

STANDARD SERVICES SUPPLIES LTD.
 Shirley & Church Street
 Phone: 322-4635



Shop at STANDARD SERVICES where you can get **20% OFF** Houseware, linen, lamps and draperies. and much, much more

The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

DEAN & ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS
 "Meeting Your Needs Efficiently and Professionally"



BUILDINGS (COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL)
 LIFE - GROUP - MEDICAL - ANNUITIES - LIABILITY - MARINE - HOMEOWNERS - AUTO

Tel: (242)-356-0986 Fax: (242)-356-0987
 Deal's Plaza, Mackey Street
 P.O. Box CB-13952 Nassau, Bahamas
 8:30am - 4:30pm

VOL. 31 - NO. 76

WEDNESDAY - MAY 1ST, 2019

75 CENTS

"GOV'T PILING TAXES AND FINES"

Says PLP Deputy Leader

BY LISA KNOWLES
 Journal Staff Writer

The Opposition's Shadow Minister of Finance, Chester Cooper says, "The Free National Movement is shamefully piling taxes and fines on the backs of the poor and a struggling middle class to simply appease ratings agencies and the International Monetary Fund."

He added that, "the FNM is disgracefully starving capital expenditure and neglecting infrastructure in order to hit a rigid target that no one in this country asked for. "This madness is



► Opposition Shadow Minister of Finance, Chester Cooper

■ See page 2...

"Bahamas needs to grow up," Says Smith

Leading Queens Counsel in the Bahamas Fred Smith says, "It's time that the Bahamas grew up. If we want to be a big player like Singapore on the world stage and if we want to be in the First World category, then we need to embrace immigration for investment and development purposes." The Attorney said, "for far too long, the amazing potential of the Bahamas has been choked by oppressive, repressive,



► Fred Smith, QC

■ See page 4...

Bimini Clinic Blasted Health Minister Refutes Claims of Inadequacies

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

There has been a critical report of medical facilities in Bimini after the shooting death of American Businessman Alain Perez on that island this past Sunday.

A news report, aired on Monday, on WPLG local 10, in Southwest Miami Dade Florida, begins: "loved ones say they not only want to see justice served, they want to find the person who shot and

■ See page 4...

WSC UNIONS ADVISE MANAGEMENT TO TALK

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Despite having a strike certificate in hand, Water and Sewerage union presidents yesterday said that they are actually looking forward to a speedy resolution to the three outstanding matters behind the ongoing friction. These include the fail-

ure of the Corporation to adhere to the promotional procedures and two unorthodox promotional listings; WSC's failure to post an organizational chart indicating which positions within the company are filled and those that are vacant, and the breach of Article 1301.

■ See page 3...

PRAYER AND HEALING SERVICE AT GOV'T HOUSE FOR RBDF MARINES



► Governor General, Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling & Commodore Tellis Bethel on April 30, shared words of comfort with marines of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force during a prayer and healing service at Government House. The prayer and healing service took place after their comrade, Petty Officer Philip Perpall, was murdered while on duty at Government House. (BIS Photos/Letisha Henderson)




ACDelco

Top-quality. Tune-up.

For precision tune-up parts-including oil, air and fuel filters, pcv valves, spark plug wires, distributor caps and distributor rotors-choose ACDelco. Available to fit most GM cars and trucks in The Bahamas.



NMC PARTS DEPARTMENT • Shirley Street • 302-0130 partsorder@nassaumotor.com • www.acdelcobahamas.com

ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

WSC UNION STRIKE CERTIFICATE SIGNED

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

As promised, Labour Minister Dion Foulkes has signed off on strike certificates for both the line staff and managerial unions of the Water and Sewerage Corporation.

This follows months of tension between union members on a number of

issues.

The certificate gives the two the green light to take such action if necessary, and this amid ongoing tension with WSC executives.

Minister Foulkes said, "I had discussion with the Attorney General's office and also with the Director of Labour and also with the Executive Chairman of the Water and Sewerage

Corporation to come to a determination."

"we thought that was the right thing to do," he added.

Despite, having the paperwork in hand, the minister is hoping that the unions do not rush to action.

He said, "I want to encourage both sides to lease sit down and talk, to

give it a little bit and see if you can reach a resolution to the issues on both sides."

