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THURSDAY - JUNE 13TH, 2019

75 CENTS

"NO BUSINESS AS USUAL"

BRIAN MOREE, QC, SWORN IN AS CHIEF JUSTICE

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

There was standing room only at Government House yesterday as scores of family, Attorneys and friends looked on as Mr. Brian Moree was sworn in as the new Chief Justice.

He was sworn in by Deputy to the Governor General C.A. Smith some nine months after former Chief Justice Stephen Isaacs past away.

On current state of the judiciary, Mr. Moree said it won't be business as usual.

"We've got to see if we can get an allocation of national resources which are consistent with the status of the judiciary in our constitution.

"We do need major

■ See page 3...



▶ Mr. Brian M. Moree, QC, was sworn in Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, June 12, 2019 at Government House. Mr. Moree is pictured, left, being sworn in by Deputy to the Governor General, C.A. Smith. (BIS Photo/Yontalay Bowe)

LLOYD STATES POLICY ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Education Minister Jeffrey Lloyd made it very clear in parliament yesterday that his ministry will not be sucked into the debate of whether corporal punishment should continue in country's the school system.

He said, "Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that the issue of corporal punish-



▶ Education Minister, Jeffrey Lloyd

■ See page 4...

MINISTER ANNOUNCES UB GRANT PROGRAM

BY LICEC 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 quali-

fied, present and incoming, full-time students at the university.

"The existing teacher education and nursing grants, the national bur-

■ See page 3...

PM EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN ITALIAN PROBE

BY BERTHONY 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 ceremony of the new Chief Justice yesterday,

■ See page 4...

CA SMITH MATTER TO BE HANDLED BY PALACE

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

The Prime Minister Doctor 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 commented yesterday on the social media video of Deputy Governor General C.A.

■ See page 2...

UNION REJECTS MORTON'S PROPOSAL

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

Bahamas Industrial Manufacturers and Allied Workers Union, (BIMAWU) has rejected Morton Bahamas Company's proposals in the new Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Union President Jennifer Brown in a statement released yesterday said the offer pre-

■ See page 3...

MINISTER COMMITTED TO GRADUATING STANDARD

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

Education Minister, Jeffery Lloyd revealed during his contribution to the 2019/2020 Budget Debate that less than 50 percent of students in high school 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

■ See page 8...



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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

PMH UPGRADES DIALYSIS UNIT

BY LISA KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

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 residents equitable access to 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.



► Newly renovated dialysis station, just one of many designed to accommodate one hundred and twenty-five (125) patients.



Request for Expressions of Interest Individual Consultant: Communications Strategist “Skills for Current and Future Jobs in The Bahamas”



The Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of The Bahamas (GoBH) signed the Loan Contract No. 3787/OC-BH for the execution of the investment programme “Skills for Current and Future Jobs in The Bahamas” 9BH-L1037. The general objective of the Programme is to increase the employability and quality of employment of beneficiaries, by 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 Employment Services (PES); and (c) enhance the capacity of the labour market intelligence system.

The GoBH has designated the Ministry of Labour (MOL) as the Programme Executing Agency (PEA). The MOL will establish a Programme Executing Unit (PEU) within its organizational structure under the Office of the Permanent Secretary. Accordingly, the PEU now invites interested eligible individual consultants to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) indicating qualifications and experience required to provide consulting services of Strategic Communications Consultant. The contract duration for this consultancy is 12 months, renewable annually. This consultancy shall be based in New Providence.

Main Responsibilities of the Consultancy

The objective of the consultancy is to provide strategic, organizational, and technical direction to the PEU in the development of a Communications Strategy for internal and external stakeholders. The internal audience is comprised of the Ministry of Labour as the Executing Agency, the Project Steering Committee, and members of the Programme Implementation Unit. The external audience includes parents, apprentices, firms, employer groups, academia, training providers, government agencies and civil society among others.

Specific responsibilities and activities are itemized in the Terms of Reference (TOR) for this consultancy, which can be accessed via this link, <http://jobseekers.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 and 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 multiple stakeholders. Consultant will need to be able to understand different stakeholders to 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, disability, sexual orientation, background, perspective) or organizational role, and takes 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 and 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 recent 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 address below or by email to skillslabour@bahamas.gov.bs, no later than 5.00 p.m. June 14th, 2018.

**Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Labour
Charlotte House,
Shirley Street and Charlotte Streets
Nassau, The Bahamas
Re: Strategic Communications Consultant, Skills for Current and Future Jobs in The Bahamas**

CA SMITH MATTER TO BE HANDLED BY PALACE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

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.

“There’s a process, she would have gone over to visit Her Majesty, after which I would have sent forth a nomination for the replacement of the Governor General; but that is not complete until that is confirmed by the Queen; after which they would send the correspondence back here. So the whole process is really in train right now,” Dr. Minnis said.

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.

