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MONDAY - JUNE 17TH, 2019

75 CENTS

"GOV'T VICTIMIZING BAHAMIANS," Says Senator Mitchell

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Chairman Senator Fred Mitchell yesterday expressed concerns regarding the level of trust surrounding government contracts.

He said the current administration has been cancelling contracts, refusing to pay, and forcing affected parties to duke it out in court.

"The occasional workers, who came on the Empowerment Program, all of them have been dismissed with the grand promise that because the contract weren't supposedly done well on the



▶ PLP Senator, Fred Mitchell

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DNA DEPUTY DEFENDS FORMER LEADER

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Democratic National Alliance (DNA) Deputy Leader Buscheme Armbrister yesterday defended former party leader Branville

McCartney following his controversial comments published in a local daily this past Friday.

Mr. McCartney suggested that children born to foreign parents should

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POLICE PROBE ANOTHER HOMICIDE

Police in New Providence are investigating a shooting incident, last Saturday which left an adult male dead. According to reports, shortly before 2:00am a

male was asleep in a bedroom in a home on Sister Marie Rahming Drive, Millennium Gardens, when an armed man

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LPIA RUNWAY GETTING FACE LIFT

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

The Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD) yesterday announced that major

rehabilitation work will begin on runway 09/27, which is soon to be runway 10/28; and taxiway India at the Lynden Pindling International

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THE GOVERNOR GENERAL RETURNS FROM OFFICIAL FAREWELL COURTESY CALL ON THE QUEEN



▶ Governor General, Her Excellency the Most Hon. Dame Marguerite Pindling was greeted by Deputy to the Governor-General, Cornelius A. Smith at Lynden Pindling International Airport on Thursday, June 13, 2019, upon her return from an official farewell courtesy call on Her Majesty the Queen in London. (BIS Photos/Letisha Henderson)



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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

LPIA RUNWAY GETTING FACE LIFT

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Airport (LPIA).

In a release, the company added that it has joined forces with local firm Bahamas Hot Mix to complete the capital project valued at just under \$20 million dollars.

The rehabilitation exercise, they said, will result in required upgrades to asphalt, extending the life of the runways at the airport.

"Runway end safety areas will also be added to reduce the risk of dam-

age to aircraft that overrun the runways and new led approach lights will be installed to assist pilots during low visibility operations," it said.

The firm added, "over the past year, the internationally recognized independent pavement consulting company, Golder Associates Limited, was contracted to work closely with NAD's airside operations and public safety team to conduct pre-engineering, design, tender preparations and contract administration

services for the runway rehabilitation project."

In April 2019, NAD initiated a request for tenders (RFT) to six qualified companies, which consisted of four international and two Bahamian firms, to submit bids for asphalt paving services for the project.

NAD explained, "a total of four bids were received and submitted to the independent pavement consultant for evaluation including three international companies

in the United States, Canada and Costa Rica and one Bahamian firm."

"After all of the bids were carefully evaluated, Golder recommended that the contract be awarded to Bahamian asphalt paving company, Bahamas Hot Mix. Golder determined that the company submitted the most competitive bid and met all of the specifications required to complete the project in the most efficient, cost effective and timely manner," the company

added.

Starting today, the airport will begin operating as a single runway facility and this is expected to continue over the next four to six months.

They also indicated that airport stakeholders have activated contingency plans that should assist with reducing impact to overall operations at the country's major gateway.

NAD officials are also advising members of the travelling public to exercise patience when

arriving or departing from LPIA, as there will likely be delays resulting from the runway rehabilitation project.

Motorists using the intersection of Windsor Field Road and Rock Plant Road are also asked to approach the area with caution, pay particular attention to signage in the area and be aware of heavy equipment movement in the area starting this week.

Crews will conduct work between sunrise and sunset.

"GOVT VICTIMIZING BAHAMIANS"

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...



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

records," he said.

"The FNM is one of the most amazing administrations. Whenever they come to power, you can't find any paperwork and no one can remember anything. This is the most astounding thing. This is amnesia all around, and it's a selective amnesia," he added.