"The supply of water is a necessity to the residents of The Bahamas, here in New Providence and the family islands, and the government is very concerned. The prime minister is very concerned about the consistency of the sup-

ply of water to all of our residents," he added.

"We really wish to impress upon both sides. There has been an improvement in the relationship between the unions and management, and the board. We would like to see that relationship develop into a very friendly relationship where both sides can reach an amica-

ble conclusion," he said.

The unions recently staged a two-day sit out decrying a number of grievances with WSC officials.

WSC Chairman Adrian Gibson has since fired back, charging that it was an illegal strike that included acts of sabotage which the unions have denied.

"GOV'T PILING TAXES AND FINES"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

depriving Bahamians of needed services, all to mask the failure of this government's revenue collection efforts," said Mr. Cooper.

The Government is not getting any brownie points from the Opposition on how the Economy has shaped up in the first 9 months of the Fiscal Year. In fact, the Progressive Liberal Party Deputy Leader is instead scolding the Minnis Administration for, despite having raised Value Added Tax (VAT) by 60 per cent, falling short of its forecast collection by hundreds of millions of dollars, a

failure he deemed of epic proportions.

Mr. Cooper said, "the Minister of Finance knows full well that there is no windfall expected in the last few months of the budget year that will get them close to the target amount. It is clear, and apparent by their own admission, that this Administration botched rollout of the VAT increase and other taxes due to poor modelling, poor implementation, a lack of consultation and politically motivated exemptions.

"Whose fault is it that hotel and others were given a grace period to implement VAT because the government failure to

understand many of their commitments were made with the understanding that VAT would not be hiked?" he asked.

"Now the Minister of Finance suggests that next year, the Budget targets are expected to be met. If they were so off with this budget exercise, why on earth would anyone believe they will craft a more realistic budget next year?"

"Meanwhile, the continuous harping on the deficit to explain the Government's fiscal policies is losing its shine.

"To top it off, recurrent expenditure is still up by \$143 million. It appears that all the

money saved by firing Bahamian people has still been squandered. We wonder how many had to go without, only to have the Government spend money elsewhere.

"We thank the

Government of The Bahamas for this level of reporting. It takes a certain courage to lay bare your failures in this manner. What a sad indictment on a lost Administration.

"We will have much more to say on this Government's fiscal failures in the upcoming, legally-mandated Budget Debate," said the MP for Exuma and Ragged Island.

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

CONTROLLER
ROAD TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

FOR RENT Warehouse and Storage Facilities

EXCELLENT LOCATION
University Drive, Oakes Field

For Additional Information
Telephone: (242) 326-7372

Improved Security For Gov't Buildings

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Defence Force Commodore Tellis Bethel has been directed to conduct an immediate assessment of key government structures in the wake of the shooting death of Petty Officer Phillip Perpall early Sunday morning in the Guard House on the grounds of Government House.

Minister, Marvin Dames told reporters just before the weekly Cabinet meeting, that to ensure that such a tragedy, does not reoccur, a team has been put together to work on policies as it relates to security on government buildings.

"In our planning, we've been talking about taking a tiered approach, for example when you look at a place like Government House, for

far too long the security focus has been relatively the same.

"We're living in a different world now; we see what is taking place around us on a daily basis. So, we have to ensure, that we bring our security measures up to address any kind of challenges that we anticipate.

"In addition to that, what we're also looking at how we can bring technology to the fore, to work

along with the human component," Mr. Dames said.

The minister has accepted that as it relates to security at government buildings, there's room for improvement. However, he reiterated that changes and consultations have been in the pipeline long before Sunday's tragedy.

"As a government, when we came into office, one of the things that we

recognized, given the world that we're living in today, and we see what is taking place all around us, security as it relates to government buildings in particular, in many of our securities have not been robust enough.

"And, so, one of the things that we recognize is that we have to change this. I've had a team working on a policy in relations to security at government buildings to

ensure that we bring the requisite security that is needed to protect these buildings to the forefront," Mr. Dames said.

A 30-year veteran on the Defence Force, Petty Officer Perpall was killed when another officer gained access to Government House, Guard House around 2:30am Sunday and opened fire, wounding Perpall multiple times.

He died on the scene.

GRAND BAHAMA POWER BLASTED

BY LISA KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

The President of Families for Justice Organization in Freeport, Pastor Glenroy Bethel is calling for the resignation of Dave McGregor Chief Operating Officer of the Grand Bahama Power Company.

