

STANDARD SERVICES SUPPLIES LTD.
 Shirley & Church Street
 Phone: 322-4635



Shop at STANDARD SERVICES where you can get **20% OFF** Houseware, linen, lamps and draperies. and much, much more

The Bahama Journal

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

DEAN & ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS
 "Meeting Your Needs Efficiently and Professionally"



BUILDINGS (COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL)
 LIFE - GROUP - MEDICAL - ANNUITIES - LIABILITY - MARINE - HOMEOWNERS - AUTO

Tel: (242)-356-0986 Fax: (242)-356-0987
 Deal's Plaza, Mackey Street
 P.O. Box CB-13952 Nassau, Bahamas
 8:30am - 4:30pm

VOL. 31 - NO. 102

FRIDAY - JUNE 21ST, 2019

75 CENTS

Take A Strong Stand



Mitchell says government needs to do more in Italian investigation.

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Former Foreign Affairs Minister Fred Mitchell is of the view that The Bahamas government should take a stronger stance in the investigation into the deaths Alrae Ramsey and Blair John – the two Bahamians found dead in Turin, Italy earlier this month.

“The spokesman for The Bahamas government should have said in a position like this, that

■ See page 2...

DARVILLE REFUTES PM'S CLAIMS

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Shadow Minister for Health Senator Dr. Michael Darville yesterday strongly refuted allegations regarding the Princess Margaret Hospital's Children's Ward repairs.

The ward received roof

damage after Hurricane Matthew barreled through New Providence in 2016.

During his wrap up to the 2019/2020 budget debate in the House Of Assembly this past Wednesday Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis hit out at the former administration, charging that it “placed a

greater priority on partying than they did on sick children.”

Englerston Member of Parliament Glenys Hanna-Martin told Dr. Minnis that these claims were “categorically false”.

Citing a letter dated

■ See page 3...



▶ Dr. Michael Darville

Works Minister says Many Projects Planned



▶ The Hon. Desmond Bannister

BAHAMAS TIER 1 ON US TIP REPORT

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas remains at Tier 1 on this year's U.S. Trafficking In Persons report (TIP) released yes-

terday.

This happened after making serious and sustained efforts during the reporting period.

Those efforts, noted the report, includes “pass-

ing a national action plan, increasing funding for victim assistance and anti-trafficking prevention, elevating national anti-trafficking planning to the office of the prime minis-

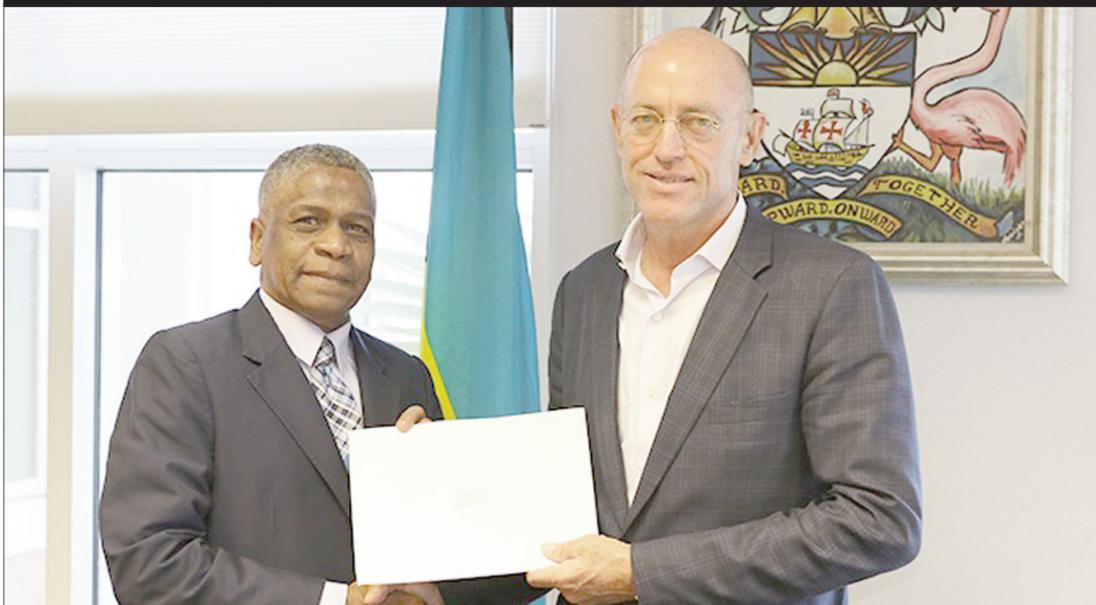
ter and instituting an anti-trafficking course into the training curriculum of the immigration department.”