Mr. Mitchell further explained that the Minister of Labour would have announced that 99 per cent of the people dismissed under this program will be back.

However, he said, that never happened.

The former PLP Cabinet Minister also said he thinks that the government has been "unapologetically victimizing Bahamians left, right, and center."

He added that the "people's time" simply translates to the FNM supporters' time.

When asked what are the views of the average man on the street in this regard, Mr. Mitchell indicated that there is deep disappointment.

He added that once getting into office, the public quickly realized that this administration was solely interested in getting their hands on the Public Treasury.

He said, "the most obvious example of it is this boldface giving of a contract to Brent Symonette. I mean, it's just astounding, which is going to cost millions of dollars in penalties because they cancelled the Scott Godet's contract, a solemn contract with the government. They cancelled it, and gave it to a Minister of the government, who says, "no worries. I stepped out of the room when they passed it. This is ludicrous."

Mr. Mitchell was a host on Love 97's Jones and Company talk show.

FOCOL IS EMBRACING CHANGES IN THE ENERGY SECTOR

At a recent annual general meeting for ordinary shareholders, held under the theme "Embracing Change", executives from FOCOL Holdings Limited said that the company is poised to meet changes occurring in the energy sector while evolving to meet global advancements in climate change.

According to Anthony Robinson, FOCOL President and CEO, the company has been deliberate with investments to prepare the organization for expected changes in industry and consumer demands. FOCOL has optimized its fuel logistics and supporting infrastructure to include birthing enhancements and storage tank expansion. Its shipping fleet has been retooled with larger

oceangoing vessels like the recently acquired Sun Gas, a 1 million-gallon propane ship and Brad Sun, a 2.2 million-gallon marine tanker. The development of new concepts for service stations will coincide with new trends in convenience retailing while company-wide staff training and career development will strengthen organizational capacity.

Mr. Robinson noted that substantial investments in computer enterprise and automation systems over the past two years were targeted to meet current demand and prepare FOCOL for expected technological advancement expected to occur in the energy sector over the next two decades. All transactions at FOCOL are now stored in

a cloud so that the production chain—the terminals, trucks, ships and main office—has access to relevant information to aid the processing of orders, inventory management control and easy recovery of delivery information, among other benefits.

"The new system has made the overall management of the business more real-time, more accurate and much more efficient. And that has provided a baseline for us to really embrace the digital changes occurring globally. As our ships can go global, so can our systems," said Dexter Adderley, Managing Director, Sun Oil Limited, a subsidiary of FOCOL.

"We are pleased to say that we have a very robust system that is bulletproof

to the vulnerabilities of information security. We think that is one of the pillars that we have strategically developed to help us embrace the change of the energy industry," he added.

FOCOL believes that one change transforming the industry is the rise of international treaties aimed at lowering global carbon footprint. Though such efforts primarily seek to advance the role of renewables, expansion in global energy demand is projected to outpace that of renewables, therefore supporting an increase in demand for petroleum products well into the future.

"While the rate of evolution toward this distant, low-carbon future is uncertain, FOCOL's com-

mitment to participating in that future is unwavering," said Mr. Robinson, adding that the company is not yet ready to reveal its plans in that regard.

Mr. Robinson assured shareholders that all of these innovations—technical or otherwise—will yield financial benefits in fiscal year 2020 and beyond.

He added: "FOCOL's success over the past 28 years is founded on its ability to leverage the opportunities brought about by change. It is indeed this ability that has advanced FOCOL from a privately-held trucking company to a multimillion dollar publicly-traded energy company that it is today.

"Embracing change has brought us to where we

are. And as the world around us evolves, it is our spirit of embracing change that will sustain the company in the future. I am convinced that our energy future is bright and ripe with opportunity."

Underscoring his colleagues, Sir Franklyn Wilson, FOCOL Chairman noted the company's success: "This is truly an exceptional company in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Few companies in the country have a large number of shareholders like we do. This company is also remarkably placed for change; this isn't just talk. There is tremendous capacity of logistics, of technology, of human relations skills, of connectedness to this world and relationships."

