

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. 112

TUESDAY - JULY 9TH, 2019

75 CENTS

'A Crisis of Trust,' Says Davis

'Gov't Wrong on Approach to Grand Lucayan Sale'

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON
 Journal Staff Writer

It's a "crisis of trust" for Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis' to award millions of dollars in contracts to companies in which St. Anne's MP Brent Symonette is a shareholder, Progressive Liberal Party Leader Philip Davis said.

"One of these deals is a lease for the Town Centre Mall, a government contract, which will be worth \$4.5 million to a company owned by Mr. Symonette and his brother," Davis explained yesterday.

"On October 24, 2018, the prime minister and his colleagues passed in the House of Assembly a resolution to enter into this



▶ Progressive Liberal Party Leader Philip Davis

■ See page 4...

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Former Minister of Tourism Obie Wilchcombe said the government's approach to selling the Grand Lucayan Hotel is wrong, as he believes this is the reason why the hotel hasn't been sold as yet.

According to Wilchcombe, the government should consider conducting the sale through the Hotel Corporation.

Apart from that, he said, the government should explore Bahamian partnerships to manage the property.

"Where the Hotel



▶ Former Minister of Tourism Obie Wilchcombe

■ See page 4...

NTSB Delegated to Probe Chopper Crash

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

Investigation into the deadly July 4 helicopter crash has been turned over to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) in the United States, according

to the Air Accident Investigation Department (AAID).

Moving forward, AAID, which delegated NTSB, said all questions and concerns should be directed to the NTSB, as

■ See page 3...

BPL's Oil Leak under Control

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

A few slack bolts caused an oil leak at Bahamas Power and Light's Blue Hills Power Station this past Saturday.

BPL Public Relations Officer Quincy Parker said workers discovered fuel spraying from a pipe at the plant and followed the proper procedure to

get the matter under control.

"The employee quickly isolated the system and took the necessary action inline with BPL's environmental policies including notification of the plant's manager," he said.

"Teams from Operations Management and the outside contractor

■ See page 8...

TEACHERS EXPLORE TECHNOLOGY, CIVICS, AND MORE TO UPDATE CURRICULUM



▶ Phyllis Baron, OAS representative, speaks at the Social Sciences Summer Professional Development Workshop for senior high school teachers. Also shown seated in front row is Shaccara Lightbourne, IIEA representative. (BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna)

Social Science teachers are swapping roles, becoming students for one week as they prepare to review and redevelop the

curriculum. Creating blogs and drop boxes, exploring livestock and crops on a farm, learning about inter-

national organizations (OAS and IIEA) and civics are just a few of the areas that senior high school teachers will be

exploring in the Ministry of Education's Social Sciences Summer

■ See page 4...



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

Nearly \$2 Million for PMH Repairs

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

The Public Hospitals Authority (PHA) signed two contracts yesterday, totaling nearly \$2 million for repairs to its cooling system and roof of the Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH).

Minister of Health Dr. Duane Sands said yesterday's signing marked a significant day for PHA and PMH.

More than \$1 million will be used to replace and upgrade the Chill Water System in the Critical Care Block and more than \$600,000 will be used to complete phase two of roofing repairs.

"Beginning in 2017 my ministry, along with the Board of Directors of the PHA, are committed to charting a sustainable course for the future development and improvement of services across the institutions of the PHA," Dr. Sands said.

"Where appropriate, we would commit to the

investments necessary to arrest and ameliorate the effects of years of wear and tear, uneven maintenance and, in some instances, periods of neglect on the infrastructure, equipment and physical plants at our public hospitals. Also, where appropriate, we committed to looking for opportunities to create and or enhance public private partnerships to improve our hospitals' capacities and equipment."

Commending the leadership of PHA and PMH respectively, Dr. Sands added that with executions of the contracts PHA and PMH are embarking on significant improvements to the premiere healthcare institution in the country.

Caribbean International A/C Services Limited was awarded the contract to replace and upgrade the chilling system at a value of approximately \$1.1 million, which will include installation and commissioning of two

Smart AD065 chill water systems for the HVAC at PMH.

Dr. Sands added that work in this aspect will take approximately five to six months to complete, which will include construction time for the new system.

"The upgrade will alleviate cooling issues experienced in the past in the hospital's Critical Care Block and its surrounding areas, capping an intensive series of remedial initiatives undertaken by PMH to repair and restore the AC system," Dr. Sands said.

The second contract valued at \$632,576 will cover phase two of roof repairs at PMH and will see the removal of existing metal roofing panels replacing them with hurricane zone rated panels and substrate.

