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# The Bahama Journal

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# 'More Ministers MUST GO' Symonette to Explain Resignation

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON  
*Journal Staff Writer*

**P**rogressive Liberal Party Deputy Leader Chester Cooper said after securing so many contracts, it was time for former Minister of Financial Services, Trade and Industry and Immigration Brent Symonette to move on and resign. But Cooper wants to know who would be next in line as he believes more Cabinet ministers should resign.

"What about the minister who raised the VAT after voting against VAT in the first place and suggesting it was wicked?" Cooper asked during his address at the PLP Bain and Grants Town Branch meeting yesterday.

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▶ PLP Deputy Leader, Chester Cooper

## Taxi Drivers Threaten Strike

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
*Journal Staff Writer*

The government may have an issue on its hands in the prime minister's absence as the Bahamas Taxi Cab Union is preparing to up the ante with a massive shutdown.

"What we have to do now is to give the government a final opportunity seeing that it's just July 1. We're going to reach out

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▶ Former Cabinet Minister, Brent Symonette

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
*Journal Staff Writer*

Former Cabinet Minister Brent Symonette said he plans to have a press conference sometime this week to explain the reason behind his resignation as a Cabinet minister.

While up to this point,

no reason has been given for Mr. Symonette's resignation, his decision to do so came on the heels of the opposition's charge in the House of Assembly that Bahamas Hot Mix, which has links to Mr. Symonette, was awarded

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## BAHAMAS DELEGATION TO CARICOM ARRIVES IN ST. LUCIA



▶ Prime Minister the Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis arrived in St. Lucia today for the 40th Regular Meeting of Heads of Government of CARICOM: the Prime Minister and Mrs. Patricia Minnis are pictured being met at the airport upon arrival. Prime Minister Minnis leads a delegation that includes Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Darren Henfield; Minister of Tourism & Aviation, the Hon. Dionisio D'Aguilar; Bahamas Ambassador to CARICOM, HE Reuben Rahming; and Mr. Adrian Gibson, MP. Regional leaders will discuss tourism, finance, the situation in Venezuela, security and other matters.  
 (BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe)

## Rastas Willing to Drop Marijuana Lawsuit

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON  
*Journal Staff Writer*

Ethiopia Black Africa International Congress Honourable Priest Ethelbert Harrison said although the organization filed a lawsuit against the government relating to the use of marijuana, the lawsuit could be avoided

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## Gov't Renting Home for Governor General

BY LEAH COOPER  
*Journal Staff Writer*

The attorney general and the minister of finance confirmed that the government will be renting a home for Governor General C.A. Smith as the home at Government House on Mount Fitzwilliam undergoes

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# Children's Ward Gets NEW CLASSROOM

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

Paradise Children Foundation, through a public private partnership, renovated a room at the Princess Margaret Hospital, turning the space into a classroom conducive for learning.

From a regular Tuesday afternoon event at the Children's Ward of PMH, the foundation was prompted to put in all it had to create a conducive learning space for children.

Yesterday, the foundation revealed the space that Charlotte Gibson – project manager – said is a long term project.

“We do an afternoon event one Tuesday a month which is great, but as we were up here in the room, we recognized that there was a need, that was available, and so we offered to do something with the room,” Mrs. Gibson said.

“So we met with the teacher. We had a look and we found out that

the size of the room was something that we could manage as we all have jobs and this was all that we do in addition to our regular work.

“So, we took it on and worked with the hospital and have put it together and here we are six months later, which is really exciting.”

A school away from school, Principal of the hospital's school Kimlyn Hanna said the donation will allow the students to be more creative, without missing schoolwork while being ill.

“It is oh so awesome. I can't believe the space. It is just a wonderful donation from the Paradise Children Foundation and I'm elated the children will be able to be more creative with all the supplies that they have given to the school,” Mrs. Hanna said.

“It's a continuous education program. It's from grade one to grade 12. We give them GLAT exams, BJC's, BGCSE exams here in the hospital.



► The Paradise Children's Foundation (PCF) in partnership with the Public Hospital's Authority, the Princess Margaret Hospital Pediatric Department and the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation blessed and opened its newly renovated classroom on Monday, July 1. From left to right: Sharon Johnson, PMH Foundation board member; Emily Osadebay, PMH Foundation board member; PHA Chaplain Father Sebastian Campbell; Children Ward's classroom teacher, Kimlyn Hanna; PCF board member, Charlotte Gibson; PCF volunteer, Paul Williams and Sonia Bastian Rose, acting hospital administrator.