DNA DEPUTY DEFENDS FORMER LEADER

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

be entitled to apply for citizenship at birth.

This in an effort to address the vexing issue of immigration in the country.

Mr. Armbrister responded by saying that as a former politician and private citizen, Mr. McCartney is entitled to his personal opinions and lend his voice to national issues from time to time.

"Additionally, as a former cabinet minister with responsibility for immigration, Mr. McCartney also has some insights on this subject matter," he added.

He said that while Mr. McCartney's views do not constitute the official position of the party, he

wishes to provide further clarity in this regard.

"The DNA's Vision 2017 and beyond did not commit to the policy of citizenship at birth. The issue of citizenship by birth is complex and controversial with serious implications for the citizenry," he said.

He added, "it is not surprising therefore that only approximately 30 countries around the world have such a policy in place and some have reversed their national policies in this regard. It is common practice for nations that grant citizenship by birth to have established criteria for qualification as is currently the case in The Bahamas, rather than grant the same automati-

cally at birth."

He also assured that the party will comprehensively outline its platform and position on immigration for consultation with the public and that the party will "not kick this proverbial can down the road like the Free National Movement and Progressive Liberal Party have done for decades."

He explained that the party's position paper will articulate its immigration policy in a holistic manner, adding that it believes in the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of Bahamians under the constitution of the country.

He also said that the DNA believes that there should be equity under the law and that all

Bahamians, "whether male or female, married or unmarried should have the unequivocal right to pass on citizenship to their

children."

Additionally, the public can expect long-standing issues surrounding illegal migration, shanty towns,

issuance of work permits, interpretation of article 7, residency and citizenship to be addressed in the position paper.

POLICE PROBE ANOTHER HOMICIDE

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

stood outside the window and opened fire into the bedroom, hitting the male about the body before running away. Paramedics attended the scene and a short while later, confirmed that the man was deceased.

Police are also investigating a shooting incident last Friday, which left an adult female with injuries.

According to reports, shortly after 11:00pm a group of women were standing outside a home in Flamingo Gardens, when an armed man came

from the rear of the house and opened fire in their direction, hitting one woman about the body before running away. The injured woman was transported to hospital and is said to be in stable condition.

Investigations into both incidents are ongoing.

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

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 apologizes for any inconvenience caused and will continue to provide updates.

Monday June 10th, 2019

ISSUES AT PASSPORT OFFICE TO BE ADDRESSED

Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Darren Henfield says that the Passport Office has some challenges but help is on the way. During his 2019/2020 Budget contribution, the Minister said that the Passport Office has always been challenged with providing services in a building with inadequate space.

"The influx of renewal applications due to the tenth year anniversary of the first e-Passports cou-

pled with new applicants and persons now renewing their manual passports have compounded the challenges faced," he said. "Despite the challenges, staff at the Passport Office remain committed in executing their tasks in an expeditious manner to meet public demand."

He said to counter the challenges, there are ongoing improvements to the e-Passport system. He said that the Canadian Bank Note (CBN)

Company Limited, a leading company in secure technology solutions, was contracted to upgrade the country's existing e-Passport system.

"In October 2018, CBN conducted the user acceptance test at the Passport Office in conjunction with the Treasury to identify challenges that may exist or arise when using the system and to assess the online direct payment process," said Minister Henfield. He said con-

cerns and issued observed during the testing were addressed by CBN.

He noted testing of the electron application process for renewal of adult e-Passports commenced on 13th May 2019.

"It is anticipated that the public's utilization of the electronic application for e-Passport renewal would alleviate some of the overcrowding currently occurring at the Passport Office.

Another issue, which plagues the office, is the timely collection of completed passports. He said that as at 22nd May of this year 1,277 passports had not been collected.

To reduce the large crowds at the passport office, plans are underway to install e-Pics systems, which are kiosks to be placed in strategic locations in New Providence and Grand Bahama.

"The installation of these systems will allow persons to complete and submit electronic applications for passport renewals without having to visit the Passport Office. It is anticipated that utilization of the kiosks will significantly decrease the current overcrowding at the Passport Office."