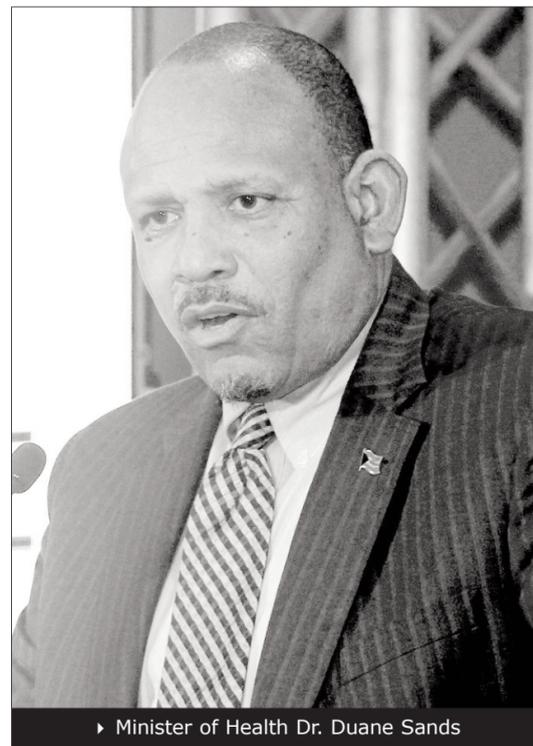
This contract was awarded to Ringo and Sons Construction and General Maintenance, the company that completed phase one roof repairs.

According to Dr. Sands, these contract signings come on the heels of improvements taking place around the healthcare facility.

"Since the beginning of this year, this phased approach also encompassed improvement and expansion works associated with the Urgent & Emergency Care Project at PMH. These works include the construction of a new patient registration area, as well as works in the decanted spaces formerly occupied by the Medical Surgical Supplies Department (MSSD) and Central Sterile Supplies Department (CSSD)," Dr. Sands said.

"Recently, the initial round of improvements has been completed in the hospital's Dialysis Unit including the purchase of some 20 new dialysis chairs.

"Finally, in May of this year, the PHA executed contracts valued at more than \$850,000 for significant capital works at its



► Minister of Health Dr. Duane Sands

institutions in New Providence. Included in those contracts were the replacement of a 55,000 gallon water storage, gravity fed tank at PMH's southern campus area which will ensure that the

hospital's water supply remains constant, even during a major hurricane."

He added that with yesterday's contract signing, the projects will largely complete major capital works for PMH in 2019.

Pinder Rejects Mass Firing Claims

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Labour Director John Pinder yesterday refuted claims of a mass firing at the Grand Bahama Ship Yard.

A message, which made its rounds on social media, indicated that the firings come as a result of reduced business.

Mr. Pinder said, "There's a project in Grand Bahama that requires that amount of persons at the shipyard. They have finished that project now. As a result of that, contract workers' contracts will not be renewed."

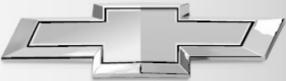
According to the labour director, 32 Bahamians and 11 non Bahamians will be affected by this exercise.

They were working on the multi-production manufacturing facility for Pharmachem, which commenced in May, 2016.

All contracts are set to expire in December.



► Labour Director John Pinder



CHEVROLET

FIND NEW ROADS

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

Strong Effective Gov't Partner is Important for Sustainable Growth

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest explained that this Government Administration believes that having a strong and effective partner in government is an important ingredient to sustainable growth and development.

DPM Turnquest was the keynote speaker at the inaugural CFAL BudgetPass 2019/20 Conference held at Baha Mar, Monday, July 8, 2019, under the theme "Striking the Right Balance."

He said the 2019/20 Budget is unlike any budget before in three major ways:

- This is the first budget to adhere to legally mandated fiscal targets set by the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2018
- This is the first budget to fully adopt the new Chart of Accounts (COA) and to be compliant with internationally recognised Government Finance Statistics (GFS) Standards
- This is the first budget that required ministries to take a new approach to budget planning, highlighting our transition to

programme budgeting in the public sector

"This represents a deliberate move towards a more modern form of budgeting and public sector accountancy that sets the right foundation for sustainability in all of our endeavours.

"As we continue to usher these changes in, they will have a profound impact on the management of taxpayer money now and in the future, and therefore increase the likelihood of long-term fiscal stability, a stronger economy and socio-economic transformation."

He noted that the business community will

play an important role in keeping the government on track, particularly through its representation on the Fiscal Responsibility Council.

The DPM explained that this independent civil society body is established by the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) to foster budgetary discipline, and to promote the government's adherence to sound fiscal decisions that take into account the economic impact they will have on the economy. "We expect the Council to be vibrant and active in playing its role.

"As it relates to fiscal targets, the FRA binds the government to a strategic

plan to meet core fiscal goals. These include: Achieving a sustainable level of debt of no more than 50 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over the medium term, and a target fiscal balance that does not exceed 0.5 per cent of GDP by 2020/21 and beyond."