“If they have end of term exams I would go and collect their exams, administer it here in the hospital to the students.”

An excess of 20 per-

sons worked on the project, according to Mrs. Gibson, who said the next move for the Paradise Children Foundation and its work

at PMH, is to work on a personal goal, to take on one of the wards, including a family room.

The project cost the foundation more than

\$10,000, with a \$5,000 donation from Commonwealth Bank, Storm Frame Windows, and Joann Mcpique among others.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

## INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT



Government Digital Transformation to Strengthen Competitiveness: Change Management/Communications Specialist

Country: The Commonwealth of The Bahamas  
Supporting Institution: Inter-American Development Bank  
Programme: Government Digital Transformation to Strengthen Competitiveness  
Project Number: BH-L1045  
Loan Number: LO-4549 / OC-BH  
Sector: Reform / Modernization of the State  
Sub-Sector: E-Government  
Deadline: 8 July 2019

Post: Change Management/Communications Specialist  
Reports to: The Programme Coordinator

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), toward the cost of the Government Digital Transformation to Strengthen Competitiveness and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the consulting services of a Communications/Change Management Specialist. The consulting services ("the Services") include developing a framework for change management. The consultancy will guide employees and the public through the change process, proffer recommendations for resistance management strategies, and support the roll out of the digital transformation in areas that may or will affect stakeholders. The consultancy must also develop effective strategies for public awareness and education. The duration of the contractual position is 12 months renewable annually based on satisfactory performance.

### Main responsibilities include:

- Examining the key stakeholders and administrative/operational structures in Government to determine the transformation initiatives and change management approaches necessary to transition from one system to the next;
- Working collaboratively and effectively with the senior Government officials and Unions to construct the appropriate framework/guidelines to address the key features and initiatives which underpin change management (eg) communication strategies/plans, stakeholder engagement, inter-disciplinary teams, readiness assessments, dealing with resistance to change;
- Implementing effective change management strategies with a monitoring and evaluation component designed to achieve the goal of the Programme;
- Building support for the Project by assisting in the communication to stakeholders of the project development goals, objectives, activities and benefits using all forms of media possible through a strategy for public awareness, education sensitization and training interventions
- Liaising with the Director of Communications and Media Houses to promote the Programme and individual project components;
- Making changes as necessary to the strategies upon evaluation of progress or identification of risks;
- Facilitating regular monthly meetings to monitor changes and their correct implementation, identifying risks associated with change, facilitating discussions and finding solutions on issues that might hinder change initiatives;
- Guiding the process with teams of by engaging them in analyzing the progress, exploring root causes of issues, experimenting with solutions, and documenting lessons learnt and assisting each team with work plan development of work plans, timelines and milestones with clear responsibilities
- Developing Standard Operating Procedures as per the job function;
- Working with training institutions to embed capacity training sessions to ensure the sustainability of the Project and develop Standard Operating Procedures so that the change is institutionalized;
- Supporting managers and supervisors and building their skills capacity for effective management of staff and stakeholders;
- Organizing support meetings, and workshops and training sessions for stakeholders and acting as Facilitator in strategy and planning meetings.

### The successful candidate should have the following

- Minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Change Management, Communications, Human Resources Management / Development, Public Administration / Management, or Business Administration. A minor in Public Relations, Marketing or Psychology would be an asset.
- Minimum of 5 years of relevant work experience in proven national project initiatives within the private / public sector or with international development institutions. Demonstrated superior communications skills (written and verbal), team-building skills within a diverse cultural and multi-disciplinary background, and networking skills.
- Previous knowledge and exposure to IDB's administration and project management policies and procedures are desired.

