“NO BUSINESS AS USUAL”

BRIAN MOREE, QC, SWORN IN AS CHIEF JUSTICE

CA SMITH MATTER TO BE HANDLED BY PALACE

By Berthoncy McDermott
Journal Staff Writer

The Prime Minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis, says that the matter of the premature announcement of a new Governor General is to be taken up by Buckingham Palace. Dr. Minnis, commenting yesterday on the social media video of Deputy Governor General, C.A. Smith, looked on as Mr. Brian Moore, QC, was sworn in Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, June 12, 2019 at Government House. Mr. Moore is pictured, left, being sworn in by Deputy to the Governor General, C.A. Smith.

LLOYD STATES POLICY ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

By Leah Cooper
Journal Staff Writer

Education Minister Jeffrey Lloyd yesterday announced in parliament the government’s implementation of a tertiary grant program and in the face of the University of The Bahamas announcing its hike in tuition this coming fall. This program will provide tuition and mandatory course fees for qualified, present and incoming, full-time students at the university. The existing teacher education and nursing grants, the national bur- do:er, will be supplemented.

PM EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN ITALIAN PROBE

By Berrington McDermott
Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis has expressed confidence in Italian authorities to conduct investigations into the deaths of the two Bahamian males whose bodies were found in a lake in Turin, Italy. His comments came after the families of the young men asserted otherwise, saying that they have no confidence in Italian officials. Speaking on the sidelines of the swearing in of the new Chief Justice yesterday, Mr. Brian M. Moore, QC, was sworn in Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, June 12, 2019 at Government House. Mr. Moore is pictured, left, being sworn in by Deputy to the Governor General, C.A. Smith.

MINISTER ANNOUNCES UB GRANT PROGRAM

By Lucic Bastian
Journal Staff Writer

Education Minister Jeffrey Lloyd yesterday announced in parliament the government’s implementation of a tertiary grant program and in the face of the University of The Bahamas announcing its hike in tuition this coming fall. This program will provide tuition and mandatory course fees for qualified, present and incoming, full-time students at the university. The existing teacher education and nursing grants, the national bur-

EDUCATION MINISTER

Jeffrey Lloyd

Jeffrey Lloyd revealed during his contribution to the 2019/2020 Budget Debate that less than 50 percent of students in high schools across the country leave school with a high school diploma. In 2017, the first set of high school students graduated out of the Bahamas High School Diploma program (BHSD). Mr. Lloyd says that since the program
The Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) outfitted its Dialysis Unit with twenty (20) new dialysis reclining chairs as part of its phased improvement works.

The Champion 54 Series Dialysis Recliners were purchased by the Public Hospitals Authority (PHA) at a cost of $31,707.71. The chairs offer patients durable support, around-the-clock comfort during treatment, and contain key features like stationary arms, fold-away tables, push handles, retractable foot trays and quick release seats.

Minister of Health, Dr. Duane E. Sands this week spoke to the improvements under way in the Dialysis Unit referring to the upgrade as progress and a glimpse of the vision to revamp public healthcare in the country while offering patients equitable access and quality care. The Health Minister also revealed that the process to procure brand new dialysis machines is also underway.

The Dialysis Unit at PMH is designed to accommodate one hundred and twenty-five (125) patients. Currently, the Unit caters to nearly two hundred persons who need renal therapy. Dr. Sands also forecasted further improvements to the Unit including an eventual relocation to a new site.

CA SMITH MATTER TO BE HANDLED BY PALACE

Smith announcing that he would be stepping down as a Non-Resident Ambassador and sworn in as the next Governor General at the end of this month. Even though Mr. Smith has apologized for the inappropriate announcement, Dr. Minnis noted that any concerns of a breach would be taken up by The Palace. He said, “It’s unfortunate in our society that you can’t have a conversation with staff or a private conversation without individuals recording it and sending it viral on social media. "It’s unfortunate that we have reached that degree in our society, but that’s a matter Buckingham Palace would be able to address.”

The Prime Minister’s comments come after it was formally announced that Dame Marguerite Pindling will be relinquishing her post as Governor General.

Dr. Minnis added that the nomination for the new governor general is not yet complete.

“In 2014 Dame Marguerite was sworn in as the tenth Governor General of The Bahamas succeeding Sir. Arthur Foulkes. C.A. Smith was sworn in as Deputy Governor General last July.

The Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of The Bahamas (GoB) signed the Loan Agreement No. 3792/OC/BH for the execution of the Investment Programme “Skills for Current and Future Jobs in The Bahamas” (96H-1037). The general objective of the Programme is to increase the employability and quality of employment of beneficiaries, improving access to quality jobs in The Bahamas, with particular emphasis on youth, in three strategic sectors: maritime, medical services and IT/telecommunications.