DPM Turnquest said that he does not think the full weight of this law has fully registered with the Bahamian people, but it should be known, it has the power to ensure the government strikes the right balance with its priorities and policies, while handling taxpayers' hard-earned money in a responsible and transparent way.

"In keeping with our obligations, the deficit projected for this budget year will in fact end up being the lowest deficit this country has seen in 10 years, with its corresponding ratio marking the lowest deficit to GDP ratio this country has seen in almost two decades."

He said, "Our deficit has been on a downward trajectory since this Administration took office, and as we continue to meet our fiscal goals we will undoubtedly have more resources to devote to other areas of economic and social reform that will have an indelible impact on the lives of our people."

NTSB Delegated

Continued from / PAGE 1...

further updates will be given by that board.

AAID announced that Timothy Monville is now the investigator in charge.

The helicopter's flight

and data recorders, black box, were also handed over to the NTSB in Washington D.C. for analysis.

According to AAID, investigators were on site documenting wreckage to determine if the com-

plete craft was recovered.

The helicopter crashed in waters off Grand Cay, Abaco with seven passengers onboard.

All seven passengers lost their lives.

One of the passengers was 60-year-old

Christopher Cline, a billionaire coal magnate from West Virginia.

Twenty-two-year-old Kameron Cline was his daughter and the other young women were her friends.

The bodies of the vic-

tims were brought to New Providence on Friday.

According to police, the helicopter took off from Big Grand Cay around 2 a.m. en route to Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The missing helicop-

ter was reported to police around 2:53 p.m. on July 4 after it did not arrive at its destination.

Police and residents of Grand Cay later discovered the aircraft overturned in 16 feet of water.



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.



ComfortSuitesPI.com | (242) 363-3680

f /ComfortsuitesPI

TWINNINGS
OF LONDON

Make the perfect iced tea
with any one of your favourite Twinnings 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
milo butler
RESPECT, QUALITY AND VALUE GUARANTEED.

(242) 677-6380
PEACH STREET OFF MONTROSE AVENUE

'A Crisis of Trust,'

Continued from / PAGE 1...

lease. The resolution stated in part, 'And whereas one of the beneficial of owners of the Town Centre Mall is a serving Cabinet Minister who did not take part in the discussion leading to the decision to accept the offer to lease portions of the building.'

"On Tuesday, July 2, 2019, Brent Symonette appeared on the talk show of Shenique Miller, and described a detailed conversation he had with the prime minister about this very lease. This is a conversation that, according to the resolution and the prime minister, never happened. The language of the resolution passed by the FNM in Parliament was a lie, and the prime minister knew it at the time it was passed.

"The prime minister now says his conversations with Brent Symonette should be considered 'confidential'. When he talks about transparency, you see, he doesn't mean regarding conversations in which he and members of Cabinet discuss matters of significant interest to the public."

However, Davis said it is difficult to imagine how the prime minister can continue to lead the government effectively.

"With his misrepresentations to the House of Assembly, and multiple deals benefitting members of his inner political circle, he has lost the trust of the public," he added. "In a functioning government where public trust was valued, a vote of no confidence would take place."

According to Davis, it is likely that members of

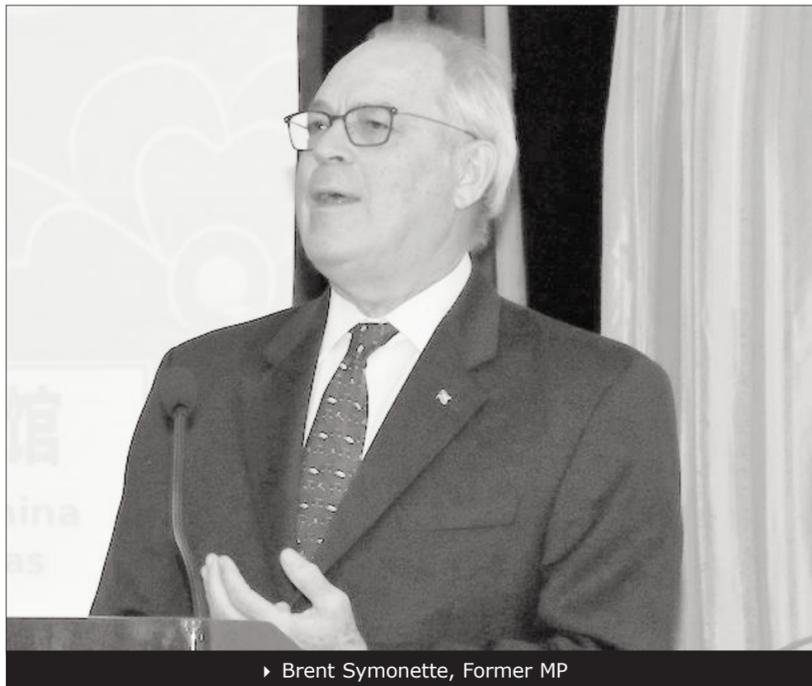
the prime minister's political party prefer to keep him in place, rather than see him resign or fall to a no confidence vote.