The Office of the Prime Minister now invites eligible Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the National Competitive Bidding Selection procedures set out in the IDB's Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the IDB and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in these policies. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the National Competitive Bidding Selection method set out in Selection and Contracting of Firms Policies. Further information can be obtained by E-mail: [opmodernizationunit@bahamas.gov.bs](mailto:opmodernizationunit@bahamas.gov.bs). Submit all CVs and qualification documents must be submitted Re: **Communications/Change Management Specialist** to E-mail: [opmodernizationunit@bahamas.gov.bs](mailto:opmodernizationunit@bahamas.gov.bs) on or before 5:00 pm on 8 July 2019.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

## INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT



Government Digital Transformation to Strengthen Competitiveness: Component Coordinators / Components 1 and 2

Country: The Commonwealth of The Bahamas  
Supporting Institution: Inter-American Development Bank  
Programme: Government Digital Transformation to Strengthen Competitiveness  
Project Number: BH-L1045  
Loan Number: LO-4549 / OC-BH  
Sector: Reform / Modernization of the State  
Sub-Sector: E-Government  
Deadline: 8 July 2019

Post: Component Coordinator  
Reports to: The Programme Coordinator

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), toward the cost of the Government Digital Transformation to Strengthen Competitiveness and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the consulting services of a Component Coordinator. The consulting services ("the Services") include serving as the technical lead for one Component of the Project and assisting the Programme Coordinator in ensuring that activities are addressed effectively so as to achieve project goals within the prescribed timeframe.

### Main responsibilities include:

- Clearly envisioning and communicating what determines Component success and advising on methodology, infrastructure and applications, inter alia to achieve success
- Ensuring PEU compliance with the IDB/GoBh loan agreement w.r.t Component execution by developing, managing and executing the project plan, in phases, from inception to completion across The Bahamas using the MS Projects software tool.
- Preparing, updating, managing and controlling Component implementation by developing and/or determining cost, quality and risk assessments, project proposals and requirements, required documentation, effective use of the required resources (human, financial and technical), and performance measurements
- Communicating project status to stakeholders through presentations as needed fortnightly project performance reports, intermediate reports on phases and a final report on the individual projects and the Component.
- Supervising and evaluating PEU staff assigned to the component as well as designing and implementing a plan for the continuous transfer of skills to permanent staff to include skills' development and certification.
- Creating and maintaining Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the job function as well as leading project exercises designed to adjust, organize and streamline project procedures/schedules/plans
- Ensuring effective coordination with, and reporting to, the Programme Manager with particular respect to the procurement, financial and project staff to ensure that disbursement projections are accurately updated in line with GoBh and IDB timelines.
- Leading and directing working groups developed to expedite project implementation.
- Participating in regular project evaluation and post mortem meetings to identify current and future bottlenecks/challenges/risks, successful and unsuccessful project elements and initiate resolutions.
- Managing organizational and process change in a planned coordinated and structured manner by including all stakeholders

### The successful candidate should have the following

- A minimum of a Master's Degree in an Information and Communications Technology Field or Engineering. ICT certifications are required. Project Management Certification, PMP considered an asset. At least five (5) years working experience with project management within the private / public sector or with international development institutions. Sound working knowledge of project management techniques, tools and software including MS Projects.
- Proven People Management and Communication skills across diverse team members, vendors and contractors
- Ability to employ analytical and problem-solving capabilities to effectively prioritize and execute multiple tasks in a high-pressure environment and react to project adjustments and alternations promptly and efficiently in the context of shifting priorities, demands and timelines

The Office of the Prime Minister now invites eligible Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the National Competitive Bidding Selection procedures set out in the IDB's Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the IDB and it is open to all eligible bidders as defined in these policies. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the International Competitive Bidding Selection method set out in Selection and Contracting of Firms Policies. Further information can be obtained by E-mail: [opmodernizationunit@bahamas.gov.bs](mailto:opmodernizationunit@bahamas.gov.bs). Submit all CVs and qualification documents must be submitted Re: **Component Coordinator** to E-mail: [opmodernizationunit@bahamas.gov.bs](mailto:opmodernizationunit@bahamas.gov.bs) on or before 5:00 pm on 8 July 2019.

# 'Montel Heights Still Safe,' Residents Say

BY LEAH COOPER  
Journal Staff Writer

Residents of Montel Heights yesterday maintained that the area is just as safe as any other community in the capital following the mass shooting this past Sunday morning.

In an interview with The Bahama Journal, Neville Sears, a local television technician living

in the inner city for 22 years, shared how the shooting may impact his business.

"I believe that outsiders wanting me to repair something for them may not come. They may feel different from what the commissioner said, but a lot of incidents happened over the years and I haven't seen any difference in business," he said.

When asked if he believes that his community is still safe, he said, "There are a lot of nice people around here. Young men as well. There are some that are doing some things that they need to reconsider.

"If you live how you ought to live in the community, I don't think you should fear here."