BUSINESSMAN REWARDS "NO BUSINESS AS USUAL" PRIMARY STUDENTS

BY LISA KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

Twenty-four hard working students from various primary government schools, including those from family island schools were presented with laptops by Paul Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer of Electro Telecom Ltd. The presentation took place at the Paul H. Farquharson Conference Center yesterday. Minister of National Security, Marvin Dames said, "when we all do our individual 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, because they are our 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 leader-

ship will depend on how you nurture them in their tender years, that is what is important."

Mr. Dames welcomed those students who travelled from the family islands to the nation's capital and congratulated all of the outstanding students on such an amazing achievement. He told them, "this is only the beginning. Use this experience as a springboard to become better citizens, to become better leaders of this nation, to become better people, to become better neighbours, to become good leaders, as well as good followers."

"Use this experience to begin this process of transformation, 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 recognized today because someone saw in each of you, greatness, take this opportunity to build on it."

Mr. Dames said that Paul Smith, does not have the largest business in the country, but has donated laptops to deserving students for fourteen years now, even when his business was not doing so well. He commended him for the work that he continues to do in building communities and strengthening communities, not only in Nassau, but across the length and breadth of this country. Each year, more islands are represented.

"To him, it's more about giving back and being genuine about it." And oftentimes we're not; we give someone something, we want to tell the world, because there is no genuineness about it. But he does this and other things, that he seldom publicizes, and that's what being a nation builder is all about.

"Oftentimes we use this term so loosely, and we call people, and refer to people as nation builders, simply because

they may be a politician, or some public figure, 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 others up. They may not have much, but they understand the true value of building a country, one person at a time."

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

Mr. Dames said, "the Chinese have saying, that if you're planning for a year, invest in rice; if you're planning for a decade, invest in trees; if you're planning for a lifetime, invest in people."

Continued from / PAGE 1...

reforms, we do need changes and we intend to address some of these challenges very directly in the short term.

"I don't think it's going to be business as usual. We do 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 administration of justice to see if we can make some substitute changes to improve the way in which we are conducting business at the present time.

"The only other thing I would say at this early day is that we need to address seriously the various public registers of the courts or what I call the back doors of the courts," he said.

As for the backlog in the court system, Mr. Moree noted that this is an issue that court systems around the world are dealing with. He added that his intent is to look at

the issue from a different perspective.

"We've got to try and look at that with some fresh eyes and we intend to do that over the next several months and come up with some new ideas on how to better manage that in order to deliver our services to the Bahamian public in a more efficient and effective way," he said.

Mr. Moree described the feeling of becoming Chief Justice as humbling, adding that he was grateful to have the opportunity to serve his country.

"I am profoundly of the view that we need in the private sector to be prepared to do some public service for our country and I just felt like this is an opportunity where I can give something back to a country that has been very good to me and to my family," the new Chief Justice said.

Mr. Moree added that it is his hope that he leaves the judiciary better than he met it.

UNION REJECTS MORTON'S PROPOSAL

Continued from / PAGE 1...

sented by the company was egregious.

"After waiting months to get back to the table, the company's position has not changed.

"They proposed a 1.5 percent increase to its workers; yet has grossly increased health insurance payments, which is viewed by the employees as a modern day slave trade," Mrs. Brown said.

"An excerpt of the preamble to the constitution states that no man, woman or child shall ever be slaves in the islands of The Bahamas," she added.

She said what the company has proposed falls short.

"This is clearly a deficit contract that lacks vision and financial advancement of its workers.

"It's obvious that they can't be taken at face value. The officers of the Union were told that 'you give us salt, we will give

you money'. Well the workers have done their part.

"The company however, have rescind on their statement," Mrs. Brown said.

"It is obvious that they don't give a hill of beans about their workers and are not trustworthy. How much longer do the people have to suffer under the hands of Pharaoh?" she asked.

In light of BIMAWU's plight, the Chairman of the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP), Fred Mitchell, in a statement, said the PLP is extremely concerned about the state of labour relations as it relates to Morton Salt.

"Following up on the proposals advanced by the employer to the Union at Morton yesterday, it appears that there has been no movement in the company's position. The employees indicate that they have compromised since the parties were last at the table, but the

employer has not shifted its position

As Morton Salt is the single largest and dominant employer in Matthew Town, according to Mr. Mitchell, he said a collapse of the company, as a result of the state of labour issues, "will result in extreme hardship for the island of Inagua but also the country at large.

"We do not want anything to happen which will cause the shutdown of the plant and the collapse of the economy in Inagua.

"We are concerned about these reports. Our Leader had previously written to the employer to urge some movement on the issues," Mr. Mitchell said.

Mr. Mitchell added that there is also concern about the way the Minister of Labour is dealing with the Union's issues.

"The Minister of Labour is not taking an aggressive enough approach to getting this matter resolved before it

explodes. We urge him to do so as a matter of priority.

"It is imperative that

industrial peace and harmony be maintained in Inagua," Mr. Mitchell said.

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



THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

RE: TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF FLAMINGO GARDENS CLINIC

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, Carmichael Road will be temporarily suspended effective Tuesday June 11, 2019 until further notice.

