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# The Bahama Journal

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VOL. 31 - NO. 87

TUESDAY - MAY 21ST, 2019

75 CENTS

# MAJOR ROADWORKS PLANNED

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis last evening noted the need for continued efforts to upgrade the capital's road network for a modern, smart urban center.

In his third national address, Dr. Minnis also noted that this matter needs to be addressed with the least amount of interruption for drivers and businesses.

With this in mind, he announced that the design phase for the widening of Gladstone Road corridor from two lanes to four lanes is about to begin along with quite a number of improvements.

He said, "the improvement to this corridor will increase the north-south

See page 4...

## Senators Debate Land Deal For Norman's Cay

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

The push to clean up Norman's Cay image as the base of operations of Colombian drug lord, Carlos Joe Ledher was debated by Senators yesterday, who dealt with a resolution to develop a

five star proposed development on the acreage once owned by Ledher's company. It was confiscated by The Bahamas government in the mid-1980's.

In February 2002, the then government agreed

See page 4...

## POLICE INVESTIGATE PLANE CRASH

Police are investigating a plane crash which occurred on yesterday at Staniel Cay, Exuma.

Shortly after 10:00 am, Police on Staniel Cay received a report that a plane had crashed at the

airport. Upon arrival at location, Officers discovered that a white 402 Cessna twin engine aircraft Registration CH6AAL had crashed

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## PRIME MINISTER MINNIS DISCUSSES ENERGY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP WITH U.S. INVESTMENT CORP.



Prime Minister the Most. Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis (right) met with OPIC Acting President and CEO David Bohigian at the Office of the Prime Minister, May 20, 2019 with senior officials of OPIC and the US Embassy. (BIS Photo/Yontalay Bowe)

# SENATOR DISMISSES CHINA REPORT

BY LISA KNOWLES  
 Journal Staff Writer

The Opposition yesterday denounced a video making the rounds on Social Media alleging that China is using the absence of a United States Ambassador in The Bahamas to strengthen its ties here. Taking aim at one America News Report, Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Senator Fred Mitchell dismissed such report as not credible, and as such, Bahamians ought to be very careful how they embrace information coming from that source.

See page 6...



PLP Chairman, Senator Fred Mitchell

# UNIONISTS TO ANNOUNCE LABOUR DAY PLANS

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

With just 17 days left until the annual Labour Day parade, there has been no official word on any changes that will be made to the parade following the Labour Day tragedy last year where four lost their lives.

According to Labour

See page 4...



Labour Minister, Hon. Dion Foulkes

# RAGGED ISLAND FACELIFT UNDERWAY

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

Ragged Island is slated for a major facelift following the devastation left behind from Hurricane Irma back in

September 2017, according to Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis last night.

In his prime time address, Dr. Minnis announced that the reconstruction of the island's public infrastructure,

including the construction of a new school and teachers' duplex at a cost of \$2 million, a new clinic at \$2.5 million, the construction of an Administrator's

See page 6...







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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# MINNIS HAS PRODUCTIVE TALKS WITH U.S. INVESTMENT CORPORATION



► Prime Minister The Most Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis with David Bohigian, Acting President and Chief Executive Officer of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Stephanie Bowers and other senior U.S. and Bahamian officials.

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis held productive discussions with senior officials of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and the United States Embassy at the Office of the Prime Minister on Monday, 20 May.

The visit by OPIC is a follow through to a meeting between United States President Donald J. Trump and a group of Caribbean leaders in March 2019, when a greater role for OPIC in the region was discussed, and the President commit-

ted to foster economic growth and strengthen security cooperation in the Caribbean.

"We are encouraged by these talks and the possible opportunities it may present for The Bahamas, particularly in the areas of energy and entrepreneurship," said Prime Minister Minnis.

OPIC has expressed an interest in collaborating on energy development projects in The Bahamas and providing grants and/or loans for micro and small businesses, particularly for women entrepreneurs.

The corporation is interested in supporting projects related to Family Islands power generation using non-oil sources, including solar, and using LNG to produce power in the Family Islands.

OPIC is a self-sustaining US government agency that helps businesses invest in emerging markets, with an emphasis on developing countries.