Montel Heights Community Center

President Chris Munnings said, "We just had a christening around here yesterday evening when the current went off and it was alright. Police were on the ground and we had no issues. Montel Heights is still safe."

A resident, who wished to remain anonymous, said, "I wouldn't say that I feel secure because if it happened here, it can happen anywhere."

"These things can happen to anyone. You just have to be aware and secure your surroundings. You're not expecting for someone to come and shoot up a party, but that's just how life goes," the resident added.

The shooting incident left 17 people injured, and four of them were minors.

During a press briefing on Sunday, Police Commissioner Anthony

Ferguson assured the public that despite the mass shooting in Montel Heights, the capital is still safe.

According to police investigation, a male was confronted by two men who began shooting at him.

Chief Superintendent Solomon Cash said police are following significant leads into the matter.

# Rastas Willing to Drop

Continued from / PAGE 1...

if the government would meet with congress members and address the concerns of the Rastafarian community.

"We would love to still have a dialogue with them [the government] and we would drop the charges if it's favourable for us. Yes, we would," Harrison told The Bahama Journal recently.

"At the same time, we want them [the government] to know that we are not asking for nothing. This is our rights that we are demanding from them."

Last week, a writ was filed by attorneys representing the plaintiffs, The



▶ Ethiopia Black Africa International Congress Hon. Priests Ethelbert Harrison (left) and Jevon Thompson (right) expressed concerns facing the Rastafarian community.

Ethiopia Black Africa International Congress.

According to the writ, "The plaintiffs claim that

they have had their right to the protection of the privacy of their persons and homes breached by

members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force by searching for the sacrament which Rastafari can

lawfully cultivate, possess and supply pursuant to the right guaranteed by Articles 15 and 21 of the

Constitution.

"The plaintiff further claim that their rights guaranteed by Articles 15 and 26 to practice their religion and to be free from discriminatory treatment have been breached by members of the Bahamas Department of Corrections and its predecessor Her Majesty's Prison in the cutting of Rastafari locks while Rastafari was serving a sentence for cultivating, possessing or supply his sacrament."

Harrison said the lawsuit is not intended to create panic throughout the country, but while the Rastafarian community awaits answers from the

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

## INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT



Government Digital Transformation to Strengthen Competitiveness: Financial Specialist

Country: The Commonwealth of The Bahamas  
Supporting Institution: Inter-American Development Bank  
Programme: Government Digital Transformation to Strengthen Competitiveness  
Project Number: BH-L1045  
Loan Number: LO-4549 / OC-BH  
Sector: Reform / Modernization of the State  
Sub-Sector: E-Government  
Deadline: 8 July 2019

Post: Financial Specialist  
Reports to: The Programme Coordinator

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), toward the cost of the Government Digital Transformation to Strengthen Competitiveness Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the consulting services of a Financial Specialist. The consulting services ("the Services") include responsibility for the overall financial administration and control of the resources of the Programme, including the effective operation of the financial reporting systems, related to accounting, budgeting administration, treasury, and asset management activities, and for ensuring the presence of the necessary control environment for effective and transparent, financial reporting in compliance with IADB and national regulations. The Financial Specialist will have a key and pivotal responsibility in the design and implementation of the financial mechanisms and controls for the electronic platform, so as to ensure the proper disbursements, accounting and financial reporting, following the Project Operational Manual (POM) of the Facility, and in direct integration with the PEU financial management system. The duration of the contractual position is 12 months renewable annually based on satisfactory performance.

