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# The Bahama Journal

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VOL. 31 - NO. 97

FRIDAY - JUNE 14TH, 2019

75 CENTS

# NYGARD SEEKS CONSENSUS

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

Supreme Court Justice Cheryl Grant-Thompson agreed yesterday for a consensus agreement to vacate a warrant of arrest for Fashion Mogul Peter Nygard and to allow him to return to the Bahamas to pursue his legal rights.

After listening to an address from Nygard's lawyer, Algernon Allen, the Judge allowed both sides in the matter to produce a court order draft by June 18th and to appear in court on June 20th.

Mr. Allen went to great lengths explaining to the court Nygard's love of the Bahamas, saying that he has invested millions in the country "mentally,

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▶ Fashion Mogul, Peter Nygard

## MINISTER DECLARES WAR ON NCD'S

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands yesterday revealed some sobering statistics surrounding non communicable diseases in The Bahamas, and it all boils down to obesity.

Leading off debate in parliament on the 2019/2020 budget, he said that four out of five Bahamians are overweight and 49.2 per cent are obese.

"For sake of comparison 39 per cent of the world population were overweight in 2016 and 13 per cent were obese. In a (meta-analysis) study of

■ See page 3...



▶ Health Minister, Dr. Duane Sands

## MINISTRY TO HIGHLIGHT MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands yesterday announced his ministry's intention to bring mental health issues to the forefront in the country.

He said that this issue has been "a stepchild" when it comes to national considerations and the Ministry of Health will begin its attempts to right this wrong.

He said that his ministry's allocation for \$1.8 million also impact areas of his ministry's work related to the issue.

"What this means is that mental health services will be brought closer to the communities where people live

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## WILSON CONFIDENT IN BUT ELECTIONS

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

Some 3,800 teachers across the country voted in The Bahamas Union of Teachers elections yesterday.

Thirteen positions are up for grabs on the executive board which 38 persons are vying for.

Union President Belinda Wilson is again running for the union's top position and despite the many challenges she has faced during her tenure in office, she still maintains that she is the right person for the job.

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▶ BUT President, Belinda Wilson

## CHRISTIAN COUNCIL LAUNCHES OPERATION RESTORATION

BY LISA KNOWLES  
 Journal Staff Writer

Gravely concerned about the rate of crime, murder, suicide, domestic violence and abuse in the country, the Bahamas Christian Council yesterday announced the launch of Operation Restoration.

President of the Council, Bishop Delton Fernander speaking at the press conference at the William Thompson Auditorium said, "the peace and stability of our country is being threatened. We are all impacted

■ See page 2...



▶ Bahamas Christian Council President, Bishop Delton Fernander



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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# NEW SCHOOL PLANNED FOR MATTHEW TOWN

Matthew Town, Inagua is set to get a new school in the upcoming year and plans are on the drawing board for the construction of new schools in Gregory Town, Eleuthera, and

George Town, Exuma. Minister of Education, Jeffrey Lloyd in his contribution to the ongoing Budget Debate on Wednesday made the announcements as he pre-

sented an overview of the Ministry of Education in the House of Assembly.

Minister Lloyd said the main aim of the Ministry of Education is to meet the educational demands

of a growing population, and in this regard, in 2018 two new primary schools – Rum Cay Primary, and San Salvador Primary have been constructed. He told

Parliamentarians that the Ministry of Education has also acknowledged and acted on the need to enhance and expand educational facilities to better the demands of students.

“In so doing, in 2018, we have completed expansion projects on C.H. Reeves Junior High School North Eleuthera

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# CHRISTIAN COUNCIL LAUNCHES

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

either directly or indirectly. Industrial unrest, crime, suicides, abuse and domestic violence and

other social ills must be defeated. Our social and economic challenges demand unity between the church, civil society and corporate Bahamas to

combine our wisdom, skills and resources to ensure that we make our best effort to improve life in The Bahamas for us all.

In this regard, The

Bahamas Christian Council is launching Operation Restoration. Its purpose is to influence the culture, contribute to restoring the sense of

community among our people and advance national development for the benefit of Bahamians and those who call the Bahamas home through

partnerships. Our action plan includes activities and events strategically designed to strengthen our families and nation.

“The first event will be held this Saturday, June 15th, we will host a march predominantly aimed at men and a day of prayer, where we ask the nation to join us as we cover our country in prayer. We hope that these occasions will give Bahamians an opportunity for introspection, forgiveness and commitment to changing our thinking and attitudes towards one another. Patriotism must rise again and dwarf the shadows that divide us.

“Today, I am also pleased to announce that one of our latest strategic partners is internationally respected clinical psychiatrist, Dr. David Allen. This week he is lecturing at Harvard University. Dr. Allen has challenged us to become equipped and trained in all forms of addiction counseling and participate in his crime consultative committee. To this end, I personally have introduced for discussion lethal injection as an alternative to hanging.

