The Bahama High Commissioner in London, Ellison Greenslade, has reported that he and officials from the High Commission have “made good progress” in the investigations into the deaths of two Bahamian young men whose bodies were found in a lake in Turin, Italy, yesterday. Mr Greenslade were warmly received with a great measure of courtesy and respect by Italian authorities. He was accompanied by Colin and Christopher Wright and Brittany John, relatives of the two who positively identified the bodies of Foreign Service Officer Alrae.

Ministry Awaits Autopsy Reports

Fred Hazlewood

To Be Knighted

Leading businessman Frederick Asa Hazlewood is to be Knighted and leads the list of Bahamians who have been honoured by Her Majesty the Queen in her 2019 Birthday Honours. He is President of the John Bull group of companies and represents the fourth generation of leaders at JOHN BULL raised on a simple leadership philosophy: “A business doesn’t run on autopilot.”

Bahaamasair Challenged by Rising Fuel Prices

The rising cost of fuel prices is negatively impacting Bahaamasair, the national flag carrier, according to Aviation Minister D’Aguilar who says that this was the greatest challenge to the airline meeting its financial target. Bahaamasair spent $11.8 million on fuel in 2017 and $18 million in 2018. As tensions rise between the United States, China and Iran, this will negatively impact Bahaamasair’s fuel imports.

Police Probe Homicide and Bank Robbery

Police on New Providence are investigating a shooting incident which occurred on Sunday night which left an adult male dead. According to reports, shortly before 9:00 pm, a man was standing in front of a home on Price Street, Nassau Village, when he was approached by occupants of a vehicle, who opened fire on him, hitting him about the body before speeding away. Paramedics were called to the scene and

New Laws Against Ship Dumping Promised

Transport Minister Swannd Wells says new laws against Cruise Ship dumping in the Bahamas will be introduced in the next fiscal year. He has reiterated the government’s commitment to legislatively address the longstanding issue of cruise ships and other vessels dumping waste in Bahamian waters. This of course on the heels of what transpired in a US district court a week ago. Leading cruise liner Carnival Corporation at the time pleaded guilty to

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The allocations for consultancy services in the government's national budget has increased dramatically.

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT Journal Staff Writer

Tuesday - June 11th, 2019
The Bahamas Journal

In the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources the allocation jumped from $30,000 to $320,000, a figure Minister Pintard said is still not enough.

"We believe that the $300,000 is not sufficient, so we are going to gradually each year seek to increase the amount of funding."

"There is a wide range of areas where consultants are required. One of the things that we are doing now is converting to E-Agriculture, so that so many of thepermits for Agriculture, so that we would be able to do so that someone doesn’t have to for example, land in East End, Grand Bahama and go to get a permit, they can do all of that online."

Mr. Pintard pointed out that the Agriculture administration pool one consultant the same amount allocated this budget period for a number of consultancy services in different areas.

"In terms of country travel we are not aware, we are engaged in several consultations as well."

"One of them is with respect to the issue of conch and having a called discussion with fishermen throughout the country about how these conch are, are the pressures that have been brought on the conch stock and getting their feedback on what we intend to do over the course of the next months."

The same thing is true with the Nassau Grouper, the Ministry has allocated $20,000 to the preeminent organization and critical thinking in the context of the Nassau Grouper which happened last month, a Bahamian helping to defray some of the cost on the Nassau Grouper which again we have been in discussions with fishermen and others through out the Family Islands and then of course we are also in discussion about the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)," he said.

The budget for international travel shifted from $35,000 to over $50,000.

"In some cases, as in the case of BAIC for example, CEDAR or in the case of agriculture, attending meetings in Washington for AMALI, Commonwealth ACP, you are going to other nations or with any of these nations governmental bodies."

"I think we have been very productive in terms of what we have been able to get out of those meetings."

"We’re having bilateral discussions with other countries to gain benefits for The Bahamas and we’re also having discussions with inter-governmental agencies to get benefits," Minister Pintard said.

Pintard: Consultancy Allocations

The Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of The Bahamas (GoBa) signed the Loan Contract No. 1-5233 for the execution of the investment program "Skills for Current and Future Jobs in The Bahamas" 9041-037.
The general objective of the Programme is to increase the employability and quality of employment of Bahamians; improving access to quality jobs in The Bahamas, in particular, with emphasis on women; in the priority 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 Unit has designated the Ministry of Labour (MOL) as the Programme Executing Agency (PEA). The MOL will establish a Programme Executive Unit (PEU) within its organizational structure and the Office of the Permanent Secretary. Accordingly, the PEU now invites interested individual consultants to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) indicating qualifications and experience required to provide consulting services of Strategic Communications Consultation. The contract duration for this consultancy is 12 months, renewable annually.

