a number of select dignitaries who attended to show gratitude for her humanitarian contributions.