While the government met the minimum standards, the report pointed

out that authorities initiated significantly fewer investigations and inconsistently applied screening procedures to vulnera-

■ See page 4...

NON-RESIDENT HIGH COMMISSIONER DESIGNATE TO NEW ZEALAND, MARK HOLOWESKO - MEETINGS AT FOREIGN AFFAIRS



▶ Mr. Mark Holowesko, Non-Resident High Commissioner Designate of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to New Zealand, met with the Permanent Secretary, Director General and other senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss matters relevant to his duties on Thursday morning, June 20, 2019 at the Ministry. Mr. Holowesko is pictured, right, with Permanent Secretary Jack Thompson. (BIS Photo/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr.)

Gov't on track to meet fiscal targets

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

With just a few weeks left in this fiscal year, the government maintains that they will meet their deficit target by the end of the year.

However, on the expenditure side, Finance Minister Peter Turnquest said the government is anticipating that they will come some \$400 million below the original revenue target.

“We've been very

■ See page 4...

Bridges, roads, buildings and airports throughout The Bahamas are among the 260 infrastructure projects that the Ministry of Public Works has on its schedule for the year. The Hon. Desmond Bannister, Minister, highlighted some of them during his recent contribution to the 2019-2020 Budget Debate in the House of Assembly.

Plans are in the making to construct a new airport in North Eleuthera. Minister Bannister told parliamentarians that a modern airport, identical to one to be built in Exuma, is planned and will take several years.

“When aircraft movements in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas are considered, the North Eleuthera airport ranks in the top three,

■ See page 3...




Don't sweat it. Stay cool.

ACDelco air conditioning parts along with routine maintenance can help you keep your cool. Stop In! We stock a complete line of quality ACDelco air conditioning parts for most GM model cars and trucks.




NMC PARTS DEPARTMENT • Shirley Street • 302-0130

partsorder@nassaumotor.com • www.acdelcobahamas.com

ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

CAMPBELL: "EQUAL AND EQUITABLE TREATMENT FOR ALL"

The completion of the extensions to the facility housing the Bahamas Association for the Physically Disabled (BAPD) School on Dolphin Drive is part of the Government of The Bahamas' plan to ensure there is equal and equitable treatment for persons with disabilities.

Addressing a Dedication and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony held Wednesday (June 19) at the BAPD School, Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, the Hon. Frankie A. Campbell said equal and equitable treatment and inclusion for the community of persons with disabilities should be the norm, not the exception.

The Ceremony was attended by Governor General, Her Excellency the Most Hon. Dame Marguerite Pindling, who performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony and delivered the keynote address. Minister Campbell categorized Dame Marguerite's participation as "special, momentous and an honour." Her Excellency demits office as Governor General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas on June, 28,

2019.

Minister Campbell said: "I feel in my heart that this should be the norm and not the exception. Our conversations about the community of persons with disabilities always centre around inclusion; always centre around accessibility; always talk about equal and equitable treatment for all and so I am pleased that I can be a part of the realization of a thing that could bring some of that equal and equitable treatment; a thing that could facilitate accessibility; a thing that could speak to inclusion. It is a real honour and privilege just to be a part of this ceremony."