The government also plans to install e-Pics systems in four family islands, namely Exuma, Central Eleuthera, Inagua and Long Island.

DPM OFFERS GRADUATES ADVICE ON TAKING THEIR NEXT STEP IN LIFE

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Member of Parliament for East Grand Bahama, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest told the 2019 graduating class of Sunland Baptist Academy that in securing their high school diploma, they have accomplished something which just 46 percent of their peers complete successfully.

"Today, I see talented, young Bahamians who will continue the tradition of other Sunland Baptist Academy graduates, who are making meaningful contributions in both the public and private sectors of our nation," the Minister told the graduates.

"This institution has a stellar record. Among

your alumni there are teachers, lawyers, doctors, police officers, nurses, accountants and many other skilled professionals. As graduates, you are following in their footsteps and you should always look to their example as a source of inspiration and motivation."

Drawing attention to the school's theme for the



► Deputy Prime Minister, K. Peter Turnquest presents Alycia Gaitor, from Sunland's Class of 2019, with the Valedictorian trophy, during the school's graduation ceremonies at Jubilee Cathedral on Thursday, June 13, 2019.

(BIS Photo/Lisa Davis)

graduating class – 'The Journey of 1,000 Miles Begins Today' – Minister Turnquest said the theme speaks about the choices that will face the students of the graduating class. Choices that were made better because they and their parents have invested in education.

The theme, he added, also spoke about the students' futures. "A future that will be shaped by the opportunities that you seize."

As the graduates ponder their next steps in life, Minister Turnquest threw out some truths for them to consider while making the decision about the future.

Firstly, he reminded them that opportunities are not just local, but global.

"We live in a global economy that is powered by technology, which means you can live at home and work for clients across the world," he said.

"Half of the businesses that exist today did not exist more than ten years ago. Companies like Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook and other technologies that run our lives today, never existed before most of you were born."

"Just think about that. It means we live in a dynamic new world and you have the opportunity to shape the way we do things in the future."

Secondly, Minister Turnquest reminded the students that finding work is not only about finding a

job. He encouraged them that eventually, they can become their own boss. In fact, the Deputy Prime Minister noted that becoming business owners and entrepreneurs is something which the government encourages with its Small Business Development Centre and BTVI's 'be your own boss' initiative.

Thirdly, he encouraged the graduates not to allow the lack of finances the power to kill their dreams or hinder their progress.

"Money is not an excuse," said Minister Turnquest. "Today, when it comes to vocational education, or entrepreneurship there are more scholarships, grants and investment funding available than ever before. Exhaust all options, pursue all opportunities and be unstoppable."

"Lastly, when it comes to opportunity, you get things done with self-discipline, patience and perseverance. The late Ronnie Butler had a song that says 'everybody wan' go to Heaven, but nobody want dead.' That means you have to be willing to put in the work."

"Few things happen overnight. Most times, they happen over time, so you have to be willing to put in the work with discipline, patience and perseverance."

Minister Turnquest said that he had no doubt that Sunland's Class of 2019 will surpass the achieve-

ments of previous generations and become a bright light for the students following behind.

Proof of this, he noted, lies in the outstanding athletic and academic success of the graduating class, adding that it speaks volumes of the class's exemplary and well-rounded talents.

He pointed out that the class finished first and second in the Grand Bahama High School Graduate Scholarship competitions; they obtained outstanding performances and achieved accolades in the National Arts Festival and 23 of the students from the 2019 graduating class have already registered and are headed to the University of The Bahamas in the Fall.

The Deputy Prime Minister told the graduates that their commencement exercise was the start of a new beginning, a new phase in their lives; one that will determine who and what they become for the rest of their lives.

"You now stand prepared, armed with the tools to take on the future and to embrace your young adult life and all the opportunities that it will bring. Grasp this moment and wrestle it to victory and success."

"I want you to know that your presence here today is a symbol of your potential; it is a symbol of your hope and it means that you have something to offer your country that can shape the nation for the better."

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