### Main responsibilities include:

- Managing, in an effective and transparent manner, the financial resources of the Programme and undertaking the corresponding fiduciary responsibilities as well as the implementation and operation of the necessary internal and external controls by ensuring that appropriate financial and accounting systems and controls are implemented so that all Programme activities are executed in accordance with the applicable GoBh and the Bank's financial and accounting requirements. In particular, establishing and maintaining adequate financial, accounting, and internal control systems to ensure the integrity, compliance and transparency of all transactions undertaken by the PEU.
- Leading the implementation and operation of an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)/Accounting Software to conduct the integrated cash management, accounts payable, general ledger (GL), bank reconciliation and financial reporting, and directly linked to commitments and corresponding purchase orders.
- Providing for the integration and/or parallel deployment of the GoBh "Financial Accounting System", as required by the OPM, Ministry of Finance, and the Bank including developing and implementing the Chart of Accounts (CoA) of the Programme to provide for the proper recording and tracking of all Programme revenues, expenditure, assets and other financial information.
- Creating, maintaining, reviewing and conducting internal audits for Standard Operating Procedures
- Facilitating the activities of the Internal Audit Department of the OPMMU with respect to the periodic monitoring of the financial administration system (budget, accounting, treasury and asset management), the preparation of the financial statements, and the operation of the internal control systems of the Programme, by providing all pertinent information, and undertaking the necessary corrective actions based on Internal Audit's recommendations.
- Facilitating the discharge of the internal audits by the OPMMU, as PEU, to ensure that recommendations made from such reviews are assessed and acted upon within an agreed timeframe including participating in the selection of the Programme's external auditors, coordinating and preparing for the independent financial audits and providing the necessary information and documentation, and ensuring that audited financial statements are prepared to meet the Bank requirements and that the final reports are available for subsequent stakeholder review.
- Assisting the Programme Manager with Financial monitoring activities and the preparation of periodic financial and physical implementation reports, including the Programme Annual Operational Plan (AOP) along with supporting documentation in accordance with the POM and as required by the OPMMU, Ministry of Finance and the Bank.

### The successful candidate should have the following

- A minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Accounting, Economics, or Business Administration (with a concentration in Accounting or Finance), and must be a CPA or the equivalent.
- A minimum of 5 years of work experience in accounting/bookkeeping and/or auditing. Previous knowledge and exposure to IDB's fiduciary, procurement, financial administration and project management policies and procedures is desired.

The Office of the Prime Minister now invites eligible Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the National Competitive Bidding Selection procedures set out in the IDB's Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the IDB and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in these policies. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the National Competitive Bidding Selection method set out in Selection and Contracting of Firms Policies. Further information can be obtained by E-mail: [opmmmodernizationunit@bahamas.gov.bs](mailto:opmmmodernizationunit@bahamas.gov.bs). Submit all CVs and qualification documents Re: Financial Specialist to E-mail: [opmmmodernizationunit@bahamas.gov.bs](mailto:opmmmodernizationunit@bahamas.gov.bs) on or before 5:00 pm on 21 June 2019.

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# 'More Ministers Must Go'

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"What about the doctor who gave the contract to the woman who testified in that sham of a trial against a former PLP MP?"

"What about the former senior police official who was hounding this same woman to go to the police. What about the attorney general who was losing case after case? What about the minister who can't keep the light on? What about the minister in charge of gender affairs who say don't ask him nothing about rape?"

"What about the minister who can't get the sporting community to come together and who can't fix the South Beach pools that they say was already working? What about the minister in Grand Bahama

who said this tech hub was going to be great, but the tech hub company moved to Nassau?"

"What about the ministers who pushed this Commercial Enterprises Bill to let foreigners work without papers? And what about the prime minister who sat next to the convict and signed the billion-dollar deal? What about the prime minister who gave Symonette all those contracts?"

What about him?"

While Symonette plans to reveal why he resigned this week, the government has been under severe criticism in recent times over a number of contracts that companies in which Symonette is a shareholder would have received.

Among them are the new General Post Office at

The Town Center Mall and a number of contracts that have been awarded to Bahamas Hot Mix, including one for the resurfacing of runways at the Lynden Pindling International Airport.

Last week, it was revealed that Bahamas Hot Mix received three separate contracts for the laying of water mains in Long Island.

Symonette's detractors

believed that he was conflicted in several matters as a Cabinet minister.

According to Cooper, "What is happening with Bahamas Hot Mix is a shame."

"They're starving out small contractors and this government is facilitating it. How are small and medium size businesses supposed to survive, let alone thrive if our government allows huge busi-

nesses preferential treatment?" Cooper asked.

"But that's the FNM, keep the special interests happy. But put the small man out of business.

This government doesn't care about Bahamians at all. At least, not most of us.

According to Cooper, this is not what the future of The Bahamas looks like and what governance in 2019 should be.

"Why can't the FNM get it right? Some people say they don't have a plan, that they never had a plan. I don't believe that. I just believe that their plan was never about the people, despite them swearing up and down it was the people's time," Cooper said.

"All this talk about the people's time, but when the people cry out - nothing. They are unmoved by the pleas of the people."

## Taxi Drivers Threaten Strike

Continued from / PAGE 1...

to them one more time and then after that we're going to have a massive shut-down between the jitney drivers and the taxi drivers," Union President Wesley Ferguson said.