“Recently, we have had a number of murders and shootings in the capital. On behalf of the Bahamas Christian Council I extend my condolences to the families of the victims. In fact, we must continue to pray for every family impacted by crime. It is clear that the criminal element in our society has no fear of the law or our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. A lack of empathy for the common man, the growing disrespect of people’s property and failure to be our brother’s keeper is undermining the fabric of our foundation as a Christian nation.

“The state of our nation, the vast economic challenges of our people, the prevalence of crime and the unconscionable disrespect for human life has sparked this unified response for change that is above the usual barriers of denomination, political persuasion and social status. We are seeking a better Bahamas for us all understanding that it will take effort, unity and partnership. We hope that the general public will join us as we forge ahead in this difficult but necessary work,” said Bishop Fernander.



## 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](mailto: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**

# NYGARD SEEKS CONSENSUS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

financially and physically."

The lawyer said when he was a Cabinet Minister and charged with the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, as well as Social Development, and the "many applicants and supplicants came from the cultural, sporting and indigent communities, there were only two men I

could call upon and send them to. They were the late Sir Durward Knowles and Peter Nygard. They never failed me and they never failed them."

Mr. Allen assured that Nygard wants to return to the country and is not seeking to be "some rogue", evading the administration of justice.

Attorney Fred Smith, representing Save The Bays, the organization

which filed the action against Nygard, said after hearing Mr. Allen, "it's clear that we have a Saint Peter Nygard."

Mr. Smith said he may very well be a benevolent philanthropist, but respecting the court is the bottom line.

Nygard was convicted back in March of contempt of court and fined \$50,000 for breach of the Supreme Court's order

concerning illegal dredging near his property in Lyford Cay.

Nygard's legal team, at the time disagreed with Justice Rhonda Bain's decision, adding that while he paid the \$50,000 fine before the specified deadline, he intended to appeal the ruling.

In fact, Jay Prober, Nygard's Winnipeg-based lawyer, explained that an appeal has been filed.

The Court of Appeal has since struck that appeal down.

Back in January, the court heard claims from Attorneys that Nygard could not travel to the Bahamas to attend court as Doctors ordered him not to travel because he was ill.

However, a warrant for his arrest was issued following his failure to attend another court hear-

ing.

Prober said Nygard, who was in Winnipeg, Canada, was too ill to travel and the warrant was unnecessary and unfair given his medical condition.

Mr. Allen told the Court yesterday that he still wishes that his client's illness be taken into consideration as they find a solution moving forward.

# MINISTER DECLARES WAR

Continued from / PAGE 1...

2.88 million people, obesity was associated with a hazard ratio of 1.18, which basically means that just by being obese, you have a 25 per cent of dying just because you're obese," he said.

The Minister added that obesity also heightens one's chance of getting cancer, type two diabetes, renal failure, or even stroke.

In fact, he said that the country's risk factor profile and related complications for NCD's is not encouraging.

He said that 90 per cent of Bahamians eat insufficient fruits and vegetables, 72.6 per cent have adopted a sedentary lifestyle, 16.7 per cent are current smokers, 40.8 per cent are current alcohol users, 58.2 per cent have an abnormally high blood pressure (132,741 persons), and 23.9% are diabetic (92,000k persons).

More than 600 persons, he said, are on hemodialysis at an annual cost of \$25 million, while 75 lower limb amputations are conducted each year.

"These lifestyle related

issues mean that Bahamians are on average sicker than most, require more health care services than most, die prematurely as compared to most, and have health care costs that are more expensive. We also do not live on a single land mass where services can be consolidated," he said.

He added, "consequently, our health care needs (demands) outstrip our financial capacity to pay ...and the financing gap must come from somewhere. So, let us be clear. This is not about body shaming or simply

about personal choices of esthetics. We are paying an incredible toll because of our lifestyle choices."

That toll, he said, is paid not just in health care cost, but in a mounting pile of sick and dying Bahamians.

As the war against NCD's wages on, the

minister indicated that that his ministry will aggressively study the world's experience with sugar sin taxes for an evidence-based recommendation.

He noted that there are advocates who believe this will not only curb consumption, but also

generate revenue to address the challenges of unhealthy consumption.

There are also plans to introduce "Bahamas moves" - a program that's a part of the "Caribbean Moves" initiative geared towards encouraging increased physical activity.

# PM TO ANSWER "SPECIAL INTEREST" ATTACK

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Doctor Hubert Minnis has responded to the Opposition's criticism that the 2019/2020 budget is a budget of special interest.

Dr. Minnis maintains that his government is for young people adding that he will address that in his contribution to the budget on Wednesday.

"I will define what special interest is and I will show where our priority lies and I will assure you that our priority lie with the young people, with the women and with the future of this country.