The extensions include a front entrance covering that will allow students, parents, administrators and staff uninterrupted access to the facility during inclement weather, and a pavilion at the southern side of the facility that will allow students greater access to the outdoors. Workmen also installed a swing set and sand pit for the children's enjoyment.

They are the result of an assurance given by Minister Campbell, a little over three months ago,



► Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, the Hon. Frankie A. Campbell, greeting students of the Bahamas Association for the Physically Disabled (BAPD) School following the conclusion of the Dedication and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony held Wednesday (June 19, 2019) at the BAPD, Dolphin Drive. (BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna)

during a Handing-Over Ceremony for the new generator donated by the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development to the BAPD in February, 2019. (The donation of the generator was the result of an initial assurance by Minister Campbell during a previous visit to the facility in September 2018 -- just two months after he assumed the office of

Minister of Social Services and Urban Development.)

"I felt honoured to be able to hand over the keys to the generator back in February because it would mean no further interruptions in services and programmes for the children when there were interruptions in electricity service," Minister Campbell said.

"But in assessing the facility, I saw there was a need for some other things to be done. Two of those

things included the need for a front entrance cover for our children, parents, administrators and staff to be able to get in and out of the building freely whether there was sunshine or rain. I further noted the lack of a space for the children to be able to go outside and play, learn, and/or enjoy the outdoors and so I asked myself the question: 'Why shouldn't the children be able to go outside and play just as all of the children who attend schools do.'

And so we began the process that led to the completion of the extensions we are now dedicating today.

"To see the manifestation of a dream to some, a wish for others and a need for many, come to a reality to make life more comfortable for the children, the staff and the business that goes on here, is remarkable and I am just so honoured and proud to be here," Minister Campbell added.

Take A Strong

Continued from / PAGE 1...

we are pressing the Italian authorities to bring this matter to a conclusion. We will be following the investigation to make sure that the law is followed and we get to the answer, that's what our responsibility is as a government," said Mr. Mitchell.

He said, "the government also has a responsibility and I made this point privately to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure in this present dispensation where information is coming at you 24 hours a day, that if there is a vacuum, the public is going to fill it with information," he said.

This then begs the question of whether Mr. Mitchell is confident

Italian authorities will investigate the incident.

He said, "I think they have the capacity to do so, but I think that someone has to be watching over their shoulders to make sure that they do the proper job.

"My own view is whether or not we ourselves should convene a Coroner's inquest," the PLP Chairman said.

The PLP Senator also hit at social media reports attacking the young men, charging that Ramsey and John were the finest examples of Bahamian males.

"They don't deserve in death, to have their reputations tarnished or sullied in any way, shape or form.

"The Bahamas government has a responsibility to say something to the

Italian authorities, because the information which is coming out in the Italian press must obviously come from Italian official sources," he said.

Senator Mitchell stated: "the suspicion I have is that the Italian government, and I say this advisedly, does not want it to be seen that there is foul play involved in this and that it has to do with the social conditions which are obtained in Italy today," Mr. Mitchell said.

The bodies of the two men were retrieved from the Po River on June 4th and 5th.

A Foreign Service officer, Ramsey was in Turin on study leave in Vienna. John, meantime was there attending a psychology conference.



FIND NEW ROADS

CHEVROLET

CRUZE



Spacious, Safe & Fuel-Saving

Cruze goes way beyond the typical compact sedan—with more technology and top safety ratings. Good looks, smart features and a comfortable ride make the Chevy Cruze a stand-out.