This comes a result of the Executives of the Grand Bahama Power Company having filed a criminal complaint at the

Police Department in Freeport against several business owners several weeks ago. Those business owners were detained in police custody for 12 hours. Statements were taken from the accused and they were later released, however, no charges were filed against them.

After being released, the business owners met with the Grand Bahama Power Company in order to advise them of the

terms and conditions for having their electricity turned back on. The meeting was held after the officials had already made their criminal complaint to the Police Department. The business owners were not in agreement with the Grand Bahama Power Company's demands, but some were pressured into signing a written agreement for various reasons, one being to save their medical supplies for the

community of Freeport. Others made agreements in order to save the many jobs, as well as inventory that would have been lost, had their electricity not been restored.

In a statement the Organization said, local business owners in Grand Bahama disagree with what the Grand Bahama Power Company did and continues to do to business owners on that island. They feel it is a criminal act under

Section 346 of the Penal Code.

The statement said recently, the Grand Bahama Power Company took to the airways to send notice to the general public that there are more than two hundred plus residents that have a fake energy saving device and, they are expected to come into the Power Company's business office and pay for the energy that was used.

The Families For Justice Organization considers the actions of the Grand Bahama Power Company to be an act of extortion and feel it is a violation of every Bahamian's Constitutional Rights on the island of Grand Bahama.

Additionally, the Organization will be filing a formal criminal complaint of extortion to the Attorney General against Mr. McGregor.

WSC UNIONS ADVISE MANAGEMENT TO TALK

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Bahamas Utilities and Allied Workers Union (BUSAWU) President Dwayne Woods told reporters outside of WSC's University Drive location that likelihood of the unions exercising their right to strike is up to the corporation.

He said, "we are here extending the olive branch, although they may say we are disingenuous; we want them to know that we are extending the olive branch from the depths of our heart, but we have problems.

"You can't expect us to extend the olive branch today, and then you create another bone of contention tomorrow; then make it look like the union is the villain. We want a resolution for both unions.

"That's why we stand in solidarity. So, we're saying to solve the issues of both unions so that we don't have to use the certificate," he said.

When asked if there's a

particular timeline for this to take place, Mr. Woods said, "I must say that the corporation in all of its wisdom has already sent an invite for us to come to the table."

He added that both unions are walking into this meeting optimistic about a possible resolution.

Both parties are set to meet with WSC's Executive team on May 7th.

Labour Minister Dion Foulkes recently shared with reporters that the relationship between WSC Executives and the union has improved.

In response to his statement, Mr. Woods said, "from the the last time we met, I must say that the chairman and I left there shaking hands; but in all fairness, it appears to the union as though that relationship has gone south."

He added, "the board has now sanctioned that the HR Manager, the General Manager and the Deputy General Manager

will now be responsible for HR matters. So, we always had a good relationship with them. Once, they're allowed to do their job, we're looking forward to big things happening, because both sides should hopefully use good faith in negotiations."

WSC Management Union President Ednell Rolle said, "we have not met with the executives of the corporation. I would think that what he [Minister Foulkes] is implying is that with the strike certificate, relationships should improve."

He added, "that's the only way I can see him making a statement like that, because we have had no relationship with the executives, because it is a matter of public record. The Chairman has advised no executive to meet with the president of a union without him being present."

According to Mr. Rolle the corporation's chairman is not supportive of their concerns.



FREE
Spring
FLING

from
Roberts Furniture

STOREWIDE B2*GO
BUY TWO / GET ONE

FREE!* UP TO \$1000 VALUE
LINEN DEPARTMENT INCLUDED



GET A FREE* MICROWAVE
WHEN YOU BUY
ANY 2 APPLIANCES

WASHER & DRYER \$1,199*

JUST ARRIVED

DUCTLESS FROM **\$399***
A/Cs

FREE* LAMPS

WHEN YOU PURCHASE
ANY LIVING ROOM SET

Roberts Furniture
5th Terrace & East Avenue
CENTREVILLE
Phone: 322-8862
Join us on Facebook

CLOSEOUTS

SAVE UP TO 75%*

*VISIT STORE FOR DETAILS
*WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

GOT NEWS?

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

"Bahamas needs to grow up"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

discriminatory and abusive immigration policies."