The specific objectives are to: (a) increase relevant skills and employability in productive jobs for Programme beneficiaries; (b) improve the effectiveness of the Public Employees Service (PES); and (c) enhance the capacity of the labour market intelligence system.

The Unit, designated by the Minister of Labour (MLC) as the Programme Executing Agency (PEA), will establish a Public Service Bureau within its training/sanatorium structure under the Office of the Permanent Secretary. Accordingly, the PEA has invited interested eligible individual consultants to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) indicating qualifications and experience required to provide consulting services of Strategic Communications Consultation. The contract duration for this contract is 12 months, renewable annually. This consultancy shall be based in New Providence.

Specific responsibilities and qualifications are itemized in the Terms of Reference (TOR) for this consultancy, which can be accessed via this link, http://palservices.bahamas.gov.bs.

Required Qualifications

The consultant must hold a post-graduate degree in Business Administration, Marketing, Communications, Journalism or Public Affairs, or related field. He/she must have a minimum of five years of relevant work experience leading the design and implementation of corporate communications strategies.

The Consultant will have superior planning and logistical skills, with ability to identify resources, address and prioritize a wide range of issues and activities for timely completion, and a proven ability to take initiative and work independently. He/she will be experienced in coordinating strategic communication efforts and/or initiatives, disseminating knowledge, improving visibility, and developing relevant content. Graphic design experience/knowledge is beneficial, as well as competence in storytelling, communication and messaging, writing, editing; media design and development; stakeholder insight and outreach, and marketing.

Additionally, he/she will be competent in:

- Creative writing, data storytelling techniques, message development, graphic design, digital campaigns, social media.
- Coordination experience among all stakeholders. Consultants will need to be able to understand different stakeholders’ objectives and be able to tailor key messages according to their needs/interests.
- Collaboration, teamwork and inclusion – the Consultant will work cooperatively with others independent of background (gender, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, background, perspective) or organisational roles, and take a team based and inclusive approach to projects and decision making.
- Innovation and creativity – The Consultant will develop strategic ideas and solutions through creativity, experimentation, and critical thinking.
- Communication and Influence – The Consultant will communicate effectively and leverage relationship and strategies to influence others.
- Client focus – The Consultant will understand client needs and provide services that meet their expectations for quality and performance.

Expressions of interest should include a cover letter highlighting the consultant’s interest in the position, relevant experiences and qualifications, a copy of the consultant’s curriculum vitae (CV), three written professional references, and a sample of the consultant’s technical writing.

Submissions of Expressions of Interest may be submitted by hand to the following address or by email to jobs@labour.bahamas.gov.bs, no later than 5:00 p.m. June 14th, 2019.

Permanent Secretary Ministry of Labour Chinotto House Shiloh Street and Clear-water Streets Nassau, The Bahamas

Re: Strategic Communications Consultant, Skills for Current and Future Jobs in The Bahamas

Request for Expressions of Interest Individual Consultant: Communications Strategist “Skills for Current and Future Jobs in The Bahamas”
Twenty-four hard working students from the 11 govern- ment schools, including those from the few- est islands schools were presented with laptops by Paul Bogle. The Principal Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of National Security, The presentation took place on the premises of the Farquharson Conference Centre yesterday. Minister of Education, Dr. Mohammad Tarakhil, said “We are making the visual acts of kindness to help advance the dreams and goals of others, we collectively make this little nation of ours, and our world, a much better place for all to live in.”

He said, “We must guide, nurture and encourage children to look for the future.”

Help them understand their significance, their value in life, because one day, many of us will be around to see them lead, and quality of their leadership will depend on how you develop them in their tender years, that is what is important.”

He welcomed these students who trav- elled all the way from the islands to the nation’s cap- ital and congratulated all the students who received on such an amazing opportunity. “This is only the beginning. You are a springboard to become better citizens, to become leaders of this nation, to become better neighbours, to become good followers.

“Use this experience and hard work to transform, which is so desperately needed in this country of ours.”

The future of this nation depends on each and every one of you, and you are being recog- nized today because of your good works, your greatness, take this opportunity to build on it.”

Mr. Dames said that “If we don’t have the largest business in the country, but has dozens of laptops to deserving students for four years, even when his business was not doing so well. He conveys his love for the work that he continues to do for Bahamians and students, not only in Nassau, but across the length and breadth of this country. Each year, more islands are represented.

To him, “there is more about giving back and not asking for anything.”

And oftentimes we’re not; we give someone something, we want to tell the world, because there is no guarantee of anything. But he does this and other things, that he is a Landing publicist, and that’s what a nation building is all about.