CHEVROLET CRUZE

36 MONTHS
or 100,000 km bumper to bumper

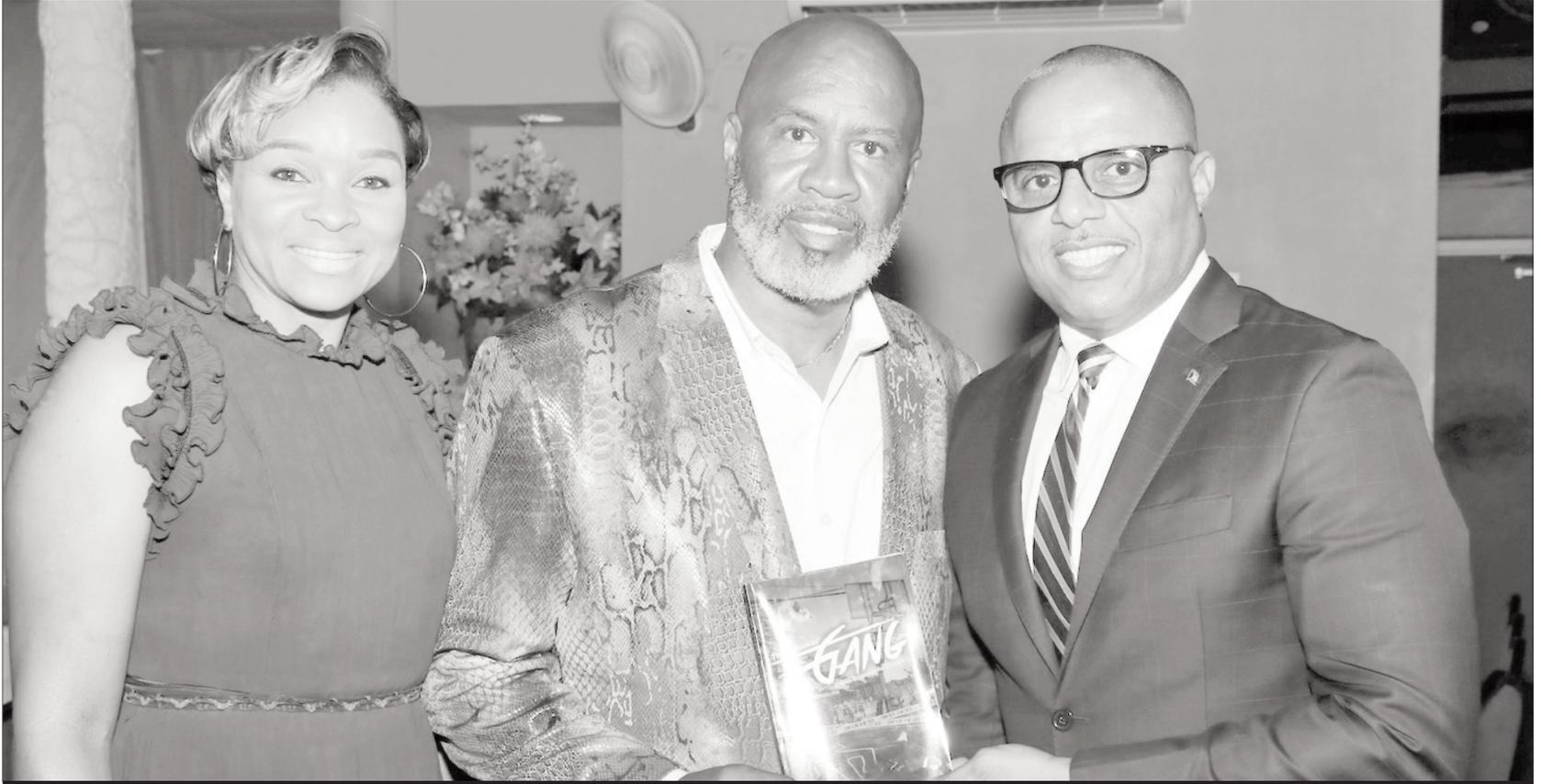
www.chevroletcaribbean.com



Shirley Street • 302-0130
info@nassaumotor.com • www.nassaumotor.com/chevrolet

GOT NEWS?
call The Journal
TIP LINE at 356-7254

MINISTER DAMES ADDRESSES BOOK LAUNCH OF DR. CARLOS G. REID



► Minister of National Security the Hon. Marvin Dames joined senior government, religious and civil society representatives at the launch of Dr. Carlos G. Reid's third book 'The Bahamas Gang Culture: Proven Strategies for Change,' at the Hope Centre, on June 18, 2019. Among those present were: Acting Permanent Secretary Eugene Poitier; Commissioner of Police Anthony Ferguson; Commander of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Commodore Tellis Bethel; District Superintendent of Student Development at the Ministry of Education Dr. Willard Barr; Member of Parliament Travis L. Robinson; Bahamas Christian Council President Bishop Delton Fernander; Bishop Neil C. Ellis; Apostle Raymond Wells; Dr. Dave Burrows; Apostle Kelson Miller; Pastor Keith Grey; Director of Teen Challenge Minister Eric Fox; and Bahamian musician Landlord. Minister Dames is pictured at right, with Carlos and Tiffany Reid. **(BIS Photo/Eric Rose)**

Works Minister says Many Projects

Continued from / PAGE 1...

with Marsh Harbour and Exuma whether we consider domestic or international travel. The physical plant is entirely inadequate. Seating is on the outside. In the morning

and in the evening the mosquitoes are out in full force, and when it rains passengers get wet. Moreover the runway is entirely inadequate," said Mr. Bannister.

A dock will be constructed in Harbour Island

in the amount of \$4,702,221.53. Minister Bannister announced Cabinet's approval to build the dock.

"The dock in Harbour Island is the lifeblood of that community, but for years has been inadequate

in size and configuration, and remains in poor condition," he said. The area surrounding the dock will also be dredged and Customs area refurbished.

Minister Bannister told Parliamentarians that he is aware of the "immense" need for roadworks in Eleuthera. He said preliminary work has been carried out on 38 miles of road from Governor's Harbour to the North Eleuthera Airport at a cost of \$472,196.03.