"We believe in succession planning, we believe in transparency and I will demonstrate to you that our priority is with the development of this country and having a better future and the young people represents the future, and that's what I will demonstrate," he said.

While in opposition the Dr. Minnis criticized the former PLP administration for their excessive amount of travel and



► Prime Minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis

money paid to consultants.

In this new budget both areas saw significant increases.

The Prime Minister said he will also address that in his contribution next week.

"I would want you to listen to me very carefully on Wednesday of next

week when I speak; all of that will be addressed. I don't want to pre-empt what I am going to say next week.

"The increase in travel, my travel to the family island, all of that will be addressed. So I want you to listen attentively and very carefully," he said.



## 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

# PM staying out of BPL probe

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis has assured that a company has been chosen to investigate the circumstances surrounding the removal of the former Bahamas Power and Light

board led by former Chairwoman Darnell Osborne.

According to Dr. Minnis, he and his office are staying out of the investigation.

"I know that the company has been selected, as to whether they have commenced their work I

wouldn't know because I will not get involved in the day to day investigations and questionings that they are doing.

"However, I know as far as the Office of the Prime Minister is concerned, the selection process is completed," Dr.

Minnis said.

Back in April Dr. Minnis revealed that an international company had been chosen to investigate the former board's removal.

When asked the name of the selected company, the Prime Minister said,

"allow the company to do their job."

Last year Works Minister Desmond Bannister said the relationship with the old board members has significantly deteriorated.

Former board members Darnell Osborne, Nicola

Thompson and Nick Dean hit back calling the Minister's claims untrue.

The Works Minister later asserted that there was political interference only after he learned BPL paid the makeup bill for Mrs. Osborne which she later said also wasn't true.

# MINISTRY TO HIGHLIGHT MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Continued from / PAGE 1...

through more coordinated mental health services with the hopes of dismantling decades of stigma and discrimination; and mental health

screening incorporated into regular visit to the doctor," he said.

The minister added that be that as it may, the solution to violence and crime will not be found on East Street, Fox Hill, in parliament, in our

courts, HOPE or the L.E.A.D institute.

While he noted that these are necessary and important contributors, he said, for sustained decreases in homicides, rapes, intimate partner violence and the like,

the government must explore the root causes of violence considering traditional and non-traditional theories.

He said, "In fiscal year 2019/2020 my Ministry will direct resources to and confirm

private public collaborations for advancing our collective understanding on the impact of the nutrition on the expression of violence in our young men and women."

"Specifically, we see how our food choices

are contributing to slow dietary suicide...obesity, hypertension, diabetes and cancer. It is quite possible that the malnutrition of our people is also contributing to the high rate of homicide," he added.

# WILSON CONFIDENT IN BUT ELECTIONS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"Since even the last suspension, I would have had an election and the teachers voted overwhelmingly for me.

"I would have defeated my opponent by 606 votes two years ago, so I expect today to have the same support because, yes I might have been suspended, but it was the minority on the exec-

utive board that would have done that, it was not the will of the majority of the members."

"So today, the majority of the members get an opportunity to have their say," she said.

The biggest thing for the union according to Mrs. Wilson is their industrial agreement.

There are a few internal challenges she is hoping to conquer as

well.

"We want to be able to build a new Walker's Hall because you know we would have built a new hall in Grand Bahama, but we want to build a new Walker's Hall and there are some other benefits for our members that we are going to focus on for the next term.

Now polls closed at 5pm yesterday.

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# BAC Calls On Govt. To Devise New Strategies To Fight Crime

In light of the continuous stream of criminal activities, it is now very obvious that after years of changing strategies, the problem of crime and violence is still at crisis levels, particularly in New Providence.

In addition to many other crimes, this week has seen three murders to date. A 21-year-old man shot and killed on Price Street in the Nassau Village area on Sunday, the other a security guard killed hours later while on the job at the Commonwealth Brewery plant on JFK Drive and a third, on Dunmore street, Bain Town on Wednesday.

Despite an announcement by National Security Minister Marvin Dames that murder is down 21 percent, there is clearly so much more work to be done, and we must do it to ensure the nation is safe for generations to come.

In that regard, BAC is calling upon the Government to devise a new strategy which greatly increases investment in the social sector. This is particularly critical in areas commonly referred to as "Hot Spots" by the authorities. BAC is prepared to assist the Government in implementing this strategy, which will definitely bring about positive

results.

One of the most powerful assets available in the fight against crime remains unutilized said BAC Chairman Rev. C.B. Moss, referring to our women.

BAC is convinced that the proper mobilization and invaluement of our mothers, wives, grandmothers, daughters, etc. could have a significant impact on the present level of crime and violence in the country.

Virtually, all else have failed. Perhaps its time for the women of The Bahamas to step up to the place. For further information contact BAC at revcbmoss@hotmail.com