The corporation's projects in the region include small business lending, power generation, agriculture and low-income mortgage lending,

tourism, affordable housing, impact investing, financial services and infrastructure.

While in The Bahamas, OPIC officials also met with senior government officials and executives of Bahamas Power and Light (BPL) and the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Federation.

Historically, OPIC has

provided over \$19 million in assistance for a number of agriculture projects, government single family housing construction, a ship launch and entertainment facility and the purchase and refurbishment of a chemical company.

The OPIC delegation included David Bohigian, Acting President and CEO; Deaver Alexander, Senior Advisor,

Managing Director for Energy; Cari Lutkins, Director for Strategic Initiatives; Amanda Burke, Deputy Vice-President for External Affairs; Kristie Pellicchia, Managing Director of the Western Hemisphere; and Brian O'Hanlon, Managing Director for Business Development, Structured Finance and Insurance.

## PRISON FELLOWSHIP TO HOST CARIBBEAN FELLOWSHIPS

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

Prison Fellowship Bahamas (PFB) will host the 3rd annual Regional Conference of Prison Fellowship International in New Providence, anticipating fellowship partners from 12 Caribbean countries, for a week long seminar.

Under the theme Caribbean United in Faith, Breaking Shackles and Changing Lives, former Regional Director for the Caribbean for Prison Fellowship International, and Programs Coordinator for PFB, David Williams, said Prison Fellowship ministries will come from as far as Jamaica, Barbados, Bermuda Antigua and Barbuda and the Cayman Islands.

"The broad goals of the conference are fellowship, education and training, and initiative sharing.

"Highlight presentations will cover reports from the various countries, strategies for capacity building for longevity,

fund raising - the new paradigm, protocols of prison ministry, and Prison International's signature programs, TPJ and Sycamore Tree.

"We will also be addressing child molestation, rape prevention and prevention of gender based violence, considering the time we live in, particularly in The Bahamas," Mr. Williams said.

As More than 100 evangelism workers, from churches across The Bahamas, have been invited to join the PFB in this conference, Mr. Williams says it's a great opportunity for the public to get involved in ministry.

"Prison ministry is one of the purest forms of the love of God in the midst of broken humanity, and we invite the benevolent, sensitive, and the financially generous citizens among us to jump in and help us to plan and put on a very successful conference.

"As we all lend a hand in aiding the fallen in our land to walk again, we

must remember that Jesus says if you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto me," Mr. Williams said.

Prison Fellowship Bahamas is an arm of an international fellowship out of Washington DC. According to the PFB, other nations to be represented at the conference include US Virgin Isles, British Virgin Isles, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Belize.

The opening ceremony to will be held at the Cousin McPhee AME Church, on Sunday May 26.

President of PFB, Reverend Anthony Sands, said the non-profit organization, conducts spiritual enrichment services in five different sections of the Bahamas Department of Corrections (BDOC), namely Maximum, Medium and Minimum Security, Remand facility, the female section.

"Those programs are aimed to take the Gospel

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# Dames: Neighbourhood Watch Groups Pivotal to Success of Communities

The Minister of National Security, Marvin Dames along with members of the National Neighbourhood Watch Council (NNWC), neighbourhood watch group leaders and members, and police liaisons attended the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) Conference, May 15th – 18th, 2019 in Palm Springs California.

The purpose of the conference was to bring together neighbourhood watch groups from throughout the United States and other parts of the world to share best practices as they related to community residents, law enforcement and other community partners with the intent to foster safer communities.

For The Bahamas, specifically, the Blair Citizens' Association is the first known neighbourhood watch group, formed in 1975. Since then many more neighbourhood groups have followed; however, the groups lacked standardization and existed in silos.

Since coming to office in 2017, Minister Dames envisioned and has facilitated the development of more comprehensive and purposeful neighbourhood watch groups. In accordance, in July 2018 the National Neighbourhood Watch

Council was launched. The Council serves as the overarching body to coordinate activities among the respective groups throughout The Bahamas. The new and progressive initiative seeks to encourage and assist communities wishing to form neighbourhood watch groups.