A contract for \$2,803,102.40 for the replacement of Russell Island Bridge that connects Spanish Wells with Russell Island will soon be signed. Minister Bannister said the bridge has been in "bad shape" for a long time and will be replaced with a two land bridge that is 162 feet long and 18 feet wide.

The Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis, Prime Minister, is expected to visit Abaco soon to sign a \$3,863,665.44 contract to repair damage to Queen's Highway in Hope town.

"Hurricane Floyd caused served damage to the edge of the Queens

Highway, thereby severely eroding the beach and the road. This is a project that is critical to the future of Hope Town," said Minister Bannister.

Construction on the Staniard Creek Bridge is scheduled to begin this year. This bridge is the first of three major bridges in Andros that must be replaced. The Public Works' Minister informed Parliamentarians that the engineering work has been completed. He said excavation work will also be done on the creek to rescue it from its current state of stagnation and restore healthy tidal flow.

The search for consultancies for the design of the long-awaited Long Island Airport will soon begin.

"By the end of 2019, Long Islanders and visitors alike will have access to two of the most beautiful ecological sites that I have ever seen in my life. And then we will start to develop their Airport," said Minister Bannister.

The amount of \$1,346,474.41 to construct, create parking and pave the Monument Road

in Long Island has been approved.

"The monument road is three miles of torturous driving over rocks and through bush to get to the most beautiful vista in the Bahamas, and perhaps in the world. The view from the Columbus monument is incomparable," said Mr. Bannister.

Furthermore, construction of a new bridge in Newton's Cay is scheduled to begin in July. Cabinet has allocated \$548,263.36 to carry out the work.

Moreover, he noted that the damaged classrooms at North Andros High School will be rebuilt. "The recent devastating fire at the North Andros High School will not be permitted to cripple educational opportunities. As I speak, officers of the Ministry of Public Works are on the ground in North Andros assessing the challenges. We will scope the work and rebuild the damaged classrooms so that the educational environment is better than it ever was," said Minister Bannister.