Antenatal Clients scheduled for follow up services tomorrow June 11th at the Flamingo Gardens Clinic, are advised to attend 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 asked 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 District, are further advised that the hours of operations at the South Beach Health Center, Elizabeth Estates and Fleming Street is Clinic is 9am to 9pm.

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

Monday June 10th, 2019

MINISTER ANNOUNCES

Continued from / PAGE 1...

sary and the student-athlete financial assistance will all be consolidated under this programme," he said.

The Minister also said that the programme will not cover non-instructional fees like security deposits, application fees, drop/add fees and books.

"It does not include payments for courses taken during the summer, unless in extenuating circumstances as determined by the University, nor the cost of taking repeat courses," he added.

He said that grant recipients must be

Bahamian citizens; be enrolled full-time, and maintain "satisfactory academic performance and remain in satisfactory disciplinary standing with the university.

"In order to receive or continue receiving the stipends that are disbursed under the teaching and nursing grant programmes, recipients must comply with the GPA requirement outlined in their Contracts of Study); Complete all course requirements within five years of the commencement of their studies, unless there are extenuating circumstances and the University grants an

extension after verification," said Mr. Lloyd.

He further explained that approval from the University is the only way under which grant disbursements will be extended beyond the five-year period.

Students whose minimum cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 will be placed on academic probation as per University policy.

They will be permitted one semester grace period to elevate their GPA to a 2.0 or higher.

If they do not, then they will be suspended from the programme.

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 Bahamas Government is actively pursuing transformative reform in the way that 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 SuperClubs Breezes, Wednesday, June 12, 2019.

She explained that during the workshop, Component II of the PFM/PMR Project, led by Nerissa Gibson, Deputy Director of Statistics, will present the first draft of the strategic objectives, mission, vision and core values that will guide Statistical Development in The Bahamas for the foreseeable future via the

Bahamas National Statistical System (NSS).

Ms. Marche stated that this draft is the product of collaboration between technical committees from across the public service, and represents an inclusive, comprehensive articulation of the foundation of the 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 relevant, accurate and timely statistics, our development in these areas will be impeded. Policy makers will be unable to recognise areas of success or failure and the public will be unable to hold us accountable for our promises."

The Deputy Financial Secretary also noted that the challenges the nation faces are complex and require solutions that consider indicators that go beyond GDP.

"We must consider indices related to health,



► Deputy Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Athena Marche brought remarks during the opening of the National Statistics of the Public Financial Management and Performance Monitoring Reform Project two-day workshop held at SuperClubs Breezes, Wednesday, June 12, 2019. (BIS Photos/Patrick Hanna)

education, ease of doing business, security, agriculture, marine resources among so many others. The National Statistical System will improve the administration's ability to build data models that reflect the nuances of our economy, develop immigration policies that are in the best interest of the Bahamian people and education systems that will prepare our children

to compete on a global level.

"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 centres on the application of statistical methods.

Ms Marche 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 (NSDS), 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 NSDS," she said.

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PM EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

the Prime Minister said there is no reason for him not to have confidence in Italian officials.

"They've been investigating deaths and people for umpteen years; from before I was on this earth, so why should I not have confidence in them today?" Dr. Minnis asked.

"The Italian people have confidence in them, this something they have always done. They are a sovereign nation and we must respect their laws and their procedures," he said.

In a statement yesterday Dr. Minnis expressed

his deepest sympathy to the families of the two young men.

It is understood that the autopsy reports of the two men were completed.

In a statement Sunday night, high commissioner to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland Ellison Greenslade noted that a report detailing a toxicology examination would be released at a later date.

Twenty-nine year old Alrae Ramsey, was on academic leave, and was employed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since December 9, 2013.

He was posted at The Bahamas Embassy in

Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, as third Secretary/Vice-Consul in 2016-2017.

Last year, he was granted an in-service award to pursue a one-year postgraduate diploma program in diplomacy/international relations and languages at the diplomatic academy of Vienna in Austria for the period September 2018 to June 2019.

Twenty-eight year old Blair John was completing his doctoral degree in psychology at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Canada.

He traveled to Turin to make a presentation at a psychology conference on behalf of the University.

LLOYD STATES POLICY ON

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ment is sanctioned by the Ministry of Education in what the school manuals describe as needed in very grave situations, and that it can only be administered by an administrator and never in the presence of other students."

He suggested that until Bahamian society decides whether it wants to deal with corporal punish-

ment, his ministry will not comment or make a decision on the matter.

He said, "You're not going to put anything on us while you half kill your child at home.

"We are going to have a conversation. We are going to bring in our stakeholders. We are going to have a robust discussion on this particular subject, since its being called upon to be

revisited; but I'm so suggesting that the society have its own conversation about corporal punishment."

These comments come as pictures and videos in recent months make their rounds on social media.

The most recent being an administrator from Saint Augustine's College being brought before the courts last month.