Despite its short existence, there are now 112 neighbourhood watch groups, of which 90 are in New Providence, 16 in Grand Bahama, and 6 in Abaco. For the first time police liaisons were introduced and they serve to provide a direct link and partnership in the fight against crime. The liaisons also serve to provide training, guidance and support for their respective groups.

Minister Dames and representatives from The Bahamas aimed to garner and share best practices with NUSA's presenters, strategists, practitioners and citizens. There were over 700 delegates from throughout the United States and The Bahamas had the largest international delegation in attendance. The objective for the Bahamian delegation was to gain extensive knowledge on how the Ministry of National Security, NNWC, law enforcement and con-

cerned citizens could build stronger communities in The Bahamas.

Another purpose of the neighbourhood watch groups was to inspire young people, especially young men. Neighbourhood watch groups are not only concerned with fighting crime but on building stronger communities through partnerships. Of the 21 persons who travelled to the conference, Mr. Watson Castin was the youngest member of the group and one of the youngest to join his neighbourhood community group.

He resides in the Bain and Grant's Town Constituency and instead of allowing the challenges of being in a community with a high propensity for crime decide his life choices, he has chosen to live a crime and drug free life. The conference in Palm Springs represented many first for Mr. Castin as this was his first time travelling internationally. While most Bahamians' first international trip is usually to Florida, Mr. Castin's was sunny California. For him, through the trip, he hoped to increase his knowledge base to develop into a responsible contributing member of society. He hopes one day to become

a member of the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

During the opening ceremony, Mr. Dames acknowledged that the respective neighbourhood watch groups are pivotal to the success and development of communities, and that the present challenges did not mushroom overnight but festered due to neglect. He posited that community residents should work together to devise grassroot strategies to foster neighbourhoods that reflect their distinct values and beliefs: It is only through the individual efforts of each neighbourhood watch group that collectively countries will be able to enjoy safe places to live, work and prosper.

The NNWC of The Bahamas will travel to Exuma and Eleuthera to introduce the concept of neighbourhood watch groups. This will be followed by committee members of the NNWC, law enforcement, neighbourhood watch groups, corporate Bahamas and community activists preparing for The Bahamas' first neighbourhood watch conference which is scheduled for October. The conference hopes to expand the work of the Council and respective groups.



► Minister Dames addressed Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) 2019 Conference in Palm Springs, California while Bahamian delegates and NUSA President, Monique Coleman stand nearby. Minister Dames is pictured here with Mayor of Palm Springs, Mr. Robert Moon.



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

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### GOVERNMENT NOTICE INVITATION FOR TENDERS

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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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Tenders Board  
Ministry of Finance  
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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. Dorettes, 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

# MAJOR ROADWORKS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

road network capacity, which will result in the reduction of delays along this congested corridor during heavy peak traffic hours.

"The government will be seeking proposals from local consultants for the design and supervision of Tonique Williams-Darling Highway, between Bethel Avenue and John F. Kennedy Drive. The four lane highway will continue between Bethel Avenue

and JFK Drive, and Baillou Hill Road between Solider Road and Cowpen Road," he added.

The Prime Minister added that the government plans to improve the section of road between Soldier Road and Carmichael Road by increasing the number of south-bound lanes and by widening the section of Baillou Hill road to Cowpen Road from two lanes to four lanes.

Dr. Minnis said, "We will continue with

increasing the north-south road network capacity by extending the existing Milo Butler Highway southwards from Carmichael Road to Cowpen Road.

"The proposed project will comprise a four lane dual carriage way together with roundabout junctions, street lighting, drainage, sidewalks, traffic signs, road markings, and landscaping," he added.

A design for the improvement of Coconut Grove between Baillou

Hill Road and East Street is also underway, according to the Prime Minister.

Additionally, the development of new junction improvements are also set to begin with the installation of new traffic signals and road widening at Commonwealth Boulevard and Prince Charles Drive along with Arawak Cay and West Bay Street.

There is also improvements slated for the injunction of West Bay Street and Blake Road

where a new roundabout is expected to develop.