DARVILLE REFUTES PM'S CLAIMS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Wednesday, June 19th 2019, Dr. Darville used it as proof that the Prime Minister lied and misled parliament on the matter.

He said, "the truth of the matter is the contract for the Children's ward was awarded on Oct 2016 to

Guarantee Construction Company for exterior work which included the roof and window replacements at a cost of \$ 379,478 and the

exterior work was completed in July 2017."

He added, "It's important to point out that the exterior of the building had to be done first before the interior work could begin. The PLP lost office in May 2017. The completion of the children's ward was therefore and remains the responsibility of the current Minister of Health and the Free National Movement."

He also said that judging from that letter, released in a local daily

yesterday, the Minnis-led administration has done nothing to make improvements to the ward.

He said, "the record should reflect the truth. The repairs of the children's ward had absolutely nothing to do with Carnival.

"This debacle, however, has everything to do with neglect by the Free National Movement and the Minister of Health and the PHA's failure to do its job," Dr. Darville said.



ALL THE PERKS OF COMFORT SUITES
ALL THE PLAY OF ATLANTIS



- Free access to all pool and beach activities at neighboring Atlantis
- Complimentary full American buffet breakfast
- Kids 11 and under stay free in room with parent**
- Free Wi-Fi
- Free parking
- Air conditioned Jr. suites with king size or two double beds
- Pool with swim up bar
- 32 inch flat screen televisions
- Complimentary In-Room Safe



Crusoe's RESTAURANT

GREAT FOOD! GREAT PRICES!
Taste Perfection

Join us for lunch & dinner at
Comfort Suites Paradise Island
Ext: 6376 or 6404

Maximum 4 persons per room, additional fees apply for mandatory taxes, mandatory housekeeping gratuities and utility service fees. Quoted rates are based on standard room category and subject to availability. Full American buffet a \$58 value per room per day based on double occupancy. Free Wi-Fi a \$22 value per room per day. Free parking a \$16 value per day. Cancellations must be received 72 hours prior to arrival or a 1-night penalty will apply. **Kids under 11 years of age stay and eat free in room with parent - breakfast, lunch & dinner.



GPH GAINS SUPPORT FROM DOWNTOWN AND FESTIVAL PLACE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Executives of Global Ports Holding (GPH) hosted a series of government-endorsed stakeholder meetings recently to discuss the Nassau cruise port redevelopment project with key stakeholder groups. These meetings are a part of a series of outreach activities that Global Ports Holding will undertake in partnership with the Bahamas Investment Authority and the Office of the Prime Minister to ensure that major stakeholders are involved in the implementation of the project.

"It's critical for us to establish these fundamental partnerships as early as possible," said Colin Murphy, Head of Business Development, The Americas, Global Ports Holding. "The outcome of this project will depend heavily on the foundations of the relationships that we form with key stakeholders. We've heard many of the concerns of various groups during these meetings and we recognize that there's a lot to consider and a lot of work to be done. If we're all constantly communicating and keeping our common goal in mind, we can work together to ensure that everyone's needs are met



► Executives of the Bahamas Taxi Cab Union and the Glass Bottom Ferry Boat Association meet with Colin Murphy of Global Ports Holding, executives from the Bahamas Investment Authority, and representatives of the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism during recent Nassau cruise port stakeholder meetings.

in the most effective ways possible."

The series of meetings began with a conversation with leaders of associations and committees of Bahamians who work in and around Festival Place including the Bahamas Taxi Cab Union, Prince George Dock Taxi Committee, Festival Place Tenants Association, Glass Bottom Ferry Boat Association, Professional Downtown Hair Braiders

Association, Horse & Surrey Association, and the Scooter Association. This was followed by a meeting with downtown merchants, representatives of the Bahamas Hotel & Tourism Association, the Bahamas Federation of Retailers, and the Downtown Nassau Partnership.