"We're going to culminate this whole back and forth with the government with just a massive shut-down one day soon."

The union president said since the impromptu meeting with Minister of Transport Renward Wells outside Cabinet back in May, there's been no communication.

Mr. Ferguson claimed

the union has made countless attempts to reach out to the minister, but to no avail.

The union is looking for the government to give a set date for the moratorium on taxi plates to be lifted, the change of the rental car plates and issues at the Road Traffic Department.

The plan is to reach out to the government one last time. That deadline may have to be pushed down as Minister Wells is out of the country until July 16.

He left the capital yesterday for Tel Aviv, Israel and London, England.

## Gov't Renting for New GG

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"extensive renovations".

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest told The Bahama Journal that following Government House's facelift, the governor general will assume residence on the property.

When asked why the public wasn't informed on the matter, Attorney General Carl Bethel said,

"There's no secret about it. Did anyone announce that the past governor general wasn't living in Government House? Was that made public? No."

He added, "This is not the first time that a governor general has had to make other accommodations pending renovations in Government House."

Both ministers remained tightlipped about the price of the rent.

## 29 Bahamian Fishermen Arrested

A Bahamian fishing vessel with 29 Bahamians on board was apprehended on Sunday afternoon by the Royal Bahamas Defence Force for fisheries violations.

While on routine patrol, HMBS Rolly Gray, under the command of Senior Lieutenant William Sturup, apprehended a fishing vessel named, Sweet Dreams, in the Cay Sal Bank area with a large quantity of

conch and a compressor onboard.

Skiffs belonging to the vessel were also in the immediate area with compressors onboard. Additionally, a search of a nearby cay uncovered several more compressors.

The vessel and its crew are expected to be escorted to the capital where they will be turned over to relevant authorities for further investigation.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

### INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT



#### Government Digital Transformation to Strengthen Competitiveness: Programme Coordinator

**Country:** The Commonwealth of The Bahamas  
**Supporting Institution:** Inter-American Development Bank  
**Programme:** Government Digital Transformation to Strengthen Competitiveness  
**Project Number:** BH-L1045  
**Loan Number:** LO-4549 / OC-BH  
**Sector:** Reform / Modernization of the State  
**Sub-Sector:** E-Government  
**Deadline:** 8 July 2019

**Post:** Programme Coordinator  
**Reports to:** The Permanent Secretary

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), toward the cost of the Government Digital Transformation to Strengthen Competitiveness Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the consulting services of a Programme Coordinator Consultant. The consulting services ("the Services") include providing the strategic, organizational, financial and technical direction to the PEU, and serving as the main focal point of the Programme within OPMMU and other public and private institutions. Reporting to the Permanent Secretary of the Modernization Unit, the Programme Coordinator will provide leadership, coordination and guidance to all matters pertaining to the successful administration and implementation of the "Government Digital Transformation to Strengthen Competitiveness" Programme (BH-L1045), through the efficient management of the PEU, in accordance with the stipulations contained in the Loan Contract and the Project Operations Manual (POM). The Programme Coordinator will play a pivotal role in supporting the overall governance and institutional arrangements agreed upon between the Bank, the GoBH, and the public and private stakeholders. The duration of the contractual position is 12 months renewable annually based on satisfactory performance.