Dr. Minnis added that the resurfacing and rehabilitation for Village Road is also underway from Village Lane to Shirley Street, and a number of sidewalks have also been installed throughout various communities in New Providence.

This, he said, is a part of the government's initiative to heighten pedestrian safety.

The Prime Minister said, the government is

planning the establishment of a Traffic Management Center in order to monitor all signals remotely in an effort to improve response times to any technical issues which require attention."

This traffic management center will also observe changes in the traffic flow pattern and/or volumes, adjust signal timings, to optimize the performance of a junction or signalize the corridor, and collect daily traffic data.

# Senators Debate Land Deal For Norman's Cay

Continued from / PAGE 1...

to sell the land to the proposed investor for \$1 million.

"The resolution in effect has two purposes; one is to give certain minor rights away without transferring title over government land for golf

carts or walkways and more significantly, to transfer to the developer just over 8.4 acres of land from the government and in return the developer will transfer to the government 8.6 acres, so we get .2 acres more," the Attorney General Senator Carl

Bethel said.

The Senator stressed the importance of the such developments to young people throughout the Exuma Cays.

"It is guaranteed to young Exumians and other Bahamians from other islands in particular Long Island, the

Exuma mainland and other islands in the country a very good quality of life.

"We hope and trust that this development will contribute in a positive way again to the economy of Great Exuma, which is both the mainland, the Cays

and other islands who's sons and daughters will come to hopefully work and play a role there," he said.

The Opposition has thrown its support behind the resolution.

Members of the upper chamber yesterday also dealt with first readings

of several pieces of legislation - namely an amendment to the Royal Bahamas Police Staff Association Act - a proposal that speaks to the election of board members - as well as the Commercial Recreation Watercraft Amendment Bill.

# UNIONISTS TO ANNOUNCE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Minister Dion Foulkes, the parade is completely in the hands of the trade union congress and is confident that they will advise him on the changes soon.

"I think that they have given serious consideration to it. I anticipate, in sufficient time for parade, that they will advise," he said.

At the parade last year a runaway truck hit participants in the area of East and Shirley Streets killing

four and injuring 20.

The victims- Dianne Elizabeth Ferguson, 55; Kathleen Augusta Fernander, 51; Tabitha Charlene Haye, 41 and Tami Patrice Gibson, 48.

At that time Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis described the incident as a tragedy.

In September 22 year old Travis Sawyer was charged before Deputy Chief Magistrate Subusola Swain with four counts of manslaughter by negligence.

Last month Trade Union Congress General Secretary Tyrone 'Rock' Morris told reporters that no major changes was made to the upcoming parade.

Following his comments, Minister Foulkes said he would intervene on the matter and advice trade unionist to make the needed changes.

The National Congress of Trade Unions Bahamas will announce the parade in a press conference today.

# POLICE INVESTIGATE PLANE CRASH

Continued from / PAGE 1...

into a chain link fence as it attempted to land. No one was injured.

This matter will be referred to the Department of Civil Aviation for further investigation.

Police are also seeking the Public's help in locating a Juvenile female who

has been reported missing by family members.

Missing is Angel Knowles of 10 Kendall Avenue, South Beach. Angel reportedly left home just before 9:00 pm on Sunday, May 19th, 2019 and has not been seen or heard from since.

She is described as

being 5 ft 3-4 in tall, slim build with light brown complexion.

Anyone knowing Angel's whereabouts is asked to contact the Police at 919 or 911 Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS (8477), or the Central Detective Unit at 52-9991/2.



## 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.urbahamas.bs/](http://www.urbahamas.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@urbahamas.bs](mailto:info@urbahamas.bs). The deadline for submission is 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 May 2019.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## WE ARE NOT THE ENEMY

By Frederick RM Smith QC

The presentation by Rights Bahamas (RB) and Robert F Kennedy Human Rights to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (Commission) in Jamaica on May 12 was unfortunately not reported in context by the local media except for The Tribune, the only organisation that bothered to send a journalist to this important international hearing and cover what actually happened.