He said, "I support the government 100 per cent in this initiative. In fact, I don't think the government is going far enough. It should amend the Commercial Enterprises

Act (CEA) to insert the Hawksbill Creek Agreement as a category in addition to tech hub industry promotion initiatives, as Freeport was designed to be a cradle of innovation for the benefit of the entire country."

Mr. Smith who is also the Legal Director for Rights Bahamas said, "It

was short-sighted, abusive immigration policies that stifled Freeport in 1969 and the Magic City, the goose that was laying the golden egg, nearly died. As the government is now seriously promoting Grand Bahama as a tech hub once again, the CEA needs to apply to all licensees of Freeport. This would res-

urrect the economy of Grand Bahama, and by extension the whole country."

The Human Rights Activist said, "If the Bahamas wants to be in the big boys' club, we need to stop shooting ourselves in the foot with these closed-minded and fearful protectionist policies and liberal-

ize immigration dramatically, especially in Freeport, which the government could use as an experiment. Attracting the best and the brightest to our shores would create amazing transfers of cutting edge skills to our people and lead to an explosion of economic activity which would benefit all

Bahamians.

"Ironically, we bring 5 million people here a year, yet we make it almost impossible for them to come back to invest with all the red tape and especially immigration hurdles. If we want to grow, we have to roll out the red carpet and roll up the red tape," said Mr. Smith.

Bimini Clinic Blasted

Health Minister Refutes Claims of Inadequacies

Continued from / PAGE 1...

killed Alain Perez".

"But they also want to send out a warning to you, to any travelers who might be thinking of going to Bimini, they say that medical care there is inadequate."

According to the reporter, the mother of the deceased said "her son did not deserve to die the way he did".

Perez, 47, was shot multiple times about the body after responding to a knock on the door of his home.

The reporter interviewed the friend and lawyer of Perez, Juan Carrera, "who happened to be in Bimini as well over the weekend".

Carrera gave this

account to what transpired: "He had just gotten off from work, at about 1 o'clock in the morning; within a few minutes of his arrival, somebody started knocking very desperately at the door, so he attended the door and they shot him".

Carrera then alleges that Bimini's clinic was "ill-equipped".

"I've seen veterinarian clinics here that have more adequate equipment and supplies and trained staff.

"The clinics there do not have the capacity to deal with traumatic injuries," Carrera said.

Health Minister, Dr. Duane Sands, yesterday responded to allegations, on other social media platforms, where friends of the

deceased alleged that Perez may still be alive had the healthcare facility been properly equipped.

"This is an awful tragedy, and anytime anybody is injured, shot, killed in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, I think we should all take pause.

"I think as the investigation unfolds, we will learn a little bit more about what happened to this gentleman; the nature of his injuries, which will be fully revealed with his autopsy.

"I am advised that the patient was greeted at the clinic by a consultant physician, Dr. Keisha Smith. She was there well before he arrived at the clinic.

"She is trained and per-

formed advance trauma, life support care to him. The patient was shot multiple times to the torso, and it is conceivable that he did indeed have life threatening injuries, and he succumbed from these injuries.

"This is very unfortunate, but whether or not any change in equipment would have made a difference in this gentleman's outcome, I don't think we have enough information to answer that," Dr. Sands said.

As the report stated that the clinic does not have the capacity to deal with traumatic incidents, Perez died before he could be airlifted.

Dr. Sands says contact was made with both

Nassau and the US air-ambulance services.

"There is a protocol that is followed for air-ambulances coming from the United States. They require admission, acceptance at a hospital.

"In the hour and fifteen minutes or so that she [Dr. Smith] was caring for him, no acceptance for admissions to hospital in the United States was obtained. And as such the air-ambulance service was scrambled from New Providence to bring him to Doctors' Hospital.

"Unfortunately the patient succumbed before the air-ambulance arrived," Dr. Sands said.

As for optimizing clinics or health care facilities throughout the country, Dr.

Sands says this is something that is being worked on not just for tourist, but also for Bahamians.

"Bear in mind that in an archipelago, we have 98 clinics around the Commonwealth of The Bahamas; and in those 98 clinics we try to standardize the care that's provided.

"We have a hub, so that there is different capacity at the major facilities in Grand Bahama and in New Providence and we're trying to strengthen the capacity in other hubs so that we can respond to the majority of issues that arise," Dr. Sands said.

At last report, Royal Bahamas Police Force said they are investigating the matter.



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 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. 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
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