#### Main responsibilities include:

- Ensuring the effective compliance with the "Conditions Prior to First Disbursement", as well as ongoing compliance with requirements established in the Loan Contract between the IDB and the GoBH;
- In close coordination with the various technical and administrative personnel of OPMMU, leading the undertaking of the strategic operations planning and execution activities, including the development of the Project Annual Execution Plan (PEP), the Annual Operations Plan (AOP), Project Operations Manual (POM) the Procurement Plan (PP), the Financial Plan (FP), and other periodic physical and financial progress reports, in compliance with the requirements of OPMMU and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB); and ensuring the proper alignment of the budget and procurement projections;
- Ensuring that SOPs are created, approved, maintained and audited for all of the projects and/or job functions
- Defining and establishing the inter-institutional coordination mechanisms with other public organizations related and/or beneficiaries of the Programme, as well as private sector and other stakeholders;
- Leading the preparation of a communications strategy among beneficiaries, public entities, and other stakeholders and effectively communicating the goal and progress of the Programme to all stakeholders;
- Coordinating the monitoring of activities of the Programme in compliance with its global strategic objectives and those of its individual components, as well as the targets established in the AOP;
- Collaborating with the Procurement Specialist to ensure timely processing of procurements through the IADB, governmental tenders committees and other relevant agencies, according to established procedures;
- Preparing for the Bank the required data, reports and other documentation of the Programme as its individual components, as established in the Loan Contract;
- Supervision and performance evaluation of PEU Staff, ensuring effective coordination of all personnel;
- Designing and implementing an effective organization structure, and developing and leading teams to ensure the timely delivery of the Programme's goals.
- Leading the development--and updating as deemed necessary--of the norms and procedures of the Programme with respect to planning, administration, operations and technical management applicable to the execution of the Programme, and introducing such updates in the POM;
- Overseeing and ensuring that the Programme's activities are being performed adequately, on schedule, within the scope and budget in accordance with contractual agreements including, the respective Loan Agreement, and other relevant documents such as the POM;
- Ensuring the compliance with the Bank and national norms and procedures with respect to, among others, financial administration, internal controls, procurement, administration, and technical management;
- Leading the inter-institutional coordination with OPMMU and other entities of the GoBH;
- Securing the timely availability of financial resources of the loan through the direct contacts with the IADB, OPMMU and Ministry of Finance;
- Ensuring the attainment of the global objectives of the Programme by carrying out a close coordination of the institutional strengthening, technical, and infrastructure development activities of the Programme; Ensuring the effective compliance with the financial and physical implementation targets of the Programme, in relation to the AOP of the individual components as well as the consolidated Programme;
- Ensuring the reliability and transparency of the procurement processes of the Programme;
- Ensuring the timely and accurate preparation of terms of reference, standard bidding documents, contracts and other procurement documents for the recruitment of consultants/contractors or suppliers to carry out Programme or Project activities;
- Submitting appropriate written comments and recommendations to the PEU, the OPMMU and the Bank where required;
- Ensuring the dependability and transparency of the financial administration and internal control systems;
- Leading the effective and timely execution of the monitoring, evaluation and auditing activities contemplated in the Programme including updating and maintaining the overall risk management and mitigation framework;
- Guaranteeing the effectiveness of the monitoring activities of the Programme based on concrete performance targets consistent with the Results Framework agreed within the AOPs and Progress Monitoring Reporting (PMR) to the IADB;
- Providing for sound human resources administration practices (i.e. recruitment, selection, contracting, evaluation and remuneration) of the personnel of the PEU, in accordance to agreed Bank and national procedures for personnel administration;
- Following sound fiduciary procedures, establishing and maintaining an efficient filing system (electronic and paper-based) to support the needs of the Programme;
- Implementing appropriate procedures for the inspection, monitoring and performance evaluation with respect to the work of consultants, contractors and partners, so as to certify that works and services are satisfactorily accomplished in compliance with Terms of Reference and contract specifications;
- Conducting periodic field and monitoring visits to assess implementation of the Programme;
- Following Bank procedures, leading the contracting of the Programme's External Auditors, and ensuring that adequate arrangements are in place to facilitate the conduct of audits (internal and external) and that recommendations arising from them are appropriately reviewed and acted upon.

#### The successful candidate should have the following:

- A minimum of a Master's Degree in an Information and Communications Technology Field, Economics, Engineering, Business Administration or Management with a concentration in ICT, Economics or Engineering. ICT and Project Management Certifications or equivalent are required.
- A minimum of ten years of relevant work experience in programme management within the private / public sector or with international development institutions. Previous experience in the ICT sector is required if degree is other than ICT, as well as exposure to IADB's fiduciary, procurement, financial administration and project management policies and procedures.

The Office of the Prime Minister now invites eligible Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the National Competitive Bidding Selection procedures set out in the IDB's: Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the IDB and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in these policies. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the National Competitive Bidding Selection method set out in Selection and Contracting of Firms Policies. Further information can be obtained by E-mail: [opmmmodernizationunit@bahamas.gov.bs](mailto:opmmmodernizationunit@bahamas.gov.bs). Submit all CVs and qualification documents must be submitted Re: **Programme Coordinator** to E-mail: [opmmmodernizationunit@bahamas.gov.bs](mailto:opmmmodernizationunit@bahamas.gov.bs) on or before 5:00 pm on or before 8 July 2019.