Reporting by other media houses was based on selective extraction of content from the government's presentation and the Commissioner's comments. This resulted in an erroneous perception the RB presented a malicious, untrue and damaging report about the conditions of migrants in The Bahamas for the purpose of intentionally harming the country's international reputation. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact the very opposite occurred.

RB was allotted 15 minutes and within that time, Stephanie St Fleur, President; Louby Georges, International Affairs Director; and Dawrin Thompson, Education Committee Chairman presented. They spoke against the backdrop of a video showing a half naked woman being abused by Immigration officers, as well as a series of photographs showing migrants and their treatment in The Bahamas. RB Vice President Joseph Darville and Legal Director Fred Smith were part of the delegation, but were not slated to present.

The government's presentation, by Minister of Legal Affairs Elsworth Johnson, was not a response to RB as was called for, but rather a litany of defences for anticipated attacks by RB and technical objections to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

In addition, Minister Johnson presented to the Commission and repeatedly referred to a booklet entitled Know Your Rights, printed 18 months ago by RB. He complained the booklet misrepresented the facts, as some of the photos were not taken in The Bahamas.

This is misleading. The booklet was not intended, nor does it claim to be a historical record of incidents that occurred in The Bahamas. It is a compendium in Spanish, Creole and English, in which people's rights are explained with photos dramatising events. The booklet contains photographs from The Bahamas, South Africa, the United States and elsewhere which are for illustrative purposes regarding whichever relevant "right" is being explained in each instance.

RB stands by the booklet and its contents. But we emphasise for the record that the booklet was presented by the government to the Commission, NOT by RB. For their part, the Commissioners seemed not at all moved by the repeated references to the photos, and they did not question RB about any aspect of its presentation or conduct in general, as they did the government. Minister Johnson took no issue with the video and photos in the RB power point presentation.

After the government's presentation, various Commissioners expressed views on a number of matters such as the ongoing use of detention contrary to international trends and Inter-American standards; statelessness; the right of children to education; and gender equality. These views have resulted from the



Commissioner's independent investigations and their own knowledge, and they requested the government to address these issues.

It is important to note this is the second hearing in a continuing investigation started in 2015 when the Commission requested The Bahamas ameliorate and mitigate the harsh challenges facing migrants. The government sought to defend the perceived criticism by the Commissioners of The Bahamas. The Commissioners reminded the government this was not an adversarial forum and it was their intention to urge constructive dialogues and cooperation between the Commission, the government and civil society.

To this end the Commission accepted The Bahamas' invitation for the Commission to conduct an on-site visit to the Carmichael Road Detention Centre. In this continuing spirit of cooperation, I was then given a five-minute opportunity to respond by the Commissioners.

In summary, I congratulated the current administration for its efforts in preventing sex tourism and human trafficking (a matter which had been raised by one of the Commissioners); acknowledged the current administration as more enlightened than its predecessors; emphasised RB's commitment to cooperate; implored the government to distinguish between illegal migrants and those born in The Bahamas who are entitled to status; begged for an avoidance of unnecessary detention; and, referring to an historical paroling of Cubans into the community, suggested many migrants could be permitted to work instead of being detained, rather than continuing to be a financial burden on The Bahamas. (After all, decades of research have shown that migrant workers, do not 'take' jobs from local workers, and boost rather than harm the host economy generally.)

I also asked Minister Johnson to allow RB and other human rights organisations to visit the Detention Centre with the Commission and ended by urging The Bahamas, as part of the global community, to end its fear of foreigners and welcome them to help develop the country which, although it has a small population, is geographically large.

Johnson responded for the government but once again focused on the photographs in the booklet and, to the obvious consternation of the Commissioners, dramatically rejected by saying "never", to RB joining the Commission on its visit to the Detention Centre. Clearly as a result of the continued defence of the indefensible by The

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## E D I T O R I A L

PREVENTION  
OF NCDS

For the next three months, The Jones Communications Network in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and other social partners will place special emphasis in the prevention of non-communicable diseases in the Bahamas.

These diseases are destroying our way of life and are having a negative impact on the level of productivity in the country. It is said that NCDs are largely the result of urbanization and bad eating habits. Our health-care facilities are severely challenged and the system makes it extremely expensive for most Bahamians who seek care for diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, Renal failure and various forms of cancers, among other things.