“Oftentimes we use the phrase, ‘live and let live,’ and we call people, and refer to people as nation builders, simply because they may be a politician, or some public figures, way up there, when many of them are so far from it, and are not deserving of the title. But the true nation builders are those people who reside within the communities of this nation, who continue, day in and day out, reaching out in pulling up others. They may not have much, but they understand the true value of building a country, one at a time.”

Mr. Dames said that he hopes that more business owners throughout the country will look at this example and help, not for their own personal gain, as many often do, but for the good of every community within this country.

He said, “Many of you are planning for a year, invest in rice; if you’re planning for a year, invest in rice; if you’re planning for a lifetime, invest in people.”

Mr. Dames ended by saying that the PLP is extrem ely concerned about the state of the Bahamian position. The company has proposed a 1.5 percent increase to its contract that lacks vision and the company’s position. The officers of the company have compromised their workers’ requirements within five years of the commencement of their studies, even if there are exterm ating circumstances and the University grants an extension after verifica- tion,” said Mr. Lloyd. He further explained that approval from the University is the only way under which grant disbursements will be extended. He said that the five-year period after the signing of the Company’s minimum cumulative GPA which would be placed on academic pro- gram as per University policy, will be used.

They will be permitted a grace period to elevate their GPA to 2.0 or higher. If they do not, then the programme will be suspended from the programme.

Reports we have received indicate that some of these challenges very directly in the short term.

“Don’t blink, it’s going to be business as usual. We do not have an agenda of items, we are going to see if we can implement changes. We’re going to be working with all the stakeholders, who are involved with the administra- tion of justice to see if we can make some sub- stantive changes to improve the way in which we are conducting business at the present time.

The Minister also said that this is only the beginning. You are a springboard to become better citizens, to become leaders of this nation, to become better neighbours, to become good followers. “Use this experience and hard work to transform, which is so desperately needed in this country of ours.”

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Negotiations for a new Industrial Agreement for BIMAUW began last year.

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The Ministry of Health wishes to advise members of the public, clients and residents of the Flamingo Gardens Health District, that due to unexpected circumstances, all clinic services at the Flamingo Gardens Health Center, Country Road will be temporarily suspended effective Tuesday June 21, 2016 until further notice.

Antennal Clients scheduled for follow up services tomorrow June 15th at the Flamingo Gardens Clinic, are advised to visit the South Beach Health Center East Street South at their usual appointment times. Other Clients in the Flamingo Gardens Health District in need of non-emergency services are advised to visit the Elizabeth Estates, South Beach and Fleming Streets Clinics until services are resumed at the Flamingo Gardens Clinic.

The public and residents of the Flamingo Gardens Clinic, are further advised that the hours of operations at the South Beach Health Center, Elizabeth Estates, will remain the same.

The Ministry of Health apologises for any inconvenience caused and will continue to provide updates.

Monday June 19th, 2016

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Gov’t Pursuing Transformative Reform in Public Service Operations

Through the Public Financial Management and Performance Monitoring Reform Project, the government digitization effort and other initiatives, the Bahamian Government is actively pursuing transformative reform in the way the public service operates, the Deputy Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Athena Marche said.

“We are committed to upgrading human resource and technical capacity to improve value for money for the Bahamian taxpayers,” said the Deputy Financial Secretary at the National Statistics of the Public Financial Management and Performance Monitoring Reform Project two-day workshop held at SuperCubs Breezes, Wednesday, June 12, 2019.

The Deputy Financial Secretary also noted that the challenges the nation faces are complex and require solutions that will guide Statistical Development in the Bahamas for the foreseeable future via the National Statistical System (NSS).

The importance of a cohesive statistical system that accommodates the needs of our growing nation cannot be understated. “Statistics makes up the core of wide range of fields including business engineering, economics, biology, as well as social science and applied sciences. Data and information are imperative for evidence based planning. Without accurate, relevant and timely statistics, our development in these areas will be impeded. Policy makers will be unable to recognize areas of success or failure and the public will be unable to hold us accountable for our promises.”

“The National Statistical System will directly assist every Bahamian by offering a comprehensive picture of the state of our nation, so that we can make informed decisions about home buying, the job market, or which schools our children should attend for example.”

She said as an additional benefit, the NSS will also act as a catalyst for an industry that contributes to the application of statistical methods.

The Deputy Financial Secretary explained that econometrics and business analytics will support the growth of knowledge professionals across the country. “These high paying, information based jobs will be needed as the government and private sector seeks to capitalize on the opportunities of Big Data and Open Data.”

“As we work together to formulate the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSSD), it is imperative that we remain focused on our ultimate goal of National Development. We thank the technical groups for the draft that will be presented in this workshop and look forward to the finalization of the NSSD,” she said.