The Global Ports Holding group also met with members of the Bahamas Tour Operators Association and some of

the executives, trustees and members of the Straw Business Persons Society.

"We're making a significant investment in Nassau and we want to be a helpful partner in the effort to revitalize downtown. This week helped us to launch that process," Murphy continued. "It's important that we all have a thorough understanding of where we are now and where we want to be so that everyone involved can bring their best ideas forward to make the project successful."

Yvette Prince, President of the Festival Place Tenants' Association, shared her thoughts about the Global Ports Holding presenta-

tion and the tone of the meetings. "Everything that we heard and saw was very positive. We're pleased that Global Ports Holding is reaching out to us well ahead of making any changes to the port area, so we're going to take advantage of the opportunity to ensure that our voices are heard during this process. We support working with Global Ports Holding and are willing to collaborate to develop solutions to ensure that everyone wins through this project."

Minister of Tourism and Aviation, The Hon. Dionisio D'Aguilar, noted that "The Global Ports Holding project

will no doubt serve as the catalyst for the redevelopment of downtown Nassau. With this in mind, it is critical that the various stakeholders participate in the discussions and are kept abreast of the development and it moves forward. I am pleased with the progress that GPH is making as they engage the local stakeholders. Every Bahamian involved in this venture must have the chance to make the most of this opportunity, whether through entrepreneurship, share ownership or the countless other benefits that it will bring. We are working together to make sure that happens."

BAHAMAS TIER 1 ON US TIP REPORT

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ble populations.

Credible allegations of corruption also raised concerns about vulnerabilities of potential trafficking victims during the reporting period.

The United States suggested that the country "increase efforts to investigate, prosecute, convict, and appropriately punish traffickers - and that includes officials complicit in sex or labor trafficking".

There was also the suggestion to "robustly implement the victim identification and referral

protocol to identify victims of sex and labour trafficking", especially among vulnerable groups, including Haitians, Venezuelans and other migrants.

It also suggested to provide vulnerable individuals with assistance prior to, during, and after screening for trafficking, is also on the list as well as providing language and cultural interpretation in screening and trauma-informed protective services for vulnerable populations, particularly in lesser known languages such as Creole and Spanish.

There is a further need to increase victim-centered training for prosecutors, judges, and policemen on the trafficking in persons act and collecting corroborative evidence to support victim testimony, increase grassroots outreach to potential trafficking victims among vulnerable groups in partnership with non-governmental organizations and strengthen engagement with officials involved in anti-trafficking activities in other countries in the region.

Human trafficking is said to be one of the most heinous crimes on earth.

Gov't on track to meet fiscal targets

Continued from / PAGE 1...

careful to try and manage our expectation and manage our expenditure, given the fact that we know we were going to lose some revenue due to the concessions and other challenges that we've had on the revenue side.

"Hats off to the

Ministry and hats off to the government as a whole that have been cooperative in playing their part. We have been able to meet that without sacrificing any quality or the efficiency of service that we provide," the Minister of Finance said.

In his midyear budget communication, the

Finance Minister asserted that the government was some \$185 million short in revenue. This received much criticism from the opposition.

Opposition spokesman on Finance Chester Cooper predicted that the government would miss its revenue projections and miss it badly.

TWININGS
OF LONDON

Make the perfect iced tea
with any one of your favourite Twinings flavours!

1. Brew 1 tea bag for 3-4 minutes.
2. Transfer infused tea to a glass full of ice.
3. Add lemon and honey/sugar.
4. Mix well and you have the perfect iced tea!

DISTRIBUTED IN THE BAHAMAS BY
milobutler
RESPECT, QUALITY AND VALUE GUARANTEED.

(242) 677-6380
PEACH STREET OFF MONTROSE AVENUE

GOT NEWS?
call The Journal
TIP LINE at 356-7254