There is a national urgency to address this epidemic which is wreaking havoc and leading to fatalities around the Bahamas.

As a society, we must concentrate in teaching young Bahamians the importance of maintaining a good diet and to be tested yearly by a physician. There are tens of thousands of young Bahamians who run a gauntlet of greasy food joints, and little old ladies selling all manner of sugary stuff out of the back trunks of their vehicles.

The consumption of their stuff is - to say the least - the purest bad news. In time, these children will suffer. And in time, some of these children will become obese. Others will fall victim to other diseases that will afflict them in mind and body.

This is the price they and their parents will pay for their ignorance.

We are convinced that none of this need be the case in this day and age. Information about what children and adults should be eating is widely available.

Officials in the Ministries of Education and Health are fully aware of what should be done to put this nation's children on the right path to good health. This is why the radio and television shows and promos by JCN are essential.

Tragically, no one is doing near enough to nip in the bud certain nutrition-related problems in this nation's youthful population. This explains the problems some of our older citizens now face.

Many of their ills and diseases are now lumped together under the rubric 'life-style related' ailments.

Most of these ailments can be traced back to those times and places where children were exposed to greasy foods, sugary concoctions and other junk, some of it replacing real food.

Sadly, as more and more Bahamians get

into the fast lane, they are led to believe that they should consume fast foods. The result is soon apparent, which is that they come down with a litany of diseases that are today prevalent in the United States of America, that land to the north where everything seems speed up.

This is no way to live. Indeed, this is a sure road to disease and death.

We note that some of this nation's youngsters often have to make do with some version or the other of the new ubiquitous 99 cent breakfast. But no matter, what they do as they try to feed themselves-on the run, so to speak - these children will suffer. In our considered opinion, these children are being set up for failure.

We have it on very good authority that the first meal of the day - literally, the break-fast is the meal that sets the pace for the day ahead. It therefore does not surprise us at all that so very many of our children are wallowing in obesity.

There are connections between what our children eat, how they grow, how they think, how they learn and how they behave.

We are also convinced that the time has come for the authorities to take a closer look at this problem with a view towards finding solutions to what we take to be a major national problem.

It does not take a genius or a rocket scientist to figure out that it would be good for everyone if our youthful population was better fed.

It might make some sense for these children to be fed at school and for each school to be provided with an adequate cafeteria. Were we to go down that road, our nation's children could be guaranteed fruit, vegetables, bread and other food items deemed essential.

The authorities should begin to act as if the health of the nation was actually the wealth of the nation. And then, they would begin to see the connection between education and health.

This once beloved land of ours is today afloat in a quagmire of moral contradictions.

One of these contradictions witnesses the situation where children who are on the road to school are so malnourished that when they do arrive, the school experience is vitiating.

This need not be the case. We can begin to see the vital connection between the health of the Bahamian nation and the waste of the wealth of this land of ours in the junk food we allow this nation's youth to eat.

**THE BAHAMAS**  
Sun, Sand, Sea .... and the  
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NO BETTER READING

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# SENATOR DISMISSES

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Mr. Mitchell said, "we have to always, as citizens of The Bahamas, and Government and Opposition, keep our rational minds when dealing with all of our public policy matters. And not go off behind dog whistles, racism and xenophobia. When you look at the report, it is filled with all of those things.

"The interesting thing is One America has twisted these facts to together in this report, which

makes it seem as if the hordes from the Far East are coming to take over The Bahamas, is simply inaccurate, and as I said, if we keep our rational minds, we'd say they are not true."

Senator Mitchell said, "the plot which they say is coming at us, is the Chinese have some hegemonic designs on The Bahamas and have some security challenge or threat to the United States.

"And so that is the point that many people have asked me to com-

ment on as a former Foreign Minister.

"I would say, as a general proposition, The Bahamas is firmly within the trade and political ambit of the United States of America, we're joined at the hip. Geography dictates that, and I don't think that there is any evidence that the Chinese are trying to do anything. In fact they could not do anything about the geography, if they wanted to. The fact is our geography and the United States is our largest trading part-

ner."