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

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

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BAHAMIANS CHALLENGED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES IN TOURISM SECTOR

Bahamians have been challenged to take advan-
tage of the business opportunities that can be
derived from the fact that cruise ship passengers make what amounts to 20,000 visits to The Bahamas each year.

"There are many, many opportunities that I am not convinced we are fully grasping," said the Minister of Tourism and Aviation, Kingsley Livingstone.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for Bahamian entrepreneurs. There are many, many, many investments by companies that are on islands in the Bahamas that are going to be happening over the next, at least, two years.

"These investments by the cruise companies are evidence of increased confidence in The Bahamas and provide opportunities for Bahamian entrepreneurs."

Mr. Livingstone recently opened "A Perfect Day at Coco Cay" in Freeport and Royal Caribbean's partnership with the ITM Group to not only build a new port in Grand Bahama, but to also purchase, upgrade and transform the Grand Lucayan property in Lucayan, The Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

"These investments by the cruise companies and the evidence of increased confidence in The Bahamas and provides opportunities for Bahamian entrepreneurs."

"The Minnis administration is focused on approving projects with cruise companies that are on islands in The Bahamas. We understand the historic significance of the islands, away from your family, for long periods of time but small Bahamians will not be excluded from this.

"The tourism and aviation minister said the developments in the cruise industry, supported by public investments in port and airport infrastructure, will improve international and national transport and distribution channels, safeguard the tremendous tourism assets throughout the Family Island destin-
tations and provide the catalyst for increased local investment in tourism."

"In the two short years that I have been in this position as Minister of Tourism, I have been overwhelmed by the mul-
titude of opportunities in the Tourism sector that are going unmet and unmet by Bahamians," Mr. D'Aguilar told Parliamentarians.

"I challenge our fellow Bahamians, especially those that have an interest in, or an affinity for business, to seriously look to the Tourism sector. Yes, there are many, many, many Bahamians that are as passionate and as committed to the Tourism sector by renting their homes, but there are so many, so many opportunities that exist that are currently not being effectively used.

"If you are interested in finding out or taking advantage of these opportunities, I invite you, my fellow Bahamians, to come to the Tourism Development Corporation to flesh out your ideas, gain access to those critical decision-makers that will help you grow your business and give you the push to launch your new business."
BAHAMASAIR CHALLENGED BY RISING FUEL PRICES

The minister said that the airline would see a $9 million dollar increase from $13.4 million to $22.4 million to pay off some old bills that were left by the previous administration. This $9 million increase will be used to make principle repayments of $6 million plus

The increasing competition will be used to make principle repayments of $6 million plus

However, despite these increases the minister says Bahamasair still averages some 60 per cent in load factors annually.

"Most airlines, in order to break even, must operate a load factor closer to 80 per cent," he said. He also noted that Bahamasair’s passenger count continued to grow reaching 944,000 people in 2019 when compared to the 835,000 in 2018. The airlines also projecting that its annual net loss would decrease from $24 million in 2018 to $16.9 million in 2020.

Police are investigating reports of a robbery which took place at the Prince Charles branch of Commonwealth Bank yesterday.

According to reports, three masked men broke into the Bank around 4:00 am yesterday. They reportedly cut into an area of the ATM Deposit Box and made good their escape with an undetermined amount of cash. Investigations are ongoing.

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The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) was established on 1 August 2006, as a corporate body, under the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority Act, 2009.

As the independent regulator, URCA's regulatory remit of the Electronic Communications Sector (ECS) covers radio and television broadcasting, radio spectrum, internet data, pay TV and voice telephony and oversight of Electricity (ES) Sector which includes entities or persons who generate, transmit, distribute or supply electricity throughout The Bahamas.

The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) invites interested entities to submit proposals for the provision of audit services. The term of the audit engagement is for three (3) years — reporting on the financial statements for the years ending 31 December, 2020 and 2021.

The deadline for submission is 14 June 2019 at 4:00pm. A copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) may be downloaded from URCA's website at www.urca.bahamas.yn/