"Many of them are putting politics, not country, first. Some of them care only about their continued ability to pull his puppet strings to their own benefit," he said.

"This may be the political reality, but it does not in any way justify the unethical behavior that has led to this crisis of trust."

Symonette recently resigned as minister of financial services, trade and industry and immigration and many believed he resigned because of a contract that was awarded to his company.

The government has also been under severe criticism over a number of contracts that companies



▶ Brent Symonette, Former MP

in which Symonette is a shareholder would have received.

But Symonette

explained publically that his decision to resign wasn't because of the contracts awarded.

He said his decision to resign was a simple issue, as he wanted to resign before his 65th birthday.

'Gov't Wrong on Approach

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Corporation ought to have been the owner of the property, as it technically is, and then the government ought to allow the Hotel Corporation to cause for the refurbishment of the property and seek out a partnership," Mr. Wilchcombe said.

"Now why does the partnership have to be foreign? The partnership does not have to be foreign. We are extending our messages outside The Bahamas when inside The Bahamas we have Island House and the Hollowesko's for example.

"You have people like

that who are in the hotel industry and others who have money. Why aren't you inviting them to be apart?"

"Why aren't you talking to George Myers and his group? Why aren't you asking them 'how do we get them moving' and then put some money aside to cause it to happen."

It's been three months since Lucayan Renewal Holdings signed a letter of intent with Royal Caribbean Cruises and the ITM Group to purchase of resort for \$65 million and to redevelop the Freeport Harbour.

Mr. Wilchcombe charged that the letter of intent is just that - a letter

- and he doesn't see RCL spending \$65 million on the resort considering the high cost to get it operational.

"All that does is really take others out of the market and you're sitting and talking. Then, of course they're going to try to work out terms," Mr. Wilchcombe said.

"It's going to be a give and take. The government right now is in a desperate situation and one of the strategies you deploy is to stretch it out because in government they are going to make decisions because they're thinking about elections, so they're going to stretch it out because they might get the

better deal.

"So I think that is where they are right now. I think the government is making a fundamental mistake. We should look internal and get the help internally.

"Let's talk to some of the Bahamian people who

have the where with all, who can do it. You can talk to the Mosko's. You can talk to George Myers. You can talk to the gaming boys. Put it all together. Put the money together. Make it happen and then let them go get someone to manage it.

"You pay for a brand and a brand will come in and manage it."

The government purchased the Grand Lucayan for \$65 million under heavy criticism from the opposition who insisted that it was a bad idea.

TEACHERS EXPLORE TECHNOLOGY, CIVICS, AND MORE

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Professional Development Workshop.

"Planting, Preparing and Politics in the Social Sciences" is the theme for the Workshop which officially opened Monday, July 8, 2019 at the Organization of American States (OAS) headquarters, Village Road, and will end on July 12, 2019.

Between 45 and 70 teachers representing public schools in New Providence and several Family Islands are participating in the Workshop which includes visits to the House of Assembly (HOA) and Down To Earth Farm, a tour of Delancey Town, and a session on "Technology in the Classroom".

The curriculum for public senior high schools is being revitalized and reformed and the Ministry of Education is preparing teachers to have an appreciation for the new "narra-

tive" that is coming on stream.

Perlene Baker, Education Officer, Social Science senior high schools, said, "We don't just give you the literature; we want you to see it in action."

"We're going to a farm tomorrow. We're [also] going to do some technology and teach people how to design blogs."

On Thursday, the teachers will take a close look at the House of Assembly. In addition to a tour, the Hon. Halson Moultrie, Speaker of the House of Assembly, will inform them of his role as Speaker and the role of Government and Opposition leaders. David Forbes, Clerk, will also make a presentation on ceremonial practices, history and seating of members in the chambers.

Monday's presenters included Phyllis Baron, OAS representative, who outlined the role of the

OAS in The Bahamas. She highlighted that The Bahamas has consented to host the General Assembly of the OAS in 2020.

Shaccara Lightbourne, representative for IICA, gave an extensive overview of the agency. She said the mission is to encourage, promote and support member countries' efforts to achieve agricultural self-sufficiency. IICA provides technical assistance in all areas of agriculture including government and the private sector.

Ms. Baker said a special feature of the Workshop is a presentation by Etienne Claes, the Honorary Consul for Belgium, who will share his extensive research on Bahamians who fought in World Wars I and II and are buried in Belgium.

"That narrative needs to be told in our History curriculum document," she said.



Brass & Leather

Charlotte Street - Mall at Marathon
Old Fort Bay - Marsh Harbour, Abaco
The Luggage Store, Centreville
T.: 322-3806