The Senator said, "as far as we can tell, when the Progressive Liberal Party was in government, all of the investments in The Bahamas, by so-called China, were actually through corporations which were simply in the commercial business of lending money.

"The Port, for example, about which they speak, is a port which is funded by an interest in Hong Kong, which is a special Administrative Section of the People's Republic of

China, and is owned by private individuals. That investment has been quite a successful investment for Freeport. There are differences of opinion on whether or not we are getting as much as we should get from it, but that is a private investment, that's not a Chinese, as in Chinese Government investment.

"The interesting thing about the comment they make about Baha Mar, is that Baha Mar, although the ultimate beneficial owner is a private citizen,

he's also a private investor who runs and controls Baha Mar, and the company, if I'm not mistaken, is an American company, which that investor owns, so if the Americans can allow the Chinese to own an American company, what then is the issue with the Commonwealth of The Bahamas?" Senator Mitchell asked.

The United States and China are embroiled in a Trade War with every indication pointing that it will be a long war.

## PRISON FELLOWSHIP RAGGED ISLAND FACELIFT

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of Jesus Christ to those individuals, and as we do that we seek to bring about transformation, reconciliation, and restoration.

"By extension, it's also offered to ex-offenders, our communities and certainly the families of victims as well," Mr. Williams said.

PFB also conducts a number of programs out-

side of the prison program, including a school program, taking the message of hope, and crime prevention to the youth, partnering with the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) and BDOC.

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office, post office, and court room also at \$2.5 million, and the construction of a police station and accommodations for officers at a cost of \$1 mil-

lion.

The prime minister said, "I'm also pleased to announce that candidates have been shortlisted to participate in the Request for Proposal process for a solar generation facility in

Ragged Island.

"The RFP is expected to be published soon, barring any unforeseen circumstances, the current projection for the completion of such a facility is expected by year's end."



### 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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### PUBLIC NOTICE THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

#### PROVISION FOR TENDER FOR NON-INTRUSIVE INSPECTION EQUIPMENT (NII) FOR THE BAHAMAS CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

The Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, through the Ministry of Finance, invites Tenders for the provision of Non-Intrusive Inspection Equipment (NII) for The Bahamas Customs Department.

The Ministry of Finance is seeking the services of qualified companies (Bidders) who can provide the required specialized equipment, inclusive of hardware and software, to meet the needs for The Bahamas Customs Department.

The following requirements are expected of the project:

- > Conducting of a comprehensive *Requirements Analysis* based on, but not limited to, the *Requirements Definition Document*
- > Design & Develop a solution that meets the functional & non-functional requirements of The Bahamas Customs Department, with respect to NII Equipment, as determined in the *Requirements Analysis exercise*.
- > Implement and test all products (hardware and software).
- > Training of end-users and technical staff.
- > Final Executive Summary Report summarizing the scope, approach, results, findings and recommendations in a manner suitable for senior management.

All Bidders must go to the "Government Tender and Projects" section on the Government's website at [www.bahamas.gov.bs](http://www.bahamas.gov.bs), for a copy of the full "Request for Proposal (RFP)".

All bids MUST be received not later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019 (the "Bid Due Date"). The Ministry of Finance may in its sole discretion extend the Bid Due Date by issuing an amendment uniformly to all Bidders. Any proposal received after the Bid Due Date shall not be considered and shall be summarily rejected.

Proposals must be received on or before the Bid Due Date at the Reception Desk, Ministry of Finance, Cecil Wallace-Whitfield Centre, West Bay Street, The Bahamas.

Bidders or their designated representatives are invited to be present for the Tender opening on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019 when the Tenders Board meets at 10:00 a.m.

The Ministry of Finance reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

Submissions shall be addressed to:

Chairman  
Tenders Board, Ministry of Finance  
Cecil Wallace-Whitfield Centre,  
Cable Beach  
P. O. Box N - 3017  
Nassau, Bahamas  
Labelled: RFP - Non- Intrusive Inspection  
Equipment (NII) For Bahamas Customs

Marlon Johnson  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY (Actg.)

The Bahama Journal

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